

Dear Medicine Hat Curling Club member,

We hope everyone is healthy and staying safe in these trying times. The Board of Directors met and after much deliberation made the difficult decision to cancel curling for the remainder of the 2020/2021 season. We are now looking ahead to our start up in September of 2021. We are giving consideration to starting the season earlier and looking forward to a more regular curling season. Hopefully by then the vaccine will allow us to be back to normal with our activities and events.

The Board spent a considerable amount of time in dialogue about the closure issue. We made the decision based on the health and safety of our members, staff, and families, as well as the financial situation of the Club. With the number of cases in Alberta increasing daily, the Board felt it was unlikely we would be able to resume curling at the end of the Government Mandatory Measures that are to be re-assessed on January 12.

The cost of running our club for one month is about \$20,000.00 above set costs. Those are considerable costs to incur until the end of January and possibly longer. The option of shutting down the plant and restarting was also considered. It takes a minimum of two weeks to install the ice and the cost of supplies, utilities, labour, and other services is approximately \$20,000.00. Thus, turning off the plant and restarting was not deemed feasible. The Board felt that closing was the best decision for now and the future of the Curling Club.

The Board also wanted to address the league fees in a fair and reasonable way. If you are so inclined, you might want to consider donating your league fees or a portion of them to the Club to help with expenses. We would provide recognition for your generous donation. In the past, the Club has budgeted and operated to maintain a positive financial balance. We have worked each year to ensure good stewardship of club funds. This year things will be tighter, so any help and financial support would be greatly appreciated. If you choose not to donate your league fees, the Club will apply a credit to your fees for next year. More information about the credit and donation procedures will be emailed to you in the coming days. We would like to finalize things in the next few months as this will allow us to assess our financial position and get ready for the upcoming season in the fall.

The Club will be open from December 21 - 23 and January 4 - 6 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm to allow access to lockers. You are permitted to leave your belongings over the summer. To ensure we operate within the Alberta Health Services guidelines, you can also email or call for an appointment if these hours do not work for you.

The Pro Shop will be open December 19, 21, 22, 23 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for your Christmas shopping pleasure. Sammy's Little India is providing delivery and curbside pick up from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. Phone Sammy at 403-928-2536 for pick up or delivery. Sammy will be closed from December 21 - January 3. We will keep you posted on her hours for January depending on Government restrictions.

We want to thank all of you who have contacted Board members or Vicki to share your thoughts and offer advice. I am sure you understand how difficult this decision was (we all want to be on the ice). Thank you for your patience and understanding. We appreciate your support during these difficult times, and we look forward to seeing you in September 2021.

If you have anything that needs to be clarified, please contact us.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year. Stay safe and be well.

Cal Hauserman
MHCC President

Vicki Sjolie
MHCC Club Manager