

Armstrong Curling Club

February 2021 Newsletter.

Everything Has Changed Because of Covid.

On Sunday, February 7th, your Board of Directors made the decision to continue with having your curling club open and ready to curl for another month. This was not an easy decision and will require some explanation.

The Armstrong Curling Club is a member owned and member operated club. We own the building and pay all the costs associated with the operation of the building inside and out. Other than grants and municipal Grant in Aid opportunities that we apply for (such as churches or other non-profits may receive) we are completely managed and funded by our members.

When curlers show up on the first day of the year the curling club has already been active for a month and a considerable amount of money has already been spent to have everything ready for the curling season. Costs include supplies, labour insurance, and maintenance simply to have ice and get the doors open. Registration, and most folks paying for their leagues at the time of registration ensures that the club has money on hand to pay bills in a timely manner.

Our monthly operating costs include labour and utilities as well as miscellaneous costs such as phone, cable and janitorial supplies.

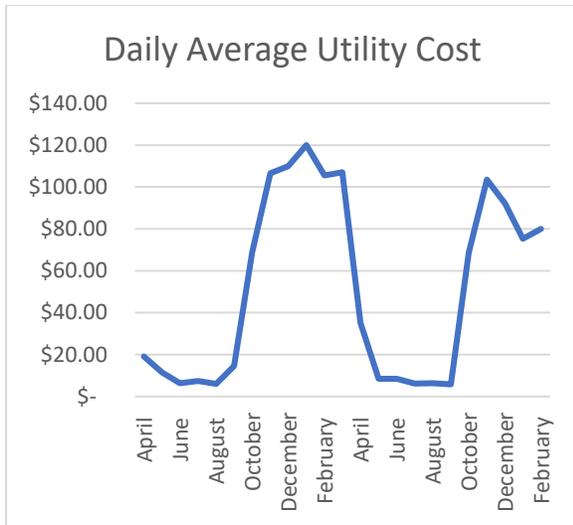
The club receives revenue from 3 different areas. These three areas are A) League dues

and Memberships. B) Bonspiels, Lounge and events and C) Grants, Fundraising and Donations.

Covid has cost the club in excess of \$20,000.00 in lost revenue from: no lounge sales from the IPE, no lunch program, no lounge revenue from Bonspiels, no donation from the Kinsmen beer garden, decreased advertising and many other decreased income streams.

We have taken steps to reduce our costs. Some regular maintenance has been deferred, the thermostats have been turned down and we are attempting, with some success to reduce our massive utility bills by manipulating the furnaces and ice plant to take advantage of the winter temperatures and keep the arena as cool as possible. With the cooperation of the weather, we have managed to reduce our energy consumption by 30% – 50% and our daily utility bill by approximately 27% on a cost per day basis over last year.

As long as the ambient temperature stays hovering around freezing, the amount of energy required to maintain the ice and playable temperature is minimal. When the weather either cools down or heats up, energy consumption increases dramatically.



On the plus side we have been fortunate in that the Askew's Card fundraiser has been very well subscribed to this year and our revenues from this fundraiser are up 50% over last year. We have received and have been able to use some grant money to defray some of our costs. There are still opportunities to apply for grants from various agencies and those avenues will be explored.

Why did we elect to continue? At this point we still have 60 folks enjoying a one-on-one daytime league. Some of the evening leagues are continuing and we can offer ice and a lounge, albeit with some modifications. In total eighty people are still deriving enjoyment out of curling. Some folks may say that, with the modifications one-on-one is not real curling and that there is no point continuing. However, we would be curious to find out how many of you have been able to carry about your lives and daily activities without some or much modification.

Derrell Sears has been working extremely hard lobbying Curl BC and ViaSport to allow for two-on-two curling. Hopefully these organizations, which are currently charged with implementing the Provincial Health Officer's directives soften their stance slightly with curling and allow two on two.

We are working hard to keep the doors open and provide you with access to your club. While the decision to stay open since December 3rd will not bankrupt the club it will result in less revenue for the club and less money for some initiatives.

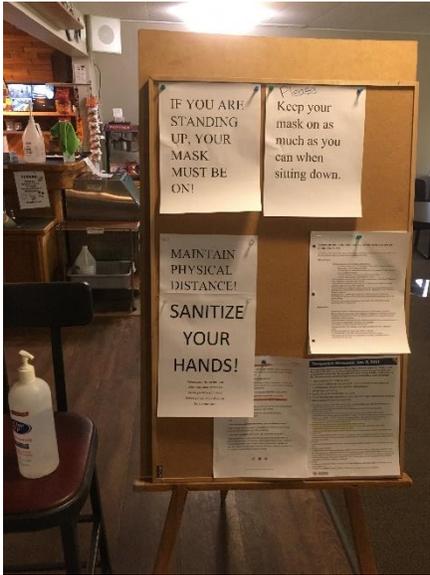
What can you do to help? Buy Askew's cards from us. You are going to buy groceries anyway and if you buy the Askew's cards from us every \$100.00 you spend on cards returns \$7.00 to the club.

Show up for the evening leagues and stay for a drink. We do make money selling drinks and with our protocols and cleaning regimes we are as safe, if not safer than any bar or restaurant. We encourage the evening leagues to organize a month-long one-on-one league with a schedule. Pay a little extra for your coffee!

Annual General Meeting

This year our AGM is going to be held on March 13th at 3:00 pm. Because of Covid we will be using Zoom. For those to whom Zoom is not an option, we will be installing Zoom on the big screen TV's in the Curling club lounge. Instead of approaching a microphone to speak, attendees will approach a laptop. An invitation will be emailed out in the next few days.

What Will Happen Next Year?



Will it look like this next year, or will it be something else?

If anyone has a crystal ball, we would love to have a look at it. Given the vaccine rollouts, the rapidly mutating virus and what is certain to be some global economic fallout as factors to consider in planning for next year, your Board of Directors have a challenging task in front of them.

Notice of Board of Directors Changes.

As our bylaws require, we will have elections at the Annual General Meeting. Some changes will occur.

Rob Belsham is backing away from his position as vice president and we are looking for nominations for that position. Rob has been instrumental in progress made with our relationships with Armstrong Spallumcheen Parks and Rec Commission and the IPE. He has also contributed much to initiating a major drainage project behind the curling club as

well as producing construction drawings and retroactively documenting the previous construction projects dating back to the 1970's.

Both Leanne Kennedy and Dave Smith's terms are up this year and both individuals have indicated their willingness to serve another term.

Steve Hansma will be stepping down as Treasurer. He has nominated Crystal Desilets for the position of treasurer, and she has accepted the nomination. We will be sorry to see Steve leave the position of treasurer. Much of the Armstrong Curling Club's success in the last decade is directly attributable to Steve's financial acuity and tenacious attention to every detail. His analytical abilities have provided much support and guidance to the Board of Directors. Thank you, Steve!