

# NOCA

NOVEMBER 2018 ISSUE

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BONSPIEL  
SCHEDULE

# NEWS

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PROVINCIAL  
UNIFORMS

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CHALLENGE IN  
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## RONNEBECK: What Is Your Role As A Coach?

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What were your expectations of your role when you first started working with a team? Now that you've been coaching for a while are you laughing at your old self? Was your main goal to help your team win games and competitions? Easy – teach them to call the correct shot, throw and brush and voila – winning. Let's take a look at the reality... and the number of hats a coach can wear.

**Hat #1 – Leader:** Perhaps you've been asked by a team to work with them. Maybe you start the team by selecting players for specific positions. Once the team is organized, you may help identify goals, plan the season based on the goals and then design and conduct practices and team meetings. It could be that when you decided to start coaching, this is what you envisioned yourself doing. But then...

**Hat#2 – Facilitator:** Depending on the level of skill and experience of your team, it might be hard for you to be the Big Cheese – the person on the team who knows it all. As the team evolves and the performance capacity increases, they may need the input from other experts. You

may find yourself seeking out specialists in other fields. A sports mental preparation expert will help your team with the game that goes on between their ears – how to deal with distractions, emotional control, thought control and how to get into the ideal performance state. A physiologist or personal trainer will help get the team into top physical condition in the off-ice season and then help maintain that conditioning throughout the season to help prevent injuries and physical fatigue.

**Hat #3 – Technical Expert:** You need to have the knowledge to enable athletes to throw the rock and brush their teammates rocks to successful outcomes. Are they sliding on line and if not – what do you do about it? You have to know the ideal release and rotation. Your expertise in brushing may be constantly growing in light of recent developments with new brush fabrics and technology.

**Hat #4 – Strategy and Tactics Guru:** Your team whether they are starting out or have been playing for a number of years will constantly need your advice and discussion on this topic. Curling is always compared to chess as teams move their rocks around on the sheet looking for the advantage in order to score the most points. Unlike chess, though our sport requires the athlete to put a slippery sole on one shoe and then balance on it while sliding down the ice holding on to almost 20 kgs. of granite, releasing it before the hog line with just the right amount of weight and rotation to put the rock exactly where the skip wants it. No just picking up the chess piece and placing it in our sport. Oh and then there are brushers who →

are required to judge the weight to assist the thrower in placing the rock where the skip wants it, sweeping it at exactly the right time with the right angle and the correct brusher next to the rock. All this also requires the skip to try and have her/his team make better rock placements than the opposition. Whew!!!! You could be wearing this hat a lot.

#### **Hat #5 - Life Juggler and**

**Gymnast:** No matter what skill level of athlete you are working, they have lives outside of curling (unfortunately). There are many competing priorities – family, school, boyfriends, girlfriends, and work to name just a few. You want to have a plan – after all it's better to have a plan that doesn't work than no plan that doesn't work (thanks Bill Tschirhart) – but life gets in the way sometimes and you learn that you have to be flexible. Putting too much emphasis on the team's schedule can lead to increased stress and before you know it you're bending over backwards trying to find middle ground. So make sure you get lots of input from the team on this one.

#### **Hat #6 – Accountant and**

**Travel Consultant:** Your team will have expenses mostly related to travel and competition entry fees. Fortunately, this may be one hat that you can assign to someone else. A parent is usually happy to take this on but if not charge up your calculator and cell phone.

#### **Hat #7 – Friend and**

**Confidante:** A wise coach (Bill Charlebois) once said to me he told his teams he would always be their friend but he would never be their pal. There is a big difference – a friend will have your back, help you through the good times and bad, and provide firm guidance when you need it. A pal is

someone who may be with you in the good times but will abandon you when you get arrested!

**Hat #8 – Referee:** This is the hardest hat to wear at times but may also make or break a team. A curling team is made up of 4 INDIVIDUALS plus the coach - oh and if you're coaching juniors – you can add their parents to the mix. Everyone has their own motivation and needs and your role is to ensure that everyone has what they need to perform their best as a TEAM. If any needs aren't filled – can there be compromise? The compromise is often the trickiest bit.

By now, your hair is a mess and your arms are tired from switching hats so often. You may lose sleep. You won't be a millionaire on what teams pay – in fact, this job may actually cost you money. But watching your athletes grow and become not just good curlers but better athletes and above all else, incredible human beings makes it all worthwhile.

