



... a newsletter for the members of the Vancouver Curling Club

# Welcome to Your New Home

September has come to a close and league play is now underway in our new home.

The first month of operations in our new facility has already seen hundreds of new curlers as well as VCC members walk through our doors and try the sport during our open houses and clinics.

There is an excitement in the air as almost all of our leagues have expanded since last season (and some already have a wait list). We have a new menu, expanded draught taps, HD televisions, comfy couches, and floor-to-ceiling windows that make visiting the Last Draw Lounge before or after your game a must-do item.

There are expanded opportunities for **Open Ice practice times**. We are looking forward to hosting the

first bonspiel in our new home on November 4-6 - the **2011 Harvest Bonspiel**.

A lot of work has gone into turning the new home of the VCC into a reality. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the VCC Staff, Board Members and all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the summer (and some who have been working over the past few years) to help us get the new facility ready.

It's been a very busy time as we have set up all the essentials to get us started as we make new curling memories at Hillcrest Centre.

The VCC is a community so, now that we're moved in, I encourage all of our members to consider giving back to the Club.

Whether volunteering at a single event or joining one of the Board committees, there are a lot of great people with interesting stories in our membership and the only way to meet them is through participation.

On behalf of the Board, I wish all members the very best as we continue to enjoy our sport with the new rocks on our new ice surface.

Scott Allen  
VCC President

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## Pre-season Activities Launch a New Era

From open houses to media appearances to participating in a national celebration of sport, September was a very busy month for the VCC.

It started with our two-day Member's-only Open Houses where people got their first chance to throw the new rocks on the ice. We soon opened to the general public with an Open House on September 10 and 11 when, even with the hot late summer weather, people took to the ice shed to experience curling. "Our open houses have generated a lot of interest in our leagues and rentals," said Brad Blackwell, Manager of Membership Services.

On September 15, several Club members rose before dawn to become curling stars on Citytv's Breakfast Television program. For the second year in a row, live eye reporter Greg Harper chose the VCC as the location for his annual curling adventure.



VCC President Scott Allen and Sonja Gaudet cut the Sports Day cake

His segments showcased our new home and all the new opportunities available in the Club. A recap of the broadcast can be seen at [bit.ly/VCC\\_Citytv](http://bit.ly/VCC_Citytv).



VCC Member Jan Bos (left) discusses a curling segment with Citytv reporter Greg Harper and producer Debra Walley

On September 17, cake, curling demonstrations, balloons, and activities for kids were all on the agenda as the VCC opened its doors to the public as part of Sports Day in Canada. It was the first major event in our new facility. Two-time Paralympic curling gold medalist (2006 and 2010), Sonja Gaudet, was on hand to offer on-ice instruction and show her medals.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers and staff who helped on and off the ice to make the first month in our new facility a resounding success.

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## Management Change at the VCC

The Vancouver Curling Club Board of Directors announces that the general manager, Chris Daw, has left the Club.

The Board thanks Chris for his service over the last two years. The Board wishes Chris, Morgan and their family well in their future endeavours.

An interim general manager will be in place soon while a search for a permanent individual is underway.

Please watch your e-mail and future editions of "The Backline" for updates.

## Tips About Our New Home

### Pro Shop

Our new store has a variety of items including shoes, brooms and grippers. Remember to replace that old gripper to help keep the ice clean! If there is something you want you don't see, just ask Brad.

### Last Draw Lounge

While enjoying a beverage in the Lounge, members are encouraged to use the broom storage rack next to the washrooms as the location to store brooms and bags.

### Pace of Play

Most of the leagues rent two-hour blocks of time from the Club. A countdown clock in the ice shed will help you keep track of how much time you have to play your game.

### Scoreboards

We've moved to what some call national or international scoring displays with our new scoreboards. The boards are simple to use and there are instructions posted above each controller.

## *Happy Birthday to Phyllis Carpenter*

As we know, curling is a sport that can be enjoyed at all ages and levels of ability. Just ask Phyllis Carpenter. She's an Honourary Life Member of the Vancouver Ladies League and was third on a team that won the Women's Provincials in 1951 and she recently turned 99.

Check out the re-designed Purple Hearts on display in the ice shed to see the names of the nearly 50 VCC teams who have won BC championships.

## Continental Cup of Curling comes to Langley



Mark your calendars to see some of the world's best curlers in action.

The unique international curling competition, featuring six teams from North America against six teams representing The World, will be contested January 12-15, 2012 at the Langley Events Centre.

Tickets can be purchased by phone at 604-882-8800 (local) and 1-855-532-8497 (toll free) or online at [seasonofchampions.ca/langley](http://seasonofchampions.ca/langley).

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*Featured on the front page:* Some members of the Pacific Rim Curling League (PRCL) couldn't wait for league play to begin. They rented a sheet of ice on September 11. Team Chang vs Team Outsiders played a spirited, fun-filled eight-end game. The first full game in our new facility!

## 2011 - 2012 Season Calendar

The following list of events highlights what is happening at the VCC from October until the end of April. Be sure to visit [vancurl.com/events](http://vancurl.com/events) for complete details on the events below.

### 2011

**Sunday, Oct. 9 and Monday, Oct. 10**

VCC closed - Thanksgiving

**Saturday, Oct. 22**

Intermediate Clinic - Team Strategy

**Friday, Nov. 4 to Sunday, Nov. 6**

Harvest Bonspiel

**Friday, Nov. 11**

VCC closed - Remembrance Day

**Saturday, Nov 12 and Nov 19**

Club Coach Workshop

**Saturday, Nov. 19**

Intermediate Clinic - Multiple Releases

**Saturday, Nov. 26**

Pink Broom Bonspiel

**Saturday, Dec. 3**

Advanced Clinic

**Sunday, Dec. 18**

Last day of league curling - first half

**Friday, Dec. 23 to Thursday, Dec. 29**

VCC closed - Happy Holidays

### 2012

**Tuesday, Jan. 3**

League curling resumes - second half

**Monday, Jan. 9**

Mid-season Basic Skills Clinic

**Saturday, Jan. 14**

Intermediate Clinic - Making the Shots

**Friday, Feb. 3 to Sunday, Feb. 5**

Pacific Rim Cup Bonspiel

**Saturday, Feb. 11**

VCC Doubles Bonspiel

**Saturday, Feb. 18**

Intermediate Clinic

**Saturday, Feb. 18, 25 & Mar. 10**

Club Challenge Playdowns

**Thursday, Mar. 1 to Sunday, Mar. 4**

Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel

**Saturday, Mar. 17**

Intermediate Clinic

**Friday, Apr. 6 to Monday, Apr. 9**

VCC Closed - Easter

**Sunday, Apr. 22**

Last day of league curling - second half

**Monday, Apr. 23 to Thursday, Apr. 27**

VCC Championships (VCC Members only)

For more information on any of the events scheduled at the VCC, please visit [vancurl.com/events](http://vancurl.com/events) or you can contact Brad Blackwell, Manager of Membership Services, at 604-874-0122 or [bblackwell@vancurl.com](mailto:bblackwell@vancurl.com)



### Vancouver Curling Club

4575 Clancy Loranger Way • Vancouver, BC • V5Y 2M4  
604-874-0122 • 604-874-2865 (fax) • [info@vancurl.com](mailto:info@vancurl.com)