

Youth League Report to the AGM – 2025/26

Despite our challenges last year, our Youth Curling Program has had a good season. A special thank you to the RA Centre, which has been our host each Sunday. As well to Ottawa Hunt where our competitive U12 team has been practicing regularly to prep for the Little Rocks Championship. Thanks also Goldline who sponsors our weekly Hot Chocolate and to Stephen Whitar, who's been our stalwart HC expert almost every week! The curlers very much enjoyed his hot chocolate more than the times I had to jump in and make it.

Some highlights from this season:

- In lieu of the Christmas party, which wouldn't quite work in our hosted space, we gave each of our curlers and coaches a CHCC branded travel mug for our weekly hot chocolate. Thanks to Judy who helped sponsor those!
- We shifted to following more of Curling Canada's Youth curriculum, and we've seen some great development in our curler's skills.
- We sent 13 of 23, U12s and 7 of 10, U15/U18s to different bonspiels all over the OVCA.
- Our U12 boys team won the Zone 3 Little Rocks Playdowns. The championship will be played March 7th at Rideau CC.
- We've begun a multi-week tournament for each of our age groups, so they can have the fun of a little bit of competition to end the season.

We're looking forward to being back at the revamped Carleton Heights next season. We'll be hosting 2 youth bonspiels. Our first will be in November, with a return to the 'Cash-on-the-Wall' spiel we regularly hosted in the past. Second will be the Little Rocks Zone 3 playdowns in January. We earned the right to host that thanks to the U12's winning the zones earlier in February. We'll probably be reaching out for some volunteer assistance, thank you to those who have gotten in touch already! The members of this year's team who have aged out for next year should be there to help things run smoothly as well.

The 2026/27 season looks to be exciting. Most of our curlers seem ready to return, and parents will appreciate the indoor club house for viewing! We'll look for more opportunities to play in bonspiels and other clubs have reached out about 'friendly' matches between teams. With the Olympics, we've had parents contact us about kids who would like to try curling for the first time, which will hopefully give us a few new U12s since a number of our players will be aging up to U15.

Lastly, thanks to the membership of CHCC for the continued support of youth curling.