The World Curling Federation has a Code of Ethics to help guide our actions and interactions:

*A coach mentors, facilitates, and sets a positive example by:*

- *Acting in the athletes' total best interests;*
- *Maintaining high standards of personal conduct;*
- *Acting with integrity towards others;*
- *Accepting the letter & spirit of curling rules;*
- *Preparing her/himself to be current & competent.*

Use the Code of Ethics as part of your performance goals and as you work towards them, your team will have the best experience possible despite the outcome of the game.

Submitted by:

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\*\*\*\*\* **HEY COACHES** \*\*\*\*\*

We are looking for a minimum of three (3) more candidates to support a Competition Coach course in the Sudbury area on the weekend of December 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Remember that to coach at a provincial level competition you must be "Competition Coach" trained with "Make Ethical Decisions".

Please write [andrea.ronnebeck@curlno.ca](mailto:andrea.ronnebeck@curlno.ca)



## ABOUT THE NEW NORTHERN PERFORMANCE CURLING CENTRE

Coaches: Amanda Gates and Jennifer Gates

NPCC's goal is to create an environment for all ages and levels of curlers to learn, improve and have fun. Our coaches are very passionate about growing the sport of curling. Together they boast over 30 years of competitive curling and over 20 years of coaching experience. Northern Performance Curling Centre was put in place to become the first of its kind in Northern Ontario, offering services from novice curlers to elite athletes. NPCC is here to service the needs and interests of all curlers and curling clubs.

### Services Include

- Private and Group Lessons (1 or 2 hours)
- Courses, 4 - 8 weeks in length (1 or 1.5 hours)
- Clinics, Half day or full day
- Program Development
- Coaching Support

For quotes or more info you can email  
[northernperformancecc@gmail.com](mailto:northernperformancecc@gmail.com)  
or call 705 561 7805



## DOUBLES CURLING

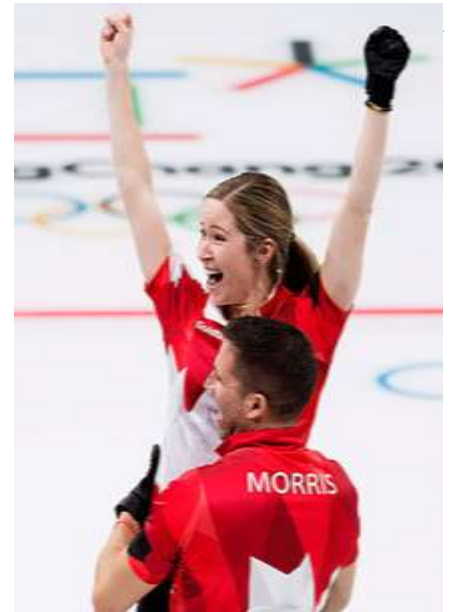
Are you looking for something new to try at your club? Doubles (or Mixed Doubles) is the hottest new league in many clubs across Northern Ontario, and Canada.

After the media exposure to Mixed doubles after the 2018 Olympic Games, many clubs took advantage of the interest and hosted Try Mixed Doubles sessions. The sessions were well attended and many clubs now have a Doubles League.

The game is short as only 5 rocks per team are played, and a game takes just over an hour to play. Teams are made up of two people, so unlike traditional 4-person teams, you only need one friend to play Doubles.

The format is attracting younger people to the game, the people who are busy with careers, young families, and other activities, so the pace and length of the game is very attractive to them. At the Atikokan Curling Club (Atikokan population 2800), a clinic was held last spring with 12 people attending. The participants asked if there was a Doubles League so the Executive agreed to try it this season and 12 teams registered. Only 2 of the teams were from the regular league curling; the rest are all new to curling. The league is expected to grow to 16 teams before Christmas.

Here are a couple of links to resources for Doubles (Mixed or otherwise) curling →



- [CBC – Mixed Doubles Curling Explained](#)
- [VIDEO: What Is Mixed Doubles Curling?](#)
- [RULES](#)
- [CLUB RESOURCE](#)

## CANADA WINTER GAMES PRE-TRIALS

The Ontario Curling Council is responsible for declaring the Ontario Representative to compete at the Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alberta – from February 15 – March 3, 2019. This will be done through a qualifying process which includes six (6) regional competitions, all scheduled for December 7-9, 2018. Because this is truly a provincial event, teams may enter in any one of the events, regardless of where their home club is.

Two events are scheduled in Northern Ontario, at the Capreol Curling Club and the Kakabeka Falls Curling Club. There is still room for more teams and the registration



deadline is November 26<sup>th</sup>. The winners from each regional event, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> place and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners from the Ontario Winter Games held last season, will advance to the Provincial Championship in Sault Ste. Marie, January 3-6, 2018.

The Canada Winter Games is for male and female teams with athletes who are a maximum of 17 years of age on June 30, 2018. Year of Birth: Any

athlete born on or after July 1, 2000.)

