

President's Report



Submitted for the 2024 AGM and Board of Directors Spring Meeting

Part 1 (Pre Vernon Combined)

It has been a very busy and productive spring and the results are positive. For example, using Vernon and Armstrong for our first official 5 Event Provincial, the Interior has definitely come together. The BCIMCA with the use of filler teams is showing a full slate. Our competition will now be hosting 32 (4 person teams) and 16 (2 person teams). This will be the largest Award Banquet we have ever held. In fact, I suspect it will be largest provincial award banquet in BC history.

I am extremely pleased at the number of directors that have committed to Vernon and we can expect an interesting Joint Meeting to be held the evening of March 25th. The agenda is set to discuss Amalgamation, Name Change, and Sponsorship. As all of you are aware Amalgamation had made some in-roads during 2019, however due to Covid-19's appearance in March 2020, all of us left the Combined at Penticton, not knowing if and when we would ever curl again. Between March 2020 and March 2024 costs have risen and sponsors have diminished. Coupled with challenges of acquiring ice, committees are constantly expressing concerns re playdowns and future venues for the PCMCA/BCIMCA competition. We anticipate cost increases in ice, rental, league fees, Curl BC and Curl Canada dues. It is probably timely that the Board voted to increase the PCMCA dues from \$5 to \$8 subject to the members' approval. This will assist both our Zone Boards and our Provincial Boards since these expenses have also increased.

Our board has grown and there is presently a wealth of experience. This year we have added a Communication Director and for the 2024-25 season we will be adding a Director of Competitions. This responsibility will go to the Vice-President and continue on indefinitely. The goal here would be to have one individual confirming policy and procedures to host Playdowns and Provincials. That will assure uniformity in that no changes will take place without the approval of the Director of Competitions.

Overall, it has been a great year with a 20% increase in membership and most of that has been an increase in women joining the PCMCA. Presently we are very close to our pre-Covid numbers. Our demographics are showing an aging membership. For example, this year 52% of our membership is in the 70-79 age group. Based on this information my suggestion is that we should immediately create an 80+ category. In speaking to some of our members there is definitely positive feedback in that many of our 80+ members are losing interest in competing against the 60+ teams on the provincial scene. My request to the board is that an 80+ Event be added to the 2025 Provincials in Langley/Cloverdale. This venue offers us 12 sheets which can certainly include it as a 6th category. It would be offered as an open to both the ladies and men and would include stick and wheel chair curlers.

Part 2 (Post Vernon)

After viewing the phenomenal success of the 16 team stick curling championship in Vernon/Armstrong, it is obvious that our association's expansion to more members was the right decision. This year's Provincial was a record 48 team championship hosting the largest event any of us have ever witnessed. The event resulted in a full slate of entries and was also the largest attended by PCMCA directors. Present were Zone 1 Mike Angrove, Zone 2 Claude Latulippe, Zone 3 both Nancy Stagg and Clyde Mitchell and Zone 4 Jack Holden. From the executive attendance included were Treasurer Cheryl Eason, Communications Director Wayne Saito and myself. Also, we were fortunate to have the presence of our Web Master Mike Toller who was available to help the volunteers post live results to our website.

This completes my 6th season as serving you as President. I have experienced the challenges of Covid and the reward of expansion. It has been a wild ride and with the exception of Covid, there is little I would change. The pleasure of working with so many different directors, committees and clubs has been extraordinary. During this time some directors have retired and some are new, however my personal opinion is that the board is presently bigger and better than ever.

A big "Thank You" to all of the directors I have had the pleasure of working with over the last 11 years.

President

Lawrence Woytowich