

NOCA 2015 Annual General Meeting
Monday June 22, 2015
6:30 pm (ET)
Via teleconference

1. Introductions – call to order 6:38 p.m.

Marion Clark, NOCA President, welcomed everyone to the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Northern Ontario Curling Association

2. Attendance:

Board:

Glen Poirier (Region 1), Marion Clark (Region 2), Karen Saarimaki (Region 3), Joan Sheppard (Region 4), Sandra Lahti (Region 5), Stephen Meunier (Region 6), Brian Gates, Director at Large, Jim Cronin, Director at Large

Staff:

Leslie Kerr - Executive Director, Dick Henderson – Technical Coordinator

Other Attendees – Michael Szajewski, and various club delegates and members

3. Constitution of meeting:

Marion Clark reported that the notice of meeting had been sent to all voting delegates 45 days prior to the meeting and to the club delegates 21 days prior to the meeting.

4. Acts of Directors:

Motion:

THAT the actions of the NOCA Board of Directors for the 2015 fiscal year be ratified

Moved: Karen Saarimaki

Seconded: Stephen Meunier Carried

5. Report on Credentials:

Marion reported that 8 of the 8 Directors were present, and that a quorum of 5 was required so the meeting is duly constituted.

Marion explained the voting structure to the delegation. Only the NOCA Directors carry a vote at the AGM. This ensures that all regions are equally represented at the AGM regardless of the location of the meeting. Delegates were encouraged to ask any questions they had during the meeting.

6. Appointment of a Scrutineer:

Motion:

THAT Sandra Lahti be appointed as the Scrutineer for the elections of the Directors at Large to be held in New Business

Moved: Joan Sheppard

Seconded: Karen Saarimaki Carried

7. Acceptance of the Agenda:

Motion:

THAT the agenda be accepted as distributed.

Moved: Stephen Meunier

Seconded: Joan Sheppard Carried

8. **Minutes of June 23, 2014 Annual General Meeting:**

Motion:

THAT the minutes of the AGM dated June 23, 2014 be accepted.

Moved: Sandra Lahti

Seconded: Karen Saarimaki

Carried

9. **Business Arising:**

None

10. **Reports:**

a. **Financial Report – Joan Sheppard** (attached draft financial statements and financial report)

- Joan reported that she had reviewed the financial statements and prepared the Financial Report upon receipt of the Draft Statements from the Auditor. The Board approved the Draft Financial statements but they must be accepted at the AGM before the Auditor can present the final statements.
- Joan highlighted several items:
 - A slight surplus of \$569 occurred but this was much better than the projected deficit of \$3200.
 - Some one-time funding assisted in helping lessen the projected deficit
 - The Year End Equity position is \$163,629
 - The budget for the 2016 fiscal year projects a loss of \$15,000. The Board approved the 2016 budget at the June 22, 2015 Board meeting.
 - There will be a review of per capita dues this coming year. The dues haven't increased since 2012 while all operating costs continue to rise.

Motion:

THAT the draft financial statements for the year ending April 30, 2015 be accepted as presented

Moved: Steve Meunier

Seconded: Sandra Lahti

Carried

b. **President's Report – Marion Clark** (attached)

c. **Executive Director's Report – Leslie Kerr** (attached)

d. **Development Report – Dick Henderson** (attached)

e. **Competitions Report – Karen Saarimaki** (attached)

f. **Policy and Bylaw Report – Marion Clark** (attached)

g. **Public Relations & Communications Report – Jim Cronin** (attached)

h. **Ontario Curling Council Chair Report – Marion Clark** (attached)

i. **Ontario Curling Council Staff Report - Jennifer Ferris** (attached)

Marion asked if there were any questions of the Board and staff from the Club Delegates. There were no questions.

Motion:

That the reports of the Board of Directors and Staff for 2014-15 be accepted as presented and distributed.

Moved: Michael Szajewski

Seconded: Karen Saarimaki Carried

11. New Business:

a. Motion to conduct an Accounting Review:

- NOCA had a review conducted for the 2015 fiscal year. Leslie explained that a review is adequate until another Trillium grant is applied for in which case an audit is required for the two years prior to the application.

Motion:

THAT an Accounting Review be conducted

Moved by: Joan Sheppard

Seconded by: Stephen Meunier Carried

b. Motion to appoint an Auditor/Accountant

Motion:

THAT BDO Dunwoody in Thunder Bay be named as the Auditor for 2015.

Moved: Joan Sheppard

Seconded: Sandra Lahti Carried

c. Election of Directors at Large:

Marion Clark reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee that a Nominating committee was struck, put out a call for applications for one position of Director at Large for a three-year term. Only one application was received.

- For the 3 year term the nominating committee is nominating Michael Szajewski.

Marion Clark reported that Michael Szajewski is acclaimed as the successful candidate for the three-year term.

Marion thanked the nominating committee and the candidate who let his name stand for office, and also thanked Sandra for acting as Scutineer.

12. Adjournment

Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Stephen Meunier

Seconded: Joan Sheppard Carried

2014-2015 Year-end Equity Position

2014 Net Asset Opening Balance	\$163,160.00
2014-2015 Operating Surplus	\$569.00
Net Assets, end year	\$163,729.00

Net assets, end of year includes the following:

- Amethyst reserve fund \$4,500.00
- Travelers Wheelchair fund \$3,339.00
- Travelers CCC reserve fund \$1,500.00
- Operating reserve fund \$60,000.00

Submitted by:

Joan Sheppard, Treasurer

Northern Ontario Curling Association
Financial Statements
For the year ended April 30, 2015
(Unaudited)

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Review Engagement Report

To the Members
Northern Ontario Curling Association

We have reviewed the statement of financial position of Northern Ontario Curling Association as at April 30, 2015 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of inquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the Organization.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Thunder Bay, Ontario
May 31, 2015

