

Armstrong Curling Club

November 2002 Newsletter

Flood and Tuned Rocks

This last weekend (November 21st, 22nd) your dedicated ice crew spent most of their daylight hours working on the ice. On Saturday morning, we first shaved the ice as aggressively as we could and then spent hours, hand scraping and mopping all of the really dirty areas. Once the surface was reasonably cleaned, we made all of the necessary adjustments to the ice plant and then, proceeded to flood. The flood went well and we are pleased with the results.



Fresh Flood

On Sunday we came back and spent the morning shaving and pebbling and putting everything back together and putting things away. Then we turned our attention to the rocks, giving them all a major

sharpening. This was the first time that we had touched the rocks since the middle of February when we gave the rocks a quick tune. The ice crew was Dave Southern, Al Hodgson, Dave Smith and Steve. Friday Evening Fun League became honorary ice technicians by cheerfully moving all of the rocks and dividers to the walkway. Thank you Friday night curlers!

Continuing Covid Capers.

Welcome to curling in the age of Covid. Most of us never thought that we would be living through a pandemic. It seems kind of surreal. The Manager and Board of Directors of the Armstrong Curling Club would like to thank the curlers for following the protocols that were laid out to allow us to curl. We hope that the protocols do not get any more restrictive but we must be ready if they change.

To make the club safe – other than the modified rules around how to play – we have implemented a regime that we hope will keep you all safe. Before you come to the club in the morning, the entire club is fogged down with a product called Vital Oxide RTU. We have the Vital Oxide MSDS sheets in the office if you are interested in seeing how safe the product is. After fogging, the premises are swept, and then all contact surfaces in the lobby and stairwell are wiped down with a virucide. Floors are vacuumed and swept and damp mopped, time permitting. The score cards are wiped down and the rock handles are wiped down as well. In the evenings, we do the usual janitorial regime and we wipe all contact surfaces in the lobby. As well, the rock handles and scorecards are disinfected.

Locker Landlord Lamentations

Every year we do an inventory of our member's lockers. This year we have found that 9 lockers in the men's and 9 lockers in the Ladies change rooms appear to be occupied and secured and not paid for! While we are happy to entertain the spectacle of 1/3 of our lockers being used for free for a reasonable length of time, eventually our curiosity will get the better of us and lockers shall be opened! Kind of like the TV show, Storage Wars.

Crime-fighting Cameras Catch Cadillac Criminals!

Brad Strauss has been busy installing cameras on the ice and on the outside of the building. The purpose of the cameras are to document incidents and provide evidence and protection for the curling club. We also have added a layer of security for other parking lot users such as the dog walker contingent. For example; we became aware, through facebook, that a break -in of a car had occurred at the west end of the parking lot. All we needed was a description of the car and an approximate time frame of when the crime was committed and, a suspect, driving a black Cadillac was identified. Through the networking capabilities of facebook, the video of the break-in was sent to the victim. Hopefully the camera will make our parking lot just a little bit more secure. Our next project is to attempt to have our on-ice cameras streaming live on the website and I think I am getting closer to making that a reality.

Incident Free Ice Installation in September

After last year's marathon session of installing and removing and installing and shaving, we resolved to do things differently this year. We tenderly washed the floors and walls and then, lest the old floor continued to give up its matrix, we sealed the frozen concrete with many light spray coats of

water. It worked! No cementitious materials have been found on the surface of the ice. Of course the flooding was not without incident – The ice plant failed on a Monday morning after 11 floods had been applied. We identified the problem, ordered the parts and the plant was jury rigged to keep running. After 2 days it was obvious something else was not working either and a second defective component was discovered. To be fair, both the failed components were part of the original ice plant that was installed in 1986.



This is what \$2000.00 Buys These Days.

Ice installation continued without further problems until the laying down of our house graphics and we discovered that some of the graphics had stretched, resulting in quite a few bubbles. There wasn't time to fix it this year but we know what to do next year. Folks who helped with the ice were Tim Smith and Henry Derksen in charge of the paint barrel with Bonnie Southern, Wayne Heinrichs, Dave Southern, Derrell Sears, Al Hodgson and Steve Gunner applying the paint and Marlene Boone provided lunch. Wayne Holt provided comic relief and

communications. The goal of ice installation this year was to keep the ice as thin as possible. The less mass that we have to keep cool, the less money we spend on cooling costs. We managed to keep the depth of the ice at 1 ¾" or less over most of the ice. Hopefully we can recoup some of the costs of repairs with the money that we save.

Pandemic Panic Postponed Beer Fridge Raffle Progressing

Tickets are available at the bar. \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00! Draw to take place on Friday, December 18th at 9:00pm.

Popular Pro-shop Products

We have a well-stocked Pro-Shop this year. One item which has turned out to be popular is the new Goldline combination broom and delivery device. It has a normal brush head at one end and an Excalibur delivery head at the other end. What I like about it is that the brush head is no longer a compromise and for those users who demand a broom without compromise, this device is superior to the old Sabre.



One of the New Excalibur Brooms, Posing Casually on the Ice.

League News

When the decision was made in the summertime to open the club in the fall, we knew that our membership numbers would be down. We are quite happy to report that while our predictions were true, the decrease in numbers is actually quite manageable. Last year, which was our best year in the last decade, we had a total of 232 adult members curling one day a week or more. This year we have 194 adults curling once a week or more which is only a 16% decrease. By comparison, in the 2013 – 2014 season we only had 196 adults curling regularly!

Monday Evening Ladies League is well subscribed with a full slate of 6 teams. Tuesday Night Mixed Doubles is down to eight teams from 12 last fall but we are hearing that several curlers have plans to Join the league after Christmas. Our only league which is down on numbers is the Wednesday Ladies. Thursday and Friday have full draws.

If you find the walls are closing in after Christmas, the leagues welcome a fresh intake of participants. Every league can handle an additional team. If you would like to join the Tuesday and Thursday Daytime League you should run, don't walk, to your nearest communication device and contact League president, Derrell Sears 250-309-6963 or (roughriders4ever@gmail.com) to make sure you get your name on the list.

Charlotte and Lois



Many of you will have stopped and admired the mural in our entrance way that was painted by Charlotte Trainor and Lois Mollard. The painting was done as part of the celebrations in 2017 to

commemorate the 50th anniversary of our building. Unfortunately both ladies have passed away. Lois died unexpectedly during the summer and Charlotte passed away October 29th. The Board of Directors felt that the work that Charlotte and Lois did on the painting should be recognized by protecting the painting. Nelson's Glass has provided a sheet of tempered glass, and as well, installed it!

Foreseeable Future Futility

Right now with Covid, the foreseeable future is about 5 minutes!

As of this point the schedule is;

Senior Men's Pot of Silver, run as a two person Bonspiel on December 4th – 6th

We won't even try to guess what happens later on in December

Thank you for spending your recreational dollar with us! Stay Safe and be Kind!