Don't miss this great opportunity to try to represent Ontario at the Canada Winter Games in February.

**LINK:** [Information and Registration](#)





# CHEER FOR TEAM JACKSON & WEISS NOV. 19-24

[CURLING.CA/2018TRAVELERS](http://CURLING.CA/2018TRAVELERS) | [#TCCC2018](https://twitter.com/TCCC2018) | [#FEARTHEMOOSE](https://twitter.com/FEARTHEMOOSE)

2018 Travelers Draw Schedule			ice 1	ice 2	ice 3	ice 4	ice 5	ice 6	off
SUNDAY NOV 18	team meeting	6:15pm	all teams meeting						
	opening reception	7:00pm	opening reception						
MONDAY NOV 19	practice	9:00am	AB	BC	QC	SK	NO	NT	NU
	practice	10:00am	YT	NL	NB	NS	PE	MB	ON
	practice	12:00pm	MB	NS	AB	QC	YT	PE	NU
	practice	1:00pm	NT	NB	NO	ON	NL	SK	BC
	Draw 1	3:00pm	1	AB vs QC	MB vs NB	NU vs NT	NS vs NL	NO vs BC	YT vs PE
	Ceremonies	6:15pm	opening ceremonies						
	Draw 2	7:30pm	2	MB vs AB	SK vs NO	NU vs PE	ON vs NB	YT vs NS	NT vs NL
TUESDAY NOV 20	Draw 3	9:00am	3	SK vs AB	QC vs MB	NT vs BC	PE vs NS	NU vs NO	NU vs YT
	Draw 4	12:30pm	4	NO vs BC	NB vs ON	NL vs NB	PE vs NL	NT vs ON	YT vs NS
	Draw 5	4:00pm	5	QC vs NU	AB vs NU	AB vs NO	MB vs YT	BC vs SK	NS vs QC
	Draw 6	7:30pm	6	NB vs SK	NL vs MB	BC vs NT	ON vs YT	NL vs NO	PE vs NB
WEDNESDAY NOV 21	Draw 7	9:00am	7	PE vs MB	NT vs AB	QC vs NU	SK vs NU	NS vs AB	BC vs QC
	Draw 8	12:30pm	8	YT vs NL	NT vs NB	MB vs PE	SK vs NL	NS vs ON	ON vs BC
	Draw 9	4:00pm	9	NU vs NS	NU vs BC	YT vs AB	NO vs QC	QC vs PE	SK vs NT
	Draw 10	7:30pm	10	NB vs NS	NO vs ON	NL vs ON	NB vs BC	MB vs YT	SK vs NT
THURSDAY NOV 22	Draw 11	9:00am	11	YT vs QC	BC vs NL	ON vs SK	NO vs NT	MB vs NU	AB vs PE
	Draw 12	12:30pm	12	NO vs SK	ON vs PE	NS vs MB	NB vs YT	AB vs NU	QC vs NT
	Draw 13	4:00pm	13	NL vs ON	PE vs YT	NS vs MB	AB vs QC	BC vs SK	NB vs NO
	Draw 14	7:30pm	14	PE vs NS	NT vs NO	BC vs AB	QC vs SK	ON vs MB	NL vs NB
FRIDAY NOV 23	tie-breakers	8:30am	Tiebreakers (if necessary)						
	High Performance	10:30am	High Performance Clinic						
	quarter finals	1:30pm	16		women QF	women QF	men QF	men QF	
	semi finals	6:30pm	17		women SF	women SF	men SF	men SF	
SATURDAY NOV 24	Finals	10:00am	18		men bronze	men gold	women gold	women bronze	
	Victory Brunch	12:30pm	Victory Celebration						
	Teams Depart	3:30pm	Teams Depart						



## **BIN: Excellent Ice Conditions a Group Effort**

Who is your Ice Crew? They are the people behind the scenes who create the ice surface that allow the curlers to make great shots. Many people out there, including curlers don't comprehend the efforts of the Ice Crew to make this ice surface. What many curlers see is the preparation of the ice between evening draws or between games during a bonspiel. Very few people see the Ice Crew take out the scraper/profiler and observe them remove the pebble from the ice surface. Hacks are cleaned, rocks moved, sheets mopped, ice pebbled and then nipped. This process takes them between 1 to 3 hours depending on how much help is available and the number of sheets of ice are being prepped. The whole idea with this process is to provide a clean, fresh ice surface for the players to play their game on.

What can the curlers do to keep the ice conditions at their best during game after the ice surfaced has been prepped?