Northern Ontario Curling Association

Statement of Financial Position

(Unaudited)

April 30	2015	2014
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 71,240	\$ 123,562
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	4,655	20,203
Inventory	17,964	15,715
Prepaid expenses	4,711	3,930
	<u>98,570</u>	<u>163,410</u>
Long term investments (Note 2)	186,398	135,877
Equipment (Note 4)	12,507	16,000
	<u>297,475</u>	<u>315,287</u>
	\$	\$
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	\$ 7,757	\$ 9,016
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	115,626	129,686
	<u>123,383</u>	<u>138,702</u>
Deferred capital contributions (Note 7)	10,363	13,425
	<u>133,746</u>	<u>152,127</u>
Net assets		
Internally restricted (Note 8)	69,339	66,599
Unrestricted	94,390	96,561
	<u>163,729</u>	<u>163,160</u>
	<u>297,475</u>	<u>315,287</u>
	\$	\$

On behalf of the Board:

Maurice P. Clark Director

Sheppard Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Northern Ontario Curling Association

Statement of Operations

(Unaudited)

For the year ended April 30	2015	2014
Revenue		
Amethyst camp	\$ 96,073	\$ 95,197
Assessments	3,702	5,203
Deferred capital contributions	3,062	4,059
Competitions	53,708	58,168
Travelers CCC	23,465	24,505
Sponsorship	7,452	7,781
Inventory sales	525	5,014
Membership dues	86,297	92,005
Operating grants	65,527	65,521
Program funding	47,255	34,463
Miscellaneous income	4,039	2,715
	<u>391,105</u>	<u>394,631</u>
Expenditure		
Amethyst camp - program expense	94,459	94,281
Amortization	3,815	5,027
Bank fee	242	544
Competitions	43,161	55,627
Travelers CCC	17,759	21,222
Programs	40,726	28,396
Development	31,699	32,255
Insurance	4,860	4,450
Inventory write-down	364	-
Office	14,611	15,122
Personnel	89,963	88,357
Professional fees	3,228	3,228
Other association fees	21,881	24,308
Meetings	19,803	17,635
Marketing	3,965	8,857
	<u>390,536</u>	<u>399,309</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure for the year before the undernoted	569	(4,678)
Realized gain on long term investments	-	2,308
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure for the year	<u>569</u>	<u>(2,370)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Northern Ontario Curling Association Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Unaudited)

For the year ended April 30

2015

2014

	Internally Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	(Note 8)			
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 66,599	\$ 96,561	\$ 163,160	\$ 165,530
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure for the year	-	569	569	\$ (2,370)
Reserve transfer (Note 8)	2,740	(2,740)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 69,339	\$ 94,390	\$ 163,729	\$ 163,160

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Northern Ontario Curling Association

Statement of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

For the year ended April 30	2015	2014
Cash flows from operating activities		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure for the year	\$ 569	\$ (2,370)
Items not involving cash		
Amortization of equipment	3,815	5,027
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(3,062)	(4,059)
Realized gain on long term investments	-	(2,308)
	<u>1,322</u>	<u>(3,710)</u>
Change in non-cash working capital balances (Note 9)	(2,801)	(7,685)
	<u>(1,479)</u>	<u>(11,395)</u>
Investing activities		
Purchase of equipment	(322)	(5,078)
Contributions received in the year	-	5,078
Purchase of investments	(200,247)	(236,177)
Proceeds from sale of investments	149,726	211,440
	<u>(50,843)</u>	<u>(24,737)</u>
Decrease in cash for the year	(52,322)	(36,132)
Cash, beginning of year	123,562	159,694
Cash, end of year	\$ 71,240	\$ 123,562

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Northern Ontario Curling Association

Notes to Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

April 30, 2015

1. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting	These financial statements have been prepared using Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. These standards use the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis recognizes revenues as they become available and measurable; expenditures are recognized as they are incurred and measurable as a result of receipts of goods or services and the creation of a legal obligation to pay.								
Nature and Purpose of Organization	The Northern Ontario Curling Association was incorporated under the laws of the Province of Ontario on April 26, 2007 without share capital. The Northern Ontario Curling Association is a regional umbrella organization to which Northern Ontario curling clubs belong. Its purpose is to promote and develop the sport of curling in Northern Ontario. The Association is exempt from income tax under section 149 (1) (l) of the Income Tax Act.								
Financial Instruments	Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. All investments have been designated to be in the fair value category, with gains and losses reported in operations. All other financial instruments are reported at cost or amortized cost less impairment, if applicable. Financial assets are tested for impairment when changes in circumstances indicate the asset could be impaired. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are expensed for those items remeasured at fair value at each balance sheet date and charged to the financial instrument for those measured at amortized cost.								
Cash and Cash Equivalents	Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and bank balances with a maturity of three months or less.								
Equipment	Equipment is initially recorded at cost. Amortization is provided as follows: <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Banners</td><td>- 20% declining balance</td></tr> <tr> <td>Computer equipment</td><td>- 33% declining balance</td></tr> <tr> <td>Office equipment</td><td>- 20% declining balance</td></tr> <tr> <td>General equipment</td><td>- 20% declining balance</td></tr> </table>	Banners	- 20% declining balance	Computer equipment	- 33% declining balance	Office equipment	- 20% declining balance	General equipment	- 20% declining balance
Banners	- 20% declining balance								
Computer equipment	- 33% declining balance								
Office equipment	- 20% declining balance								
General equipment	- 20% declining balance								

Northern Ontario Curling Association Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

