



Tunnel Town Curling Club  
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## **TUNNEL TOWN CURLING CLUB RECORD DOCUMENTS**

### **TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1962-1990**

The individual curling leagues using the Ice Stadium facility more or less operated independently during the first three seasons. These leagues were organized by such community groups as the Ladner Ladies Curling Club, the Ladner Businessmen's Association, the IOOF, and the Ladner Curling Club. The Tunnel Town Curling Club was formed to replace the Ladner Curling Club in June of 1962. Dr. Frank Peto who was elected the first President of the Tunnel Town Curling Club, obtained agreement from the curlers involved that the interests of the curling community would best be served if TTCC became the single club in control of all Curling at the Ice Stadium. This would enable TTCC to:

- Hire a Secretary/Manager,
- Hold a curling school with qualified instruction,
- Contract with the Ice Stadium Society,
- Join the Pacific Coast Curling Association which would allow members to participate in the Brier Playdowns.

The name Tunnel Town was chosen because of the Ice Stadium's proximity to the Provincial Highway Department's new Deas Island Tunnel under the south arm of the Fraser River, which opened for business on May 23, 1959, (officially opened by Queen Elizabeth on July 15, 1959), and to better reflect the area being served which now included South Delta (Tsawwassen).

TTCC's curling Schedule for the 1962/63 season was outlined in the October 17, 1962 issue of the "Optimist" was as follows:

- Mon. Morning & Afternoon - Ladies
- Mon. Evening - Deeks McBride & Gulf of Georgia
- Tue. Morning - Ladies
- Tue. Afternoon - High School
- Tue Evening - Men's
- Wed., Thur, Fri. & Sat. Evenings - Mixed

The Delta Ice Stadium Society, under order from the Delta Council, painted the interior and exterior of the Stadium building during the summer of 1963. They also installed new fluorescent lights over the curling ice, and constructed a partition wall to separate the curling ice from a vacant area of the building.

TTCC held their first Annual Open Mixed Bonspiel November 1 - 3, 1963, with the following rinks being the winners:

- |                         |                          |                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| "A" Event               | "B" Event                | "C" Event              |
| Hebert - Vancouver C.C. | Jacobson - Richmond W.C. | Harris - Richmond W.C. |

## **TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1962-90 (continued)**

Don Sharland, who had joined the club in 1966, was associated with a company which had the contract to renovate the Restaurant of the Royal Towers Hotel in New Westminster. The company had removed several used upholstered bench seats from the Restaurant, and had them stored in their warehouse. In 1968, Don arranged for these maroon coloured, leatherette covered, benches to be donated to Tunnel Town Curling Club. These benches were moved from the Ice Stadium to the club's new facilities in 1972, where they were used in the lower lobby, until the summer of 2003, at which time the Corporation of Delta replaced them.

The March 3, 1971 issue of the Optimist carried an article which stated that the two separate referendums held on February 27, 1971, for a new \$600,000 Recreation Centre in each of North Delta, and South Delta, had both been passed.

The 1971/72 PCCA book records how the electrical power transformer feeding the TTCC Facility burned up during the February 1971 Men's Open Bonspiel, and the last ends of the Semi - Finals were played by the light from candles and several Sportsman Lanterns, which were quickly set up along the sides of the ice. Following a hasty phone call, the finals were played off, two hours later, in the Richmond Winter Club.

The December 1, 1971, issue of the Optimist contained an article which indicated that the steel girders were being erected for the new South Delta Recreation Centre, and that the facility should be in operation for the summer of 1972.

The old hanger was closed on December 28, 1971 (*January 5, 1972, Optimist*), for a safety check, following a snow storm. A Notice was placed in the January 19, 1972 issue of the Optimist stating that the Delta Ice Stadium was closed for the season because it had been determined that the roof structure was unsafe. The club completed the season by renting ice at the Peace Arch Curling Club in White Rock, for the Mens League, the Richmond Winter Club for the Ladies (*April 5, 1972 Optimist*), and at the Heather Curling Club in Surrey (or the Cloverdale Curling Club?) for the Mixed League.

The TTCC's President for the 71/72 season, Rudy Oppitz, was heavily involved in the negotiations with the Federal and Provincial Governments, to obtain additional funding for the Municipality, for the construction of the South Delta Recreation Centre. The TTCC 74/75 Board of Directors named him "Honorary Past President" for his hard work and perseverance. (The two actual Past Presidents had moved away)

## TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1962-90 (continued)

The club moved, for the 1972/73 season, which commenced October 3<sup>rd</sup>, to a new four sheet facility at the South Delta Recreational Centre (SDRC), which is located in the community of Tsawwassen, and owned and operated by the Municipality of Delta. The official opening for this new SDRC took place on September 15<sup>th</sup> 1972, with over 10,000 people making use of the facility during its first three days of operation (*Sept. 20, 1972 Optimist*). Canadian Figure Skating Champion Karen Magnussen had been scheduled to cut the ribbon, but was unable to attend, so her mother performed the honour. Delta MLA Carl Liden, MP Tom Goode, Delta Mayor Dugald Morrison, and Alderman Ernest Burnett were the other dignitaries involved in the opening ceremonies. The municipality's first manager for the new South Delta Recreation Centre was Mr. J. O. (Bus) Evans.

The new curling facility, which was completed a few days after the official opening date, shared a single water chiller unit with the Hockey Arena. Loraine Holman recalls how the ice started to melt under the curlers feet, the first time that cooling demand for the Arena Ice became excessive due to a free skating session. (*The Optimist carried an article in the September 27, 1972 issue indicating that Phillip Barratt Hillier Jones and Partners, the Design Engineers for the new \$700,000 South Delta Recreation Centre had been told to conduct an investigation into why the ice in the Arena had melted a day after it had been placed. The curling rink had not yet been put into operation, at that time.*) A bi-pass valve arrangement was added to the cooling water pipe system so that the curling rink ice temperature could be better controlled.

The December 27, 1972, issue of the Optimist carried a notice from the Delta Ice Stadium Society, advising that holders of the society's bonds maturing in 1972 (and un-redeemed bonds from previous years) should be presented to the Royal Bank in Ladner for redemption.

The curling rink in the new SDRC had been constructed too short to allow for a walkway across the south end of the ice, and the four sheets provided, soon proved to be insufficient. The TTCC, under the leadership of Jake Hlynka (Club President - 1973 & 74), initiated and spear headed negotiations to obtain a government grant for the municipality to assist them in expanding the facility. The municipality, subsequently, added two more sheets of ice to the facility, and extended the original structure, to accommodate a walkway, plus provide storage rooms across the south end. This expansion was completed for the 1974/75 (*Optimist January 15, 1975*) season, which got under way on October 14<sup>th</sup>. This provided the six sheet facility that is currently in use. Tunnel Town Curling Club donated the original, four sheet, set of rocks to the Municipality, and the Municipality purchased a new, six sheet, set of rocks for the facility. The original four sheet set was moved to the Thistle Curling Club in North Delta by the Municipality and combined with their four sheet set, in order to make up a six sheet set for that Club (*According to the memories of members of that time, but no documentation found - To Be Confirmed - Refer BoD Minutes Feb. 9, 1986 in which Club President states that Municipality definitely owns the rocks*), which had also had their facility expanded from four to six sheets. The air conditioning unit which had been sized (*possibly new in Nov. 1974 - see Nov. 1 1974 BoD Minutes*) for the original structure was simply relocated to the new east wall of the extended structure, and of course proved totally inadequate. The ice was very frosty, and this combined

## **TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1962-90** (continued)

with new, sharp rocks, made it difficult for many curlers get their early end rocks down to the house, during the that first couple of seasons in the six sheet facility. The municipality finally replaced the air conditioning unit with a couple of properly sized de-humidifiers, for the 77/78 season, and ice conditions improved.

TTCC had 745 members for the 1975/76 season. Curling Fees in 1975/76 were \$48.00 for evening league play, and \$35.00 for the seniors day time leagues.

Club President Al Thompson reported to the September 23, 1975 Board Meeting that 10 more tables and 30 new chairs were being purchased by the municipality for the lounge.

The bulbs of original incandescent type lights over the curling ice would occasionally shatter and the glass would fall onto the ice surface (*according to Ron Franklin*). The Municipality replaced these lights with florescent type lights in August of 1977.

The club purchased a new Gestetner copier for \$795 in January of 1978.

The TTCC Board of Directors, at their October 16, 1978 meeting, passed a motion to have photograph portraits taken of all of the clubs past presidents, for display on the lounge wall. These photos were taken by photographer Merv McMartin, who was also a club member. The first photograph's were hung in early 1980 at a cost of \$30 each (\$10 for the photo & \$20 for the frame). This practice of having photo's of all club presidents still continues.

R. B. Irving became the South Delta Recreation Centre's manager for the municipality in 1976, and remained in that position until his retirement in 1993. Mike Harris was the municipality's manager for the next year or so until Kevin Near, was named the Area Recreation Superintendent became responsible for management of the complex.

TTCC designed a club crest (crossed brooms and rock behind stylized sun) and in Nov 1979 made them available for purchase by the members at a cost of \$5.00 each. A sample is on display in the club trophy case.

TTCC had 570 members for the 1980/81 season. Curling fees were: \$67.00 for evenings Monday through Thursday (20 games), and \$60 Friday Saturday & Sunday (18 games); Daytime Ladies' fees were \$50.00 (21 games), and \$40.00 for Seniors.

The Tunnel Town Senior Men's Club applied for, and received a Government Grant from the New Horizons Fund which they used to purchased a new set of handles for the curling rocks, for each of the six sheets of ice, in December 1981. (*BoDir Mtg. Nov. 23, 1981 & Jan. 11, 1982*) The Senior Men also provided the club with \$243 in November 1982 to install glass doors and a glass shelf in the existing trophy case.

## **TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1962-90 (continued)**

TTCC hosted the B.C. Men's Provincial Championship (PCCA Labatt Tankard) February 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 1984. The event was held in the Ladner Arena in Delta. This was the very first time that the Provincial Playdowns were held on arena ice, instead of in a curling rink. This was done in order to utilize the increased seating capacity. Holding major curling events in arenas has since become the normal practice. This has been the most prestigious event hosted by the club to date. Refer to Appendix "E" for more details.

A Special Resolution was passed at the Annual General Meeting on March 27, 1985 where by the existing Bylaws of Tunnel Town Curling Club were repealed and replaced by a new set of Bylaws.*(approval by BC Consumer & Corporate Affairs to be confirmed)*

TTCC had 565 members for the 1985/86 season, and purchased a Video Camera in November 1985.

TTCC submitted a document to Delta Council on January 8, 1986, proposing that the club lease and operate the curling rink, concessions, bar and lounge, and made a presentation to Council on May 26, 1986. On November 17, 1986 Council voted to reject TTCC's Proposal.

Curling fees for 86/87 were: \$102.00 for evenings Monday through Thursday (20 games), \$91.50 Friday and \$79.00 Saturday & Sunday (18 games); Senior Mixed fees were \$53.50 (21 games), and \$107.00 for Senior Men (42 games).

A Special Resolution was passed at the Annual General Meeting on May 11, 1987 where by the existing Bylaws of Tunnel Town Curling Club were repealed and replaced by a new set of Bylaws.*(approval by BC Consumer & Corporate Affairs to be confirmed)*

TTCC applied for, and was issued a BC Social Services Tax Registration as a Vendor (No. 783450) on November 27, 1987, for retail sales of curling equipment. The club was also obtained a Business Licence from the Corporation of Delta, for 1987.

The Municipality purchased an "Ice King" scraper for the curling ice during the summer of 1988.

A Special Resolution was passed at the Annual General Meeting on May 17, 1989 where by the existing Bylaws of Tunnel Town Curling Club were repealed and replaced by a new set of Bylaws.

TTCC purchased a new Sony Camcorder in September 1990.

Doug Olson, the municipal employee who had been the bar tender for the Curling Club Lounge for the past fifteen years or so, retired in about 1990. Two new municipal employees, Darcy Jones and Neil Elliot replaced him.

## **TTCC DETAIL HISTORY - 1962-90 (continued)**

TTCC had inducted three “Honorary Life Members” between 1959 and 1990. A brief biography for each of them are contained in a separate portion of the Record Documents.

The Club has had approximately 10 Managers between 1962 and 1990, including one wife who was a co-managers with their husband. A brief biography on those which were available for input are contained in Appendix “A” of the Club Record Documents.

TTCC has elected around 28 Presidents between 1959 and 1990, including one who served only a partial term, three that were presidents of the original Ladner Curling Club. A brief biography on most of them is contained in Appendix “B” which is contained in a separate section of the Club History.

PLEASE ADVISE BOB FISHER (Tel. 604- 943-7637 OR [rhfisher40@gmail.com](mailto:rhfisher40@gmail.com)) OF ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS