

## Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

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**Subject:** FW: EHCA - EH Municipal Recreational Rental Rates

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**From:** Harold MacNeil

**Sent:** February 11, 2026 9:27 AM

**To:** Alana Tapper <atapper@easthants.ca>; Craig Merriam <cmerriam@easthants.ca>

**Cc:** Harold MacNeil

**Subject:** Re: EHCA - EH Municipal Recreational Rental Rates

Alana and Craig, EHCA submitted local rental costs that were not taken into consideration in the past survey. Hockey and Figure skating rent the ice at the given rate, that is accepted in your survey of local activities and consistent. No argument to make there for separate rate.

Curling is not like hockey or figure skating in the survey. The survey should have taken into consideration the data provided for similar activities of curling at Lakeshore and Tatamagouche of \$500.00 per day. This data was not taken into consideration if you look at curling specifically. EHCA in support of curling have purchased their own gear, ice king, nipper, scoreboards, curling house and lines for insertion into ice, lazer level, freezer, curling stones, etc. EHCA provided free equipment for youth and the occasional user. EHCA has accumulated approximately \$150,000.00 in equipment.

I make it a staple of my thought process to never criticize other activities to promote another. Hockey and figure skating show up and "voila" all is ready. Not the same circumstances for curling!

EHCA before EHM took over operations of the Sportsplex had the ice from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM for daily operations and to grow the game for the daily rate. There were youth from a local group who curled free and EHCA provided all equipment and instructors: now the group is being charged ice rental costs and EHCA is providing the equipment and instructors free: EHCA made a donation of \$840.00 to pay for the rental fees from January to March 2026. Schools curled for free up to three times a year and these are the youth represented by councillors and now EHCA is charged and at the same time some free skating is provided for others to drop in, etc. Home and homes to develop local community contacts were free, offering clinics to local entities, ie: EHCC were free to grow awareness of the game, individuals who expressed an interest in curling could be taken for an hour or two to "learn to curl" and most times this produced a new member or two. The curling ice has no other use during down time! EHCA has curtailed these activities to the detriment of EHCA and the local community because of the costs and no one is gaining with this council decision.

The present cost and then the added costs of the other activities during the day have severely limited EHCA growing the game and presence in the community. The value for present EHCA fees is low because of inconsistent ice which is accepted by members, but only if a dedicated facility is soon at the end of the tunnel. The excessive survey delays to be quite honest are demoralizing.

EHCA has tried many times to have a councillor(s) come to talk to the morning and evening curlers with no luck, so correspondence is the only means of communications open to EHCA. EHCA completed the substantial work to make curling relevant in East Hants. To not be acknowledged that a curling facility is long past due, to

be making the reasoning that curling is part of the recreation programs in East Hants and should be treated as such is always so challenging, Why?

Craig, I would like you to broach the information above in council, feel free to pass on to each councillor. If Council still feels that EHCA is being treated the same as all other entities then I guess the “status quo” remains vice the actual data that would have been collected in an “unbiased” survey.

Thank you,

Harold MacNeil, President EHCA

I have Bcc'd EHCA BOD

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**From:** Alana Tapper <[atapper@easthants.ca](mailto:atapper@easthants.ca)>  
**Sent:** February 10, 2026 11:47 AM  
**To:** Harold MacNeil Craig Merriam <[cmerriam@easthants.ca](mailto:cmerriam@easthants.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: EHCA - EH Municipal Recreational Rental Rates

Good morning Harold

During budget discussions in early 2025, Council discussed all Sportsplex rates and made the decision to charge groups the same hourly rates depending on the time of day (prime vs. non-prime), type of group (youth vs non-youth vs corporate), etc. Decisions were not based on the type of activity – for example, East Hants Figure Skating would pay the same hourly ice rate at East Hants Minor Hockey for the same blocks of ice time. Rates approved in as part of budget discussion last year can be found in the link below (at the bottom of the webpage):

<https://www.easthants.ca/sportsplex/>

Council has discussed EHCA’s request for reduced rates in July 2025, December 2025 and January 2026. From those discussions, Council has confirmed in the two specific Council motions made in July 2025 that they will not reduce rates for the EHCA and a curling facility will not be addressed until the Recreation Facilities Master Plan will be completed.

- C25(238) Reduction in Rental Rates – Council made the decision to not reduce rental rates and previously approved rates will remain in place for 2025/2026.
- C25(240) Request for a new Curling Facility – Council made a motion to delay any discussions regarding a new curling facility until the Recreation Facility Master Plan is completed.

Kind regards

Alana

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**From:** Harold MacNeil  
**Sent:** February 5, 2026 12:23 PM  
**To:** Craig Merriam <[cmerriam@easthants.ca](mailto:cmerriam@easthants.ca)>; Alana Tapper <[atapper@easthants.ca](mailto:atapper@easthants.ca)>  
**Cc:** Harold MacNeil  
**Subject:** EHCA - EH Municipal Recreational Rental Rates

Craig and Alana, I am forwarding for clarification and for consideration during the current 2026/2027 budget process.

Paragraph two (2) of letter dated 13 January 2026 asked for the same consideration as all other EH recreation activities. This one item needs to be addressed.

Hockey, aquatics, sports fields, dome rentals, etc were all considered in a survey and costs assigned: very fair. EHCA has provided cost for the Lakeshore Curling Club of \$500.00/day and Tatamagouche, one day rentals, of approximately \$500.00/day.

The question in the letter: "Why not curling?"

EHCA is only asking to be treated like all other EH Recreation programs in assigning rental costs comparable to other local facilities. A dedicated curling facility will eliminate this issue vice the present use of a converted ice rink surface.

What EHCA requests, from District 6 Councillor, in the 2026/2027 budget process that is presently underway is that EHCA rental rates be raised for discussion and be considered in the same comparison/fairness process as all other EH recreation activities during the 2026/2027 **recreation budget** approval process.

Grants are not the way EHCA is looking to operate presently or in the future. The Business Model must be sustainable and consistent moving to a point in time of operating a stand alone facility.

ITEM #32: EAST HANTS CURLING ASSOCIATION RE: 4TH ANNUAL RISING TIDES CURLING BONSPIEL SEEKING REDUCED ICE RENTAL COSTS The Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture presented a letter dated January 13, 2026 from the East Hants Curling Association with a request regarding their annual Rising Tides Curling Bonspiel, seeking reduced ice rental costs. A copy of the letter was attached to the agenda and available to all Council members. Discussion ensued and questions were addressed by staff. C26(08) January On the motion of Councillors Rhyno & Mitchell: Tapper Moved that Council correspond with the East Hants Curling Association to inform them that Council is not in a practice of currently reducing ice rental rates and advise that the Association can apply for similar grants as in the past. MOTION CARRIED

Thank you and EHCA will only need the results of the 2026/2027 budget process to provide an answer to the letter of 13 January 2026.

Harold MacNeil, President EHCA

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