

The History of the Curling Half

The history of the curling half of the Prince George Golf and Curling Club dates back to September of 1920. At that time, a meeting took place to make plans for the construction of the first 2 sheet building which was spearheaded by Thomson Ogg, manager of the Bank of Commerce at the time, and was completed December 10th of the same year. The rink was located on 3rd Avenue where Hands on Car wash now stands. The new rink now complete and with an executive in place headed by President P.E. Wilson and with notable citizens such as Dr Alward and Dr. Ewert as charter members, the Prince George Curling Club was a reality. Yes, all that was needed now was some cold weather.

Having been born within one week of the opening of the six-sheet rink that presently houses the roller rink, I have never experienced playing on natural ice, which is just what was done for the first thirty-six years of the Prince George Curling Club. Without artificial ice, old Mother Nature would on occasion interrupt bonspiels with warm spells. Because of this, the rink moved in 1923 from its first location to the shade of Connaught Hill very close to where City Hall is now located because it had been noticed that snow stayed much later in the spring than at the Splash and Dash location. During the hungry thirties, the club survived on very little money and members looked after all details of ice making.

The Club stayed in the shade of Connaught Hill until February 1950 when the Kelly Cup Bonspiel kicked off the Grand Opening of the new 4 sheet curling rink in the basement of the old Civic Centre which was located on 7th Avenue across the street from the Simon Fraser Hotel (Days Inn). The Club stayed at the Civic Centre location until 1955 when it moved to where the roller rink is located today.

The roller rink location expanded to ten sheets in 1967. This allowed our Club to host the B.C. Interior Men's Bonspiel. The rink we have today was built in 1973 to give us 18 sheets of ice for a time until the six sheets were converted to a roller rink full time. The roller rink building is no longer used for curling and current facility houses 8 sheets of ice.