



## Letter from our President

August 18, 2021

I'm honoured to have been elected interim president during such an important and transformative time for curling at Highland. We have a strong, hard-working board of directors who are committed to being positive, communicative, approachable, and transparent with our members. We are so appreciative of the work done by numerous volunteers which has allowed us to be in the position we are in today. We are all so excited for the bright future for Highland Community Curling Club. Our members are truly fantastic and are valued at our club. We are excited to see returning faces and hope to see many new faces as well.

League sign-up for the 2021-2022 curling season is slated to open online later this week and we will host our first Highland Community Curling Club Open House on **August 23rd**. Please watch your emails for the Sign-Up notice.

The Open House will be a great opportunity to connect with your curling friends, speak with conveners and get some technical help if needed. You will complete your membership and league sign-up online so conveners will only be answering questions, not doing any sign-up. If you need help with establishing your website username/password or completing the online sign-up process, we will have a help desk available and be happy to assist you.

To ensure we keep do not exceed Covid capacity limits, we would like curlers who mostly play during the day to try to come between 5:30-6:30pm. Curlers from all other leagues are invited to come after 6:30pm until 9:30pm. We will be spread throughout the club and on the patio to ensure we can comply with Covid regulations. Masks must always be worn inside the club at all times.

**EARLY SIGN-UP DRAW PRIZE.** As we are now incorporated as a member-run, non-profit club, we need your commitment to ensure our success. Our Highland community has been very supportive thus far, and we would like everyone to complete their sign-up **EARLY!** As a reward for early sign-up, we will be holding a draw for a **signed Team Homan jersey** which has been generously donated by Sarah Wilkes. Everyone who completes their sign-up and pays their fee by September 1, 2021, will automatically be entered into the draw.

We worked hard to develop a membership, league and fee structure that is fair, equitable and competitive in the local curling market. We also are introducing some exciting new league options to provide members the opportunity to curl more often and in different ways. We have received very favourable feedback about our plans for the 2021-2022 season.

We appreciate that you may be reluctant to commit and pay for your membership early. As a start-up operation, our Club has already begun to incur costs and expenses. Very shortly, our ice team will begin the process of preparing our rink for play in October. Should the season not open, or later, be shut

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down due to COVID-19, the Board of our new club must cover all expenses to that point and may then consider pro-rated refunds to all members. Obviously, as we get farther into the season, our ability to consider refunds will lessen. We trust that you all can appreciate the financial responsibilities that we may face. Payment must be made at the time of sign-up. If there are special circumstances that you would like considered, please contact us and we will find a solution that works.

We appreciate that there are unknowns that may make you reluctant to sign-up this year. Covid-19 is still on everyone's mind and is part of our daily reality. Although Ontario and London are moving in the right direction towards reopening and no restrictions, we have no guarantees when this will happen and must comply with the current regulations. Our Covid-19 subcommittee is establishing club safety protocols that will allow our members to curl in a safe environment while being as flexible as possible to change. There will be rules around physical distancing, contact tracing, masking, sanitation and not attending if you are unwell. All members must adhere to these rules and declare they will do so at the time of sign-up. These rules are in place to limit the risk of Covid for ALL members and we appreciate your understanding and support of this.

The safety of our members is of the utmost importance. The Highland Community Curling Club Board of Directors has implemented a policy that all members, coaches and on ice assistants will be required to be fully vaccinated prior to the start of the curling season (or provide documented medical exemption). Verification will be done through a confidential process that will be available at the Open House and prior to league play at the start of the season.

*Members who cannot comply with these requirements may not sign-up for play this year.*

It will be wonderful to get back on the ice and curl with our Highland friends. The positive energy of the new Highland Community Curling Club is truly remarkable, and I know we can build a fantastic club for everyone!

The entire board of directors is looking forward to seeing everyone at the Open House on August 23 and please **SIGN-UP EARLY!**

Katie Brooks,

President, Board of Directors

Highland Community Curling Club

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