



Lakefield CURLING CLUB

Est. 1877

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE LAKEFIELD CURLING CLUB

Back in March when the Board made the decision to end the 2019/2020 season early, we stated that the safety of our members, our staff and our responsibility to the Community must take precedence over all other considerations. That remains our primary concern today. It is my unpleasant task to inform you that the Board has reached the unanimous decision that the Lakefield Curling Club will not open for the 2020/2021 season.

Your response rate to the recent survey was over 80% (thank you!) and the result clear – the majority of you were not comfortable curling given the risk posed by COVID-19 at this time. We don't know what the status of the pandemic will be in January, but we can estimate what the club's financial status will be and it would not be fiscally responsible to open for a half year. Protecting the long term viability of the club is the Board's second mandate and that is why a January opening isn't appropriate. We provided some high level financial information in the September update, so hopefully you understand why we're not considering a January opening.

Aside from the impact of the pandemic, curling has been changing over the past few years. Free guard zones and sweeping restrictions have changed how the game is played. The increased focus on player safety such as Concussion Protocols and Risk Acknowledgements are adding to the complexity of running the club. The Membership fees remain the major source of revenue, but the critical importance of the bar and the funds raised by the Divisions has become painfully obvious since the COVID restrictions have all but eliminated them; and making changes will require better and more frequent communications. It is time to review our organizational structure of a Board and Divisions to ensure that we have the most effective and efficient structure. Over the next year the Board and the Divisions will be reaching out to you, the membership, to participate in this process. Some of you have already indicated a willingness to participate but additional support will be needed to ensure that the Lakefield Curling Club provides the best curling experience it can to all its members.

Regards and Stay Safe.

Tom Sayer,

President and Board Chair

On behalf of the Board, Lakefield Curling Club

20/09/29