

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

20 June 2025

East Hants Municipal Council and all Councillors
Box 230 Suite 170
15 Commerce Court
Elmsdale, Nova Scotia B2S 3K5

**EAST HANTS CURLING ASSOCIATION (EHCA)
ICE RENTAL/BONSPIEL FUNDING/CURLING FACILITY**

1. This communication is meant to solicit decisions from EHM Council that benefits the community of East Hants.
2. The East Hants Curling Association (EHCA) has been in operations for seven years and feel the daily ice rental fee should be comparable to local facilities. In the last three years the East Hants Curling Association introduced the first (1st), second (2nd) and upcoming third (3rd) Annual Rising Tides Curling Bonspiels with costs as follows:

First Annual EHCA Rising Tides Bonspiel 17 - 19 November 2023 -

Revenue: \$2,520.00 Ice Rental \$6,104.35 = Deficit - \$3,584.35, some first year extras to set the standard that have been reduced : business and sustainability decisions.

Second Annual EHCA Rising Tides Bonspiel 29 November - 1 December 2024

Revenue: \$3,200.00 Ice Rental \$5,885.00 = Deficit - \$2,685.00 (increased number of teams)

Third Annual EHCA Rising Tides Bonspiel 28-20 November 2025 -

Revenue: \$3,200.00 (estimate) Ice Rental \$9,301.05. Deficit - \$6,101.05 – Ice Rental 37% increase.

3. The main reason for putting on the three (3) Bonspiels was/is to get positioned for a dedicated East Hants Curling Association Multi-purposed Curling Facility. The present model of fundraising to put on Bonspiels is not sustainable. The Bonspiels will be a revenue generator versus a deficit event with an EHCA Multi-purpose Curling Facility.

4. EHCA requested via two letters of 24 July 2024, attached, for a price review and provided surrounding communities costs that were at \$500.00 per day/weekend (not a cost on non-prime or prime ice time). The EHM Council was in camera so EHCA Board of Directors (BOD) are not aware of the conversations or the rationale for not providing a rental cost in the \$500.00 per day price point. A grant of \$3,000.00 was approved for programming events of which maybe \$1,200.00 was utilized, \$1,800 not expended due to limitations of expenditures.

5. EHCA had expected that with the request for a Needs Assessment for the previous two years and the current Rec-Survey that shovels would have been in the ground and the curling facility would be well in the process of being ready for the 2025/2026 curling season.

6. A precedent has been set for Provincial and Federal funding for the New Mayflower, \$3 Million provincial, and Sydney Curling, \$3 Million provincial/\$10 Million Federal, facilities that EHM/EHCA should be able to avail to participate in the funding for an East Hants Curling Association Multi-purpose Curling Facility.

7. The EHCA has been operational for seven years and do want to believe that EHM Council is at the point in time that support for a dedicated East Hants Curling Association Multi-purpose Curling Facility is upon the East Hants Community. The East Hants Curling Association has laboured over the last seven years to provide hard data and background that clearly delineates that the EHCA BOD can operate a self-sustaining curling facility once constructed and operational. East Hants Curling Association has approximately \$150,000.00 in curling equipment for on ice preparation and adult and youth rocks for a four sheet facility.

8. EHCA is ready and the purpose of running an Annual Bonspiel is to ensure that community members are supporting and ready for opening day in the near future. The EHCA Annual Rising Tides Curling Bonspiel is put on to entrench the curling experience in EHCA members and to allow more community members to experience curling at the adult and youth levels. There is significant advertising to all clubs in Nova Scotia/Cape Breton and each year there have been more outside teams in the Bonspiel. The reality that East Hants Curling Association have temporary ice is always the concern of curlers who have a dedicated facility and realize that significant expertise goes into providing quality ice for a three day Bonspiel.

9. East Hants Curling Association has in the past held yearly Auctions to ensure that the Annual Rising Tides Curling Bonspiel will take place. There was a WESTJET Ticket draw that financed the Second Annual Rising Tides Bonspiel. There are also 50/50 and Prize draws and the funds raised are less than \$500.0 and more for making the weekend more exciting versus a make or break revenue generator. This year 2025/2026 there is a Side of Beef Raffle, be provided via Withrow's Meat Market to ensure funds are available to underwrite the costs of the Third Annual Rising Tides Bonspiel. This is being supported by the members and community of East Hants to ensure that the yearly Bonspiel continues to grow in scope. The reality of this process is that the Bonspiel with a Curling Facility would be a revenue generator of up to \$4,000.00 for the EHCA instead of a deficit because of the significant cost of the facility: \$9,301.05.

10. The EHCA BOD is looking for three decisions:

a. correspondence was provided in regards to a \$500.00/day price point for weekly rentals. No feedback to EHCA BOD on why not able to be at a comparable price point with surrounding curling facilities/rentals. In camera discussions and decisions not available or communicated to the EHCA BOD. EHCA is requesting a daily rental fee in the \$500.00 per day price point.

b. the cost of putting on the Bonspiel is prohibitive. The present cost of \$9,301.05 for a weekend event is not sustainable presently or in the future. EHCA is requesting a grant in the range of \$5,000.00 for November 2025: 3rd East Hants Curling Association Rising Tides Curling Bonspiel.

c. the time is upon us for proceeding with the approval of EHM funding for construction of an EHCA Multi-purposed Curling Facility with Provincial and Federal funding. EHCA is requesting that EHM provide funding and then EHCA and EHM form a joint team to move this process forward with requests for Provincial and Federal funding. The East Hants Curling Association Business Plan 2020 identifies the requirements of an East Hants Curling Association Multi-purpose Curling Facility.

11. EHCA BOD awaits decisions in regards to requests of paragraph 10 a, b and c from EHM Council and are ready to discuss all points on the way ahead for what is and will be a significant contribution to the East Hants Community.



