



Tunnel Town Curling Club
1720 - 56 Street
Delta, BC V4L 2B1
Phone 604-943-9219

TUNNEL TOWN CURLING CLUB RECORD DOCUMENTS

HISTORY

TTCC HISTORY SUMMARY

The Tunnel Town Curling Club (TTCC) originated out of a group from the Ladner Curling Club which had rented ice at the Cloverdale Curling Rink, for league play, and occasionally, at the Vancouver Curling Club and New Westminster's Royal City Curling Club for bonspiels, during the 1950's. The Ladner Curling Club was founded during that time, by its first President Jim Anderson, Norm Coulter and Harry and Ralph Bolhuis.

A group of local, community minded, citizens formed The Delta Ice Stadium Society (DISS) in 1958, and sold bonds to members and the other individuals in the community, in order to raise the funds required to install a hockey rink and a curling rink, in an partially vacant, WWII hanger, at the Boundary Bay Airport. The Municipality of Delta leased the hanger from the Federal Government, and sublet space in it to the DISS which undertook the necessary modifications and the installation of the refrigeration systems for the artificial ice. Most of the work was carried out by volunteer labour. Mr. Bert McCubbin, was elected the first President of the Society, and a local farmer, Mr. Ian Paton was elected the Vice-President, and he was instrumental in negotiating the lease of the hanger space. The DISS hired a Mr. Norman McQuade as the first Manager of the Delta Ice Stadium. This facility opened in February 1959.

The DISS rented the curling rink facilities to various curling groups, including the Ladner Curling Club, and the Ladner Ladies Curling Club, during the first year of its operation. The Ladner Curling Club took over management of the curling ice for the 1959-60 season, and sold \$50 membership bonds to help raise funds for the facility.

The Tunnel Town Curling Club was formed in 1962, to put control of all of the curling activities at the Stadium under the control of one Curling Club. Dr. Frank Peto was elected as the first President of the Tunnel Town Curling Club (TTCC). 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, and to better reflect the area being served which now included South Delta (Tsawwassen).

This first curling facility consisted of four sheets of ice and a lounge area, in this WWII hanger, rented from the Delta Ice Stadium Society, at the Boundary Bay Airport. Ivan Pepper was hired as their first Ice Maker. The DISS had to provide their own access road to this facility. Fortunately, one of the founding members, Bert McCubbin, owned a construction company, and donated the material and equipment for construction of this new road. However a large mud hole soon developed on the roadway, in which members often got their vehicles stuck. Fortunately one of the members had a tow truck and kept it handy, until such time as more gravel could be acquired

TTCC HISTORY SUMMARY (continued)

to improve the road . Curling Club members, from the time, recall how the Club shared the hanger with an Archery Club, so whenever one was walking between the Lounge room 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! The coffee shop in the hanger was operated by Mrs. Gunner Nielson during the mid 60's..

The 1971/72 PCCA Year 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 old hanger was condemned in the December of 1971, following a snow storm, when it was 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, and at the Heather Curling Club in Surrey for the Mixed League.

The club moved, for the 1972/73 season , to a new four sheet facility at the South Delta Recreational Centre, which is located in the community of Tsawwassen, and owned and operated by the Municipality of Delta. The municipality's first manager for the new South Delta Recreation Centre was Mr. J. O. (Bus) Evans. The new curling facility shared a single water chiller unit with the Hockey Arena. A member of that period, 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. 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 municipality added two more sheets of ice to the facility for the 1974/75 season, to provide the six sheet facility that is currently in use. The original four sheet structure had actually been constructed too short to allow for a walkway across the south end of the ice. This part of the structure was therefore extended, to accommodate a walkway, plus provide storage rooms across the south end, at the same time as the additional sheets were being added. The Municipality also purchased a new set of curling rocks for each of the six sheets of ice. The air conditioning unit which had been sized for the original structure was originally relocated to the new east wall of the extended structure, and of course proved totally inadequate. The ice was very frosty, and this combined 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 75/76 season and the Curling Fees were \$48.00 for evening league play, and \$35.00 for the seniors day time leagues. The fees had raised to \$60.00 plus \$3.00 for PCCA for 20 games in the Men's or Mixed Leagues by 1979/80.

TTCC HISTORY SUMMARY (continued)

R. B. Irving became the South Delta Recreation Centre's manager for the municipality in 1976, and retired from that position in 1993. Mike Harris filled this position for a short time until Kevin Near became Area Recreation Superintendent in 1994.

TTCC hosted the B.C. Men's Provincial Championship (PCCA Labatt Tankard) February 10th - 12th, 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.