April 30, 2015

1. Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Deferred Capital Contribution	<p>The Association is the recipient of certain approved capital grants which specify purpose and maximum allowable contributions.</p> <p>Funds received are included on the statement of financial position as equipment and deferred capital contributions and are amortized to income on the declining balance method at the rate consistent with the method used to record the amortization on the related equipment.</p>
Revenue Recognition	<p>The Northern Ontario Curling Association follows the deferral method of accounting for government grants and program contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.</p>
Contributed Services	<p>Members contribute approximately 1,200 hours per year to assist the Association in carrying out its operating activities. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair market value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.</p>
Contributed Materials	<p>Contributed materials which are used in the normal course of the organization's operations and would otherwise have been purchased are recorded at their fair value at the date of contribution if fair value can be reasonably estimated.</p>
Use of Estimates	<p>The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The principal estimates used in the preparation of these financial statements are the accruals and estimated useful life of equipment. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.</p>

Northern Ontario Curling Association

Notes to Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

April 30, 2015

1. Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Amethyst Reserve Fund	The reserve fund consists of internally restricted funds to provide working capital for the Amethyst camp during fluctuating periods when operating expenditures exceed program funding or if equipment is needed.
Travelers Wheelchair Reserve Fund	The Association has an agreement with a sponsor whereby 10% of the entry fees for certain events is set aside in a reserve fund for future wheelchair curling development.
Travelers CCC Reserve Fund	The reserve fund consists of internally restricted funds to provide working capital for the Travelers competitions during fluctuating periods when operating expenditures exceed program funding or if equipment is needed.
Operating Reserve Fund	The operating reserve fund consists of internally restricted funds to provide working capital during fluctuating periods when operating expenditures exceed revenues.

2. Investments

The guaranteed investment certificates carry interest rates at 0.5% and 1.00% and mature March 2016 and August 2018. \$60,000 of the guaranteed investment certificates are set-aside to cover the Association's operating reserve fund.

3. Accounts Receivable

	2015	2014
General	\$ 2,845	\$ 17,316
Government remittances receivable	1,810	2,887
	<u>\$ 4,655</u>	<u>\$ 20,203</u>

Northern Ontario Curling Association

Notes to Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

April 30, 2015

4. Equipment

	2015		2014	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Office equipment	\$ 3,613	\$ 2,773	\$ 3,291	\$ 2,563
Computer equipment	14,328	11,495	14,328	10,099
General equipment	16,214	7,793	16,214	5,687
Banners	1,515	1,102	1,515	999
	<u>\$ 35,670</u>	<u>\$ 23,163</u>	<u>\$ 35,348</u>	<u>\$ 19,348</u>
Net book value		<u>\$ 12,507</u>		<u>\$ 16,000</u>

5. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

	2015	2014
Trade	\$ 4,757	\$ 6,016
Accrued liabilities	3,000	3,000
	<u>\$ 7,757</u>	<u>\$ 9,016</u>

6. Deferred Funding

	2015	2014
Amethyst - sponsorship	\$ 1,000	\$ 11,000
Amethyst - registration	84,329	86,772
Amethyst - busing	3,750	3,445
Ontario Trillium Grant	20,637	21,292
Other	5,910	7,177
	<u>\$ 115,626</u>	<u>\$ 129,686</u>

Northern Ontario Curling Association

Notes to Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

April 30, 2015

7. Deferred Capital Contributions

	2015	2014
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 13,425	\$ 12,406
Additions	-	5,078
Amortization	(3,062)	(4,059)
Balance, end of year	\$ 10,363	\$ 13,425

8. Internally Restricted Net Assets

Internally restricted net assets are funds committed for specific purposes as follows:

	2015	2014
Amethyst reserve fund	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,000
Travelers Wheelchair fund	3,339	2,599
Travelers CCC reserve fund	1,500	-
Operating reserve fund	60,000	60,000
	\$ 69,339	\$ 66,599

9. Statement of Cash Flows

	2015	2014
Accounts receivable	\$ 15,548	\$ (17,047)
Inventory	(2,249)	(1,321)
Prepaid expenses	(781)	(3,132)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(1,259)	(1,355)
Deferred revenue	(14,060)	15,170
	\$ (2,801)	\$ (7,685)

Northern Ontario Curling Association Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

April 30, 2015

10. Financial Instruments

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Association is not exposed to significant currency or market risk arising from financial instruments.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Association is exposed to interest rate risk arising from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect the value of fixed income denominated GIC investments.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Association if a customer or counter-party to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations, and arises principally from the Association's receivables. The Association does not believe it is subject to any significant concentrations of credit risk related to accounts receivable.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Association encounters difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of operational-liquidity requirements, the Association will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction on the due date; will be forced to sell financial assets at a value, which is less than what they are worth; or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset. Liquidity risk arises from accounts payable. Management believes they are not exposed to significant liquidity risk.

President's Report AGM June 2015

Board Structure

During the past year, the Board has been operationalizing its new structure, 9 Directors total, one elected from each of 6 regions and 3 Directors at Large, elected at the AGM. Mike Szajewski, the VP, led a Planning session to assist the board in determining its priorities and identifying responsibilities for the coming year. Three new committees were established: Communications/PR, Business Development and Member Engagement. Key priorities include developing a communications strategy for NOCA, securing additional sponsorships and looking for ways to assist clubs to recruit and maintain their members. Membership dropped 5% since last curling season.

Long-term Athlete Development Plan (LTAD)

The Executive Directors of both MA's and the Manager of Programs and Operations of the OCC are working very closely now to ensure compliance with the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Recreation's Sport Recognition Policy and to ensure the implementation of the LTAD (Long-term Athlete Development Plan). It was determined that the planning for High Performance would become the bailiwick of OCC while both NOCA and OCA would drive the Learn to Play, Learn to Train and the Train to Train pathways.

History in the Making

It was exciting times indeed. For the first-ever, the playing field at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts was expanded to include entries from all the Member Associations giving Northern Ontario a separate entry. The inaugural provincial STOH competition was hosted by FWCC and won by the Tracy Horgan Team from Idylwyld Golf & Country Club in Sudbury. Andrea Ronnebeck from Kenora coaches the Horgan team. During the event, NOCA presented a championship banner to the Heather Houston World Championship Team (1989). At that time there was no major sponsor of the women's world, therefore there was no banner presented.

