

# Sweeping Times

Newsletter for High Park Members

Fall Issue

October 2025

## President's Message

It's been a busy start to the season. As the curling season ended the Board heard the feedback of members and decided to replace the caterer. Members had provided feedback around poor food quality, inconsistent portions and untimely service.

Over the summer the Board struck a committee to hire a new caterer. The committee included Karen Gigliotti, Gary Parkinson, Doug Garrie, James Cockhill, Chris Wai, Nika Perschenonigg, and myself. There were eight responses to the RFP. Initial evaluations narrowed the selection to five caterers for first round interviews. The second round narrowed the selections down to three final caterers. Final evaluations were based on pricing and offerings (Value for Money) for meal service and events, relevant experience, operational resiliency, growth potential and overall fit. We were excited to have such a great response to the RFP with Meza Group being selected to be the new High Park Club Caterer.

Their premiere event was the President's BBQ where they served up a great meal, with great service. There were more than 300 people that attended the president's BBQ. It was great to see so many people out. Regular kitchen service is a little delayed as the club undertook a much needed renovation of the kitchen. The "grab and go" has been nice to have available. I'm happy to announce that full catering will be available starting Monday November 3!

The board held a post share restructuring meeting on September 11th where voting members of the club passed Bi-law number 1 and marked the official beginning of a new chapter of the High Park Club being governed by voting members!

At the Special Meeting, the members voted in four new Directors to join the Board. In addition, there was an opening due to the early departure of another Board Member, bringing the total to five new Board Members.

There has been a lot of focus on improving the quality of the grass courts over the last year. The board approved a grass consultant to work with Kevin Scott and the team on improving the playing surface. I've heard from Tennis members



**Jennifer Gray**  
President

## High Park Club Board of Directors 2025/26

Name	Portfolio
Paul Lowes	Past President
Jennifer Gray	President
Doug Garrie	Vice President
Erin O'Flynn	Secretary & HR/Governance
Meghan Cushing	Treasurer & Finance
Jennifer Rosiak (new)	Special Projects & Communications
Duncan Webster (new)	Tennis Liaison
Harlan Tufford (new)	Strategic Planning
Kevin Hogan	Capital Projects
Peter Morrison (new)	Housing and Property
Michael Le Blanc	Food/Beverage/Events
Gary Parkinson	Curling Liaison
Rob Bryan (new)	Health and Safety

Please do not hesitate to reach out to any Board Member with a question [board@highparkclub.com](mailto:board@highparkclub.com)

that the quality of the surface did improve a little despite ascetically looking poor. Unfortunately to help try and improve next year's grass quality further, the Tennis season ended in mid-September. I look forward to working with Duncan, the Tennis Liaison, and the Tennis Committee along with Club management to support the long term plan for court improvements.

We also had another successful Pickleball Season with both Tuesday and Thursday leagues, various tournaments and Quick Pickle events that were all a part of that success. There was also dedicated time allotted to members of the Club while also opening the courts up to Playtime Scheduler sign-ups with generated revenue for the Club from outside players. The Pickleball Section also drew in a lot of new social members who joined for access to the indoor pickleball courts and great events that the dedicated staff at HPC put together.

The board has three key areas of focus for 2025-26:

1. **Capital Projects** - developing a robust pipeline of capital projects including finally delivering the retaining wall and shed replacement project, renovating the kitchen and replacing some key appliances, paving and the south driveway. We've had some issues arise for the retaining wall project. It was assessed last fall that we needed a minor variance to be able to proceed, which took time to address and then this summer there were several delays in the building permit that would allow the construction of the concrete pad for the shed. Permit is approved and work the concrete pad work will be underway shortly followed by the installation of the pre-fabricated shed.

2. **Developing a 5-year Strategy** - the last 5 year strategy was completed in 2016 or 2017 several years before the pandemic. In a post share restructuring dynamic, the board wants to engage with members to develop the 5 year strategy to guide decision making at the club. The board approved establishing a Strategic Planning Committee that will consist of board members and voting members. At our November board meeting we plan to establish the work plan and timelines. More communication to follow.