- 1) Keep your curling clothes clean. Hair for example, be it personal or animal does stick to your clothes. It then tends to fall off while on the ice especially when sweeping.
- 2) Clean your equipment. The heads of your broom should be cleaned of all loose dirt on a regular basis, using a scrub brush, even during the game. Grippers should be inspected, cleaned on the outside and then turned inside out to clean the inside of the gripper. All that loose rubber and lint finds its way onto the ice, especially around the hacks when people go to shoot their rock. (Don't forget to place all the dirt in a garbage can.) Curling footwear should never be worn outside. All the loose sand, both fine and coarse can stick to the bottom of the shoes and find its way out to the ice surface. Grippers, once excessive wear is observed, must be replaced to ensure your safety.
- 3) If you find debris on the ice, place it in the garbage. I see all too many times people move the dirt to an empty sheet or on the backboards. People!!!! Where do the curlers walk or stand between the shots. The dirt you just moved could be stepped on and then find its way back onto the sheet, hopefully not under

your skip's final rock facing 3 opponent's points. OOPS!

4) Clean the bottom of the rock before you shoot it. Airborne dust, lint, rubber particles, etc, can stick to the running surface on the bottom of the rock and effect the way the rock travels down the ice surface. Before people jump the gun and say that there is a bad rock out there (not to say there is not a bad rock) check the running surface. It should be clean and smooth when you rub your fingertip along it.

5) Lastly, leaving your hand or knee on the ice while your rock is going to down the sheet of ice, not only leaves a mark on the ice, it also has a warming effect on the ice. So not only did you melt away the pebble that was on the ice for the rocks to travel on, but you have also heated that ice area up. This could potentially affect any rock in the future that are travels down that path. I have seen people use knee pads and/or glove to minimize the impact on the ice.

If we all do our part, Ice Crew and Curlers alike, more great shots will be made.

Submitted by:

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North Bay Granite Club  
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GET A QUOTE & BE ENTERED TO  
**WIN**  
TICKETS, HOTEL AND FLIGHTS  
2019 WFG CONTINENTAL CUP  
**LAS VEGAS**

WELCOME  
TO Fabulous  
**LAS VEGAS**  
NEVADA

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS



**CONISTON: Open Bonspiel**  
@ Coniston Curling Club  
All-day

NOV 16 FRI  
18 SUN



Competitive and recreational divisions available for \$240/team. Teams may consist of any combination of women and men). Includes: 3 games guaranteed, pizza on Friday night, and dinner on Saturday night ...

**IDYLWYLDE: Just For Laughs Day Ladies' Funspiel**  
@ Idylwyld Golf & Country Club  
All-day

NOV 17 SAT



Come out and join us on Saturday, November 17, 2018 for a one day funspiel. Cost is \$300 per team, includes 3 games, lunch and dinner. Bring your jokes, wear a fun costume and get ready to laugh. To r ...

**NORTH BAY: Assante 101 Classic Senior Open Bonspiel**  
@ North Bay Granite Club  
All-day

NOV 23 FRI  
25 SUN



The Assante 101 Classic has become a very popular Senior Open bonspiel attracting men, ladies, and mixed teams. Registration will be limited to the first 32 paid teams paid. Spiel offers great prizes, ...

**COMMUNITY FIRST: Grey Cup Cash Spiel**  
@ Community First Curling Centre  
All-day

NOV 23 FRI  
25 SUN



• Live Entertainment Friday & Saturday Night • Pizza Friday Night • Lunch & Banquet Dinner Saturday • Cash Prizes • 3 Games Guaranteed • Special Hotel Rates

**IDYLWYLDE: Pensioners' Grey Cap Bonspiel**  
@ Idylwyld Golf & Country Club  
07:00 pm

NOV 26 MON  
28 WED



Entry fee: \$70 Draws: 10am and 1pm (Teams play same draw each day) Dinner: Wednesday November 28th 5pm Contact: Dave Hodge davehodge01@gmail.com

**STURGEON FALLS: Rivet Insurance Men's Bonspiel**  
@ Sturgeon Falls Curling Club  
All-day

FEB 8 FRI  
10 SUN



The Sturgeon Falls Curling Club's Men's Bonspiel is a THREE DAY EVENT with a cash payout and prizes given throughout the weekend.

**STURGEON FALLS: Tremblay Chev-Buick-GMC Ladies' Bonspiel**  
@ Sturgeon Falls Curling Club  
All-day

FEB 2 SAT  
3 SUN



The Sturgeon Falls Curling Club's Ladies' Bonspiel is a TWO DAY EVENT with cash payouts and many prizes given throughout the weekend.

