

2023 OVCA AGM Minutes - September 18, 2023

The 2023 OVCA AGM was held as an in-person gathering at the RA Centre as well as hosted as a virtual meeting via Google Meet. The AGM materials (agenda, minutes from the 2022 OVCA AGM, Board reports, proposed new Bylaws) were made available online to OVCA clubs, and paper copies of the materials were provided at the meeting.

1. Land Acknowledgement

Prior to the start of the meeting, Paul Hennessey, OVCA Interim President/Chair, provided the land acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:18pm.

3. Approval of the Agenda

It was noted that agenda item 11.e. IT Report was missing from the agenda.

Moved by: Ron Guilbault – OVCA Board Member
Seconded by: Anne Davis – OVCA Board Member

That the presented agenda as amended with agenda item 11.e. be approved.

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

4. Introductions

Paul Hennessey introduced the past year's OVCA Board members.

5. Moment of Silence

Paul Hennessey asked for a moment of silence to remember those in our community who have passed in the last year.

6. Approval of Minutes from last year's AGM held virtually on Monday September 19, 2022



Moved by: Gary Albers – Prescott CC
Seconded by: Margot Burgess – RA CC

That the minutes from the AGM of September 19, 2022, be approved as presented.

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

7. Business Arising from Minutes of Last Year's AGM

It was requested that the OVCA inform member clubs regarding the OVCA membership fee for the following year in the spring of the current curling season (i.e. prior to the clubs setting their budgets). Gord Butler, OVCA Treasurer, responded that the OVCA fees have been \$125 per curling sheet for many years outside of the COVID years, when the OVCA Board decided to waive and/or discount the annual club membership fee. The Board agreed that the OVCA fees for the 2024/25 season would be provided by March 2024.

8. Acknowledgement of Partner Associations

Paul Hennessey introduced and acknowledged the OVCA partner associations:

- a. Ladies Curling Association – no representative was present at the AGM
- b. Canadian Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club – no representative was present at the AGM
- c. Curling Outaouais – Roger Smith thanked the OVCA for the invitation to the AGM. He informed everyone that the 6 clubs that are members of Curling Outaouais are all up and running after COVID and that he is hoping that a seventh club would come back as a member.
- d. CurlION – Matt Allen, the Executive Director of CurlION introduced himself to the OVCA and member clubs as this was Day 12 in his new position.
- e. Curling Canada – the interim CEO, Danny Lamoureux, who is returning to retirement from his position at Curling Canada, acknowledged that the OVCA is one of the largest and most powerful regional curling associations in Canada. On behalf of Curling Canada, he thanked the



OVCA and Ottawa area clubs for the extremely successful Ottawa hosted World Men's Curling Championships in April 2023 and the impact the OVCA and Ottawa area clubs have made to the sport of curling.

9. Chair's Report

Paul Hennessey, who took on the position of Interim President/Chair in June 2023 after John Shea resigned from his position, spoke to the items captured in the written Interim President/Chair's Report.

Some of the key highlights, activities and successes for the OVCA and OVCA region in 2022/2023 were:

- Funding support for several Wheelchair curling initiatives in the Ottawa area
- Partnering with the Ontario Curling Council to help coordinate the booking of development clinics in the OVCA region
- Introducing funding to clubs that hosted development clinics
- Purchase of inflatable Street Curl units for use by clubs to help promote the sport of curling
- Ottawa hosting a very successful World Men's Curling Championship event
- OVCA hosting the 2023 Symposium which was the largest gathering of member clubs in many years with 80% of member clubs in attendance
- modernized and updated OVCA Bylaws to meet the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (NOCA) compliance requirements to be voted on by members at this evening's AGM
- OVCA organizational renewal with the strategic plan review process underway

For full details, please refer to the Interim President/Chair's Report.

10. World Men's Curling Championships

Elaine Brimicombe thanked Anne Davis and Stephanie Birtwistle plus the many hundreds of volunteers who helped make the 2023 World Men's Curling Championships (WMCC) such a roaring success. She noted that the event was also a big economic success for area businesses and the local economy. Currently, everyone is waiting for Curling Canada's announcement of the final accounting for the event.

11. Directors' Reports – No presentations planned. Questions and/or comments are welcomed

Paul Hennessey opened the floor for comments, feedback and/or questions from member clubs regarding the Directors' Reports.

- a. Board of Administrators – no questions nor comments
- b. Communications – no questions nor comments
- c. Development/Grants – no questions nor comments. Paul Hennessey reminded clubs that there are grants available through the OVCA.
- d. Youth – no questions nor comments. Ron Guilbault, the Youth Director, stated that the Ottawa region is doing extremely well at youth competitions at the provincial and national levels. He commended member clubs for their strong youth curling programs.
- e. IT Report – no questions nor comments. The OVCA is looking for an individual(s) to take on the IT portfolio and duties.

A question was raised from the floor asking if the OVCA would be bringing back the Colts League. Paul responded that this league was never an OVCA property and that it had been run by a group of volunteers in previous years.