The Horgan team went on to the STOH to represent NO and successfully won the prequalifying round and then placing 5th in the competition. Congratulations to the Horgan Team.

Canadian Curling Association/Member Association Presidents (CCA/MA's)

The President, Vice and E.D. attend the monthly CCA/MA Presidents' Meeting. Issues affecting all MA's are discussed at these meetings. Last August, a motion was passed to implement a competitor fee for each event in which a competitor competes. This fee takes effect in September 2015. Another significant occurrence this year was the rebranding of the CCA to Curling Canada.

The CCA Summit and National Curling Congress (NCC) are being held in Collingwood in mid June. The NCC is the business meeting of the CCA and its owners - the 14

member associations. Motions regarding residency of competitors and lifting the age restriction to compete at the Scotties and Brier, will likely feature lively discussion. Leslie is attending the entire event and Mike and Marion are attending the NCC and AGM.

As of this season, Curling Canada is taking over running the Travelers Club Championship. Travelers and Curling Canada has an agreement in place until 2018.

NOCA's Spring Meeting

At NOCA's Spring Meeting, there were several education sessions. Jennifer Ferris, Manager of Programs and Operations, Ontario Curling Council facilitated the weekend sessions. Leslie did a presentation titled "All About NOCA" which included the history, Programs and Services, funding sources, membership and the organization etc. Mike Szajewski reviewed Board Member Roles and Responsibilities. Jennifer Ferris presented the High Performance Management Plan currently under development at OCC. Karen Saarimaki reported on Competitions and Sandra Lahti reported on the work of the Technical Development Committee. Jim Cronin did a presentation on Stakeholder Communications and Brian Gates discussed Business Development. These reports engendered lively discussions. The main focus of the planning session centered on how to mobilize our committees to secure member engagement.

Departing Board Member

We honoured and said good-bye to Jan Pula who completed the one-year term for Director at Large. A huge thank you for your hard work and dedication this past year. It is greatly appreciated.

My personal thanks to Mike Szajewski and Joan Sheppard, the Executive Committee, for their hard work and wise words; to Leslie Kerr, our intrepid Executive Director, for keeping the organization running smoothly and for directing our activities. We are very fortunate to have an E.D. who is so competent and who is recognized and respected by Curling Canada (CCA) and the other MA's as a leader in curling administration. Thank you to the Board members, who contribute so much talent and time to make sure NOCA is doing what is best for its curlers and members.

And last, but not least, to the curlers of the Northern Ontario Curling Association, I humbly salute you.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Clark
President, NOCA

Executive Director Report
NOCA Annual General Meeting
June 22, 2015

Once again it was a very busy year for the NOCA administration. Following is a summary of the year from an administrative viewpoint.

Finances:

- The finances of the NOCA are monitored very closely on an ongoing basis. This year a financial review was conducted rather than an audit. A slight deficit budget was approved and the year-end financial statements show a slight profit.

Communications:

- NOCA Notes is distributed weekly to approximately 450 people.
- NOCA's Facebook page is updated regularly. Tweets are automatically generated from the Facebook account.
- The website is again being updated this summer to provide easier access to information.
- A Communications committee was struck this year with the goal of improving communications between the Regional Directors, Club Delegates, and Clubs. (See Communications report.)
- A Member Engagement committee will be working on a plan to engage our clubs and members.
- At the face to face meeting with Board members and the Executive Director in May, a review of the Strategic Plan took place. Two days of hard work resulted in a working plan to move forward with improving communications and engaging NOCA curling clubs and curling club members.

Sponsorship:

- Thank you to:
- Travelers (Amethyst Camp, Men's Provincial, Curling Club Championships)
- Tim Hortons (Youth Challenges and Bantam competitions)
- Best Western (Junior Competitions)
- BrokerLink Insurance (Mixed Provincials)
- PBL Insurance (bus for 2014 Amethyst)
- Brent Belzile – Mid Canada Asset Group (Amethyst Bursaries)
- Bearskin Airlines (Curling Week)
- Rock Clock (timing program)
- Jet Ice (ice logos for provincials and support for Ice Technician courses)
- Coronation Internet Marketing (playdown registration)
- Goldline (gift cards for Curling Week), Avis, and Budget.

Marketing:

Curling Week, presented by Bearskin Airlines was held November 15-23, 2014. A Draw to the pin contest and website contests were held. Prizes included: Sportsnet - 5 ticket packages to draws 8-12 of the National Grand Slam and Goldline jacket signed by all of the teams at the National; Team Jacobs autographed brooms and copies of Ice Gold; ECW Press - copies of Ice Gold; Bearskin Airlines - two tickets on Bearskin Airlines; Goldline Gift Cards. This year Curling Week will be held November 21 – 29, 2015.

Development:

- The Amethyst Camp filled fairly quickly this year. There are 75 Northern Ontario campers, up from 58 last year.
- Youth Challenge participation numbers increased again this year and this resulted in an increase in Bantam entries in the playdowns.
- Two curling conferences were held (Thunder Bay and Sudbury) in the fall. Both of these conferences were supported with funding from the Trillium Foundation, Canadian Curling Association, Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport, Coaches Association of Ontario, Coaching Association of Canada, and Investors Syndicate)

- High performance assistance was available to teams advancing to Canadian Championships through funding from the CCA.
- Thanks to Dick Henderson for his ongoing creativity and energy in Development. Dick has completed his term of employment with NOCA and a review of this position going forward is underway. (see Development Report).