TTCC had 565 members for the 1985/86 season.

The Municipality replaced the sand base under the ice areas, with a PC Concrete floor, during the summer of 1994. The cooling lines for the ice area were also replaced at this same time.

TTCC had 391 members for the 1995/96 season.

The Club applied for and received a licence to hold a Casino Night at the Great Canadian Casino at 709 W Broadway on February 8th & 9th 1996. The funds raised by this event were used to purchase numerous improvements for the curling facility, including the following :

1. "Ice King" Scraper for ice maintenance.
2. "Jet Ice" filtration system for the water for making the curling ice.
3. Carpet the lobby floor.
4. Pool table
5. Shuffle Board
6. 25 Lockers in the lobby.
8. \$2000 contribution towards a viewing window to arena from the lounge.

The Club, in 1996, funded the installation of a partial "Jet Ice" filtration system, which removes the sediments from the water used for the ice making. A full "Jet Ice" system which removes both sediments and minerals from the water was leased, by the club, and installed by the Municipality, for the 1997-98 season. This system was purchased by the club in 1998 and it's maintenance cost is now being funded by the Municipality. The Municipality painted the interior of the curling club, and purchased new tables for the lower lobby, during the summer of 1997. They installed a new Refrigeration unit for the ice, and a new HVAC System for the Lounge & Lobby Area, during the summer of 1998.

Tunnel Town Curling Club and Delta Parks and Recreation combined forces to construct a new trophy case in 2000. The club purchased the material and Delta paid for the labour to construct the wooden portion of the case, which is located in the stair well to the "Ice Chip" Lounge.

TTCC HISTORY SUMMARY (continued)

The Corporation of Delta replaced the old inadequate, fluorescent type lights, over the curling ice, with new “Metal Halide” type light fixtures, during the last week in December, 2000, at an approximate cost of \$25,000 (*to be confirmed*).

Tunnel Town Curling Club, on October 2, 1999, applied for, and in December, was awarded a Direct Charitable Access to Gaming Revenue Grant, in the amount of \$39,000, from the BC Government’s Gaming Commission, to help pay the club’s Ice Rental cost for the fiscal year 1999 - 2000. The club then donated \$40,000, from their general revenue, to the Corporation of Delta, towards the purchase and installation of a new “desicant” type De-humidifier, for the South Delta Recreation Centre. The installation of this new De-humidifier, which serves both the Ice Arena, and the Curling Rink, and had a total cost of approximately \$85,000, was completed for the start of the 2001-02 curing season.

The municipal staff carried out the following improvements to the facility during the summer of 2001:

- Constructed six large boxes to store the rocks in, and serve as benches at the end of each sheet.
- Painted the lounge, curling rink interior, and the score boards.

The Corporation of Delta contracted with Thompson Brush Company of Winnipeg, Manitoba, to reshape the striking bands of all ninety six of the facilities curling stones, and install Blue Hone Ainslet Granite “Tile” type running surfaces on their bottom side. The \$21,600 cost of this contract was shared 50/50 between the Club and the Corporation, and the work was carried out during the summer of 2003.

The Corporation of Delta purchased six wooden benches for the lower lounge, in the summer of 2003, at a cost of \$1,700, to replace the old leatherette benches which had been donated to the club, by a member (Don Sharland) in 1968.

TTCC purchased a “Nipper” in January 2004, at a cost of \$1,172. Pushing this Nipper, by hand, up one side of the sheet and down the other, after the game pebble has been applied, greatly reduced the “Heavy” first end ice which had always been a problem at this club.

TTCC signed a lease agreement with the Municipality on Sept. 10, 2004, which contained the following key elements:

- Transfer of the operation and maintenance of the Lower Lobby, the Lounge, and Bar, including the Wash Rooms, to TTCC
- Transfer of the right to sell Advertising space on the interior walls of the Curling Ice Area to TTCC
- The Municipality will continue to provide and maintain the curling ice, and total building heating, cooling, and utilities, as per a Base Service Agreement.
- TTCC will pay the Municipality a fixed fee of \$56,000 per year for use of the Curling Ice and lease of the Lobby and Lounge area.

TTCC HISTORY SUMMARY (continued)

The Corporation of Delta purchased, in the summer of 2005, 25 used fabric covered chairs to replace the leatherette covered chairs in the lower lobby of the curling rink.

TTCC, for the 2005/06 season, sold the advertising space on all six scoreboard end signs and two wall signs, for a three year period.

