



Morris Curling Club

Cargill® Curling Training Centre



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January 22, 2021

Dear members & friends of the Morris Curling Club,

Happy new year to all!!! We hope this letter finds you all well and looking forward to 2021. Since we opened on July 7th, we have been operating under Manitoba Health Guidelines and following Curling Canada's "return to play Guidelines". Visit www.curling.ca and Curl Manitoba's www.curlmanitoba.org websites for more information. As you all know the club was closed on November 7th and remains closed at this point. We were disappointed that curling clubs have not opened yet since our open space and easy social distancing makes our sport unique, very similar to golf. However, we look forward to opening whenever it happens.

The cost per month to maintain ice and all costs related to operating the curling club is \$10,000 plus per month. As for grants, we have received \$10,595.00 to date - \$5000 x 2 from bridge funding when we were closed on November 9 – we hope with the last announcement of closure to Feb 12 we will get another \$5000 of Bridge funding. The \$595 was a federal grant through Curl Manitoba. Non-profit organizations who operate with volunteers and contract employees are out of luck on any other support programs.

Due to COVID-19, by February 12 the Morris Curling Club and Cargill Curling Training Centre (www.curlingtraining.ca) will have been closed for 178 days (6 months). We had many bookings from March – July that were cancelled or postponed and of course the same applies from November 9 to February 12. Obviously, our revenue steam has taken a big hit. BUT

We have been working hard and I have some ideas (that may surprise some of you --- not)

- 1) Curl Manitoba has put together a provincial PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT RAFFLE. Go to www.curlmanitoba.org to buy your tickets. Scroll down the website until you find the “click here for Curl Manitoba progressive jackpot raffle”. It is pretty easy to follow the process to buy your ticket. (even I could do it)
- 2) **MOST IMPORTANT** - when you come to the “competitor” box type in **Morris Curling Club** or scroll down the list of clubs to Morris Curling Club – **if you don’t, your money is not credited to the Morris Curling Club.**
- 3) HOW THIS PROGRESSIVE RAFFLE WORKS
 - A) Morris Curling Club receives 40% of the purchases designated to Morris Curling Club. (not 50% as would be if we ran our own 50-50)
 - B) Curl Manitoba keeps 10% for admin and headaches which is reasonable.
 - C) The 50-50 runs until April 30, 2021 – there are 4 draws – 1 in January; 1 in February; 1 in March; and the Grand Prize draw in April.
 - D) When you buy a ticket in January – you are eligible for the January 50-50 pot and the Grand prize pot. You will need to buy in February & March to participate in those months plus with each purchase you will get more chances for the grand prize draw.
- 4) More great news – every \$ designated to the Morris Curling Club will be matched. I had this idea yesterday and just made a few calls. I am excited to announce that as of this today **DEKALB-Bayer Crop Science, Red River Seeds Ltd., Rhineland Car Co Ltd. and Rosenort Motors** have signed on to the matching dollar program – **thank-you!** *This means when you buy \$10.00 ticket the Morris Curling Club will get \$8.00.* I will keep you posted as more people and businesses join this program. Individuals & businesses can designate a limit on how much they will match up to. If you know of anyone interested, please get them to email me or call me at 204 -712-5842
- 5) Other great news – **Bill & Terry Howie** are our Honorary 50-50 chairs for this project. Our goal is to turn this into a \$25,000 fundraiser for the Morris Curling Club.
To quote Bill, when he rolls into the room “Ok, you lucky people I’m back get your money ready I’ll be there “
To quote Terry “Oh, that d.. guy Bill got to you ahead of me – but you can buy from me too.”
- 6) Bottom line – share this newsletter with thousands of people and friends. The Morris Curling Club is 123 years old this year and we have had wonderful support from so many over those years.

What does this last closure to Feb 12 mean for MCC members and their curling?? **Get ready for 24/7 fun!** Whenever the Province lets us return to curling the executive and I are planning to make the return to curling in a fun and safe environment. First and foremost, we will always operate under Manitoba Health Guidelines. Since we opened on July 7th we have gone above and beyond guidelines to ensure member safety. We will continue to do so.

We are comfortable operating under previous Code Orange regulations, and we thank all members for following our updated protocols.

The next paragraph was in our December newsletter and I thank those that sent me a note on their thoughts of how we can catch up games and leagues. We are confident we will remain open over the summer as summer bookings are already coming in. I welcome your ideas and suggestions.

In talking with different executive members, I'm suggesting we also do some catchup on missed league action. I'm suggesting in January (or whenever we open) we operate all our leagues 2 times a week (since we are looking to get out and have some fun) For example stick league could operate Wednesdays as usual and Friday nights. Thursday league could operate Mondays and Thursdays, or we could run double draws on existing nights with a break in between games -food for thought. To our ½ season members – they could continue to play until they get their pre-Christmas number of games. This group could then decide if they want to play the second half season. Practice Perfect teams may have some options of adding some additional weekend training as well before the “bonspiel schedule resumes”. We will explore catch up options for our Sunday leagues as well. Thursday rec league could add another morning to catch up. Please feel free to give me feedback on any new ideas you may have!

The Morris Curling Club executive and I will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation while seeking clarification on the new guidelines. New protocols will be circulated as we move forward.

We thank all members for filling in their waivers and COVID-19 forms at registration. You are good for the season but remember the RESPONSIBILITY IS STILL YOURS to stay home when you are sick.

As you know we have held 3 successful bonspiels since July. Our DEKALB SuperSpiel continues to be postponed. The first 3 years of DEKALB SuperSpiel was a spring event. We hope to repeat history and the 13th annual DEKALB SuperSpiel will be in Spring. With our large waiting room and bar area, as well as the adjoining halls in the Morris Multiplex, we have a lot of space to spread out to allow social distancing.

We have other great news but will save that for the February newsletter. In the meantime, BUY YOUR 50-50 TICKETS each month and DESIGNATE MORRIS Curling Club. If you want the full experience, call Bill and Terry at 204-388-2101 and they will give you the full pitch. Remember advice isn't cheap, it'll probably cost you more. If you have questions on details of buying the progressive raffle ticket, feel free to call Lorne. 204-712-5842.

Keep Smiling – Have Fun as best you can and share this newsletter. Thanks.

Stay safe and healthy! We look forward to seeing you at the curling club soon.

Lorne Hamblin, Curling Club Manager

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