3. **Health and Safety Focus** - the board recently approved a Health and Safety Policy, a Health and Safety Policy statement and an implementation plan for improving the health and safety focus at the club. To support this critical work Erin O'Flynn drafted the policy, statement and implementation plan. To support operationalizing the policy and implementation plan, the board created a new Health and Safety Director role

filled by Rob Bryan. The purpose of this role is to support the ongoing commitment to ensuring that the facility is safe for the enjoyment of all of our members

As you can see there are many initiatives on the go. I'm looking forward to sharing more Club news with you over the coming year.

~ **Jennifer Gray, Club President**

## NEW FOOD MINIMUM

As part of this catering transition, the Board has approved a food minimum of \$100 per Adult and Intermediate curling member for the 2025–26 season — the first increase in eight years.

### How it works

- The minimum is divided into two parts: **\$40 for October–December** and **\$60 for January–April**.
- These amounts will be charged to your member account at the start of each term and applied as a **pre-paid food credit**.
- Credits can be used for **food purchases from the kitchen** anytime during the curling season (beverages, events & bonspiels, and private rentals are not included).
- Credits remain valid through the end of April, giving you the flexibility to use them at your own pace.
- Any unused credits expire when the kitchen closes for the summer.

### Why we are making this change

This structure provides our caterer with **guaranteed, predictable support**, helping them plan staffing, menus, and service levels with confidence. It also ensures members see a direct return on their minimums, since every dollar is applied as a credit toward food.

### Exemptions

- Junior and Day Members are not subject to the minimum.
- New members joining mid-season will have their minimum **prorated**.

We are excited about the season ahead and confident that this new approach will strengthen food service at the Club while remaining achievable for members — averaging about **\$15 per month**.

## *Men's/CYOR Sections*

Hot off the press! Congratulations to the winners from our first Series

### **Monday CYOR Series 1 - Winners**

- Division A: Glandfield
- Division B: King
- Division C: Mulvey
- Division D: Pengelly
- Division E: Fuerth

### **Thursday Series 4 - Winners**

- Division A: Wai
- Division B: Lowes
- Division C: Glandfield
- Division D: Larsen
- Division E: Montesano (by shootout over Pollock)

## *Friday Night Social*

The 2025 FALL session is now well underway. It has been great to be back on the ice for the first few games and get sense of the new teams and competition. Thanks to our Draw Master Chris Ewing for working his usual magic to pull this all together yet again.

The Friday Section committee for the 2025/26 Season is: John Kennedy, Kathleen

Krisciunas, Blair MacFarlane, Francis Kung, Tom Ferguson and new members Leigha Cooney and Taylor McNerney. All led by our fearless Draw Master Chris Ewing.

A very special mention and thank you goes out to our past member Pat Boily. Pat's inputs and contributions to the social committee were many – especially his efforts to make the annual Robbie Burns night so memorable.

If you have any questions, concerns or inputs you can talk to any of us!

**NEW EVENT BOARD:** Will be in the lounge every Friday so people can keep track of what is happening. Make sure to check it out.

A reminder to everyone, that this section is a social league and we are here to have fun and teach the newer curlers how to play the game. We are asking the more experienced players to have patience and help the newly promoted players and any new curlers.

The first Social Event of the Fall Draw will be our Halloween Night on Fri Oct 31. Stay tuned for the pictures and recap of the best dressed Halloween costumes.

The next Key Friday Night Event dates to remember for the 2025 FALL DRAW are:

November 28: Game night

December 20: Finals Night Season & Potluck treat

Be sure to check out the HPC website for current standings and stay tuned for an exciting finish to the Fall Draw.

### **~ Friday Night Social Committee**

## *Saturday Social*

We have had a great year so far!

We started off with three optional Saturday night sessions that included coaching, practice ice, and practice games. These nights were an opportunity for new members to get introduced to curling and to welcome back returning members. Our regular Series 1 started on October 18<sup>th</sup>, and continues until November 29<sup>th</sup>.

On October 25<sup>th</sup> we did our annual Halloween celebration with tunes on the ice, spooky decorations, and the showing of the classic silent film, "The Phantom of the Opera". Some of the crew from Friday Night Mixed Social joined in the decorating fun and we will be reciprocating this Friday, when their curling night actually falls on Halloween!

We are looking forward to another great season at the High Park Club!

### **~ Saturday Night Social Committee**

## Sunday Open

Hello and Welcome Back Sunday Open Curlers!