**TARENTORUS: Hogs 'N Gutters**  
@ Tarentorus Sports Club  
All-day

NOV 30 FRI  
DEC 1 SAT



ARE YOU READY FOR A NEW SPIN ON THE CLASSIC BONSPIEL? HOW ABOUT A TOURNAMENT THAT COMBINES CURLING AND BOWLING? Sign up for Tarentorus Sports Club's: Hogs 'N Gutters Tournament! WHEN: Friday, Novemb ...

**STURGEON FALLS: Bouffard Well Drilling Mixed Bonspiel**  
@ Sturgeon Falls Curling Club  
All-day

JAN 11 FRI  
13 SUN



Sturgeon Falls Curling Club's Mixed Bonspiel is NOW A THREE DAY EVENT! This bonspiel has a cash payout with many prizes given throughout the weekend.

**PROVIDENCE BAY: The Manitoulin Meat Boss Spiel**  
@ Providence Bay Curling Club  
All-day

NOV 30 FRI  
DEC 2 SUN



Open Spiel (Mens, Ladies, or Any Combination) \$180 per team + \$20 Blind Calcutta Delicious Saturday Evening Dinner Meat Package Prizes for every event

**SUDBURY: CTV Northern Masters Bonspiel @ Curl Sudbury**  
All-day

FEB 19 TUE  
21 THU



Open to all men and women curlers 60 years of age or older in 2019. 3 games guaranteed. Entry fee \$280.00 per team.

**ESPANOLA: Dennis Sidock Memorial Masters**  
@ Espanola Curling Club  
All-day

MAR 5 TUE  
6 WED



Espanola Curling Club DENNIS SIDOCK MEMORIAL MASTERS MARCH 5 & 6 2019 Enter early as only first 16 teams accepted Bill Lewis (705) 869-1487 Bob Leroux (705) 869-9084

**CONISTON: Mixed Bonspiel**  
@ Coniston Curling Club  
All-day

MAR 1 FRI  
3 SUN



Come join the party! \$240/team includes: 3 games guaranteed, pizza on Friday plus dinner and dance on Saturday night. Registration deadline: February 23rd, 2019.





## HAVE YOUR SAY: Team Northern Ontario Uniforms Under Construction!

It was announced today that NOCA's provincial clothing supplier, Dynasty Curling Apparel, has become the Official Uniform Partner of Curling Canada BUT they have one problem and they need OUR help! Dynasty Curling wants to create apparel that best represents the provinces and territories of Canada when teams participate in the Scotties Tournament of Hearts and Tim Hortons Brier, and they want your ideas on just how to do that! Here's what they need from you:

Comment on their related social media posts or send a direct message and let them know how they should represent each province or territory on their apparel for Curling Canada national events

such as the Scotties Tournament of Hearts and Tim Hortons Brier. What images, colours, or designs would be best to use for each provincial or territorial jacket (ie: Northern Ontario angry moose, etc)? Have more than one idea? Share them ALL!

Along with your idea, use the provincial or territorial hashtag that matches your design idea (for Team Northern Ontario design use #DynastyNO)

What's in it for you?

#TeamDynasty is giving away 14 hoodies (1 hoodie per winner)! One idea = one entry. Enter/share as many ideas as you like!

\*Unlimited entries between now and November 23<sup>rd</sup> (1 Entry Per Post)\*

Contest ends on November 23, 2018 at 4 p.m. CST. Prize is available to Canadian residents only.

[CLICK HERE for official press release from Curling Canada.](#)



*Congratulations to Northern Ontario's Trevor Bonot and Mike McCarville on winning the Sportsmanship award for their respective position at the 2019 Canadian Mixed. Karlee Jones (very right) of Team Nova Scotia is originally from Thunder Bay, NO.*



**SHOP AT**

**[FEARTHEMOOSE.ITEMORDER.COM](https://FEARTHEMOOSE.ITEMORDER.COM)**



## HIT DRAW TAP CHALLENGE

NOCA Clubs are encouraged to participate in Curling Canada's Hit Draw Tap Challenge. This event is for youth ages 6-13. Curlers are divided into age groups (6-8, 9-10, 11-13) and will practice their skills at an age specific level until a final challenge time is set at the club. Once the curlers have scored their final score, it will be posted on a provincial and national leader board.

NOCA Clubs are encouraged to participate in Curling Canada's Hit Draw Tap Challenge. This event is for youth ages 6-13. Curlers are divided into age groups (6-8, 9-10, 11-13) and will practice their skills at an age specific level until a final challenge time is set at the



PICTURED: inaugural NOCA 6-8-year-old age group winner, Liam Nephin of Geraldton with organizer Larry Rathje

club. Once the curlers have scored their final score, it will be posted on a provincial and national leader board.