TTCC had 382 members and 14 juniors, for the 2005/06 season. Evening League Fees were \$242 incl. Curl BC dues and banquet, plus GST., with a discount for the second league, and \$150 (20 games) for day time seniors, or \$262 for 40 daytime senior games.

The municipality Replaced the “Chillers” or refrigeration units, which freeze the ice for the arena and the curling rink, during the summer of 2006. That fall TTCC purchased two 37 inch LCD Televisions for the Lounge and replaced the Cooler in the bar.

Delta municipal staff, at the request of TTCC, removed the T-Bar ceiling from the upper lounge and painted the open web steel joists and corrugated steel ceiling a flat black during the summer of 2008. They installed new ceiling and wall mounted lights with dimmer switches. They also installed a new sound system. The total cost for these renovations was about \$27,000 plus Delta staff labour costs. Delta covered all of the costs associated with this work.

The TTCC Annual Mixed Bonspiel which was held November 7 - 9, 2008 was interrupted by a electrical power outage. At 02:30 am, on the morning of November 8, a transformer owned by Delta, blew and the main electrical panel for the facility was damaged. Following frantic phone calls, the remainder of the bonspiel was moved to the North Delta Thistle Curling Club. A replacement transformer arrived from Grand Forks late on the 8th, and the power was back on at Tunnel Town by 5 pm on the 10th. Although all involved worked as quickly as they could to completed the repairs , the curling ice had melted down to the paint. It was therefore decided that in order to have good looking ice for the remainder of the season, the rink was closed until November 24th. This gave the Delta staff time to paint over the old ice and place additional layers. The two weeks of league curling lost were added on to the end of the season.

The contract between Delta and TTCC expired in April 2009. A new contract was negotiated during the summer and fall of 2009 and signed in January 2010?

The contract between Delta and TTCC gave the club the authority to put up 20 - 4 ft x 8 ft advertising signs on the walls of the curling ice area. A club member, Darcy Hiesler, in the fall of 2009, solicited 20 firms to pay for these advertising spaces.

The municipality, at TTCC’s request, hired a contractor to replace the carpet and vinyl flooring in the lounge including the bar and washrooms, in December 2009. During the summer of 2010 the counter tops and sinks were replaced in the lounge washrooms and the bar counter top was replaced. Some cabinets were also added in the bar area. In addition the chairs in the lounge were replaced with 100 new ones, and the old lounge chairs were relocated to the lower lobby area.

TTCC HISTORY SUMMARY (continued)

TTCC had 317 members and 45 juniors, for the 2010/11 season. Evening league fees were \$260 (incl. Curl BC dues), plus HST. A second evening leagues was only an additional \$130 and the third one another \$60. A daytime league cost \$170. The Awards Banquet cost an additional \$35 (\$45 after 1 February 2011) instead of being included in the league fees, as it had been for the past several years.

A Sofa, 2 Arm Chairs and Coffee Table with a Memorial Plaque on it were purchased and installed in an area at the east end of the upper lounge in Memory of Joyce Fisher, a former club Manger and Long Time Curler, in December 2010.

TTM Resources donated a used 60 inch wide screen TV to the Club in December 2011.

An Electric Fire Place was purchased in February 2011, using funds raised through an auction, and installed in the Joyce Fisher Memorial Area.

The municipality installed "E" Reflective insulation and new mercury vapour lighting on the ceiling of the curling ice area in April 2011.

The Municipality replaced the carpet in the lower lounge with linoleum, in August 2011.

The club purchased 24 new lockers for the lower lounge, in August 2011.

The club purchased a new bar fridge, keg fridge, & cash register for the lounge and a new computer for the office during the 2011-12 season .

Tunnel Town Curling Club celebrated its' 50th Anniversary in 2012, by holding a men's Bonspiel with cash prizes totalling \$10,000, in Janaury. This money was raised mainly through sponsor donations. They also hired "Nearly Neal" a professional impersonator of Neil Diamond, to perform at the Awards Dinner and Dance at the end of March.

Tunnel Town hosted Draw 13 - West Tour, of the Strathcona Cup Centenary (2013) January 12, 2013, involving curling games between four Tunnel Curling Teams and Teams from Scotland.

The Stanley Park Brewing Co. Donated two new 43" TVs to replace the old 32" ones on the lounge wall, in January 2014.

The curling rocks were sent Thompson Rink Equipment in Winnipeg to have the striking bands refinished and new handles installed, in the summer of 2014. Members funded this by paying to have their names engraved on the new handles.

Stanley Park Brewing donated a new 54" TV in September 2014.

The club takes the option to extend the lease of the lower and upper lounges from Delta for an additional 5 years in 2015.