Competitions:

- Once again it was a very busy season for the office staff, Board, Competitions Cmte, and Head Umpires.
- Team Megan Smith, representing the province of Ontario, won gold at the Canada Winter Games.
- All Northern Ontario teams fared very well at the national level and we should be very proud of them.
- This year we utilized the CCA scoring program, Curlcast, to detail ongoing results. The new program was very well received. In addition, the Rock Clock program continues to be a great timing program used at many regional events and all provincial events.
- Thank you to the numerous host clubs and their extensive work to provide great events for all teams. Hosting a competition is a huge undertaking and the Board and staff truly appreciate this contribution to curling by our clubs and volunteers.
- Thanks to Karen for her diligence as Competitions Chair! (See Competitions report)

Trillium:

- This was the third year of a three year Trillium grant. Chris Ransom continued to work as the Development Coordinator for all of Northern Ontario.
- The main functions of the Coordinator include:
 - Developing and promoting curling to Aboriginal Youth and Adults. Chris utilized the Native Friendship Centres to access programs and began or continued building relationships with groups.
 - Chris conducted a tour of Regions 5 and 6 in the fall working with schools, Aboriginal groups, and curling clubs in that area.
 - Promoting Floor Curl (similar to Rocks and Rings, but not a prescribed program. This is simply a demonstration of curling off ice using Floor Curl equipment)
 - Promoting NOCA to affiliated and non-affiliated clubs.
- The grant has been extended for one year so the focus this season for the Development Coordinator will be member (curling clubs and curling club members) engagement.

Ontario Curling Council:

- A great deal of time was spent working on the OCC this season. Now that Jennifer Ferris has been hired as the Administrative Officer, work will proceed with more direction and leadership. (See OCC report)

This summer will be spent catching up and preparing for the fall.

Thank you to our Sponsors, the Board of Directors, Staff, our Curling Clubs, and the countless Volunteers for making this association so successful.

I am looking forward to another challenging season as the NOCA continues to evolve and improve operations and services to members and member clubs in the goal of promoting and developing the sport in Northern Ontario.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Kerr
Executive Director

Development Committee Report AGM June 2015

Committee members: 2014-15

Region	Member	Community
1	Chris Ransom	Sioux Lookout
2	Larry Rathje	Thunder Bay - FWCC
3	James McPherson	Longlac
4	Vacant	
5	Shawn Croisier	Sudbury – Idylwylde
5	Sandra Lahti - Chair	Sudbury -
6	Vacant	
	Dick Henderson – Tech. Coordinator	Thunder Bay

1. Athlete Development - see last page
 - i. Youth Challenges – Continue to grow in numbers.
 1. Continue to provide an overseeing and support communication for committee
 2. Address concerns – Tim's sponsorship issues
 3. Address emerging discrepancies amongst events-Reg, fees, rewards, rules
 - ii. Athlete Training
 1. CWG Team – funding through OTDP – Gold medal
 2. U18 – when appropriate – funding?
 3. OWG 2015 – 6 teams-funding through CCA HP Grant
 4. Bantam Talent ID Camps – Fort Frances (Charlebois) and Sudbury(Pula)
 - a. A total of 36F and 37M athletes and 27 coaches from 11 communities
 - b. Funding through CCA HP Grant
 - c. Developed age appropriate data base of skill levels with some video
 - d. Continue this development under HPMP of OCC
 - e. Perhaps institute a similar mini-camp at Regional Qualifying events
2. Coach Development- see last page
 - a. Continue to offer coach mentorship and training opportunities Q4G –Funding through CAO
 - b. Update data base of coaches by region and community
 - c. Oversee transfer of CAC data base to new Locker – May 20th
 - d. Professional Development point system will kick in after transfer. Certified coaches must reach target by Dec.31 2021 to maintain certification
 - e. As of 2017, coaches at
 - f. Coach Training opportunities through CAO –
 1. Olympia Sports Camp June 12-14
 2. Ontario Coaches Conference – Feb.19-21, 2016
 3. Through CCA - Curling
3. Officials Development – see last page
 - a. Head Official – Bill Charlebois
 - b. Data base for NOCA officials complete and up to date – maintain changes
 - c. Continue to offer both training and practical experiences for all interested officials at all levels
4. Ice Technician Development
 - a. Ice Tech committee – Brent Adamson, Tom Leonard and Ian Fischer
 - b. Training opportunities – continue to be offered prior to Amethyst Camp
5. Learning Facilitator Development
 - a. Currently 19 LF's available across NOCA – only about 9 were actively engaged last year
 - b. Two training sessions occurred during the two Coach Symposiums in TBay and Sudbury
 - c. Continue to update training for the LFs through OCC and CAO initiatives
 - i. LFPD Weekend and Coaches week – TBD
6. Competitions
 - a. Use these events to provide training, mentoring and certification opportunities for coaches
 - b. Investigate possibility of holding OWG format competition on a yearly basis
 - c. Investigate the possibility of declaring NOCA junior Champion a year in advance. This would help to extend the junior season and allow for both Coach and Team preparation in a HP setting.

Athlete Programming:

Train to Train (ages 12-16):

- 8 Youth Challenge events which help young teams acquire the skills to enter the competitive curling stream. 100 teams participated (50 Male, 50 Female). This is an increase of 30 teams over 2013-14. The ages of the participants range from 11-17.
- 7 regional competitive events with 66 teams competing (36 Male, 30 Female). This is an increase of 2 teams from 2013-14. The ages of participants is 11-16.
- 2 provincial Championships with 8 teams each (8 male, 8 female)
- 2 Talent Identification camps were held with 36 male participants and 37 female participants. All athletes were assessed using skill based criteria and data was collected to monitor progress of identified athletes
- 1 team (4 female athletes and 2 coaches) participated in the International Junior Curling Club Championship (Arlenheim, Switzerland). The women placed 7th out of 20 teams
- The Canada Winter Games Ontario Women's team trained by attending several competitive events, working with a Mental Performance Consultant, Fitness Consultant, and Nutritionist. The team won the Canada Winter Games Women's Gold medal
- 80 athletes (ages 13-16) attended the Amethyst Junior Curling Camp. This is a 6 day camp where athletes are trained to improve performance and strategic curling skills, fitness levels, team dynamics, nutrition awareness, and leadership.

