

Candidate Biographies

Ottawa Curling Club Board election, AGM 2018

There are six (6) vacancies on the Board that need to be filled. We have eight (8) candidates for the election: four sitting directors nominated by the Board and four members nominated by the membership. The candidates' biographies are presented in alphabetical order.

Wesley Blight

AVP and Portfolio Manager

MD Financial Management

I have been an Ottawa Curling Club member in good standing since 2007 and have consistently enjoyed the quality of the club, its leagues, and membership. My wife and I look forward to each season and, in addition to enjoying my membership, want to make a greater contribution to the club's continued success.

Since 2012, I have held several board and chair positions with the CFA Society Ottawa. The Society provides opportunities for its 400 members to further their professional development, build relationships with peers, and gain a broad perspective for the financial industry and its purpose. The Society is focused on delivering value for its members and, like the sense of community I enjoy at the Ottawa Curling Club, I am most proud of the strong investment network we have helped to develop in Ottawa. I am currently the Past President of the Society.

At work, I am a Portfolio Manager and AVP with the Investment Management and Strategy team at MD Financial Management. I have the CFA, CIM, and FCSI designations and graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from uOttawa (2002). My main responsibilities at the office are managing client investments held in our fixed income funds and pools, as well as our multi-asset mutual funds.

Mike Burke

Mechanical Engineer

Specializing in Energy Systems

Michael Burke, P. Eng, MBA, has 10 years of experience in manufacturing and consulting engineering, and over 30 years in the government as an engineer (in the areas of energy efficiency, R&D and project management) and as an executive in senior management. He teaches at Algonquin College. Michael has been the OCC Match Director for the past 2 years and managed OCC projects to replace/upgrade the boiler system and several of the roofs. I have been curling at the OCC for the past 29 years and I currently play in 3 leagues.

Eddie Chow

Director of Border Compliance Operations

Descartes Systems Group

I joined the OCC as a member in 2005, curling in the Wednesday Cash League and Thursday Men's League. In 2016, I joined a Saturday Morning team.

I started curling at the club back in 2003 as a member of the Rainbow Rockers rental league. On the Executive from 2004-2007, I helped grow the Rainbow Rockers from 10 teams to 20 teams.

In 2008-2009, I was an instructor in the Getting Started League and became Curling Club Coach Trained in May 2009. I returned to the GSL for another season in 2013-14.

From 2013-2016, I served for 3 seasons as the Convenor for the Thursday Men's League.

In 2014, I was appointed to the OCC Board of Directors. A couple of my key accomplishments include securing the rock handle sponsorship for the purchase of much-needed new rocks for the club, and growing the OCC's social media presence.

I look forward to continuing to serve the membership and contributing to the club's success!

Curling Accomplishments

- Quebec Challenge Cup winner (Challenge #968, Oct 1, 2016 - Ottawa Curling Club vs Cornwall Curling Club)
- 4 x OCC Thursday Men's League Champion (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016)
- 3 x Ottawa Rainbow Rockers Curling League representative in Canadian Gay Curling Championships (2007, 2011, 2012)
- Roy Blair Champion (2010)
- Rainbow Rockers Curling League Champion (2005)

Paul Engelbrecht

Paul is long-time Board member and volunteer at the club. Prior to 2010, he served in a variety of positions on the Board, including Facilities and Vice-President. He returned to the Board in 2016 as the Ice Director where he works with Rick Allen to ensure that the membership enjoys high-quality ice.

Scott Macdonald

Territory Manager, Eastern Ontario, Diabetes Division

Medtronic

Scott Macdonald is originally from Antigonish, Nova Scotia and has been a member of the OCC since 2015. Scott has a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Cape Breton with a major in marketing. Scott works for Medtronic Diabetes Canada, a medical device company, as a territory sales manager here in Ottawa. He has extensive training and experience managing others and working in a team atmosphere to create and implement business plans, conduct market analysis, and deliver on sales objectives. In his personal time, Scott enjoys organizing community events such as his men's softball team or his father's annual memorial golf tournament in support of the Canadian Mental Health Association. On Saturday mornings, you can find him at the OCC learning the ropes and enjoying the club with his teammates and follow curlers or hanging out with his 4 year old son Alexander (already an avid fan of his dad's curling, poor kid!) and his partner Mélanie enjoying everything our great city has to offer.

Pamela Ponc

Senior Manager

Centre for Health Promotion, Public Health Agency of Canada

I am delighted to be considered for a position on the Board of Directors of the Ottawa Curling Club. Thank you to my nominators, Jean-Francois Croteau and Christine Lee. I have been a member in good-standing since 2013, and active league and extra-curricular participant. I moved to Ottawa that year, and was lucky enough to have been referred to Dalal, who helped secure me a position on a mixed Friday night team. Not only did I meet three people who would become some of my closest friends in Ottawa on that team, the members of the Club have become a staple of community in my new home town.

This is why I would like to join the Board – to contribute some of my skills and energy to the Club that has brought so much to my life. If elected, my goals would be to help ensure that the Club: a) continues to offer a range of high quality and fun curling opportunities to its members; b) remains in financial good-standing; and c) has a thriving and supportive community.

I believe that I have a wealth of experience to offer the Board. I have a PhD in Human Kinetics and an Honours Degrees in Sport Management. I am Past-President of the Velox Rugby Club in Victoria, past-Member-at-Large of the Vancouver Island Women's Rugby League with responsibility for scheduling, and past-Chair of the West Kootenay Women's Association. I have also worked for non-profit organizations governed by volunteer boards, so have a strong understanding of respective roles and responsibilities. Specifically, I could bring communications, administration, and strategic thinking to the OCC Board. I am currently a Senior Manager in the Public Service of Canada.

Ian Rathwell

Business Continuity Planning Officer

Public Safety Canada

I started curling around age 7, playing with the Little Rocks program at the Granite. I quickly started bonspieling around the Ottawa Valley, and played competitively through bantam and junior, spending many weekends crisscrossing the province. After playing in several leagues across the city, I joined the OCC in the 2007-2008 season, and have played Mondays, Wednesdays, or both ever since. I have been Competition Coach certified, and have had the opportunity to work with some of the top coaches in the world as staff at both the Amethyst and Trillium Curling Camps. Last season, I became involved with the Board to fill a vacancy, and have seen the important work it does to keep our club operating smoothly for our members.

After a decade filling various management, finance and purchasing roles at Bushtukah, I joined the federal government in 2017. After a year and a half supporting the political financing team at Elections Canada, I am undertaking a new challenge this month in business continuity planning for Public Safety Canada.

David Taylor

Lawyer

Practising civil litigation and administrative and constitutional law

I started curling at age 9, when I started curling with my sister in a Little Rocks program in Edmonton. Curling has been a key part of my life since then, notably over the last six years at the OCC, first in the University and Young Professionals League and subsequently on Saturday mornings. This will be my second year convening the University league with Jack Glover.

By day and in the off-season, I am a lawyer, practising in civil litigation and administrative and constitutional law. I have also had significant business management experience, as I was on the management committee of a 20-person law firm with offices in Ottawa and Vancouver for 3.5 years. I hope to bring these skills and perspectives to the OCC's Board over the next three years.

Young curlers are the future of our sport, so I hope to have the opportunity to use my time on the OCC board, if elected, to focus on drawing youth to the sport and keeping them curling as they transition into adulthood.