More information is available at <https://www.hitdrawtap.ca/> and also be sent to clubs in the next week, and posted on our

social media pages. Stay tuned for the opportunity to get your young curlers practicing their Hits, Draws, and Taps.



## SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION

November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> saw representatives from 19 NOCA clubs participate in two Business of Curling symposiums. Lots of information was shared; this is a summary of some of the links to resources that were discussed. There's a ton of information at your fingertips to help grow your club and programs – let your fingers do the walking!!

### CLICK ON THE BULLETS

- [Curling Canada \(General Info\)](#)
- [NOCA \(General Info\)](#)



PICTURED: (L-R) Dave Bennett, Mark Brown and Rick Miller accept a Northern Ontario Business Award on behalf of the 2018 Ford World Women's Curling Championship committee

- [Adult Learn to Curl Program](#)
- [Benefits of Curling Videos](#)
- [Advocacy Tool Templates](#)
- [Grants Ontario Website](#)
- [National Sports Trust Fund](#)
- [Canva \(Poster Templates\)](#)
- [Business of Curling Facebook Group](#)

## Patience, careful attention to detail are key You can't push ice making: "Water only freezes as fast as it's going to freeze"

**M. McKinnon**

This year's municipal election threw a curve ball into curling icemaker Jason Johnson's life.

Because the Little Falls Rec Centre was needed as an emergency polling place (it - or at least the main hall with the ice surface - is fully accessible, a must for a polling place), the ice making schedule had to be pushed back about four days.

"I'll be working some long days this week," he said Tuesday afternoon. The Atikokan curling seasons starts tonight, with a learn to curl workshop.

By Tuesday, he had a pretty good base of ice down, and was hoping to lay down the white paint by late Wednesday or early Thursday.

Johnson, who was introduced to the art of ice-making during seven years of work with Rob Botel, is a certified level three curling ice technician. When Botel left in 2009, Johnson formed Quetico Adventuring & Sports and won the tender to make the ice at Little Falls, a job he's held ever since.

Icemaking this year actually began a couple of weeks ago, when he spent a day and a half scrubbing the Little Falls floor. It's a big job, cleaning over 13,000 square feet with an ancient scrubber; much of it is done twice.

"If you don't start with a clean surface, you won't get good ice-cement contact, and you will have thermal breaks in your ice surface. That makes it difficult to control the ice temperature."

And controlling ice temperature is what an icemaker's work is all about. A one degree Fahrenheit change in that temperature will affect how far a thrown rock will travel by about three feet.

Once the floor was cleaned, the cooling system was turned on (that was on October 26), and by the twenty-eighth the floor was at 21°F (-6°C), cold enough to start making ice.

The first layers of ice are very thin.

"You put it down in a fine mist, so the water flash freezes as soon as it hits the cement."

He tracks how much water he is putting down, and gradually increases it as the thickness of the ice increases. For the first pass, he will put about three gallons of water on each sheet of ice. By Tuesday evening, he was putting about seventy gallons of ice on each sheet.

Once the whole surface is "relatively flat", he will apply the white paint. It's a special paint designed for use in ice and is applied with a sprayer that metes out fine



Ice man Jason Johnson, with an assist from his father Paul, lays the white paint at the Little Falls Curling Club. Atikokan's curling season gets underway tonight.

droplets that freeze on contact with the ice surface. This is a crucial step and can be quite tricky.

"I set the plant to get the ice as cold as it can go," he said. "If the paint goes on too warm, or too thick, it turns grey."

This is his seventeenth year installing the ice and that experience is what guides him. He knows when the paint is going down correctly.

"In all those years we had to restart the process only one time... Things that year just went sideways."

Once the white paint is down satisfactorily, he will seal the surface with water, gradually building one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch of ice on top if it. Then he is ready to start adding the houses, probably the most creative part of the job.

A few years ago, Johnson developed a new logo for the Atikokan Curling Club, and then incorporated that logo into the designs on the curling ice. Last year he did one sheet in Atikokan tartan colours,

## The fine art of making ice for curling

which was well received. He is going a little bolder this year.

"Sometimes sitting in the park you find you have a few hours at night to come up with new ideas..."

Johnson has spent the better part of the past twenty-five summers working in Quetico Park (the past fifteen as a ranger at Prairie Portage), and that experience will be reflected in one of the houses. He is also something of a science fiction fan, and that, too, will be apparent on this year's ice surface.

Once the houses and other ice designs are down, he seals it all with another quarter inch of ice, and then uses woolen yarn to lay down the lines. For the last couple of floods he puts down 130 to 150 gallons of water per sheet.