Train to Compete (ages 16-23):

- 16 athletes (ages 17-19) attended the Amethyst Junior Curling Camp. This is a 6 day camp where athletes are trained to improve performance and strategic curling skills, fitness levels, team dynamics, nutrition awareness, and leadership.
- 7 regional and 2 provincial competitions were held for athletes 15-20 years of age. 22 teams competed (11 male, 11 female).

Coach Programming:

- 2 Coaching Conferences were held, one in Thunder Bay, one in Sudbury. The combined conferences resulted in the following training and/or professional development:

Coach Training:

- Competition Coach Course – 18 participants
- Competition Coach Evaluations – 4 participants
- Club Coach Course – 22 participants
- Make Ethical Decisions – 20 participants

Professional Development:

- CAAWS Workshop (Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport) – 20 participants
- Learning Facilitator Training – 10 LFs received training on delivering the Make Ethical Decisions, Club Coach, and Competition Coach courses.
- 22 Coaches worked at the Amethyst Junior Curling Camp. 7 of the instructors were new to the camp and received training and mentoring from provincial and national coaches.

Officials' Training:

- Level 1 Officiating Courses – 15 participants
- Level 2 Officiating Courses – 13 Participants
- Head Umpire – 20 participants
- On Ice Observers/Officials – 25 participants
- Head Timers – 32 participants
- Game Timers – 85 participants

Respectfully Submitted

Sandra Lahti
Development Committee Chair

Dick Henderson
Technical Coordinator

COMPETITIONS REPORT for Annual Meeting – June 2015 K. Saarimaki

Committee: Bill Charlebois, Claude Peloquin, Steve Meunier, Ian Fisher, Leslie Kerr

1. Highlights

Northern Ontario had another great year with some of the highlights as follows:

- Gord Williams and his Masters Men's team won silver at the National Masters (without having any qualifying playdowns)
- Brad Jacobs and team were runners-up at the Brier
- Tracy Horgan team were the first team to wear the colours of Northern Ontario at the Scotties , making it through pre-qualifying and were just one game out of the playoffs
- Megan Smith from Sudbury and her team won gold at the Canada Winter Games
- Northern Ontario swept the gold medals at the OFSAA (Ontario Highschool curling championship) Tanner Horgan (Sudbury) and Jenna Poirier (Sioux Lookout) won gold, Chris Perozak (Thunder Bay) won silver

2. Participation

Summary as follows:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Net	Since 07/08
Bantams	29	33	36	34	-2	+9
Juniors	32	29	19	22	+3	-13
Seniors	26	23	21	16	-5	-21
Masters	5	8	4	2	-2	-6
Women	7	5	5	5	0	-10
Men	23	12	18	15	-3	-37
Mixed	9	13	8	7	-1	-8
Mixed Dbles	first year	4	5	5	0	+1
Wheelchair	4	4	3	2	-1	+1
Travelers	44	38	37	37	0	+4
Overall	179	169	156	145	-11	-80

The number of teams competing in NOCA Championships continues to decline since our first year of competition in 2007-08. This past season the largest drop was in the number of senior teams. We did see an increase in Junior numbers, most likely due to the increase in bantam players over the past couple of seasons. We still must try to come up with creative ideas as to how we can increase the number of entries at our events, considering our vast geography, the economy, cost etc.

3. COMPETITIONS

a) Overall

The majority of our provincial competitions consist of a round robin followed by a semi-final between the 2nd and 3rd place teams, with the winner to play the 1st place team in a one game final. This format is working well.

We still need to develop a hosting agreement for clubs in particular when hosting a Provincial championship. A draft calendar has been started for both the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons.

b) Bantam/Junior/Senior

We have held an 8 team split provincial (male/female) at the Bantam, Junior and Senior level over the past five seasons. The Provincial Rotation has been changed starting 2015-16 for Bantams, Juniors and Seniors with both the male and female events scheduled for the same

region to allow either two clubs to host, or cohost, or allow an 8 sheet club in the region to host both events, which will help to increase the sociability of factor for those competing. Also some parents of Bantams and/or Juniors often have two curlers competing in both competitions so travel will hopefully be easier.

# of entries	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
Bantams	25	29	33	36	34
Juniors	29	32	29	19	17
Seniors	24	26	23	21	16

This year we held Bantam Regions a week later on the 3rd weekend of December with one team qualifying from each of the six regions, followed by two Qualifiers held on the same weekend in January. There was some concern expressed that this was too close to the Christmas holidays, so the Regions have been moved back to the 2nd weekend of December.

Seniors now play 8 end games which was a welcome change. We surveyed the teams at the Senior Men's Provincial (in addition to our usual online survey) about a few items, in particular with the number of teams declining, whether or not to keep our regional/provincial format, or change to two qualifiers and a provincial, or an open provincial. Responses were split evenly among the teams that responded. The idea of qualifiers may be the route to go in the future for both Seniors and Juniors if numbers continue to decline.

c) Masters, Wheelchair, Mixed Doubles, Mixed - Provincial Championships for Masters, Wheelchair and Mixed Doubles all continued to be Open competitions (no qualification).

Mixed Doubles – There still has not been a great deal of interest shown in this event (5 teams, an increase of one from the previous year). We still need to work on promoting this event as it is going to become an Olympic event in 2018. This is a great format for all clubs, to offer as an alternative to the game as we currently know it – only two player teams, games take approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes, players are more involved throughout the whole game.

Wheelchair – This year we had only two teams compete in a best 2 out of 3 competition.

