



Salmon Arm CURLING CENTRE

691 - 28th St NE, Salmon Arm, BC, V1E2S7

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Well Summer is finally here this week. A bit late with the consistent 30 degrees but better late than never. And, what makes a person think more about curling than hot weather?! We trust everyone is having a good, although very different, Summer and are being kind, calm, and safe, to paraphrase Dr. Henry.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey organized through Curl BC. We had 72 replies and of these only one member did not feel like they could return to curling without a solution for COVID-19, like a vaccine. From other surveys in Alberta and Kamloops we figured this would be the case and that most everyone will return provided we can offer a Centre focused on the best interests and health of our members. Our COVID Planning Committee is very focused on making your facility and your return to curling as safe an environment as we can. We are guided in this endeavour by Curl BC, viaSport BC, Curling Canada, and Worksafe BC. We encourage everyone to have a look at Curling Canada's Return to Play Guidelines (see curling.ca) as these are similar to what we are anticipating and planning for. Curl BC has also released their guidelines and they are available online (see curlbc.ca). Our return to play will require a lot of changes but not many that we are not already familiar with, increased cleaning, hand washing, hand sanitizer, physical distancing, and plexiglass separations in some areas. It will also necessitate some changes to on-ice play. We will provide more details as the Summer progresses to Fall but rest assured, your Board is committed to returning to play in early October. We would also like to thank those who provided their email and offered to volunteer time along with those who suggested they are prepared to help financially if the club could not reopen. Your dedication to curling in Salmon Arm is outstanding.

Obviously, there needs to be many changes at our club in order to support our next curling season. Some of these are financial and some physical. We anticipate finalizing year end statements shortly and expect they will show a small loss on operations for the 2019/2020 year. Going into this next season we are faced with uncertainty around play, increased costs for cleaning and facility preparation, and most likely reduced income from an inability to offer larger events (bonspiels) and the cancellation of Summer rentals. Tough decisions are required to make sure our club can return strong and viable. We must also plan for numerous contingencies on the expense and staffing side.

One of the unfortunate decisions we had to make was ending our contract with Seth Vogan, our ice technician. He is currently in Ontario with family. In our discussions with Seth he understands our challenges and wishes our curling club much success going forward, having enjoyed serving us for the last three years. Seth enjoyed his time here and wanted to let you know he would be pleased to return when circumstances are more favourable.

We are working on contingency plans for our ice and we know that having a great curling surface in addition to the great friendships and a welcoming environment are the reasons you curl. We are extremely hopeful to deliver this. We have interest from several parties and will share more next month once things have been decided. Like many things in these challenging times it will require some extra effort from members and flexibility in staffing to prepare for different situations.

As we noted at our members' February Special General Meeting we cannot continue to operate at a loss and remain viable. While income from rentals and bonspiels may be challenging this year, we continue to focus on sponsorship and all available grant and support programs. We are just completing our budget process for the year ahead which is challenging as you might expect. The scenarios needed to plan for include everything from a possible increase in curlers if we find more snowbirds stay home, to a significant loss of members or closure if there is some change in the case load of COVID in our area or a directive from health authorities. We had planned for a fee increase, especially since we are not meeting our expenses consistently and have not increased fees in some five years or more, so we want to make sure you are prepared for this.

We will have further updates in August but in the meantime, we ask that you reach out to your board members around your thoughts about return to play. It is critically important that we get this right, and everyone is comfortable. We know that curlers are a kind and considerate bunch. To make this next season a success everyone will need to be accountable for the safety of others around them. Physical distancing and cleaning protocols will be the largest part of this. Just as handshakes disappeared quickly in March, we know that most everyone is keen to return this Fall and are ready to make some small sacrifices to do so.

Have a safe rest of your Summer.

Your Salmon Arm Curling Club Board of Directors and General Manager:

Steve Wills	250-675-5452	sbwills@telus.net
Donna Shultz	250-832-2446	dshultzhr@gmail.com
Arnie Payment	250-675-5127	eandapay@gmail.com
Barb Puetz	250-832-5086	b_puetz@telus.net
Donna Jensen	250-832-6594	jensen.donna@gmail.com
Deb Jones	250-832-3708	djjones@shaw.ca
Sharon Kinnaird	250-833-2828	kinnaird0779@gmail.com
Doug Murray	250-832-5859	douglasmurray13@gmail.com
Eleanor Payment	250-675-5127	eandapay@gmail.com
Laurence Roy	250-832-6584	theroys@telus.net
Justin Tether	250-398-0499	tether_@hotmail.com
Bob Genoway	403-542-7083	bobgenoway@gmail.com