Then comes one of the trickiest parts of the whole process.

"Water freezes level, but not flat," he says. And flatness on a

curling sheet is an absolute necessity. He achieves that by scraping and peebing (applying water in thick misting swathes that give the curling ice its trademark rough 'peebled' finish). His experience is a big help; he has learned all the high and low spots on the cement floor.

By the time the ice surface is ready for play, ice thickness ranges from three-quarters of an inch (on the floor's high spots) to one-and-a-half inches in its shallow spots.

Once the ice is in, the challenges don't end. The building is certainly not a climate controlled environment (it is not insulated), so warm, sunny weather, periods of high humidity, and extreme cold all present particular challenges for the ice maker.

Long cold spells are especially difficult to deal with, because the ice can start sublimating (literally drying out), resulting in negative ice, where the rocks start curling

in the opposite direction.

"The perfect outdoor temperature for this system seems to be about -10°C to -15°C. It's easiest to maintain good ice then," he said. "Most people would probably like that, if the temperature stayed there all winter..."

Although Johnson enjoys the art of ice-making, he is probably a curler at heart. We asked him if he'd ever considered upgrading to a level four or five icemaker, which would require him to travel to national and other high level events to work under senior icemakers.

His first thought was that would mean leaving his teams (he's been a coach of the high school teams for years) and his ice surface in other hands.

"I remember I was in grade seven at Marks Street and thought I'd give curling a try. Wally Hannon and Ron Speck taught us, and I have been curling ever since."





## STRENGTHENING YOUR VOLUNTEER OPERATION

Without fail, most Canadian curling rinks rely on volunteer help to meet all their operational needs during the season. And without fail, we keep hearing volunteers are more and more difficult to recruit.

The key reason lies with the busy lives of all Canadians and time is the new currency for many. How do we manage volunteers facing this barrier to our business?

There are successful volunteer operations at a number of curling rinks. A successful volunteer program has three components: recruitment, training and retention.

These are some the tools they use in each of these areas.

### Recruitment:

1) Know your members. On your membership application form, ask them for their knowledge, skills and other abilities. It should be an optional on the form but you may find out what people do for a living and what special skills they have.

2) Outline as many volunteer roles that you have including

what the role involves and how much time it takes. This may take time but the effort will be worthwhile

3) Now that you have a list of people and the jobs, match them up. The sign-up sheet is hit and miss option while the direct ask has a greater chance of success. Ask people to join 'your team' (instead of being on a committee)!

4) With the surging popularity of Adult Learn To Curl, do not ignore new members and especially new members who are new to curling. They have proven to be more open to volunteering even when they know little about the club or the sport.

### Training:

1) Try to mentor new volunteers with current volunteers. Quicker learning curve. An orientation process perhaps?

2) Be accurate & honest in expectations of the role & time commitment for every 'job'.

3) Be supportive, make recommendations if required, and celebrate success!

### Retention:

1) All volunteers should be thanked in a timely & appropriate manner

2) Personal touch: in person, phone call, hand written note, credit for concession (bar, café, proshop), certificates, plaques...

3) If possible include volunteer recognition at your Annual General Meeting.

4) Celebrate team accomplishments on social media! The word will spread!!!

Submitted by:

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Ron Henderson Presenting Sandra Lahti, President of the Copper Cliff Curling Club, with the 2018 Club Recognition Award.



EVENT	DEADLINE
Senior East & West Qualifiers	November 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Men's East & West Qualifiers	December 7 <sup>th</sup>
Men's West Qualifier (for teams who played in the East Qualifier)	December 27 <sup>th</sup>
Masters Provincial	December 21 <sup>st</sup>
Scotties Women's Provincial	January 4 <sup>th</sup>
U18 Regions (all)	January 11 <sup>th</sup>
U18 East & West Qualifiers	February 6 <sup>th</sup>
Curling Club Championships	January 18 <sup>th</sup>
Wheelchair Provincials	February 1 <sup>st</sup>
Mixed Doubles Provincial	February 8 <sup>th</sup>
BrokerLink Mixed Provincial	March 8 <sup>th</sup>

Note: all registrations close at NOON on the deadline date except for the Men's West Qualifier 2<sup>nd</sup> registration which closes at 11:59PM 27<sup>th</sup>.

## 2018-19 COMPETITIONS INFORMATION (UPDATED NOVEMBER 8TH)

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

### HIGHLIGHTS

Same deadline for Men's East and West Qualifier to allow number of provincial qualifiers to be distributed equitably.

Men's and Women's provincial to be hosted together.

The age eligibility for seniors has changed. A player must be 50 years of age by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the year of the Canadian Championship.

