

## A History of the Cloverdale Curling Club

Celebrating 70 years of curling in Surrey





The original Quonset style curling rink built in 1954 was adjacent to the grandstand at the racetrack.



John Lane – president of the Lower Fraser Valley Agricultural Association throwing the ceremonial first rock on December 27, 1954. Mickey King – president of the Valley Curling Club watches from behind.

## A History of the Cloverdale Curling Club

### The original rink (1954 – 1980)

A proposal to build a curling club in Cloverdale was initiated in April 1954 by George Patterson, Norm Mohler, Ed Heyland and Mickey King. A series of organizational meetings followed to get members and to elect an executive for the club. Membership fees were set at \$100 for men and \$25 for women. The club set a goal of signing up 120 male members by July 1<sup>st</sup> in order to go ahead and build a rink that year.

The first executive included: Mickey King – President, Norm Mohler – Vice President, George Patterson – Secretary Treasurer. Also elected to the executive were: Spike Grismer, Wilf Kilburn, Lorne Stewart, Al Audette, Ed Heyland, George Hunter, Garth Sanford, Dave Armstrong and Tony Hutton.

The name Valley Curling Club was chosen to encourage membership from across the Fraser Valley. At the time, the proposed curling rink was the only one that would be operating between Vancouver and Mission or Chilliwack.

The Cloverdale fairgrounds was considered a suitable location because the cost of purchasing land could be avoided. The local Fair Board welcomed the idea as a curling rink could be beneficial to both groups – in addition to curling, the building could be used for the fall fair and the rodeo. It would provide the fair with 14,000 square feet of covered floor space for exhibits and concessions.


Negotiations between the club, the Lower Fraser Valley Agricultural Association and Municipality of Surrey resulted in an agreement that stated the curling club would construct the rink and pay for the ice equipment. In return, the club was given a twenty-year lease by the municipality to use the building. Negotiations and approvals concluded in July and construction of the curling club began in August 1954. The initial plans were for three sheets of ice but a decision was soon made to expand this to six sheets.

The Quonset structure consisted of two wings each housing three sheets of ice and a two-story centre section containing a viewing lounge and a concession area. The club was ready for operation on December 22 1954 and officially opened after Christmas on December 27 when its first bonspiel was held. In less than a year, from conception to completion, the Valley Curling Club had its \$90,000 facility in operation. At that time the club had over 300 members including 210 men and 95 women.

There was plenty of interest, curiosity and enthusiasm about the game of curling. Some members had moved here from the prairies where the game was a very popular winter sport. At the same time, many people on the west coast had never seen a curling stone, never mind try to understand the game's scoreboard!

Soon problems started to show up with the new rink. There were problems with humidity and drips. In the beginning, there was no plastic liner inside the rink to keep drips off the ice, and dehumidifiers had not been considered in the original plans. The water from local wells in Cloverdale, contained too many minerals and salts, and as a result would not freeze properly. For years the club had to have cleaner water trucked in from the Vancouver. Water for ice pebbling was a challenge, so two 500-gallon cisterns were installed to collect rainwater for flooding and pebbling the ice.

**Go Ice Skating**  
at the  
**Valley Curling Club**  
Fairgrounds, Cloverdale, B.C.



**SESSIONS:**  
**Monday thru Friday**  
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
**SATURDAYS**  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
**SUNDAYS**  
2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Admission: Morning and Afternoons**  
Adults 50c; Children under 12, 15c; over 12, 25c  
**Evenings: Adults 50c; Children 35c**

**SKATES SHARPENED — SKATES FOR RENT**  
Music Provided — Coffee Bar Service

The only option in the area for skating was the Valley Curling Club

Welcome Everyone



Make a Date to Curl

**GRAND OPENING BONSPIEL**  
Friday, Oct. 18th :: :: Valley Curling Club  
Exhibition Grounds, Cloverdale

Curling all day Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19th & 20th Evening Curling only Mon. thru Fri., Oct. 21st to 25th  
Curling all day Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 26th & 27th Finals Monday evening if Necessary

Limited to 96 Rinks EXCELLENT PRIZES Entry Fee: \$25.00 per Rink

**Mail Entries with Fee to Valley Curling Club, Box 64, Cloverdale**  
or Phone YELLOWSTONE 7-4831. Please give your phone number when forwarding entries

**Closing Date for Entries, Monday, October 14th. Draw made Tuesday, October 15th**

**WELCOME!** You are welcome at any time to drop in at the Valley Curling Rink for a game or to participate in League Play. Beginners and Spectators are invited to watch the game from behind the glass of the heated lobby. Play commences Tuesday, October 15th and continues through the Winter. For further information phone YELLOWSTONE 7-4831.

1957 Opening bonspiel

The overriding issue was a shortage of money. There were some stormy meetings about the financial plight of the club in the months after it opened. One of the reasons for the financial challenges was the fact that six sheets had been built instead of three, as originally planned. In retrospect, it was just as well the six sheets did go ahead as the population of Surrey grew from less than 50,000 when the rink was built to over 100,000 a couple of decades later.

The rink had been rushed to completion without proper financing. In 1955, after a successful first year of operation, the club found itself nearly \$40,000 in debt from construction costs for the rink. Many suppliers of labour and materials were getting anxious to be paid!

At May 15, 1955, the club balance sheet showed the following:

<b>ASSETS:</b>	
Curling Stones	\$2,769.00
Furniture	\$90.00
Building	\$62,442.00
Machinery & Equipment	<u>\$22,872.00</u>
	\$88,173.00
Funds raised from Debentures	\$27,000.00
Funds raised from Memberships	<u>\$25,600.00</u>
	\$52,600.00

One of the creditors had supplied the ice making machinery and was owed about \$15,000. The club was told that the machinery had to be paid for by the end of April or it would be taken out. To solve this issue, a chattel mortgage was arranged with a finance company because the banks were not interested in providing such a loan. \$15,000 was borrowed and \$17,550 had to be repaid at the rate of \$490 per month for 36 months. Ten club members were required to give their personal guarantee on this mortgage and the club's ice plant was used as collateral.

Some creditors were persuaded to take debentures as payment while others received small payments, and many more simply waited. As of March 31, 1958, six firms were still owed \$7,086 for labour and materials supplied during the original rink construction. By this time, the mortgage on the ice machinery had been paid, so another mortgage was arranged – with the six creditors, and the ice machinery was again used as collateral. This mortgage required payments of \$100 per month. It was August of 1966 before the final payment was made...a full twelve years after the rink was built!

More improvements to the rink were made, and the debts of the club continued to increase. By 1958, the total debentures outstanding had climbed to \$38,550 from \$27,000 in 1955. Some of the increased debentures were taken by creditors and some by the curlers. Interest was paid intermittently on the debentures over the next few years depending on the state of the club's finances.

In the early years, the curling rink was used for skating at the beginning and end of curling seasons because there was no other ice rink available in the area. During the 1960-61 season, half of the curling rink was used for skating on Sundays. One can imagine what the curling ice was like for Monday curlers!! Limited skating at the end of the curling season continued in subsequent years.

## NEW EQUIPMENT AT CLOVERDALE TO IMPROVE ICE FOR CURLING

Cec Pearce was elected as president of the association, with Art Kenny the vice-president. Boulton Rogers is treasurer; Dorothy Pearce, secretary.

Other directors are Sam Graham, Norm Hellyer, Rita Cummings, Evelyn Everett, Joé Everett, Merv Hunter, Bruce Cummings, Bruce McAninch.

Ford Dermody was re-appointed as rink manager, with George Patterson again the ice maker for Valley Curling Club.

Ford reports that the curling season will begin the 1st of

October.

A new \$3,000 dehumidifier has been purchased by Valley Curling Club, to improve ice conditions.

"The dehumidifier takes the moisture out of the air, giving us a dryer faster surface," rink manager Ford Dermody states. "The present dehumidifying units will be moved into one wing of the rink, with the new equipment handling the other wing."

Reports on this were given at the annual meeting of Valley Curling Club, held on June 25th.

New dehumidifier installed in 1963

## Curlers at Cloverdale to Have Liquor Permit

Valley Curling Club has won approval in principle for a club liquor licence.

This is a reversal on what has been Surrey Council policy in regard to not allowing use of liquor in parks. The Surrey Fairgrounds at Cloverdale, on which the curling rink is located, is park property.

An agreement will be drafted between Council and the Curling Club in regard to controlling use of the club liquor licence. One of the main stipulations by Councillors has been that the club is to operate only during curling season.

Liquor licence approved in 1965

By 1962, many original club members had dropped out and leagues were no longer restricted to just club members. The club reduced memberships to \$35 for men and \$15 for ladies – and a drive was launched for new members. The program was successful, and the club membership increased.