12. Financial Report

Gord Butler, OVCA Treasurer, presented the financial information.

a. Review Engagement Report for 2022-23 and Approval

Gord reported that he received the signed off Engagement Report from BDO today, which is included in the Financial Statements Package provided at the AGM. Gord noted the following:

- A deficit of \$64,000 was planned for 2022-23 primarily due to the expected cost of the OVCA Symposium planned for May 2023 and the cost to purchase Streele Curl units. The actual deficit was \$48,000.
- \$11,000 was budgeted for team grants, but actual amount spent was \$18,225 even though the Board had lowered the grant allocation for adult teams due to overwhelming success of OVCA area youth teams going to U18 and U21 provincial and national championships and the Canada Winter Games.
- For the Development Fund, due to the increase in interest rate, many clubs have chosen to pay back their outstanding loan.



Moved by: Tom Sinclair – Ottawa CC
Seconded by: Doug Johnson – Arnprior CC

That the OVCA Financial Statements for the 2022-23 Fiscal year and the Review Engagement Report be approved as presented.

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

b. Budget 2023-2024 and Approval

Gord presented the proposed budget for 2023-2024. Key changes from last year:

- No Symposium (this was a one-time expense last year)
- No funding allocated for Train the Trainer Program (for Adult Learn to Curl) since this program is now handled by CurlON and the Ontario Curling Council
- A new expense for OVCA communications/marketing has been allocated
- The OVCA will be receiving legacy funds from the WMCC event, which will provide funds to be spent for prespecified/preapproved areas (e.g. Wheelchair program). These funds will be handled as liability and then recorded as revenue and expense when the money is spent. The OVCA will provide more information on the WMCC 2023 legacy funds once Curling Canada announces the accounting for the WMCC.
- The budget shows a net operating loss of \$20,775.

Moved by: Danny Martel – Granite CC
Seconded by: Dave McCutcheon – Navy CC

That the OVCA Budget for 2023-24 be approved as presented.

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

c. Motion to approve auditing firm for 2023-24

Moved by: Paul Bergeron – Rideau CC
Seconded by: Rob Mann – Cornwall CC

That the OVCA appoint BDO as auditors for 2023-24.

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

13. New Business

- a. Motion to approve updated Bylaws for the Association to meet Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) Compliancy Requirements

The OVCA Board adopted the updated Bylaws to meet ONCA compliancy requirements at the OVCA Board meeting held on August 17, 2023. The key changes to the Bylaws are as follows:

- All handling of standing and ad hoc committees have been removed from the Bylaws and will be handled via separate policies going forward
- President and Vice-President have been renamed to Chair and Vice-Chair
- A 6-year term limit has been adopted for Board of Directors
- For this year, the OVCA will elect one half of the Board Members for 2-year terms and one half of the Board Members for 3-year terms in order to have continuity on the Board. After this year, Board Members will be elected for 2-year terms and a 6-year limit for being on the Board.

The OVCA used the CurlON template which was developed by Sports Law to update the OVCA Bylaws. The updated Bylaws were reviewed internally by the Board and via an external legal review. The OVCA used Sports Law for the external legal review. The legal cost for the OVCA was about \$1,000.

Other notes:

- It is important that each club review their Bylaws and ensure that they have been updated to meet the ONCA requirements by October 19, 2024.
- Charlene Sobering can be reached at communications@ovca.com to provide a direct link to the CurlON template.

Moved by: Lisa Taylor – Brockville CC

Seconded by: Francois Maltais – Carleton Place CC

That the OVCA Bylaws be approved by the OVCA membership.

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

14. Board Members 2023-2024



- a. Election of 3-Year Directors
- b. Election of 2-Year Directors

Moved by: OVCA Board
Seconded by: Lidia Cormier – Huntley CC

That the following candidates be appointed to the OVCA Board of Directors as per OVCA Bylaw 4.8.

Name	Curling Club	Term	Term To
Gord Butler	Navy CC	3 years	Sept 2026
Anne Davis	Metcalfe CC	3 years	Sept 2026
Kaileigh Morrison*	Cornwall	3 years	Sept 2026
Charlene Sobering	Huntley CC	3 years	Sept 2026
Bill Woods Jr*	Lanark Highlands CC	3 years	Sept 2026
Jeff Adam*	RCMP CC	2 years	Sept 2025
Ron Guilbault	Russell CC	2 years	Sept 2025
Paul Hennessey	City View CC	2 years	Sept 2025
Brent Litle	Carleton Place CC	2 years	Sept 2025
Jennifer Whittaker*		2 years	Sept 2025

*New Directors to the OVCA Board

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

The first Board meeting for the newly appointed Board will be taking place directly after the adjournment of the AGM.

15. Ken Thain Awards

Honouring club members, who have made outstanding contributions and provided countless hours of volunteerism, Paul Hennessey announced this year's Ken Thain award winners:

- Stephanie Duggan – Navy CC
- Bernie Filiatrault – Lancaster CC – not available to attend the AGM
- Brad Forden – Rideau CC
- Rob Fry – Rideau CC
- Denis Leduc – Curling des Collines
- Ron Whitehorne – Prescott CC



Representatives from their respective club, introduced each winner and the winners received their award.

16. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Paul Hennessey thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

Moved by: Robert Mann – Cornwall CC

Seconded by: Ian Rathwell – Ottawa CC

That the AGM be adjourned.

There were no objections. The OVCA Annual General Meeting is adjourned at 8:58 pm.