First series underway (even with 2 Sundays off!) and our grippers have been replaced, broom heads swapped out and draws to the button are on display. A warm welcome to all returning and any new faces to one of the best sections here at HPC. My tastebuds have been missing the best cookies in the club... Thank you Richard Scott for always making Sunday open just that bit sweeter :)

Big news for Team Williams as they scored an 8 ender on October 19th! Always exciting to see the big 8 points hung on the board and thanks Em for grabbing a photo!



**Team Williams from left to right: Steve Bishop, Andrew Coultres, Suzanne Coultres, Richard Williams**

Quick reminders that our section will be playing the "no tick" rule (see the sheets posted inside the ice shed for explanation). A rule change of no throwing of practice rocks before regular season and playoff games, and a new scoring system for our section to make our points entries easier into the Curling Club Manager system. Also, our section plays with the double buzzer rule: for Early draw, first buzzer is at 6:43 pm and the second at 7:00 pm, and for the late draw, first buzzer is at 9:13 pm and the second at 9:30. Given your humble scribes' inability to retain information in her brain, the committee will make a sign for the buzzer times and post them up!

Our section has gone green and will not be distributing physical gift cards starting this year. Instead, Division winners will be given the choice of an LCBO or Amazon

eCard (LCBO is the default!) and thank you to Alison for all her hard work for all of us.

Our committee would like to welcome a new member, Sarah Jagger to our Committee in the role of Secretary! Thank you for joining us!

Keep an eye out for reminders of our annual Holiday traditions coming up in December!!! Nothing says holidays like disco lights, too many cookies and crockpots full of awesomeness!!!

Love,

**~ Your Sunday Open Committee**

## Juniors

Well another exciting season of Juniors is underway with our Juniors and Coaches all back for another year of fun and continuing to learn this great game. Our section has thrived the past few seasons and this season is starting out to be another exciting one with 46 junior members; some returning, some moved up from Little Rocks and some new to the sport.

I would like to start out by thanking all of our volunteers who come out to coach and mentor our youth every week to spend their time and share their knowledge and love of the game with these young people.

They include: Bernice Lau, Don Osborne, Doug Garrie, Stephen Leggett, Emily Parkinson, Heather Carr Olmstead, Jame Cockhill, Junho Song, Patrick Duggan, Andrew Coultres, Blair Clemes, Clare Johnston, Jenn Gray, Jen Rosiak, Rob Gray, Susy Chen & Zach Levinsky.

While it is still early in the season some of our players who have put together competitive teams are well into their seasons and two of our High Park teams recently played each other in the U18 Junior Slam Series in Port Perry. Team Shiozaki was victorious but all 8 of them had a great time. Team Gregotski is: Carter Gregotski, Liam Mandzak, Jackson Gray, Andrew Mandzak, & Xavier Rosiak-Wong.





**Junior Slam Series**



**Team Shiozaki**

Our section is really just getting started so we will update you on future competitions as both our competitive and less competitive teams continue to learn, make new friends and curl in clubs around the city. The High School season is also just around the corner but until then, Good Curling.

### ~ Juniors Committee

## *U12 - Little Rocks*

On Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup>, the U12 Little Rocks Section started another exciting season! This year, 40 up and coming curling stars are participating in what has

become a cornerstone program of the Club. Little Rocks is excited to welcome 10 new curlers to the program this year, as well as a new organizing Committee headed by Kate & Colin Sharp, and Erika Wright. Every Sunday until April 12<sup>th</sup> (well almost every Sunday), the Little Rock curlers will focus on the development of fundamental curling skills and strategy both on and off the ice followed by delicious snacks and social interaction (all of this sprinkled with lots of fun!). Some key dates to keep in mind:

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Little Rocks Section is planning an equipment exchange. We are always looking for donations of gently used equipment that the kids can use to help them as they learn to curl.

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, the Club will be hosting the U12 Bonspiel which is always a great time for everyone involved! Come out to cheer on all the participants!

### ~ Little Rocks Committee



# Learn-to-Curl for Indigenous Youth

What started out as a conversation on the boards during a game about diversity and curling (or the lack thereof) turned into two special Learn-to-Curl events for Indigenous youth held last year at High Park Club.