Funds raised from the membership drive were used to purchase new Kay curling stones from Scotland. The new rocks were purchased in 1963 at a cost of \$3,700. (It is interesting to note that the same rocks in 1984 would have cost about \$40,000.)

Humidity and frost buildup is always a challenge with curling rinks and in 1963 the club was forced to spend \$3,000 for an additional larger dehumidifier to reduce frost buildup on the ice. The concrete floor was another challenge. The rink had been hastily constructed so it would be ready for the approaching winter. Unfortunately, the floor was poured on top of clay soil that had poor drainage. As a result, the floor would shift as weather and moisture conditions changed, which made it extremely difficult to keep a level ice surface. The worst was Sheet #1 which typically had twelve feet of curl in one direction and made shot making very challenging!

By July of 1964, the total amount of debentures outstanding was \$38,550 and these were all due for redemption that year! The club did not have nearly this amount of money, and was still a year behind in interest payments. It was decided to offer some debenture holders redemption on a discounted basis, since there were limited funds available. This proposal resulted in \$6,800 worth of debentures being redeemed for \$4,850. The redemption program was repeated each year thereafter, and the majority of the debentures were redeemed by March of 1973. In April of 1975, the last \$200 in debentures were redeemed and a mortgage burning took place at the annual general meeting.

In the early years, the possibility of securing a club liquor license was explored, but the idea went nowhere as the rink was situated on municipal property and approval was out of the question. For bonspiels however, the club was able to get temporary permits for liquor sales. In 1965 the club decided to make a determined effort to obtain a liquor license. Meetings were arranged with the Liquor Control Board and again the first step was getting approval from the municipal council. Attitudes had changed by that time and the municipality gave its approval. A lengthy process began and the club was finally granted a license in January of 1966.

The liquor license was a saviour for club finances. In the first full season of operation with the license (1966 – 67) the lounge netted \$4,400. In addition, the lounge facility added immensely to the social atmosphere of the club. For decades the lounge bar was operated primarily by volunteer bartenders.

In 1969, after years of problems with some ice sheets, the curling club and fair board asked the municipality to replace the concrete floor in half of the rink. Their request was rejected because the building was owned and operated for the use of curling club members. This decision served as a reminder to club members that they needed to stay involved in the operation of the facility and not just participate in curling games.

Most of the club's debt had been paid by 1973, but the old rink had deteriorated to the point where it could not be used much longer. The 20-year lease agreement with the municipality only had one more year to go, so the club started to consider a new rink.

# CURLING

**ALL CURLERS AND INTERESTED  
CURLERS NOTICE**

CURLING WILL START AT THE  
VALLEY CURLING CLUB,  
CLOVERDALE

WITH A **NOVELTY BONSPIEL**

Friday Night, Sept. 28th  
and will finish Saturday night, Sept. 29th.

Names will be drawn from the hat. Phone in  
your name now. \$3.00 per player.

The 1973-74 season will commence approximately Oct. 1st.


**LEAGUE NIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

MONDAY NIGHTS	MIXED LEAGUE
TUESDAY NIGHTS	MEN'S LEAGUE
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS	LADIES LEAGUE
THURSDAY NIGHTS	MEN'S LEAGUE
FRIDAY NIGHTS	MEN'S, LADIES
	MIXED OR STUDENTS
SATURDAY NIGHTS	MIXED LEAGUE
WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY	— 1 P.M.
	SENIOR CURLING
TUESDAY MORNING	
LADIES LEAGUE	10 A.M.

Leagues are now being formed — If you wish to curl or for further information contact

**FORD DERMODY**  
RINK MANAGER

**574-4483**  
or **576-6852**  
**PLAN TO CURL AT CLOVERDALE THIS YEAR**




Lounge Privileges to all Curlers.

**CURLING FEES:**  
1973-74 SEASON

ONE NIGHT MEMBERS	<b>\$45.00</b>
TWO NIGHT MEMBERS	<b>\$65.00</b>
ONE NIGHT NON-MEMBERS	<b>\$50.00</b>
TWO NIGHTS NON-MEMBERS	<b>\$70.00</b>
STUDENTS (FRIDAY NIGHTS ONLY)	<b>\$22.50</b>
TUESDAY MORNING LADIES	<b>\$27.50</b>
SENIOR CURLERS, AFTERNOONS	
1 Day ..	<b>\$27.50</b>
2 Days ..	<b>\$42.50</b>
SCHOOL LEAGUE	
WEDNESDAY AFTER	
SCHOOL SEASON	<b>\$10.00</b>
SCHOOL LEAGUE	
SATURDAY MORNING SEASON	<b>\$8.50</b>

Newspaper ad for the 1973 – 74 season



## CURLER'S NOTE

Due to a temporary breakdown the start of curling at the Valley Curling Club, Cloverdale, will be delayed for a few days.

The opening Bonspiel planned for September 28th and 29th has been cancelled. A definite start up date for leagues cannot be determined exactly at this time. All skips will be notified.

There is room for Mixed League curlers,  
Monday, Friday or Saturday nights.

PHONE 574-4483.

1973 – 74 season delayed by problems with aging equipment

In the summer of 1973 preliminary discussions took place with municipal officials. A new rink was proposed for Cloverdale, with capital costs to be divided between the club, the municipality and the province. The club was informed at that time that continuation of the lease on the old rink could be expected. That first meeting was the beginning of a six-year struggle for a new facility! During the next season, the club got more cost estimates – they ranged from \$275,000 to \$600,000. Construction costs were escalating rapidly in those years, so it was virtually impossible to come up with an accurate figure.

By this time the Valley Curling Club in Cloverdale was no longer the only curling facility in the region. Other curling clubs had opened – including New Westminster (1954), Abbotsford (1957), Tunnel Town (1958), Heather (1964), and Peace Arch (1966). The Silver Moon Recreation Centre in White Rock had 3 sheets of curling ice and was in operation before the Peace Arch Curling Club opened in 1966. Surrey's second curling rink, the Heather Curling Club, opened in October 1964 and had eight sheets of ice. This rink was located at Riverside in Surrey (108 Ave & 148 St) and operated until it was put up for sale by its owners in 1973. The Langley Curling Club and the Delta Thistle Curling Club opened in 1973.

In 1974, the municipality approved in principle the construction of a new rink and there were indications that harness racing would be coming to the Cloverdale Fairgrounds. A formal request was made by the club for municipal participation in the construction of a new rink. The club committed to a contribution of \$50,000 – plus curling stones and furnishings. From the beginning, the club undertook to operate and maintain the new curling rink – if the municipality would contribute to its capital cost.

Discussions and proposals for a new rink were complicated by priorities of the groups involved. Cloverdale curlers wanted a new rink as soon as possible and were prepared to fund a portion of the cost. The fair board needed space and facilities for its fall fair, rodeo and racetrack. The municipality was concerned about its value to residents and the cost that would be imposed on Surrey taxpayers.

In 1975, the municipality indicated it would not consider a new rink until the harness racing issue was settled at the racetrack. The curling club had been advised that the municipality would only consider a month-to-month lease for the old rink. At the club's annual general meeting, the president reported that the 'most important task of directors was preparation of information for a new curling rink. Possibly some inroads have been made, but if and when we may see a new rink is, at this time, uncertain.'

In 1976, Surrey Parks and Recreation recommended that a new rink be built in Cloverdale and operated by the Valley Curling Club. The estimated cost was now \$600,000 - \$700,000. Curlers complained about parking problems that harness racing had created. There was paid parking close to the racetrack, but parking near the curling rink was free, so racetrack patrons used the free parking which left little space for curlers. There was also a recommendation from Parks and Recreation that the new curling rink be built in North Surrey. Some members of the council felt that North Surrey, with two bridges across the Fraser River and a fast-growing population, would be a better location for a new rink. One can imagine the response of Valley Curling Club members in Cloverdale to that suggestion!

There were indications a Parks and Recreation money bylaw scheduled for the fall would include funding for a new rink. With promising signs a new rink was coming, the club decided to spend up to \$5,000 on architectural plans for a new building, and to obtain tenders for actual construction. The club wanted to be ready when the bylaw was voted on, and be able to show the municipality that the curling club was serious about having a new rink – and having it in Cloverdale! In retrospect, the move by the club to secure plans had a major impact on the decision of municipal council when that decision was finally made. But as so often had happened in the past, nothing materialized in 1976.

Editor, The Leader:

I have sent the following letter to members of Surrey Municipal Council, and wish to place it before the public.

While this letter is addressed to Municipal Council as a whole it is in fact and in particular directed to those members of Council who recently voted against proceeding with construction of the new curling rink/other use building on Cloverdale Fairgrounds.

At the time it was founded in 1954 Valley Curling Club had the blessings of both the Municipal Council and the Lower Fraser Valley Agricultural Association. For 25 years it has provided a recreational facility for people of all ages from all parts of Surrey. This has been at virtually no cost to the Municipality and with no involvement required of municipal staff, administratively or otherwise. I have been involved with the curling club, directly and indirectly, for those 25 years and so know whereof I speak.

It is bad enough that an earlier council sold the curling club "down the river" when it entered into the agreement with Cloverdale Raceways. This agreement virtually gave everything away to the Raceways, including the ground on which the existing rink stands. While I am critical of the deal I don't blame the Raceways. In fact they probably have the right under the terms of the agreement to be on the curling rink premises as of right now.

This situation, however, surely means that it was all the more imperative that the curling club be fairly treated by getting construction of a new rink underway now.

At the time Council voted not to proceed with construction Alderman Jacobs was quoted to the effect that he was not going to vote for a facility that would be used by 100 people and half of them from Langley at that. I hope this remark was in jest. If not, one can only assume that he is just as badly informed on other municipal affairs and thus I have to feel sorry for all of us.

The fact is there are 96 curlers at that rink 5 nights a week for club play and there are so-called commercial leagues (Legions, etc.) on the weekends. Some people curl more than one evening per week but they are in the minority. I would point out that while the municipality has a goodly number of playing fields (not begrudged) which require some degree of maintenance throughout the year, each of these fields can only accommodate 22 soccer players at one time, or if you like, 18 ball-players.

One other point is that while curling is enjoyed by all age groups the 30 year olds and up are in the majority. Thus the majority are property owners and taxpayers and are also in most cases past their soccer and baseball playing days. Why shouldn't this age group have some recreational facilities too?

It would appear now that a new curling rink is "on the shelf" until 1980 at the earliest. Apart from the fact that this means there may not be any curling in Cloverdale in 1980/1981 (anywhere else but Cloverdale would be unthinkable) it also means that costs will be very much higher when the decision is made to proceed.

In conclusion I would state that, in my opinion, the treatment accorded the Valley Curling Club by some members of Council (past and present) has been utterly and completely disgraceful — and that is putting it mildly.

C. B. Rogers,  
18130 60 Avenue,  
Surrey, B.C.

Competing interests between the fair and curlers resulted in some of the curlers getting themselves elected to the fair board in 1979 to ensure their curling club requirements were not ignored! A last-minute change of heart by the municipality resulted in rejection of funding for the rink. Rising cost estimates for a new rink made the municipality reluctant to commit to a Cloverdale project that seemed to also benefit a significant number of Langley members.

In 1979, the senior curlers applied for a New Horizons grant from the federal government to go towards the purchase of new curling stones and they were successful in obtaining a grant of \$8,000. Earlier, in 1977, the Elks Club of Cloverdale had committed \$7,000 for new rocks if a new rink was built in Cloverdale. New Kay stones were purchased from Scotland at a cost of \$23,000 and they arrived in January of 1980. The new rocks had to be stored in President Bill Harbidge's basement because Cloverdale still did not have a new rink.

Between 1976 and 1979 there was continuous lobbying by the club, and many meetings had been held but nothing positive regarding a new rink transpired until after the municipal election in the fall of 1979.

Although the old rink had been hastily constructed and was not the best facility, it provided Surrey residents with a badly needed recreational facility for the area's growing population. It served the community well for recreational curlers and produced some very successful competitive teams.

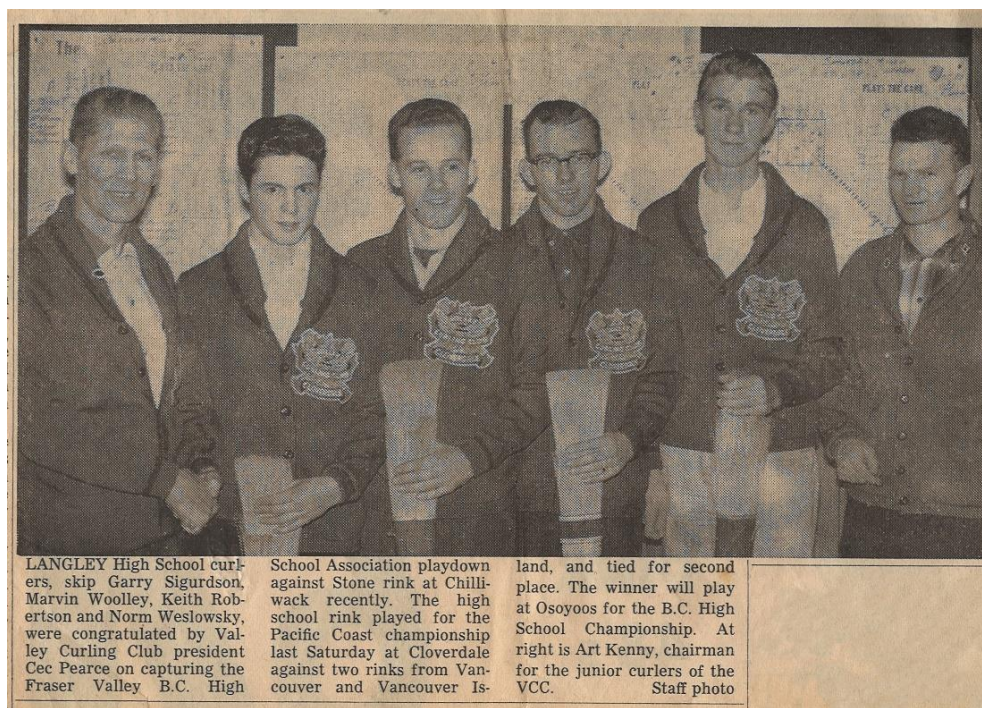


Allan Robinson and Bill Harbidge lift a box of curling rocks, imported by the Valley Curling Club from Scotland. The rocks will be stored at Harbidge's home until a new curling rink is built, as there is no room to store them at the present rink, located in Surrey Fairgrounds.

Frank Bucholtz photo



The Lil Bolton rink competed at the Ladies provincials in Trail in 1961



The Gary Sigurdson rink competed at the High School Provincials in Osoyoos in 1964



The Ethel Graham rink of the Valley Curling Club, winners of the playdown held in Cloverdale last Friday, are shown on the ice following their victory over the Royal City rink skipped by Mrs. T. Fisher. From left to right — lead, Mrs. Mae Burroughs; 2nd, Mrs. Shirley Guthrie; 3rd, Mrs. Fran

Darts; skip, Mrs. Ethel Graham.

In addition to their crests the winners were presented with a cheque for \$200 and an all-expense trip to Victoria where they will take part in the district playdown on January 23rd, 24th and 25th.

The Ethel Graham rink competed at the Ladies provincials in Vancouver in 1967



Curlers representing Branch No. 6, Cloverdale were runners-up in the Canadian Legion's Dominion bonspiel held at Trail last week. Earlier, the Branch No. 6 rink had won the zone and provincial titles for the right to represent British Columbia.

Skip Tom Dickson is shown at the left, front, with Bill Bennett. At the back are Paul Siddle and Bert Arnold.

Cloverdale curlers were runners-up at the National Legion championships in 1961

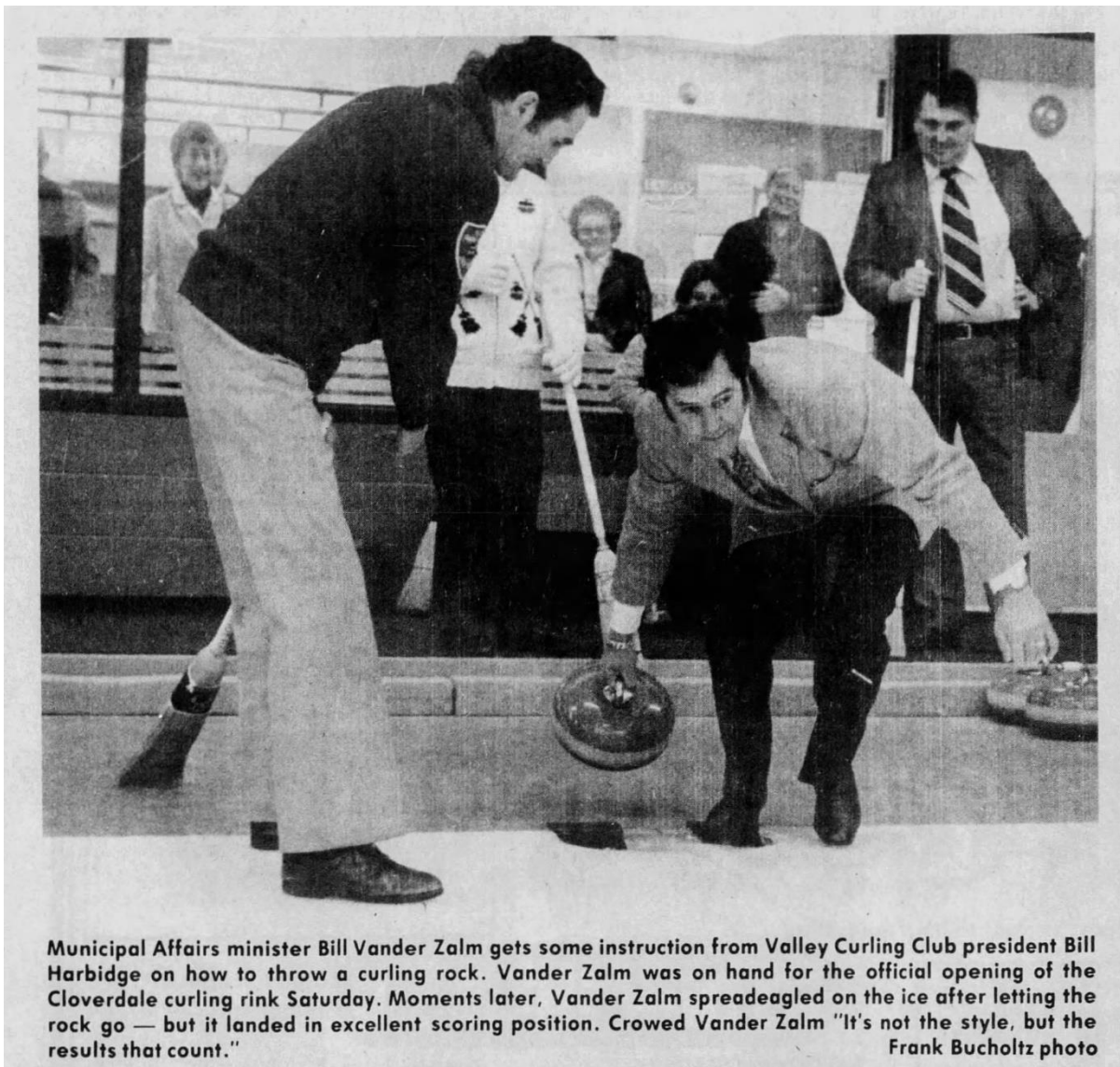


Cloverdale's Sigurdson rink (Dale Walker – lead, Don Patterson – second, Ron Trottier – third and Gary Sigurdson – skip) was probably one of the best teams from the club and they won dozens of cash bonspiels. Gary was in the final of the Pacific Coast Brier playdowns four times between 1976 and 1980.





The new Cloverdale Curling Rink opened in December 1980



MLA Bill Vander Zalm delivers a rock during opening ceremonies on Jan 17 1981

### The new rink (1980 – present)

Finally in February of 1980 the Municipality of Surrey approved funding for a new curling rink in Cloverdale. April 8, 1980 was a happy day as construction of the new rink began. The contracted cost was just over \$1,000,000. The Municipality of Surrey contributed \$650,000 and the Province of British Columbia - \$360,000. In turn, the Valley Curling Club paid \$115,000 to the municipality.

The \$115,000 contributed by the club came from savings out of revenue generated by the club's operations from 1973 to 1980. There was also a 'buy a building block' program that generated \$7,000 in donations from the curlers.

The next debate was what to call the new facility – Valley Curling Club, Cloverdale Miniplex, Clova Valley Curling Club or Clova Curling Club. Was it built solely for the curling club or was it a facility intended for other uses as well? In the end, the Municipality of Surrey installed a sign on the building with the name Cloverdale Curling Rink which reflected the primary use of the building as a curling facility but was not just for use by a "club".

By the end of December 1980, the new rink was ready for operation. The building was well insulated to keep the ice area cool; it had two compressors to handle ice making in warmer weather, and the spacious upper lounge had elevator access as well as the stairs. The concession kitchen downstairs and bar area upstairs were both well equipped to support the needs of curlers and spectators. An opening mixed bonspiel was held between Christmas and New Years to kickoff curling in the new rink. The new rink had much better ice than the old one – and as a permanent reminder of the horrible ice of the past – Sheet # 1 was completely eliminated and the new facility had sheets 2 – 7!!! A small cross with RIP #1 was placed on the wall beside Sheet #2!!

A memorable Grand Opening dinner and celebration took place on January 17, 1981. Mayor Don Ross, council members, and municipal officials were in attendance in addition to M.L.A.s Bill Vander Zalm and Ernie Hall. The provincial curling associations were well represented. A total of 230 people sat down to dinner in the clubrooms upstairs.

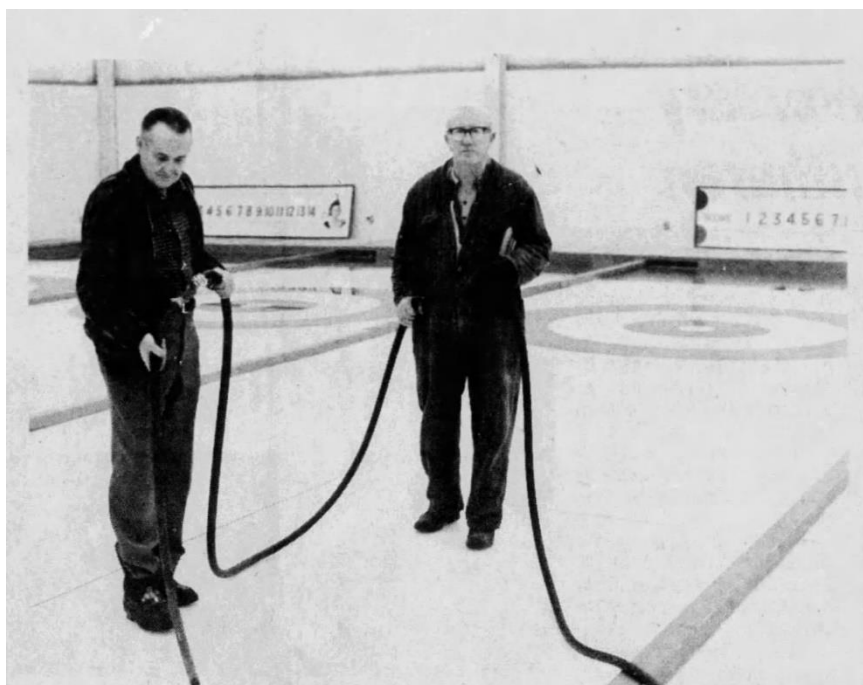
The original rink that had served the area for 26 years closed and was demolished the next summer.

The first summer after the new rink opened, the club held a summer bonspiel in early August. The new equipment had no trouble making ice in the warm weather and the tradition of a summer spiel continued for about 15 years.

In 1982, \$15,000 was spent on new furnishings for the lounge to replace some of the existing ones that had been brought over from the old rink.

The initial lease agreement between the club and the municipality ran until 1987. Basically, the club had control of the upstairs area and the coffee shop year-round, and sole use of the entire building from September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year to April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. The club was responsible for the maintenance of the building, the ice machinery and equipment, and all operating expenses.

Three staff members were recognized for their long and devoted service to the curling club. Ford Dermody was the manager for 18 years until 1977; Sam Graham was the icemaker for 17 years until 1981 and Dorothy Harbidge looked after the coffee shop for 15 years until 1983.



Doing some last-minute flooding on the new ice surface at the Cloverdale Curling Rink are icemaker Sam Grahaam (left) and George Patterson. The new rink was used for the first time this weekend, when the Legion curling playdowns took place. Valley Curling Club's regular schedule begins this week in the new building.

Frank Bucholtz photo

# Valley Curling opens in new rink

by Boulbee Rogers

On January 1st, 1981 the Valley Curling Club of Cloverdale moved to a beautiful new facility at 6150 176 Street in Cloverdale. This is on Surrey Fairgrounds just around the corner from the old rink.

The new building, to be known as the Cloverdale Curling Rink, was built and is owned by the municipality of Surrey and in turn is leased to the Valley Curling Club during the winter and spring months.

The official opening by the municipality of Surrey takes place between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on January 17th. This affair is open to the public.

The Valley Curling Club is having its own "opening affair" by way of a dinner and dance on the evening of January 17th. This is for invited guests and club members and associate club members.

Any of the aforementioned wishing to attend this function

are advised to call the club and reserve and pick up their tickets as soon as possible. There are limitations to the numbers that can be catered to.

The new rink is a palace compared to the old Quonset-type building which was constructed by the club and occupied in 1954. It has six sheets of ice side by side, with full width viewing at ice level. The clubrooms are on the second mezzanine level and they, too, provide full width viewing of the ice surface.

The kitchen and bar boast all new equipment.

The floor beneath the ice surface has been engineered in such a way that good ice should be attainable with the most economical use of power. The structure is fully insulated.

At the time it was built in 1954 the old rink was one of the few in the Fraser Valley.

Valley Curling Club has had its trials and tribulations over the years. However, it has always been fortunate in having an "involved membership".

It also has produced some pretty good curlers, with Gary Sigurdson probably being the most notable among the men. A ladies rink skipped by Ethel Graham went to the B.C. finals two years in succession, a few years ago.

The ice has always been an ice-makers nightmare. There are few curlers who have not been totally frustrated by No. 1 sheet at one time or another and thus it became quite famous.

The old rink has been the scene of many good times over the past 26 years and many's the member who will look back on those years with a good deal of nostalgia.

# Valley Curling Club opens its fine new rink



Valley Curling Club president Bill Harbidge (far left) is just the junior man on this rink — as he is shown with three veteran curlers who play in the senior league. All three (from left), Lorne Stewart, 82, Art Goudie, 89 and Tom Dent, 81, have been curling with Valley since the original rink opened in 1954. Frank Bucholtz photo

by Frank Bucholtz  
A new chapter in the history of the Valley Curling Club begins this Saturday.  
The club will officially take over the fall and winter operation of the new Cloverdale Curling rink in ceremonies that begin at 11 a.m. The new rink is located in the Cloverdale fairgrounds, just north of the present Cloverdale Arena.

The opening of the new rink comes almost 26 years to the day after the original rink opened. It was opened in December, 1954, after an intensive drive for funds in the community.

Enthusiastic promoter Mickey King was the catalyst behind the original rink. He sold \$100 debentures throughout the community and raised \$100,000 for the construction of the six-sheet rink.

The rink was built on the Surrey fairgrounds, and the club received a 20-year lease on the property from the Lower Fraser Valley Exhibition Association.

Curling prospered in this area and the club was always busy. The Valley rink was the first one in the Surrey, Delta and Langley area and attracted members from all three municipalities.

When the lease came up for renewal in 1974, the club was told it would only be renewed on a year-to-year basis. Harbidge had been attracted to the fairgrounds, and the rink was sitting in an area the track wanted to use for expansion.

This prompted the club to begin a search for other facilities. Discussions were held with the Lower Fraser Valley Exhibition Association and Surrey municipality on a new building, curling club president Bill Harbidge states.

The fair board had plans for a multi-purpose building which would include a new curling rink. But the plans never materialized, and the curlers went back to their original plan — to seek funding from Surrey municipality and the provincial government.

Valley Curling Club would have preferred to build it all by themselves. But the club had nowhere near the funding required. It did have \$100,000 in funds, though, and that

money was earmarked for the new building.

The funding for the new building was promised on a number of occasions. But getting it delivered was more difficult.

In 1979, it looked as if the funding would be approved. Surrey council called for tenders on a multi-purpose building — but the tenders were rejected when they came in some \$150,000 over the estimated price.

The curlers then began a more determined effort to get a new rink. Harbidge says they spoke out against "misinformation" that had been received by council members and lobbied council members in an attempt to get a change in attitudes.

The 1980 council appeared to be set against a new rink at Cloverdale. But when the capital project was approved, council decided to build the new rink and work began last May.

"We practically went into deep shock (when the tenders were rejected)," Valley curling club president Bill Harbidge said. "But we lobbied and convinced them that Cloverdale would be the ideal site and that the building could be used by the fair board in the off-season."

The curling club is pleased with its relations with Surrey council and its staff since the building was approved.

"Council has treated us fairly," Harbidge said. "I am as happy as can be with the mayor and council, and the club executive feel the same way. There has been a lot of co-operation on both sides."

Harbidge also paid tribute to Joe Vallee, the municipal staff member in charge of the project. He said Vallee "went along with our suggestions and was very co-operative."

Final cost of the new building, which has six sheets of ice, an upstairs lounge, kitchen facilities, offices and locker rooms, was \$1,130,000.

Of this, the curling club contributed \$115,000, the province \$255,000 and Surrey the balance.

Curling has already begun in the new building. The ice

was laid just after Christmas and the first curling started on January 3. Regular league play is already taking place, and all the curlers are pleased as punch with the new building.

Mayor Don Ross will officiate at the opening ceremonies on Saturday morning. Hon. Bill Vander Zalm and Hon. Evan Wolfe have been invited

to attend as well, as have members of Surrey council. The public are also invited to come and tour the new building from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

The curlers will initiate the building with a special dinner and dance Saturday evening. Former members of the club are invited to attend this function, but tickets are limited.



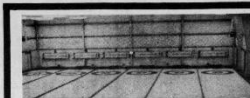
The above photo shows the upstairs lounge overlooking the ice. The Tarkett Flooring will still be beautiful years from now.

We are proud to have supplied the beautiful Tarkett Flooring and Commercial Carpeting used in the new Curling Club.

**Our Very Best Wishes**

**HKH FLOORS LTD.**

7967 128th St. Unit "A" Surrey, B.C. Phone 590-2181



The above photo shows the six excellent sheets in the new Cloverdale Curling Rink.

The Gestaldo Bros. are proud to have been associated with the construction of the multi-purpose Curling rink. **Congratulations to all concerned.**

**GESTALDO CONCRETE LTD.**

211 Ewen, New Westminster 525-3636

## Volunteers responsible for operation

The new Cloverdale curling rink has one feature that sets it apart from most sports facilities constructed by Surrey municipality — it will be completely operated by volunteers.

The Valley Curling Club will be responsible for all operations of the new building. It will be paying all repair and maintenance costs, and buying new equipment as it becomes necessary.

"There is no way we will ever have to go to the municipality of Surrey for funds again," club president Bill Harbidge said. "We will operate it at no cost to Surrey — what other facility does that?"

The curling club has been member-run ever since it began 26 years ago in its original rink on the fairgrounds. As a matter of fact, the original rink was built by members' contributions in the form of debentures.

Members run the bar, do maintenance and repairs, work on the ice and generally keep the club going. The only paid employees are the manager, Willie Palendat, the icemaker, Sam Graham and the kitchen head Dorothy Harbidge.

The club has some 600 members, and also has a number of other curlers (about 100) who are not members. All are expected to put in time at the club in various capacities.

Many of the members started work just after Christmas, when they moved all that could be moved from the old rink to the new. Others assisted in making ice or in doing minor repairs to the building.

A number of members are inactive — having stopped curling some years ago. The club is trying to get in touch with these members and have them sell their shares or transfer them to active members.

When the new rink was contemplated, some people said that the volunteer spirit that has existed at the curling club would disappear. Harbidge does not believe that.

"The spirit of co-operation will increase with the new facilities," he said. "The members will take pride in it and want to do more around the club. We are as proud of it as if we had put every cent into it ourselves."

The Valley Curling Club pays for the maintenance costs through membership fees, rentals and bar and kitchen sales. In the 26 years in the old clubhouse, it accumulated over \$100,000. All this money went towards the new rink.

## Curling for all ages

by Frank Bucholtz  
Curling is a sport that is rapidly increasing in popularity. The game originated in Scotland, but has long been popular in Canada, particularly in the prairie provinces.

B.C., with a large population of prairie transplants, has become a curling hotbed as well. Many new rinks have been constructed in the past few years, and the competition in the game is getting better than ever.

Curling is an unusual sport in that it appeals to players of all ages. Few other sports feature junior high school students playing alongside senior citizens.

Valley Curling Club has leagues for all ages. The seniors curl regularly, with a number of curlers in their 80's playing every week.

There are also ladies leagues, men's leagues, mixed leagues and junior leagues. Instruction and coaching is offered to beginning curlers on a regular basis.

In addition, a number of organizations rent the rink for weekend banquets or just fun curling tournaments.

Curling is a very social (continued on page 5)

## INLET ELECTRIC LTD.

No. 9 - 1973 McLean, Port Coquitlam, B.C.

**941-9641**

We were responsible for the electrical installations in the building.

To everyone associated with the construction of these facilities

**Congratulations For A Job Well Done!**

## Congratulations to the Valley Curling Club

On the completion of The Cloverdale Curling Rink

Lockers supplied by

**SHANAHAN'S**

LTD. 8400-124 St., Surrey 591-5111

## Congratulations Valley Curling Club

You may be justifiably proud of your new facilities. Our Best Wishes for your continued success.

**LOWER FRASER VALLEY EXHIBITION ASSOC**  
60th Ave. at 176th St. Cloverdale, Surrey, 576-9461



## Harbidge heads curling executive

Valley Curling Club is headed by an enthusiastic executive.

The executive of the club has spearheaded the drive for a new curling rink, but their actions have been solidly backed by the membership.

The curling club's active membership is the club's biggest asset. Bill Harbidge is club president. Vice-president is Roy

Stevens, with Stan Craig secretary and Don Landucci treasurer. Directors are Harvey Wagner, Neil Loftus, Johnny McDougall, Wayne Pare, Larry Lunn, Keith Bennett and Ivy Harris.

Willis Palendat is the manager of the rink. Sam Graham is the icemaker, and Dorothy Harbidge takes care of the kitchen and coffee shop.

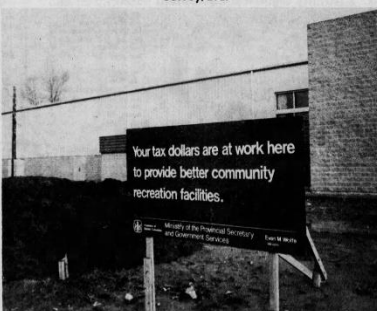
## THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SURREY



Cordially invites everyone to attend the Grand Opening Ceremonies of the new

## CLOVERDALE CURLING RINK

6150 - 176th St., Cloverdale Surrey, B.C.



## Saturday, January 17

11:00 a.m.

Surrey Mayor Don Ross and Mr. Bill Vander Zalm, M.L.A., will officiate at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Light refreshments will be served.

It has been our pleasure to work with the members of the Valley Curling Club's building committee. They can be justifiably proud of their new facilities. The building features: six sheets of ice, full catering services for up to 250 people, and the latest in kitchen and bar equipment.

Following the opening ceremony there will be an opportunity for everyone to tour the facilities.

# Cloverdale bonspiel aids Squamish curling club

by Karen Kersey

When fire leveled the four-sheet Howe Sound Curling Rink in Squamish three years ago, bulldozers were standing by Cloverdale's Valley Curling rink, ready to raze it to make room for a new facility.

Now, comfortably into its six sheet multi-purpose building on 176 Street, the Valley Curling Club is offering a hand of friendship and support to Squamish curlers.

This weekend, 48 teams, including 24 from the beleaguered coastal club, will compete in a special Squamish-Valley Bonspiel, with proceeds earmarked for a Howe Sound Curling Club building fund.

The inspiration for the 'spiel came from a committee of Squamish curlers, including Don Patrick, who was president of the club at the time of the fire. The four-man committee met recently with the directors of the Valley Club to finalize plans and detail the work that has been done in Squamish to ensure a successful bonspiel.

All the prizes have either been donated by Squamish businessmen or have been chain-saw carved by local loggers. Carolyn Moore, whose husband Ken is treasurer of the group, is working with her counterpart at the Valley Club, Ladies' president

Joyce Zelinski — to make arrangements for the banquet and entertainment for the weekend.

Eight-end games begin Thursday, with regular bonspiel rules being stretched somewhat to accommodate senior teams not in mixed rotation and similar occurrences. According to the Squamish curlers who yearn for the return of the "roaring game" and a chance to mingle with the curling fraternity — the emphasis will be on fun.

Since the Squamish fire, a Civic Centre has been built in the downtown area and a trend to hockey and skiing has taken interest away from curling, according to former members.

The present plan is to build the new curling rink on to the hockey rink, thus saving construction costs of re-building on the original site which is located away from Squamish's town centre.

The insurance company handling the curling club's fire claim is still negotiating the value of the former facility. But the provincial government has indicated that it will financially support any initiative to replace it, once the claim has been settled and the club membership has embarked on a fund-raising drive.

Cloverdale curlers traditionally take out their skates and carve a few figures on the curling ice before the "plug is pulled" after Awards Night in early April.

This year, the ice will have its one last stand the final week of March in a cause no curler could dispute.

Although the \$100 per team is billed as an entry fee, curlers from all over the Lower Mainland and up the coast will actually be donating to the re-building fund of their Howe Sound curling friends.

Valley Curling Club Manager Tom Campbell confirms there's a waiting list for the event.

1984 benefit bonspiel for Squamish curling



The Valley Saloon sign with the cowboy logo above the bar during the 1990s

Once the new rink was completed, the club was in good shape. The finances were fine, the facility was great, leagues had both evening draws full, and the majority of curlers were also club members. It was important for teams to register prior to the summer deadline to ensure their league spots. In fact, some teams did not get into evening leagues unless all team players were club members – even though, in one case, the skip was a member and on the executive of the club!

The Valley Curling Club and its hard-working members went through many trials and hardships over the years but in the end their determination had paid off. In 1984, many of these same Cloverdale members, who understood the challenges involved in building a community curling rink, agreed to lend a hand to the Howe Sound Curling Club in Squamish. Their rink had been destroyed in a fire three years earlier so a 48-rink bonspiel was held in Cloverdale and all proceeds were donated to the Squamish club in support of a building fund for their new rink.

1994 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the curling club and some changes were made to reflect this milestone. The Cloverdale Rodeo was a signature event for the community and the relationship between the Valley Curling Club, the Cloverdale Fair Board and rodeo resulted in the club adapting a cowboy riding a curling rock as its logo. This logo was widely used by the club on printed materials, clothing and curling pins. The club also adapted hunter and pastel greens as colours for some things.

Cloverdale had been part of the British Columbia Curling Association (BCCA) from its beginning, and women became part of the British Columbia Ladies Curling Association (BCLCA). When the coast and island clubs broke away to form their own body in 1960, the men became part of the Pacific Coast Curling Association (PCCA). In 2004, these various curling associations amalgamated under Curl BC.





In 2004 the Valley Curling Club had 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary pins created to celebrate this milestone

#### LEAGUE FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN

##### Bar Schedule

Date	Curl at 9pm		Curl at 6:45	
	8 to 9 & 11 to 1		9 to 11	
12-Sep	Timm		Welton	
26-Sep	Welton		Timm	
3-Oct	Hoskins		Ayres	
10-Oct	Ayres		Hoskins	
17-Oct	Dafoe		Qualle	
24-Oct	Bain		Loughin	
31-Oct	Loughin		Bain	
7-Nov	Murray		Chu	
14-Nov	Chu		Murray	
28-Nov	Cordner		Drabiuk	
5-Dec	Drabiuk		Cordner	
12-Dec	Kyle		Berezan	
19-Dec	Berezan		Kyle	
2-Jan	Rieder		Fleming	
9-Jan	Fleming		Rieder	
16-Jan	Lederer		Schreder	
23-Jan	Schreder		O'Brien	
30-Jan	Bisson		Mould	
6-Feb	Mould		Bisson	
20-Feb	Tessier		Shields	
6-Mar	Shields		Tessier	

A typical old bar duty schedule for league curling teams



Beginning with the 2008 – 2009 season the club was rebranded to Cloverdale Curling Club

2004 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Valley Curling Club in Surrey. 5 Star Catering, who operated the club's concession, was also celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary so a business-to-business dinner was hosted at the club on September 9 to kick off the new season.

In October, on Thanksgiving weekend, the curling club held their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fun Event bonspiel to mark this significant milestone.

The original Valley Curling Club name had been chosen because it was the only curling club in the Lower Fraser Valley. However, by the time the new rink was built, it was just one of several curling rinks in the area.

For the 2008 – 09 season, the club decided it was time for rebranding, so its name was changed to Cloverdale Curling Club to better identify its actual location within Surrey.

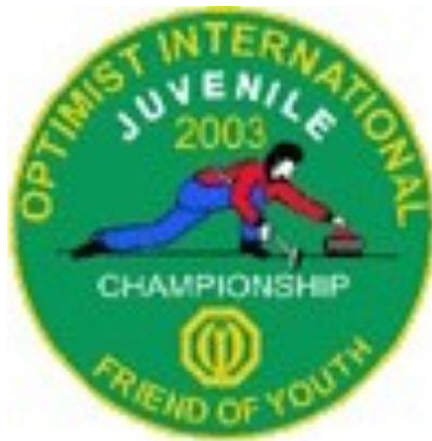
The curling rink did not really have any connection to the rodeo so the cowboy logo disappeared and the new club logo became a curling rock with Cloverdale Curling Club displayed in blue and red colours. The club website domain was also changed to the new name.

For many years the lounge was staffed by curlers. Each team was expected to assist with bar operations for a couple of nights during the season. On those nights, if you played the late draw, your team would operate the bar until it was time to play their game. If your team played early, the team would operate the bar after their game until closing time. This volunteer system was replaced by paid trained bar staff to ensure the lounge complied with legal requirements and social expectations.

As the sport evolved, equipment and curling facilities improved. Gone were the benches with ashtrays along the sides of curling sheets. Gone were straw brooms and hair brushes that left debris on the ice. Unfortunately, weekly newspaper articles that reported league curling scores and bonspiel results have also disappeared as local media adjusted to its own challenges. League games are only eight ends now rather than ten.

Curlers expect the ice to have a relatively similar curl on all sheets and a fast-sliding surface right from the first rock of a game. The ice sheets are scraped daily to remove frost buildup. Water for rinks is usually filtered to remove organics and chlorine and may be processed through a reverse osmosis system as well. The pebbled surface is clipped before each game to provide more consistent rock speed throughout a game. The Cloverdale rink has had a long-standing reputation of having some of the best curling ice in the entire region.

The sport continues to evolve and become more inclusive. Cloverdale curlers now include stick curlers, wheelchair curlers as well as those who are visually impaired. There is more focus on player safety so brushers are encouraged to use two grippers. Seniors often wear protective headgear to avoid injury if they fall.



## Curling events at Cloverdale

From its early beginnings the annual Cloverdale men's bonspiel, **The Workingmans**, was always a very popular bonspiel. The first year 64 teams entered the event which ran 24 hours a day for five days. The following year 90 teams entered and from 1957 onward 96 teams were usually entered in the spiel. It ran over two weekends and on weeknights in between. Its popularity was due in part because the city teams could commute to Cloverdale for their games and it didn't have round the clock curling. In 1963 the Workingmans had 96 teams and 40 more teams were turned away. During the last couple of years in the old rink there were 64 teams in the event. Although the bonspiel is smaller now, it has been an annual event since the Cloverdale rink originally opened.

Competitive curling in Canada has changed significantly over the years. The Brier for example, which is the Canadian Men's Curling Championship, was a competition between one team from each province. In the early days, competitors at the Brier first had to win the right to represent their curling club, then play against other clubs to win their zone or region, and finally play against other regional winners to determine a team to represent their province. At Cloverdale there were years where up to eleven teams competed in a round robin series of twelve-end games to determine who would represent the club at regional Brier playdowns. This lengthy, grueling playdown process was gradually changed by having shorter games, direct entry to zones and to provincial competitions. Over the years women, seniors and high school competitions were played using somewhat similar playdown formats.

In the early years of international championships Canada was the overwhelming dominant country. As more countries took up the game, and with curling becoming an official Olympic winter sport in 1998, the dream of an average club curler winning a national championship faded. A small group of highly competitive curlers now train year-round while others compete in regional and provincial playdowns. The majority of curlers continue to be seasonal recreational curlers who play at the local level.

Over the years, several national and international curling competitions have been held at Cloverdale. Prior to 2000, an interprovincial championship for Masters men (those aged 60 and over) had been held in western Canada. Valley Curling Club hosted its first truly national event – the **Canadian Masters Championship** in March of 2000. There was an outstanding field of fourteen men's and women's teams from eight of Canada's provinces and territories. Although not all provinces were represented, the caliber of the teams was impressive as many curlers had multiple previous appearances in other Canadian curling championships. In 2018 Cloverdale, along with the Peace Arch club, hosted these championships again. This time, Cloverdale's own Craig Lepine was the skip of the BC men's team.

The Canadian Schoolboys Championship of the 1950s and 60s evolved into the Canadian Junior Championship for curlers under the age of 21. This competition level proved too difficult for many high school teenagers and it was felt that a competition for younger curlers was needed. In 2001 the Optimists clubs started a western Canada event in Calgary for juvenile aged curlers. This competition evolved into the **Optimist International U18 Curling Championships** and included men's and women's teams from many Canadian provinces, several US states and Japan. Many young curlers got their first taste of national/international competition at these championships. Under the leadership of Cloverdale's Al Kersey, these championships were hosted in Cloverdale four times (2003, 2004, 2013 and 2014).



"The Queen" addresses the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet at Cloverdale!

**CLOVERDALE CURLING CLUB PRESENTS A**

# **HALLOWEEN HOWLER**

**October 25, 2008**  
**7:30 pm**  
**Dance till 2:00am**

**Food Prizes Open Bar**

**PRIZES FOR THE BEST COSTUMES**  
 Best Female  
 Best Male  
 Best Couple

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**Tickets \$25.00 each**  
**CLOVERDALE CURLING CLUB**  
**6150 176 ST SURREY**  
**604-574-4483**

**CLOVERDALE CURLING CLUB**

Halloween Howler social evening at the rink

The 2003 Optimist championships included teams from western Canada, the Territories and Washington state. Two notable young curlers were Geoff Walker skip of Alberta and Liz Fyfe (nee Peters) third for Manitoba. In 2008 Liz played second for Kaitlyn Lawes – silver at World Juniors, in 2018 Scotties with Kerri Einerson, in 2021 Olympic trials final with Tracy Fleury. Geoff Walker won the 2006 World Juniors with Charley Thomas, and then played for Brad Gushue where he won six Briers, one World title and a bronze medal at the Olympics.

2004 Optimist championships expanded by adding Ontario, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Japan. Notable curlers included **Val Sweeting** third for Alberta. Val has curled in 8 Scotties championships – she played third for Kerri Einerson and won the Canadian title in four consecutive years 2020 – 2023 and they won bronze medals at the world championships in 2022 and 2023. **Kaitlyn Lawes** skip of Manitoba, later played in two world juniors, played third for Jennier Jones for many years competing at two world championships and she was in three Olympic games winning gold medals in 2014 and 2018. **Nina Roth** (nee Spatola) skip of Wisconsin, represented the United States at three world championships and two Olympics. **Tabitha Peterson** third for Minnesota, later represented the United States at two world juniors, seven world championships and two Olympics. **Charley Thomas**, skip of Alberta, went on to win two world junior titles in 2006 and 2007. **Tetsuro Shimizu**, third for the Japan men's team, represented Japan at nine world championships and the 2018 Olympics.

By 2013 the Optimist championships had expanded to include Northern Ontario, Pennsylvania, Prince Edward Island and Quebec. The 2014 Optimist championships included teams from Connecticut and Nova Scotia and the majority of Canada's provinces and territories were now regularly competing in these championships. In 2017 Curling Canada finally established the Canadian Under-18 Curling Championships as one of its nationally sanctioned events at which point the Optimist U-18 championships were discontinued.

In 2006 the club, along with the Cloverdale Legion, hosted the Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Championships with twenty teams from across Canada competing in two divisions – regular and seniors.

Many curling events at Cloverdale focus on the average club curler rather than those more competitive folks. Bonspiels were held for many different groups – from high school curlers, to women, men, or the Candy Cane spiel for senior ladies. Curling also has a history of being a very social sport. Summer spiels often included a warm weather theme, in the fall the club held Oktoberfest and Halloween Howlers, while turkey shoots were often held near Christmas. Women often included skits and dances as part of their events. Who can ever forget Herald Tessier and Don Jarvos who appeared at the ladies' spiel as Sonny and Cher! In 2004 Cloverdale celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner and dance evening that included a visit by "The Queen" who did a hilarious impersonation while poking fun at some of the club's well-known members! Local club bonspiels remain an important part of the club. Nowadays many Cloverdale bonspiels use a round robin block system rather than the A/B/C event system. This way curlers know in advance how many games they will play and what time their games are scheduled for.

The social aspect of curling remains an integral part of the game. Competing curlers often sit together for a coffee or a drink after a game. In 1987 Valley Curling Club hosted a dinner in Cloverdale for the French team who were competing in the World Curling Championships at BC Place Stadium. In 1991 a group of New Zealand curlers played a series of friendly games in Cloverdale and attended a luncheon hosted by the club during their cross-country tour. During the 90s, and again in recent years, Cloverdale curlers held spring golf tournaments to mark the end of curling and the beginning of golf season.



Exec members David Johnston, Lynne Andrews (manager), Boulton Rogers (president), Kerry Boyes



Beryl Cook and Ted Rieder selling 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet tickets and pins in 2004

Over the years Cloverdale Curling Club has awarded a number of people with Life Memberships in recognition of their outstanding and lengthy contributions to the club...

**Art Kenny** - became the first life member on April 16, 1976. He was instrumental in organizing junior curling at the Valley Curling Club. He spent many years assisting countless young curlers at the club.

**Ford Dermody** - became a life member on April 18, 1979. After Ford "retired" he worked as manager of the Valley Curling Club for 18 years.

**Garth Sanford** - became a life member on April 18, 1979. He was one of the original members of the Valley Curling Club when it was formed in 1954. Garth served as president in the early 1970s.

**Boulton Rogers** - became a life member on April 18, 1979. He served as president in the 1960s and in the 1980s. He played an important role in securing funding for the old rink by raising \$100 debentures.

**Joe Everett** - became a life member on April 18, 1979. He helped with junior curling program at Valley.

**George Patterson** - became a life member on April 15, 1981. He was the icemaker in the old club for 17 years.

**Lorne Stewart** - became a life member on April 15, 1981. He was the "spark plug" of the seniors curling club for many years.

**Ellen McDonnell** - became a life member on April 20, 1983. She curled at the club for many, many years and was a dedicated hard-working member.

**Roy V. Stevens** - became a life member on April 23, 1983. He served as president of the club in the late 1970s and played a major role in efforts to get a new curling rink.

**Ted Worsfold** - became a life member on October 21, 1991. He was a longtime member of the club who served on the board of directors for years and coached many junior curlers.

**Bill Harbidge** - became a life member on October 21, 1991. He was an outspoken man who lobbied the municipality and the fair board for years in order to get a new curling rink built in Cloverdale. He went so far as to personally guarantee a bank loan in order to secure funding for the new facility.

**Vera Williamson** - became a life member on April 8, 1995 in recognition of the years she spent developing the junior Little Rocker program at Cloverdale.

**Al Kersey** - became a life member on April 18, 1998 in recognition of his longtime service and dedication to junior curling and to technical development clinics held at the club.

**Lane Murray** – became a life member on September 30, 2007. He served on the board of directors for years, instructed adult curling clinics, and coached several Cloverdale junior curling teams at provincials.

**Sharon Murray** – became a life member on September 30, 2007. She served on the board of directors, managed the Cloverdale junior curling program for years, and coached several juvenile and junior teams at provincials.



Cloverdale hosted a dinner for the French team in the 1987 World Curling Championships in Vancouver



1996 BC Mixed Champions

**Club Presidents:**

Mickey King (1954 – 1955), Tom Wiltshire (1955 – 1959), Grant Duckworth (1959 – 1961), Bruce Cummings (1961 – 1963), Cece Pearce (1963 – 1965), Boulton Rogers (1965 – 1967), Al Anderson (1967 - 1969), Garth Sanford (1970 - 1973), Roy Stevens (1973 – 1978), Sid Clarke (1978 – 1980), Bill Harbidge (1980 – 1982), Gordie Cameron (1982 – 1984), Boulton Rogers (1984 – 1986), Don Jarvos (1986 – 1987), Bart Wick (1987 - 1990), Gerry Federow (1990 - 1992), Bob Begley (1993), Ted Rieder (1994 - 1996), Bob Black (1996 - 1998), Brian Sutherland (1998 – 2000), Cathy Stewart (2000 - 2002), Doug Bain (2003 - 2005), Leigh Anderson (2005 - 2007), Maureen MacDougall (2007 – 2008), Merlin Wick (2008 - 2013), Patrick Taylor (2013 – 2014), Laureen Hull (2014 – 2019), Joe Strain (2019 – 2023), Laureen Hull (2023 - )

**Club Managers:**

Norm Chapple (1954), Ed Heyland (1955), George Patterson (1956), Bud Tinkess (1957), Norm Hellyer (1958), Tony Folk (1958), Ford Dermody (1959 – 1977), Sam Graham (1978), Willie Palendat (1978), George Patterson (1979), Bill Myers (1981), Tom Campbell (1984), Maxine Matthews (1984 – 1985), Rod Anderson (1987 – 1988), Lynne Andrews (1988 - 1996), Al Harris (1996), Murray Duchnycz (1997), Terry Lyon (1998 – 2002), Ernie Ryz (2002 – 2003), Bob Adams (2004 - 2006), Judy MacKinnon (2007 – 2023), Darren Schellekens (2023-)

Some of Cloverdale's provincial and national championship winning teams include:

- BC Postal Employees (1973) Don Sigurdson, Gene Dunkley, Don McGladdery, Dale Walker
- Canadian Elks Nationals (1987) Gary Sigurdson, Gord McAninch, Bill Lohner, John Klym
- BC Mixed (1992) Al Roemer, Lynda Roemer, Mark Knutson, Tammy Knutson
- BC Senior Women (1996) Jeanette Sillars, Betty Reider, Beryl Cook, Maureen Anderson
- BC Mixed (1996) Craig Lepine, Karen Lepine, Jay Batch, Tasha Sweet
- BC Juvenile Girls (1999) Sarah Bolton, Janice Cole, Christine Miller, Kelsey Steiger
- BC Mixed (2000) Craig Lepine, Karen Lepine, Tony Tuson, Jacalyn Brown
- BC Mixed (2002) Craig Lepine, Karen Lepine, Ian Cordner, Delores Cordner
- BC Senior Women (2003) Karen Lepine, Betty Johnston, Linda Watson, Diane Hill
- BC Masters Women (2004, 2005) Caroline Koehler, Maureen Anderson, Beryl Cook, Betty Reider
- Canadian Legion Senior Nationals (2005) Russ Knutson, Lane Murray, Vic Miller, Ted Crocker
- BC Masters Men (2023) Lyle Sieg, Fred Cleutinx, Brett Kury, Doug O'Byrne

In recent years, many competitive teams have been comprised of individuals from different clubs or regions rather than complete teams from a single club. Dozens of banners hang on the walls of our rink that recognize the accomplishments of our winning teams.

There are a couple of very notable Cloverdale curlers who were members of many championship teams:

- Craig Lepine (1990 BC Brier skip), (2013, 2017, 2018 BC Seniors skip), (2018 BC Masters skip),
- Karen Lepine (2013, 2018 BC Senior Women skip), (2013, 2016 BC Masters Women skip, 2015 National Masters Women skip)

One of our former managers, Lynne Andrews, played 3<sup>rd</sup> for MB in 1982 Scott Tournament of Hearts, lost the Canadian final to Colleen Jones.

### More championship teams from Cloverdale



***B.C. ELKS CORBY CUP 88***  
*G. SIGURDSON - Skip — B. LOHNER - Second*  
*G. McANINCH - Third — J. KLYM - Lead*

Canadian Elks Champions 1987



1999 BC Juvenile Champions



1992 BC Mixed Champions



2000 BC Mixed Champions



2003 BC Senior Women Champions



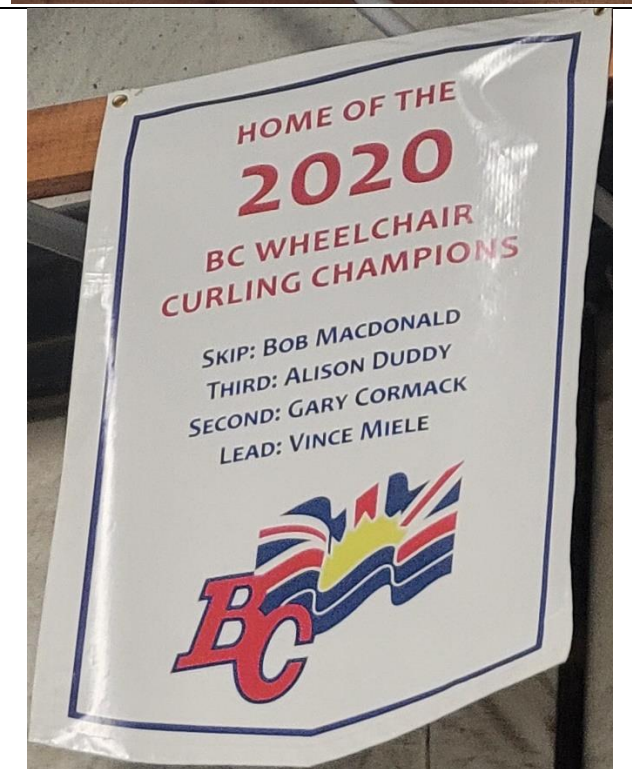
2004 & 2005 BC Masters Women Champions



2005 Legion Canadian Senior Champions from Cloverdale Branch #6







## Recent Champions



### 2023 Canadian Masters Champions

(Lyle Sieg, Fred Cleutinx, Brett Kury, Doug O'Byrne)



### 2024 Canada 55+ Games champions

(Cathy Chapman, Tracy Strecker, Victoria Murphy, Donna Mychaluk)

In 2024 the Cloverdale curling rink underwent a major refit. Over the years some issues had developed with the ice area so the City of Surrey agreed it was time to replace the 40-year-old concrete floor which formed the base for our six sheets of ice. The embedded pipes and headers associated with the brine system were replaced and new walkways were installed around the sheets.

Drainage outside along Sheet 7 on the east side of the rink was improved and a concrete pad was poured to finish off the area around the ice plant mechanical room.

A wheelchair accessible door was installed at the main entrance to improve access for those with disabilities.



Cloverdale rink ready for the 2024 – 2025 season

(rings for Little Rockers on sheets 2 & 3 and our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo at centre ice)

**Cloverdale Curling Club is ready to welcome the next generation of curlers**



This history of the Cloverdale Curling Club compiled by Lane Murray – October 2024