Mixed – This past season we attempted to try and get some more participation in this event, by holding two qualifiers, one East and one West because the number of teams in the past few years seemed to be weighted towards whatever area of N. Ontario the provincial was being held in. However we discovered that most of the competitors did not want to have to plan for an extra weekend of competition (time off work, expense etc.) so we will revert back to an Open Provincial for Mixed for next season.

d) Women

2014-15 was the first year that Northern Ontario had its first entry at the National Scotties. We held an open provincial, with 5 teams participating. Hopefully interest in this event will continue to increase. We still would like to consider the same format as the Men – two qualifiers, one East, one West, with top 2 CTRS teams getting berths in an 8 team provincial final if the number of entries increases.

e) Men

This was the second season for an eight team provincial with three teams advancing from each of two qualifiers, one East, one West, held two weeks apart in January, with two spots given to the top two NOCA teams in the CTRS standings (as long as they are in the top 75). We had 7 teams enter the west qualifier and 6 teams enter the east qualifier, plus the two CTRS qualifiers for a total of 15 teams. This was down 3 teams from 2013-14.

f) Travelers

Rules/eligibility are determined by Travelers. Rules were changed again – players must be 19 years of age or older now, teams must have at least 3 players who have played together in a sanctioned club league during the season.

4. Fees for Competitors and Competitions

Fees are going to be increasing next season. All players in competitions leading to a National championship will have to pay a competitor's fee (except for Bantams and Masters). This will now include Juniors. The CCA fee is increasing to \$36 (from \$30) so our fee will increase from \$35 to \$41. Entry fees for competitions have stayed the same for the past three seasons so we are anticipating these increasing as well.

5. Officiating

Officiating at our competitions continues to improve. We are still in the process of trying to create an up to date master database of all of our officials and qualifications.

6. Competitor Guides/rules

We try to have our competitions mirror the National Championships as closely as possible so our Competitor Guides are always a work in progress. Hopefully there will only be some tidying up in most guides next season and no major rule changes.

7. Hosting Rotation

Rotation of Provincial Hosting Sites was updated, and now includes Mixed Doubles, as well as the Bantam Challenges and Men's Qualifiers.

This past season the clubs on Manitoulin Island (Espanola, Little Current, Mindemoya, Providence Bay) were in Region 4 and competed in Region 4 (in past years they had competed in Region 5).

Respectfully submitted by

**Karen Saarimaki
Competitions Chair**

PR and Communications report- AGM June 2015

Committee Role:

The PR and Communications committee provides support and counsel to the NOCA Board of Directors through the development of communication tools and processes which in turn can be used by NOCA affiliated clubs to improve communications and raise the image of curling in those communities.

Activities:

The committee developed a “do it yourself” media guide that provided tactics and techniques to generate media coverage of curling club activities across the north. The guide also included advice on successful media interview techniques. The media guide was circulated to all NOCA affiliated curling clubs.

The committee is working on a Communications Plan for NOCA and affiliated clubs that will proactively identify communication opportunities throughout the year, calendarize the activities and recommend tactics to communicate with internal and external stakeholders. The goal of the plan is to generate increased public awareness of the curling activities across the North, and the role of NOCA in supporting those activities.

The committee is developing communication template documents that will allow NOCA and the curling clubs to generate consistent formats for media-friendly documents including media releases, fact sheets, backgrounders, media advisories and key messages.

The committee developed a stakeholder communications presentation that was provided at the May meeting of the NOCA board. This presentation would be of value to curling clubs as well.

The committee is working with the Stakeholder engagement committee to develop a sponsorship package that can be used with current and potential sponsors of curling in northern Ontario.

The committee arranged a media event during its annual meeting in Sault Ste. Marie featuring E.J. Harnden, a member of the Team Jacobs Olympic gold medal squad. At the media event the President of NOCA Marion Clark presented E.J. with the Northern Ontario Championship banner which will be hung at Soo Curlers, home rink for Team Jacobs. Marion and E.J. were both interviewed by the media and television and social media stories were broadcast across northern Ontario that evening.

A graduate of the Sault College post-graduate Public Relations-Event Management program is interested in supporting the PR and Communications committee on a volunteer basis. The graduate is also a competitive curler who has been on provincial championship curling teams for the college.

Report on Policies and Procedures and By-laws

AGM June 2015

Policies:

Policies are currently under review to ensure congruency with the Ontario Curling Council's policies. Most have been reviewed and are being reformatted to include a preamble and purpose.

The Personnel Policy was brought to the board for discussion and approval last fall.

Leslie and Marion will complete the policy review and reformat this summer.

Bylaws:

There was a minor change to the Bylaws. In order to have all new board members present at the spring face-to-face meeting, the dates for electing region directors and members at large were changed. These revisions did not alter the intent of the corresponding article in the by-laws.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Clark, Policy and Bylaw Committee Chair

Chair's Report 2015

Ontario Curling Council (OCC)

It is hard to believe that nine months has come and gone since the 2014 AGM last September.

Council approved the changes to the bylaws and all policies including three new ones - Workplace Violence, Screening and the financial policy. All are posted on the website.

In November, the Administrative Officer was given a one-year renewable contract with a title change to Manager, Programs and Operations – Jennifer Ferris occupies this position.

The Executive Directors of both MA's and the Manager of Programs and Operations of the OCC continue to work very closely to ensure compliance with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's (MTCS) Sport Recognition Policy and to ensure the implementation of the LTAD (Long-term Athlete Development Plan). It was determined that the planning for High Performance (HP) would become the bailiwick of OCC while both NOCA and OCA would drive the Learn to Play, Learn to Train and the Train to Train pathways

The Executive Directors of the MA's, the Manager of Programs and Operations of the OCC, Gerry Peckham of Curling Canada, Peter Seto from the Ministry met with a representative of the Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario (CSIO) in early December to discuss the work that has been accomplished since April with all three of the curling organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to demonstrate OCC's readiness for an HP program, and confirm the support of the MA's and Curling Canada as well as providing an overview of the plans going forward. CSIO's response was very favourable and they indicated that they would be supportive in our bid to leverage funding opportunities for high performance programming for Ontario athletes.