On November 22, 2024, High Park welcomed 20 Grade 2 and 3 students from Kapapamachchakew - Wandering Spirit School. For many of them, it was their first time on the ice, and certainly the first time with a curling broom in hand. They threw, they swept, they ate and most importantly, they had a blast.

Then on March 14, 2025, the club opened its doors again to 15 energetic kids (plus some parents and grandparents) from Native Child and Family Services of Toronto's Mount Dennis After-School Program. Both sessions were marked by joy, laughter, and a flurry of small victories on the pebbled ice.

Thanks to the generosity of our club community, the events were offered completely free of charge, made possible by a groundswell of support from the High Park curling community. The club donated ice

time and instruction, while volunteers showed up in full force to coach, cheer, and connect with the kids. Club members' generous donations helped keep the children safe, and at the March Learn to Curl Clinic, Asham Curling donated goodie bags for the participants which were a massive hit, especially the lanyards, which were worn proudly well after the kids had left the ice.

At High Park, those ideas came to life thanks to the leadership of **Shirley**

**Morrison**, an Indigenous curler and longtime advocate for inclusion in the sport. Her vision and determination turned a casual conversation into a real, on-the-ice experience for kids who rarely see themselves reflected in the curling world.

These kinds of grassroots efforts are critical for the health of the sport. With curling clubs closing across Canada due to decline memberships, curling can no longer afford to be a legacy sport passed down from one generation to the next within the same communities. What High Park demonstrated is that local clubs are powerful levers for change. These events represent more than just a fun morning sharing and learning the game, they're part of a broader effort to grow diversity in curling and make the sport more inclusive for future generations. By inviting Indigenous youth to experience the game in a safe, supportive space, High Park Club is helping to build

bridges, break barriers, and encourage new voices in the curling world. And who knows, we may be giving another Kerri Einarson or Kevin Koe a taste of the sport. But even if they never throw another stone, they've experienced curling

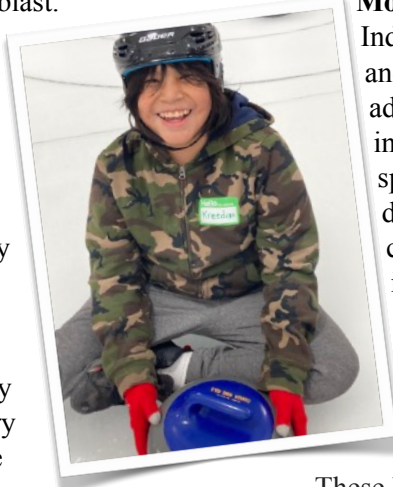
as it should be: joyful, welcoming, and built on community.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make this initiative such a meaningful success. There are more events planned for this year, and volunteers

are always welcome to join and support future activities.

Be sure to watch out for our raffle running during the second week of November at the club! It's a great way to help raise funds to keep the sessions accessible to everyone, while also giving you the chance to win some exciting prizes.

~ **Jennifer MacInnis**





# Pickleball

Wow! Was it ever an exciting and **very** busy summer.

The club's welcoming environment made all the difference in helping the over 100 new members feel comfortable, happy and part of our community.

We started two new evening leagues, held a couple of single-day tournaments and a couple of Quickpickle nights and made it through the growing pains of getting all of them up and running. I would again like to thank everyone for their patience and help to make it through the summer.

The new leagues were split into two sessions Spring and Summer.

The winners of the **Spring sessions** were:

**Tuesday Social:** Erin O'Flynn / Andy MacDonald

**Thursday Competitive:** Neel Punna / Pam Miehis

The winners of the **Summer sessions** were:

**Tuesday Social:** Juanita Beaudry / Echeta Okeke

**Thursday Competitive:** Lindsay Osaka / Stewart Nam

Congratulations to the winners.

As a fun finish to the leagues, we held a final championship for both nights. The top four teams from each of the Spring sessions and the Summer sessions played off against each other to determine an overall champion for each league.

The winners and overall, League Champions were:

**Tuesday Social:** Juanita Beaudry / Echeta Okeke

**Thursday Competitive:** Stephen Leggett / Rajan Burman

We are looking forward to next season and a few new things that will help to grow the Pickleball section even more.

~ **Chris Ewing**