The 5-rock rules has been adopted for all NOCA competitions.

**DOWNLOADS:** [Rules of Play for General Play](#) | [Curling Club Championship Information](#) | [Curling Club Championships 2019 Eligibility Requirements](#) | [How to Register a Team This Season](#) | [2018-19 Competitions Schedule](#) | [NOCA Statement on Brushing](#) | [Curling Canada Sweeping Moratorium](#)



# Thank You

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## JACOBS COMPLETES TURNAROUND WEEK WINNING TOUR CHALLENGE TITLE

THUNDER BAY, Ont. — Brad Jacobs was finally able to vent 18th months worth of frustration.

Jacobs and his crew from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., snapped their drought by capturing their fourth career Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling title after outlasting Edmonton's Team Brendan Bottcher 6-5 in Sunday's Tour Challenge Tier 1 men's final.

Team Jacobs cashed in \$20,000 of the \$100,000 Tier 1 men's purse, 12 Pinty's Cup points and a spot in the season-ending Humpty's Champions Cup.

Jacobs, third Ryan Fry, second E.J. Harnden and lead Ryan Harnden also recovered from a 0-4 run two weeks ago at the Canadian Beef Masters against Calgary's Team Kevin Koe in their final round-robin game.

"We played great all week," said Jacobs, whose previous GSOC title win came at the Humpty's Champions Cup in April 2017. "To be able to finish this off and have the patience that we had, especially after playing that last end after a little bit of a

sloppy seventh, it feels great to close the deal.

"It's been a long time for our team since we've won anything and winning never gets old. It's an unbelievable feeling and it's just great to feel this way once again and hopefully, we can grab a few more of these this season."

Jacobs said it was unbelievable to not only capture the title but to do so among his Northern Ontario fans at the sold-out Tournament Centre.

"The fans were great all week and you saw how many volunteers and people that stepped and help put this event together," he said. "To do this in Northern Ontario, we're Northern Ontario boys, it means a lot to us and hopefully, everybody enjoyed the show. That's what we're here to do, we're here to entertain and do special things for Northern Ontario. All around, a great week."

Even though Bottcher opened with the hammer, it was a textbook start for Jacobs. The 2014 Olympic gold medallist limited Bottcher to singles in the second and fourth ends while scoring deuces in three and five to build a 4-2

advantage.

The plot thickened down the stretch with Bottcher taking two in the sixth to tie it and putting the pressure on in the seventh by capitalizing on some Team Jacobs mistakes. With Bottcher's shot rock protected and no chance to score two himself, Jacobs threw his last stone away to concede a point — and the lead — but retain the all-important hammer for the decisive eighth end.

A jacked-up Jacobs wanted to put on a show for his Northern Ontario fans and certainly delighted by hitting to score two for the win.

"It was awesome," Jacobs said. "It was a great celebration for us. I think you saw about 18 months of frustration just kind of come out and to win like that is how you want to win a game."

.....  
*Written by:*

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[Click here for full article](#)





**TEAM:** (Skip) Pentti Luoma, (Vice) Brent Colliver, (Second) Bill Sloan, (Lead) Frank Brunton

**CLUB:** Curl Sudbury

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CONGRATULATIONS

ON YOUR  
8-ENDER!



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**TEAM:** (Skip) Stacey Dobbin, (Vice) Mark Dobbin, (Second) Val Davis, (Lead) Jon Davis

**CLUB:** North Bay Curling

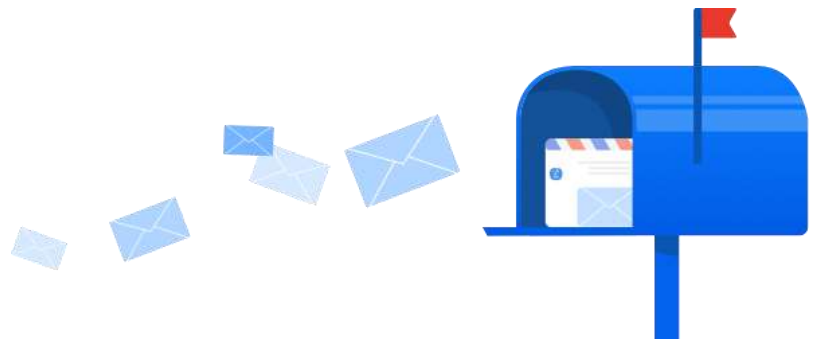


The Northern Ontario Curling Association's Newsletter "NOCA News" is published once a month. Please email your stories, photos and news items to [bobby.ray@curlnoc.ca](mailto:bobby.ray@curlnoc.ca) by the first of any month.

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