Harold MacNeil

President East Hants Curling Association

for Terry Isenor (VP), Caius Doyle (Treasurer), Directors: Pam Taylor, Kevin Cruickshank, Lawrence Williams, Jasmine Toews, Jackie Malley, Sylvia Stobart, Steve Clouthier

Attachments:

EHCA letter 24 July 2024 – East Hants Sportsplex Weekly Ice Rental

EHCA letter 24 July 2024 – East Hants Sportsplex Ice Rental - 2nd Annual Bonspiel

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24 July 2024

Scott Preston
East Hants Manager of Recreation and Facilities
1076 Hwy 2
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EAST HANTS CURLING ASSOCIATION (EHCA)
EAST HANTS SPORTSPLEX WEEKLY ICE RENTAL

The East Hants Curling Association is entering its seventh year of operations and is requesting East Hants Municipality provide a much more equitable ice rental fee for the weekly event.

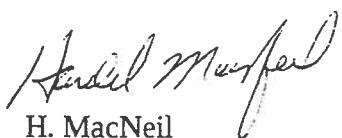
The EHCA paid a rate of \$886.96 +HST \$133.00 = \$1,020.10 for the year 2023/2024 and this was considered excessive to what a dedicated curling facility cost curlers. The current proposed fee for curling year 2024/2025 is \$886.96 + HST \$133.04 = \$1,020.00. plus \$45.00 + HST \$6.75 = \$51.75, room rental, for a total of \$1,071.75. The HRM Lower Sackville Lakeshore Curling Facility paid \$90,229.98 + HST for rent for the period 1 October to 31 March of curling year 2024/2024. This equates to \$15,038.33 per month: \$15,038.33 + HST \$2,355.75 = \$17,294.08 per month for six months. This averages to approximately \$500.00 per day for a dedicated six sheet, seven (7) day a week curling facility/operation.. This includes a six sheet curling facility, club common area, dressing rooms, bar and manager's office. This is confirmed by email: Mon 2024-07-22 3:04 PM which is enclosed with a page from Lakeshore Curling Club indicating Operating Revenue and Expenses.

The EHCA fees for curling is presently \$270.00/year, morning or \$320.00 evening and \$520.00 per year for morning and evening league. A more equitable fee for one day of curling would be \$190.00 for one league and \$380.00 for two leagues. The fee schedule comes from comparison to a dedicated curling facility and the amount of curling, practice, spares, etc that a curler would be able to access. Ninety (90%) percent of EHCA would not be curling if curling was not available in East Hants.

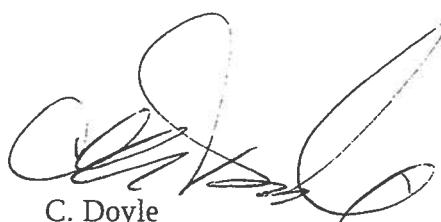
An EHCA dedicated facility would operate under much different cost parameters.

The East Hants Curling Association is requesting a reduction in its current fees and wishes to open a dialogue on the matter with the EHM Recreation Director and staff.

Thank you,



H. MacNeil
President EHCA



C. Doyle
Treasurer EHCA

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EAST HANTS CURLING ASSOCIATION
EAST HANTS SPORTSPLEX ICE RENTAL
2ND ANNUAL RISING TIDES BONSPIEL 29 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER 2024

East Hants Curling association is putting on our 2nd Annual Rising Tides Curling Bonspiel from 29 November – 1 December 2024 and is looking for EH Municipal support to significantly reduce ice rental cost.

The reason for the request in regards to ice rental cost is that if EHCA has a dedicated facility the event would be a fund raiser vice a revenue deficit event for the association.

The cost for the EHCA 1st Annual Rising Tides Curling Bonspiel was as follows and the caveat that the event was a first of for East Hants and it was important to put forth a good effort in all areas of a standard bonspiel event. The one cost out of EHCA control was ice rental costs.

Ice cost East Hants Arena Association	\$6,104.37
Event Cost	\$2,371.55 (prizes and give aways purchased to make first event memorable)
Revenue	\$2,996.00 (19 teams and could make more with a 30 team bonspiel)
Deficit	\$5,479.91 (the revenue from EHCA annual auction was designate to offset)

EHM Proposed 2023/2024 Fee:

Friday	\$939.13 + HST + \$180.00 room rental
Saturday	\$1,939.13 + HST + \$180.00 room rental
Sunday	\$1,739.13 + HST + \$180.00 room rental
Total	\$5,157.39 + HST \$773.60 = \$5,930.99

Note: This request is submitted in conjunction with the request for a reduced fee for the weekly rental cost as the daily cost would remain at \$500.00 per day for the weekend curling bonspiel at a dedicated curling facility.

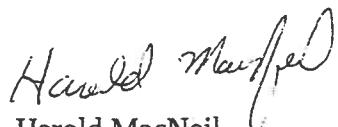
An East Hants Curling Association Multi-purposed Curling facility would realize a revenue surplus as the ice cost, and operation cost would already be in an annual budget process. The revenue would be increased with the addition of more teams with additional ice time.

The EHCA is promoting the game of curling in anticipation of a new curling facility in the very near future and the response to the 1st Annual EHCA Rising Tides Curling Bonspiel, 17-19 November 2023, was very good. This event is meant to expose the greater East Hants community to the activity of

curling and to be able to provide at a price that is comparable to surrounding dedicated curling facilities.

EHCA is ready to open up a dialogue on this item and feel the Bonspiel is in the interests to the community and therefore a request for significantly reduced ice costs to assist with the event is submitted.

Thank you



Harold MacNeil
President, EHCA



C. Doyle
Treasurer, EHCA