

THE GRANITE



GRIPPER



Issue 1: January 2024

Board of Directors

There are some significant changes to our 2023-2024 board of directors.

Craig Atkinson made the decision to step down from his long-time position of Director of House, Property and Ice. Through the years in this role Craig worked tirelessly to improve the club. He has saved the club considerable expenses with his ability to repair equipment. All club members owe our gratitude to Craig.

Replacing Craig is Dave Peacock. Welcome Dave!

John Fantin is enjoying a well-deserved rest from his long-time role as club treasurer. Replacing John as treasurer is Elaine Peacock.

Lastly, Maureen Coleman has also taken a break from being on the board of directors. She is, however, just as active at the club volunteering for Learn-To-Curl and the school age programs. Replacing Maureen as Director for Leagues is new board member Luc Leger. Welcome Luc!

Please consider joining the board of directors in the future. Especially new members! It is important to have an active and diverse board to ensure the future of our club. If you are interested in joining the board, tell a board member or email the main club email address (granite@cogeco.net) to let us know.

Your 2023-24 board of directors

President:	Martin Forster-Sands
Vice President:	Randy Davidson
Treasurer:	Elaine Peacock
Secretary:	Carolynn Gregory
Leagues:	Luc Leger
Membership & Publicity:	Jeremy Schmidt & Ben MacNally
House, Property & Ice:	Dave Peacock
Bonspiels:	Reg Johnson
Volunteer Coordinator:	Rand MacIntosh
CurlON Rep:	Bill Wachsmuth
Fundraising:	Carolynn Gregory & Elaine Peacock

Learn To Curl

This year we are attempting to run 2 sessions of Learn-To-Curl. The first session is completed, and it ran from November to December 2023.



Fall 2023 Learn-To-Curl group photo

You will see many of these faces in leagues very soon!

A second Learn-To-Curl session will run starting January 23rd. The deadline to register is January 21st, let your friends that are interested in curling know! There is a link to registration on the home page of the website

<http://chathamgraniteclub.org>

Junior Curling

Our 2023-24 Junior Curling program has 23 participants. The activities for our junior program are growing with Inter-club exchanges planned with both the Glencoe & Forrest curling club for a total of 3 weeks of Junior exchanges.

The Junior program is also looking forward to setting up some 'mini spiels' in the future.

This program is setup so that it can accommodate new Juniors joining at any time, so it is not too late if you know a junior that might be interested!

Clinics

The club hosted a stick clinic early in the season on November 18th. This clinic had wonderful and knowledgeable instructors Greg and Monica from CurlION. Keep an eye on the website and the Facebook page for future clinic dates.



Off-ice instruction for CurlION stick curling instruction clinic

Spiels and Events

Our first major spiel this year was the 38th annual Holly & Mistletoe spiel. It was held on December 4th. This long-running 1-day spiel remains popular because of how much fun we can pack into a 1-day woman's spiel!

There were winners for each draw. Draw 1 winners were Team Coleman from Chatham, draw 2 winners were Team Hooft from the Roseland Curling Club in Windsor.

Just a few days after the Holly & Mistletoe event, we hosted a Regional Playdown for Special Olympics on December 9th. Thank you to Chatham-Kent Special Olympics for the organization and hosting and for all the volunteers that assisted at this event!

Spiels and Events – continued



Holly & Mistletoe draw 1 winners



Tier 55 draw 1 winners



Holly & Mistletoe draw 2 winners



Tier 55 draw 2 winners



Opening ceremonies – Regional Playdowns for Special Olympics

Then to cap off a very busy 2 week stretch the club hosted a men's Tier55 bonspiel on December 15th. The spiel had 2 draws. The winning team for draw 1 was Team Johnson and the winning team on draw 2 was Team Fry from Roseland.

Upcoming events

Jan. 27th: Senior Mixed Bonspiel

March 1st-3rd: Wild Goose Bonspiel

March 8th: Tier55 Senior Men's Bonspiel

Pop-up Stores

The Granite Club has partnered up with Talbot Marketing in London to provide a selection of branded apparel. The way we are offering this apparel to the membership is through pop-up stores.

While the pop-up store is open, you may order your apparel. Once the store is closed all the orders are collected and shipped to the club where we distribute the items.

The latest pop-up store is open January 15th and will stay open until February 15th. During this time place your orders at <https://chathamgraniteclub.talbotstore.com/en/cad>

Fundraising

Last year we had our SWEEPstakes raffle. This year fundraising efforts continue in different ways.

In May 2023 the club ran a successful golf tournament at the Links of Kent which we plan to repeat in 2024.

Branches

Our brunches have been a long-standing and popular fundraiser for the club. The first brunch was on November 26th and was very well attended. The remaining brunch dates are:

February 4th
March 24th

Club Coach Course



The club is hosting a 'Club Coach' workshop on February 17th-18th.

The board of directors has made it a priority to have as many competent coaches within the club as we can.

If you are a member in good standing and you complete this course, the club will reimburse you for the cost of the course!

The Ontario Curling council trains coaches in Ontario under the National Coaching Certification Program.

Instructions for how to sign up for the course can be found here:

[LinkToClubCoachRegistration](#)

Special thanks

Special thanks to the club photographer Keith Chandler for the images of all the spiels and events that you find on our social media and website.