One of the next steps was the development of a High Performance Committee. Criteria were posted on the OCC website and anyone who met the requirements and was interested in becoming part of the committee was asked to submit a letter of intent and a resume relating to the criteria. Candidates have been selected and it is anticipated that the work will start in the near future.

Although the Ministry consultant has indicated that he is very pleased with the direction OCC is going and that the three organizations have similar policies and financial practices, he still has a concern with the OCC Board structure. After much discussion, Council is making a recommendation to the incoming board to restructure in a 2,2,2 +1 format i.e. 2 councilors elected by the NOCA board, 2 elected from the OCA board, 2 at large, competency-based and a financial expert to be appointed but not having a vote.

I would like to recognize and thank Jennifer Ferris, the Administrative Officer, for her leadership and myriad skills in directing the activities and making all this happen in such a short time frame and in such a professional manner; to Terri Collicott who has been the backbone of OCC and the one constant, providing us with any and all information we needed to get the job done; Thank you to Leslie Kerr and Steve Chenier, Executive Directors of the MA's for their support and assistance to OCC and for the incredible amount of work that these three have accomplished in such a short period of time.

And last, but not least, the Council members, Gord Gark, Sandra Lahti, Rick Meraska, Bill Rourke (Secretary-treasurer) and Mike Szajewski, who have contributed so much time and talent to make sure OCC is doing what is best for the curlers in Ontario, I humbly thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Clark,
Chair, OCC

2014-2015 Report of Manager, Program and Operations Ontario Curling Council

Much has been accomplished since the Ontario Curling Council's (OCC) 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM), which was held in September 2014. Activities continue to be focussed around the direction set in the Strategic Plan (approved June 2014).

Since September, efforts have focused on relationship building and raising the profile of the Ontario Curling Council. The OCC, Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA) and the Ontario Curling Association (OCA) continue to work exceptionally well together, with efforts focused on improving curling for both recreational and competitive curlers. We have been actively engaged with Curling Canada, Ministry Tourism, Culture and Sport, Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario (CSIO), Parasport Ontario and other sports.

Active participation in events such as a Federal Minister's Sector Consultation, OFSSA Coaching Symposiums, Ontario Heritage Week, CIS University Championships, Curling Canada Coach Training events, Coaches Association of Ontario Conference, Curling Canada Summit have all aided in improving Curling's reputation in Ontario.

New bylaws were approved at the 2014 AGM. Policy improvement, creation of Standard Operating Procedures, development of a Provincial Sport Organization Registry have been implemented in an effort to comply with MTCS Sport Recognition Policy.

We have been advised that our Base Funding from the MTCS will remain the same until the 2016-2017 Fiscal year. The program is being reviewed by the MTCS, we will be expected to go through a Base Funding Application for the 2016-2017 season.

The Sport Alliance of Ontario (SAO) filed for bankruptcy in April 2015, services provided by that organization will be transferred back to the MTCS with the exception of landlord services for tenants of 3 Concorde Place. The SAO bankruptcy has had minimal impact on Curling's operations compared to many other sports. We did not receive the final installment of the TODG – but may recuperate a portion of the grant from the Bankruptcy Trustee. MTCS has indicated that programs such as Ontario Sport Awards, Games programs, TODG will continue, although some of the events have been placed on hiatus until the MTCS can find sufficient staffing.

Quest for Gold Athlete Assistance Program was revised to reflect the program criteria, and 14 athletes received support through this program. Team Ontario Development Grant (TODG) and Program supported the two Canada Winter Games teams to Gold and Silver medal finishes at the Canada Winter Games.

The primary focus of the OCC since fall 2014 has been creation of a High Performance Plan. OCC, NOCA, and OCA have worked closely with Curling Canada to create a plan that is aligned with Curling Canada's Podium Pathway. Consultation with key stakeholders (governance, athletes, coaches, NSO, Member Associations) within the province aided in the creation of the plan. MTCS and CSIO were consulted on multiple occasions to ensure our plan was meeting their expectations as well as ours. The OCC is attempting to demonstrate readiness for entry into the Ontario High Performance Management Plan,

the precursor to the Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative. Opportunities to access CSIO services are becoming available immediately. A Sport Priority Fund Grant Application has been filed with support from CSIO and Curling Canada in June 2015 for a High Performance Plan Pilot Project. A High Performance Team has been formed to make key programming decisions. A program will be implemented in some form for the 2015-2016 regardless of the SPF Grant.

Other support has been provided to the Member Associations throughout the year including but not limited to;

- Coach Developer Training and Administrative Support
- Creation of NOCA forms
- Facilitation of NOCA Face to Face board meeting
- Accessibilities of Ontarians Disability Act – informational memo for clubs
- Health and Safety Program for Clubs (OCA Project)
- Ice Technician Mentorship Program Support

In June 2015, the Ontario Curling Council website was overhauled and went live at www.ontariocurlingcouncil.com.

This amount of quality work could not have been accomplished without a highly functioning team of people who are committed to moving curling forward in Ontario. Special thanks to Leslie Kerr, Steve Chenier, Marion Clark, Terri Collicott, Tom Ward, Gerry Peckham and Dick Henderson. All of you have been played key roles in in the work we have accomplished so far. We also recognize the support of our MTCS Consultant, Peter Seto and the positive impact he has had on our organization.

Thank you to the Ontario Curling Council councilors for your vote of support in hiring me full time and ensuring that we function as an athlete centred provincial sport organization. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated by myself and curlers in Ontario.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J Ferris', written in a light grey or blue ink.

Jennifer Ferris
Manager, Program & Operations
Ontario Curling Council