

East Hants Curling Association
1076C Hwy 2
Lantz, Nova Scotia B2S 1M8

22 February 2024

East Hants Municipal Council/Councillors and CAO
Municipal Office
Lloyd E. Matheson Centre
15 Commerce Court
Elmsdale, Nova Scotia B2S 3K5

Dear Councillors and CAO,

The Executive of East Hants Curling Association is providing an overview of 2023/2024 Thursday, weekly operations. This will hopefully add substantiating data to the upcoming East Hants Needs Assessment that the association is sure will confirm, that the six years and will be seven in 2024/2025, curling in East Hants is alive and with baited breath are awaiting a new Multi-purpose Curling Facility attached to the Sportsplex.

The EHCA has a strong morning and evening league registration, provides free ice to the East Hants Youth Links membership, has worked with Maple Ridge School to provide a day of curling to students, sponsored a FIRST East Hants Curling Association Rising Tides Bonspiel 17, 18 and 19 November 2023 that was considered a success by all, provides free ice to families, adults and other community members who want to try the sport to see if curling is a sport they want to participate. EHCA partners of EHYL and Sport Nova Scotia have had a two year Equity, Diversity and Inclusiveness (EDI) grant that has significantly benefited the youth of East Hants: free curling 3:30 – 4:30 each Thursday. EHCA also provides equipment such as shoes, brooms, gliders so that there is no up front expenditure by the community members to begin curling. There is considerable interest and having curling only available on Thursdays has definitely hindered the growth of curling in East Hants. The EHCA Second Annual Rising Tides Bonspiel is scheduled for 29, 20 November and 1 December 2024.

The EHCA has 19 teams registered with a healthy spare list and availability of non-association curlers from various areas in and outside of East Hants so that teams are always full. There are players who because of work schedules pay to spare when they are not working on Thursdays. The weekly 9th or bye team in the morning players frequently show up in case they get a chance to spare or practice on the open sheet. The EHCA has developed a very cohesive sporting event that members look forward to each week and absenteeism is minimal and usually for travel or must keep appointments.

EHCA entered a team in the Nova Scotia 55 Plus games and won a silver medal and there are other members who have travelled to Curling Bonspiels at other clubs and this is a strong indicator that curling is healthy and the community wants more curling than is presently provided on Thursdays.

The membership is strong and the association has lost members because of ice quality and so many more want to curl, but family sports and other activities conflict with Thursdays: if there were more options these individuals and families would be curling on another day. Also, and this is significant approximately 90% of members would not be curling if they had to travel to another community: how many others have the same mindset?, many to our knowledge. EHCA curling members have often commented on how the game of curling has added to their week, the meeting of so many people,

making of friends that they would not have met before has enriched their lives. This is a positive off spin to mental and physical health and hopefully produces less of a burden on our health system.

EHCA has been very financially responsible and the membership support current fees, very successful auctions supported by local businesses, various ticket draws, etc to ensure the association is viable presently and well into the future. The EHCA foresees being extremely capable of operating and maintaining curling as a stand alone financially viable entity in a new dedicated Multi-purpose Curling Facility.


The weekly challenge of installing a new sheet of curling ice causes a variation in the quality of curling ice: the air handling system and the need to scrap the rink ice, flood, scrap and pebbling varies because of uncontrollable conditions within the rink. The air handling, ice temperature, building temperature, rain, roof leaks, condensation and moisture, etc: not conducive to consistent good curling ice and indeed these conditions are not present in a dedicated curling facility.

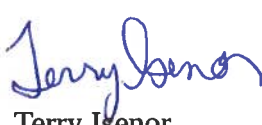
The EHCA has approximately \$150,000.00 worth of curling gear, six years of operational background and as such will be ready to go operational on day one of the opening of the East Hants Multi-purpose Curling Facility attached to the EH Sportsplex.

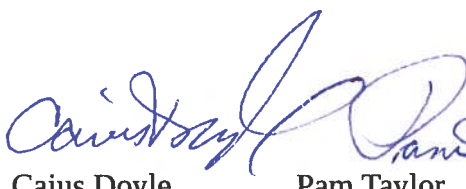
This letter is submitted to ensure a good understanding background is available to make the decision to support a new East Hants Multi-purpose Curling Facility.

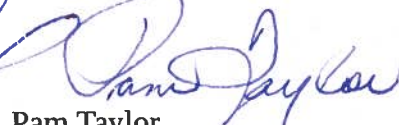
The EHCA does feel that the EHM Needs Assessment will confirm that curling is an extremely viable sport for East Hants and indeed would hope that council quickly takes action to begin the funding process so the project can begin.

Very Respectfully,



Harold MacNeil
President

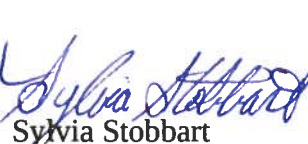

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