

Hi East Hants Curlers, the President and Board of Directors wishes to thank you for a very good year that had from the beginning different scenarios and issues challenge the organization. You stuck with EHCA, supported the EH Sportsplex by following their COVID 19 Protocols and for being part of the overall team, a huge thank you.

It is so very unfortunate that for the second year in a row EHCA has not been able to end the year in a party fashion: banter, food and treats for all after the final game. I for one miss the after game camaraderie and back ground noise: after all talking about the shots that were made or missed is what makes the day between the two teams sitting at the same table. Also having the Gold Medal winners of the day treat the Silver medal winners: So second place finish is a good thing!

I have read the Exit Surveys and comments from curlers that they were pleased with the level of play between the teams and overall the teams were evenly matched. EHCA has four curlers who had to cut their season short for one reason or another and teams were challenged, regrouped with spares and this worked out well from what I have seen. It would be great to have more people to draw from for sparing, but the pandemic caused this to be problematic. Next year will be better, with an aim for two leagues and youth curling in the afternoon.

EHCA acknowledges the issue with the ice and sincerely appreciated your patience with the situation and the EH Sportsplex Ice Technicians are doing a good job and we are working on improvements for next year: ie: a Laser Ice Leveling System that costs \$25,000.00 new and \$17,000.00 used and \$3,000.00 for another one for ice pad two. Your Executive will proceed to find funding for this in conjunction with the EH Sportsplex partnership. The system levels the ice to minute tolerances and also is credited with saving operating costs for arenas. EHCA will keep you apprised on the progress for the Laser Ice Leveling System. I have had curlers say it is unfortunate to have to play the ice in addition to the other team, but it is the same for both. This does not make it good and indeed lessens the experience of curling. Please have patience!

A few members have stated to me that three years ago the amount of new curlers made the ice situation tolerable. Now, with the curlers being very good curlers and wanting to improve their game weekly consistent ice is a must. Hey, the reason for a dedicated East Hants Multi-Purpose Curling Facility. I cannot stress enough the importance of contacting your councilor via email and telephone. EHCA has been questioned in the past about the lack of communication between curlers and councilors and it has been held against EHCA when the time comes to allocating money for a new facility. If you contact your councilor now, it is over and done with before the July 2021 Council Meeting! EHCA, without exception needs each of you! Thank you to those who have already emailed and called.

I have spoken with both MLA Margaret Miller and MP Kody Blois and they have indicated support, but first they want to see EH Municipal Council as equal partners, ie: 1/3 Municipal, Provincial, Federal funding. Again, your call and email to your District Councilor is so, so, important.

I would like to express mine and indeed your appreciation to the Board Of Directors who have all been regular contributors to the needs of EHCA. On your behalf I would like to acknowledge John Csutorka for handling all the yearly and play downs scheduling plus the stats and he is also EHCA secretary. He is also the leader behind the background information on the Laser Ice Leveling System. He enjoys this work so do not feel too, too sorry for him. Thank you John from all of EHCA.

I am so, so glad to see that about 95% (all but one, but he will be convinced to return) have indicated that they will be returning for curling season 2021/2022. One new person has indicated they would like to be on BOD, thank you.

Have a great summer and EHCA will keep you up to date when required, and promise not to populate your email with junk.

Have a great summer.

Harold MacNeil, President, 902-883-0130