

President's Report 2023 – 2024

It's has been a very busy year at LCC. We held a record number of events along with tremendous participation of our membership, both on and off the ice.

It takes a lot of organization to run a curling club. Thankfully, Chris Comeau left us with a great team. Managers Barb Watkins, Édith Hould and our current board members, have strived to make our club what it is...a warm and inviting place to play, hang out and enjoy each other's company.

Our ice facility worked very well as did Norm Stamp, who took over the reins at the last minute to serve as our Ice Director. Our plant was upgraded with some new tech in combating issues we had with the water quality in our cooling system. Norm has since put into place a sort of ice maintenance play book, which will go a long way to taking the guesswork out of the operation in the future. Many thanks to Denis Gravel for his work in repairing/replacing some of the infrastructure.

Our bar was upgraded with a new cash system that Kathy Hebert, our Bar Director, put in place at the beginning of the season. On top of that, many tweaks were made with the addition of some premium wines and spirits, which were well received. Kathy's team of volunteers needs to be commended on their service to the club.

This year, our Senators and the Lachine Ladies Curling Association combined forces to form the Association de Curling de Jour / Day Curlers Association. This move has allowed them to consolidate duplication of resources. This new group will continue to grow the daytime experience at the club and are an integral part of the running of the club. So much work has and is being done by the daytimers. We sometimes overlook how important they are to the clubs' success, especially with respect to all the work they do to help maintain the facility. The hope one day, is to be able to combine the whole club into one unit, to again reduce duplication and increase our overall pool of resources.

Our junior program keeps growing, not only in membership, but within our community. Many local school programs come to us to learn the game. 144 outside junior students were part of that program this year.

Under the tutelage of Martin Vaillancourt and Trevor Smith, our compliment of 32 juniors are continuing to get better and having some success in outside bonspiels. With the possible combination next year with the Baie d'Urfé juniors, a lot of positive outcomes to look forward to. Time will tell.

Membership this year was up substantially, due to the efforts of Laurie Chambers and her team. It was kind of a perfect storm, with the success of the Open House activities, along with the temporary closing of the Baie d'Urfé club. There were prospective candidates that weren't able to join, due to lack of space in the popular leagues. We may have to look into limiting the current unlimited membership, to allow for welcoming new members.

A survey was created with the help of Chantal Beliveau, which will help us better assess the needs of our members.

Mike de Tracey graciously agreed to stay on as Property Director and along with his team of mostly day curlers, helped to keep the club facilities looking good and well lit.

Over the past two years, under the guidance of our Treasurer, Heather Warnock, we have managed to put away close to \$80k that will be required for next years replacement of the evaporative condenser in the ice plant. The estimated cost is approx. \$120k. Hopefully, any shortfall will come from various levels of government and in-house fundraising. The recurring quote from Heather: "Norm, you're spending too much!".

Vahe Simonian and his Match Committee of Chris Comeau and David O'Brien, did a great job of organizing the evening leagues and coordinating the major in-house bonspiels, with the inclusion of the Day division, which proved to be a big hit. Challenges lie ahead with re-organizing some of the leagues to better utilize our resources.

Our Entertainment whiz, Stephanie Berger, was involved in most of the activities, whether it be the Highland Fling, darts, cribbage, Saturday Social league or Closing Dinner, she was there. A big shout out to Stephanie and Danny Gallant as well in organizing the Saturday Social league. They had over 50 regulars and spares. This popular event has turned a dark afternoon/evening into a robust event which has led to many memberships. It has also led to some heavy turnover at the bar as well.

Alex Santorelli and Pierre Sopol have taken the initiative in taking LCC into the 21st century, both with the “Curling Club Manager” software and the upgrading of our IT Network. These upgrades will enable all of us to become more efficient in managing our leagues, calendar and access. Everything should be live and on-line by season opening. (They will give a brief outline at this years’ AGM.)

An unsung member, Bob Chambers, ran our proshop again this year. Sales were up approximately 30%. All proceeds go to the club. Bob wants to remind us all, that we all should change our gripper at least once a year. It’s an inexpensive way to keep us safe and the ice clean.

Last year, Chris Comeau wrote that Isabelle Michaud, our Club Secretary, was the most organized person he has ever met...now I know why...she just is. Not only that, her enthusiasm about our club is about equal to her organizational skills.

Last but not least, Chris Comeau. He’s our current Past President after being the President seemingly forever. Chris has been involved, in one way or another, at most every event. The feather in his cap this year was the smooth running of the Québec Provincial Colts tournament, held here at LCC. That took a whole year of planning. It was pretty cool to see how an official sanctioned bonspiel gets run, especially the timing. All those that volunteered in the various positions were quite surprised at how much skill was needed.

In closing, I would like to thank all those who gave their time and lent a hand. It’s really quite fulfilling to see how everyone’s efforts affect us all. We will need to replace various board members in the short term and I urge you to think about putting your name forward and getting involved. Your ideas are needed to help us continue to provide a warm and inviting space to play.

Respectfully submitted.

Dave Stanway,
President