

PACC President's report 2025

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for attending this year's AGM.

This past year has been very eventful. Greg and I attended a City Council meeting in October and made a presentation which highlighted the club's benefit to the community and the financial struggles it faces being a tenant within a city building. Just recently, the City has agreed to rework the Operating Agreement and remove PACC's requirement to contribute to the capital replacement fund for the leased building. Nothing has been finalized yet because we now have bigger requests.

In January, Mark Evans embarked on the mission of applying for a large capital grant through BC Gaming. You are going to hear from Mark personally but I would like to say to Mark, thank you for retiring from your day job because without your immense contribution of hundreds of hours, the grant application would never have been submitted. Now, we won't know the result until December but that does not diminish from the effort that you and other board members, particularly Joel MacDonald, put in.

The grant application has taken many forms over the past few months and that is because of Bruce Buchanan, a brand-new curler, who went through Learn-to-curl last fall with his wife Linda and decided that the curling club was a really cool place. Kudos to Ross for being a likeable guy and a good instructor. Bruce initially donated funds to allow the club to purchase a new ice scraper – and we are very thankful for that. When Ross informed Bruce of the club's need to replace the ice plant and eventually the floor, Bruce immediately offered his support.

In the beginning, the proposal was for Bruce to fund half the project if the City would fund the other half. This is where people that have been around for awhile would laugh. Like that would ever happen!

Bruce happened to meet John Bogar at the farewell party for Patti Halford (which is another story). John has a background working with local politicians so he was more than happy to get involved. Together, John and Bruce started meeting with all levels of government, trying to find out where PACC could get funding. Many meetings later, the only additional source found was the Peace Arch Hospital Foundation. So Mark made a presentation to the foundation and an official application was submitted.

There's a long story about the City of White Rock's lack of support for the curling club and a by-election but I won't go into that.

As of today, we have two grant applications waiting for a response and another meeting with the City.

Unfortunately, Patti Halford, owner of Candlelight Cuisine, sold her business in April after almost eight years at the club. Candlelight Cuisine had been in business for almost 40 years, so Patti wanted to see if she could sell her business instead of having a brand-new business take over the lease. The board deferred to Patti's expertise but did perform its own due diligence in vetting the new owner. The new owner took over May 1 and has struggled despite several people offering advice. Both the board and Patti are disappointed with the new tenants however, a new manager has just recently been put in place and their focus now is to follow the service that Patti used to

provide to the club. We understand this has not been a good experience for the club and we are working on it.

PACC is very proud of the EMS boys' team which placed second in the provincials this year. Thank you to Ed Holland for continuing to coach high school kids and promote the sport to the younger generation.

Thank you to Brad Burton for continuing to coach the juniors on Wednesday afternoons. I know it's not an easy job.

I want to say thank you to all the board members that have volunteered their time this past year. Mark Thorvaldson has done a great job at reaching out to the community and schools to market the programs at the club. Mark is stepping down after three years on the board.

Thank you again to Michelle McKinnon who spent many hours helping Ross to prepare the financial statements for review by Saklas.

Thank you to Martha McArthur and Kim Kavanagh for maintaining our website.

Thank you to Ross and Doug Boynton for running such a successful learn-to-curl program, which they have now been doing for multiple years.

Thank you to the numerous volunteers who come out to coach the school kids on Tuesdays and the learn-to-curl people on the weekends. Thank you to the people who run bonspiels, who host special events like the Christmas Fair and the Grey Cup, who volunteer at the farmer's market and senior's expo. Without volunteers, this club would be a fraction of what it is today. The only reason I have stayed on the board for seven years is because of the spirit of this club and all the people willing to help out and invest their time and effort to ensure that this club is a place where people want to be. I am very proud to be a member here.