TTCC HISTORY SUMMARY (continued)

Tunnel town received a \$6,000 grant from the BC Gaming Commission in March 2015.

The club entered into an agreement to re-design their web-site in May 2015 with 14 Oranges Software Inc. (Shane Todhunter).

Tunnel town received a \$18,000 grant from the BC Gaming Commission in September 2015.

The club purchase a new cooler, dishwasher & point of sale system for the lounge., in Sept. 2015

The Municipality installed a new roof on the Curling Rink in Sept. 2015.

TTCC had 341 members, and 24 juniors, plus about 24 novice league members for the 2015/16 season. Evening league fees were \$350, plus HST, for 1 evening, \$502 for 2, and \$627 for 3. A daytime league cost \$272 or \$382 for 2 days. The awards banquet cost an additional \$40.

The club purchased a Pizza Warming Oven for the 2016/17 season.

An open league replaced the mixed league on Wednesday evening for the 2016-17 season.

Tunnel Town received a \$18,000 grant from the BC Gaming Commission for the 2016-17 season.

Nineteen separate files containing the club history and records were put on the clubs web site in the spring of 2017.

The club held the Awards Banquet in the Tsawwassen Springs ballroom for the first time in April of 2017. At this banquet the club president presented the inaugural 30 year pins to those individuals who had been members for that many seasons.

The club adopted the 5 rock free guard zone rule for league play for the 2018-19 season.

A doubles league was started on Saturdays for the 2018-19 season.

Tunnel Town received a \$18,000 grant for operations from the BC Gaming Commission for the 2018-19 season.

The city hired a contractor to installed a closed circuit TV camera over each house on each of the six sheets of ice, and six 42 inch LG monitors above the windows in the lounge. The club paid for this work which was carried out in the spring and summer of 2019.

The City of Delta awarded a contract to Klondike Contracting in the spring of 2019 for the Supply and Installation of an elevator for the Recreation Center, and modifications to the Club's upper lounge washrooms and the lower lounge kitchen. The existing Men's and Women's

TTCC HISTORY SUMMARY (continued)

washroom were modified to make room for a Handicap Access Washroom between them. The lower lounge kitchen was converted into a Pro-Shop. The washrooms and pro-shop were completed by mid-October 2019.

The City purchased a new Ice Scraper Machine in the summer of 2019 to replace the Ice King Machine which had been purchased by the club in 1996. The new machine is a Direct Drive Boss Battery Powered Ice Scraper made by IceMaster Manufacturing.

TTCC had 442 members including 24 juniors, for the 2019/20 season. Evening league fees were \$375 (incl. Curl BC dues), plus HST, for 1 evening, \$525 for 2, and 650 for 3. A daytime Masters league cost \$210 or \$405 for 2 days. The Wednesday Morning Ladies cost \$295 The Novice League cost \$150. The Awards Banquet Guest Ticket cost an additional \$50.

The Heritage Items that hang on wall over the windows in the upper lounge had to be relocated to accommodate the six new TV Monitors. This was done in October 2020. Also Twenty 8" x 10" Photos of Past Presidents were reduced to 5" x 7" and installed in two new 24" x 36" frames. This work was done in February 2020.

The club entered into a contract with A&G Creative Group in January 2020, to have the club's website updated.

The Club entered into a new five year lease agreement with the City of Delta in March 2020.

The club president issued an email on March 16, 2020 indicating that the season had been terminated due to the COVID -19 Pandemic. League playoffs were not completed and the annual awards banquet was cancelled.

The City's contract for the installation of an elevator and wheelchair accessible washroom in the lounge was finally completed in September 2020.

The T.T.C.C. Board of Directors had a plan for operation of the curling club during the COVID-19 Pandemic approved by Curl BC on September 1, 2020.

Curling commenced at the club on October 5th, with all of the regular leagues returning, but with about a thirty five percent drop in membership. Several changes to the rules and procedures were necessary to comply with COVID-19 Public Health Orders. The bar stopped serving drinks at 10pm.

Minor changes to the COVID-19 restrictions were issued on November 8th, and the bar was closed.

The club President issued an email on December 3, 2020 stating that in response to the new Public Health Order, that effective immediately, TTCC would be closed until further notice.

TTCC HISTORY SUMMARY (continued)

The club manager issued an email on January 17, 2021 stating that the Board of Directors had approved Member Only practice, effective January 19th.

The Club President issued an email on February 17 stating that due to COVID-19 Public Health Orders. the Club would be closing effective February 27, 2021.

PLEASE ADVISE BOB FISHER (Tel. 943-7637) OF ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS