



Tunnel Town Curling Club
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TUNNEL TOWN CURLING CLUB RECORD DOCUMENTS

TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1958-1962

The Tunnel Town Curling Club (TTCC) originated out of a group of curlers, from the Ladner area, who had curled at the Cloverdale Curling Rink, for league play, (*according to Ian Paton*) and occasionally, at the Vancouver Curling Club and New Westminster's Royal City Curling Club for bonspiels, (*according to Ron Fields*) during the mid 1950's. The January 9, 1958 "Optimist" paper lists the results of the January 4th Ladner Curling Club's games as follow:

J. Darts beat J. Galbraith	Stan Raymond beat Dave Anderson
Lorne Carmichael beat Ernie Coulter	Jim Anderson beat Art Weir
Jim Davidson beat Jim Coulter	Norm Coulter beat Art Woods

B.C.'s Centennial Year, to celebrate it's being established as a British Colony, was 1958. The Ladner curlers and other local, community minded citizens, initiated the proposal that, as Delta's Centennial Project, the Municipality of Delta purchase a Hanger at the old WWII Boundary Bay Airport, from the Federal Department of National Defence (DND), for use as Ice Arena and Curling Rink. During the negotiations, DND decided that if the hanger was sold it would have to be relocated off of their property. The Delta Centennial Committee estimated that it would cost at least \$100,000 to relocate the hanger and install Ice Making Equipment etc., and the most that they could expect as a Centennial Grant from the Provincial Government would be \$5,400. (*Feb. 6, 1958 "Optimist"*). The Centennial Committee therefore decided, in February 1958, to abandon the Hanger Project and purchase a beach front park site at Boundary Bay, as their Centennial Project. The curlers, and other ice arena minded citizens, did not give up, however. They negotiated a plan whereby the Municipality of Delta could lease Hanger No. 1 from the Crown Assets Department of the Federal Government, for the sum of \$1.00 per annum, provided that the municipality constructed a separate access road, and a 7ft. high chainlink fence that would isolate the hanger from the rest of the site, which was then operating as the Canadian Army's Vancouver Wireless Station (VWS). A society would then lease the hanger from the Municipality and undertake the necessary modifications and the installation of the refrigeration systems for the artificial ice. The Delta Council agreed to this plan in April 1958, and struck a steering committee to form the society. The committee was composed as follows:

Bert McCubbins - IOOF	Ernie Marshall - Kinsmen
Capt. J. Clark - VWS	Curt Blundell - Rotary
J.J. Lentsch - Delta High School & Recreation Commission	

The first General Meeting of the Delta Ice Stadium Society was held in the Delta Council Chambers at 8pm on July 14, 1958 and the following officials were elected:

Executive

Bert McCubbin - President	Ian Paton - Vice President
John J. Lentsch - Secretary/Treasurer	

TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1958-62 (continued)

Directors

Jim Anderson	Howard Bailey	Curt Blundell
Lorne Carmichael	Capt. John Clark	Jim Coulter
Keith Fisher	John Howard	Roy Kamlah
Ernie Marshall	Mrs. Gordon McKenzie	Mrs. Ed Norman
Capt. Hugh Ross	Jim Taylor	Mrs. W.D. Townsend

The Delta Ice Stadium Society (DISS) announced plans to sell Bonds paying 6% interest to raise \$75,000, and obtained Delta Council official approval for use of Hanger No. 1 on September 15, 1958.

The September 25, 1958 "Optimist" wrote that the Society had awarded a \$32,000 contract to John Inglis Co. of Vancouver for refrigeration equipment large enough to produce ice for the skating rink and the curling rink.

Mr. Ian Paton was named as the Bond Drive Chairman, and with the help of sixteen volunteer "Captains" organized a Bond Blitz which attempted to contact every home in the Ladner/South Delta area on October 4th. A meeting was held with the North Delta Ratepayers Association, and the Annieville PTA, on October 21, 1958, to finalize plans for another Bond Drive in the North Delta area. R.J. Buzelle, of Hale, Harrison, Associates of Vancouver, the architect hired by the Society, presented plans for the Skating Rink, Curling Rink and Concessions at this meeting. The finished facility would include observation rooms, lunchrooms, cloak and rest rooms, and a machine room to house the ice making equipment. The North Delta area Bond Drive took place on October 25th. A total of \$30,000 dollars in Bonds were sold during these two drives, which was impressive, but well short of the Society's target. This shortfall resulted in the Society having to struggle financially during the first couple of years of operation.

The Municipality of Delta had agreed to provide the new access road to Hanger No. 1. However, at a November 3 meeting with Delta Council, an agreement was reached whereby Delta would provide \$9000 in funds, the road would be built using volunteer forces, and any surplus funds would be put towards other work on the Hanger.

Work on the Hanger progressed rapidly during the late fall of 1958. Most of the work was carried out by volunteer labour provided by members of the Society and other community organizations. The Ladner Kinsmen Club assisted the Ice Stadium Society in getting their project going. Ernie Burnett's Accounting Firm in Ladner, was the Fiscal Agent for the Society during the fund raising period.

An article in the November 13, 1958 issue of the "Optimist" indicates that the Society had been able to save money by purchasing 24 sets of curling rocks, complete with hacks, scoreboards, and measuring sticks, from a Mr. R. Long of White Rock. The rocks had only been used for four months.

TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1958-62 (continued)

Jim Anderson, President of the Ladner Curling Club, chaired the clubs first meeting of 1959 on January 19th, at the Delta High School. Eighty people attended, with forty new members being signed up. Films on curling were shown in the School Auditorium that evening, and again on January 24th.

The Society hired Mr. Norman McQuade, an accomplished skater from Winnipeg, and a former member of the Kimberly hockey team as the first Manager of the Ice Stadium. Mr. Ivan Pepper became the facilities first Ice Man. Concessions was under the management of Mrs. Roy Kamlah, Mrs. Jim Anderson, Mrs. C. Morwood, Mrs. Jim Taylor and Mrs. T.S. Houston.

The Delta Ice Stadium, which was touted as B.C.'s biggest ice rink, was officially opened, on Saturday, February 7, 1959. A capacity crowd attended the opening ceremonies and heard speeches from Ian Paton - Vice President of the DISS, Dr. Gordon Gibson - MLA for Delta, and Bert McCubbins - President of the DISS. The keys to the Stadium were turned over to acting Delta Reeve, Albert Huff, and the facility was blessed by the Reverend N.J. Crees of the Ladner United Church. An Ice Show followed the ceremonies, with notable Figure Skaters such as Nora Sedlar - B.C. Coast Sr. Ladies 1958 Champion, Bonnie Jean Jackson - B.C. Coast Jr. Ladies 1957 Champion, and Lynn Pagliaro - 1958 Novice Champion at Lake Placid, performing, as well as Dance Teams from the Capilano and Connaught Figure Skating Clubs. A Hockey game, followed by Free Skating wound up the opening days festivities at the Ice Arena. The Curling Rink however hosted a Bonspeil open to all Delta residents. This Bonspiel lasted almost two weeks, with the following winners being declared on February 20th:

A Event	B Event	C Event
1 st - Ivan Pepper	1 st - Oscar Taylor	1 st - Tom Klinkhame
2 nd - George Wallace	2 nd - Don Banting	2 nd - Don Clipperton

The first Ladner Curling Club Facility was the four sheets of ice and a lounge area, in this WWII hanger, which the club rented from the Delta Ice Stadium Society. The Society and Club members had volunteered to construct the access road to this facility. Fortunately, one of the founding members, Bert McCubbin, owned a bulldozer, and donated the material and equipment for construction of this new road. Funds were scarce so very little gravel was used initially, and a large mud hole soon developed on the roadway in which members often got their vehicles stuck. Again, one of the members had a tow truck and kept it handy during the first season of operation.

The Ladner Curling Club's inaugural season in the Delta Ice Stadium ended in Mid April, 1959, with the following rinks winning the Club Championships:

Evening Open Leagues	Ladies Afternoon Leagues
Art Lindsay - by default over Hugh Ross	Mrs. Wallace - over Mrs. Bates
Art Lindsay Jr.	Fran Curtis
Barbara Lindsay Jr.	Doreen McKinnon
Roy Simpson	Margarite Green

TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1958-62 (continued)

In Challenge play the winners were:

Maxwell Trophy

Jim Anderson

Bill Black

Don Watts

Dave Anderson

Married Couples

Gerry Ringdal - over John Lentsch

Mrs. G. Ringdal

Art Lindsay Jr.

Mrs. A. Lindsay Jr.

The Delta Council agreed at their September 28, 1959, that the new access road to the Ice Stadium would be gravelled using funds from the Recreation Commission.

The Ladner Curling Club, with Jim Anderson as President, decided that for the 1959/60 season, they would manage the ice for the Stadium Society and that they would also sell Club Membership Bonds to help finance the facility. An advertisement in the October 8, 1959 "Optimist" read as follows:

Ladner Curling Club Opens Membership to Non-Residents

Entrance Fee: \$50 or \$50 Bond - Additional Family Members \$10 or \$50 Bond

Yearly Fees: \$24 for 24 Games

The Stadium commenced operations for the new season on October 3, 1959 with Norman McQuade as Manager, Ivan Pepper looking after Curling, and Mrs. Gunner Nielson running the Concessions. The Ladner Ladies Curling Club Executive for that first full season was composed as follows:

President: Mrs. Craig McNair

Vice President: Mrs. A. Cooper

Secretary: Mrs. W.E. LeFroy

Treasurer: Mrs. E.G. McGillis

Members, from the time, recall how the Club shared the hanger with an Archery Club, so whenever one was walking between the Lounge and the Rest Rooms, they had to check that no arrows were also traversing the area. In addition, as the lounge was not a licenced facility, the Police used to occasionally stop in to check that no spirits were being consumed. Thankfully, they were always polite enough to phone ahead and say they were coming!

Ladner Curling Club's First Open Bonspiel commenced on February 11, 1960. There were no gender restrictions on the composition of teams. The "B" Event was won by a Ladner rink skipped by Norm Coulter, with Ralph Bolhuis at third, Jack Thompson as second, and Allan McKay playing lead. Norm Coulter was later to be inducted as a Life Member of Tunnel Town Curling Club, in 1979.

Delta Council agreed, in March of 1960, to provide the Ice Stadium Society with another grant of almost \$10,000 to pay the final amount owed on the ice making equipment, and an outstanding invoice from the municipality for water.

TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1958-62 (continued)

The Delta Ice Stadium Society held their Annual General Meeting on May 26, 1960 where the following new officials were elected:

Executive

President:	Ian D. Paton	Vice President:	Stewart Houston
Past President:	A.B. McCubbin	Secretary:	Mrs. Leo Vidulich

Directors

Jim Anderson	Howard bailey	Lem Bain	Don Brown
Ernie Burnett	Jack Cooper	Jim Coulter	Mrs D.E Dowd
Vic Freer	Roy Kamlah	Ernie Kirkland	Carl Morwood
Jim Taylor	Mrs. A. Townsend	Leo Vidulich	Art Woods

Mr. Courtney R. James, who had been the secretary for the Halifax Forum for four years was hired by the Society, in August 1960, as the Manager of the Ice Stadium. Russ Baldwin, who had been in charge of ice making at the New Westminster Curling Club was hired by the Society as the Ice Maker. Harry Taylor, who had been on staff for two years, continued as assistant Ice Maker.

The Department of National Defence, after an exchange of several letters, eventually agreed to accept a less costly, 6 ft high page wire fence, in lieu of the chainlink fence originally requested. This fence, which was needed to isolate the Stadium from the Vancouver Wireless Station, was completed by a volunteer work party under the direction of Jim Coulter and Roy Kamlah, in February 1961. This work, finally completed the construction of the Stadium facility, approximately two and a half years after the initial meeting of the Delta Ice Stadium Society.

The Ladner Curling Clubs Second Open Bonspiel, which ran from February 9 to 12, 1961 was another success, with 48 rinks participating. The Sam Cope rink from the Pacific Curling Club, won the "A" Event and the Churchill Trophy. The club's season ended on April 2, 1961, with the Jim Coulter rink winning the championship and the Bell-Irving Trophy. According to an article in the March 16, 1961 "Optimist", the medallion on this trophy, which was donated by Walter Lefroy of Bell-Irving Realty & Insurance, was first presented in 1855, to curlers of St. Mungo, Scotland.

The Ladner Ladies Curling Club's 1960-61 season Round Robin was won by the Mrs. A.L. Medd, and the Ladies Knock-out Play was one by Mrs. Jack Thomson's rink.

The Ladner Ladies Curling Club held their first Annual Open Bonspiel February 7 - 9, 1962, with the following rinks being the winners:

"A" Event	"B" Event	"C" Event
C. London - Capilano C.C.	R. Lenke - Burnaby W.C.	E. Glover - Vancouver C.C.
Consolation		
M. Medd - Ladner L.C.C.		

TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1958-62 (continued)

Joe Dukowski replaced Courtney James as the Stadium Manager. Mr. Dukowski resigned at the end of the 1962/63 season and was replaced by a Mr. Jack Elliot. Mr. Elliot was in turn replaced by a Curling Club Member named Vic Fisher, who successfully managed the Stadium for several years. (*according to Ian Paton*). Jack Cooper, a member of the Ladner Curling Club, and the Ice stadium Society, became the third President of the Society, after Ian Paton had completed several successful terms. Jack Cooper was later to be named an Honorary Life member of TTCC in 2000.

The Delta Ice Stadium Society had about five Managers between 1959 and 1972.