the unBiased! NEWS

Collingwood Lawn Bowl-ing Club

Volume 1, Issue 3 Collingwood, Ontario November 2006

Words From the President

As we wrap up an incredible season, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who made our Club the success it is. Your hard work and dedication made our Club the success it is.

Looking ahead, I'm thrilled to welcome to our Board;

- Geoff Taylor who will take on the task of running tournaments for the Club, and
- Tom Peacock who we all know is a MAN of all trades, and our new Vice-President.



I personally look forward to working with Tom and sharing the workload of the club. Please join me in giving these two gentlemen a warm welcome as we prepare for even a stronger season in 2027.

On the agenda for the 2027 season are several issues to be addressed. We will continue to have; a SINGLES ladder, a DOUBLES competition, and Month of June on Wednesdays for coaching classes, but this season will be divided into beginners and advanced bowlers.

We have 3 certified coaches; Tom Bell, Barry Zimmermann, and Jane Moore.

We plan on have more evening bowling; Tuesday, Thursday and Sundays will stay the same for jitneys, perhaps a few changes involved to switch things up.

NEW PROJECTS: In-house tournaments, to help bowlers become more competent in themselves to enter outside tournaments. We plan on hosting 3 Outside tournaments (July, Aug. and Sept).....YOUR HELP IS REQUIRED!

We are also looking for a few volunteers to work on grant submissions. We want to apply for equipment for the club, one being a greens roller, worth approximately $15,000. We have our club name in to host the 2028 Provincial playoffs and on standby for 2027. So needless to say, we need to keep our greens in prestigious order.

REMEMBER: This is "YOUR" Club. Please get involved by helping out in areas that appeal to you. STAY HEALTHY AND HAPPY OVER THE WINTER MONTHS and you will be receiving e-mails with what members are doing, whether travelling, baking, crafting or relaxing over these next few months.

Grounds News

On Friday, October 23, "Dol Turf Restoration Ltd." Of Bradford arrived at our Club to aerate the Greens. This is an important process that should take place once a year either in the spring or late fall. A machine removes plugs from the green and then sand is brushed in to fill the holes. The benefits of this process are; it relieves compaction letting the ground decompress, it improves air and water flow allowing oxygen, water and nutrients to reach deep into the root zone and it controls thatch which is dead and decaying organic material which impedes good growth. The green usually takes 3 to 4 weeks to fully recover. The results are a healthy playable surface for bowling.



Last winter our green was covered in snow most of the season which was good. Winter damage to the turf, "winterkill" refers to turfgrass injury caused by harsh cold weather conditions, ice and extreme temperature shifts, and ice.

Competition

The majority of play at the club is in a "jitney" format. This is a casual drop-in game where teams are randomly formed from players who show up and the draw master balances the teams, and games are played in a relaxed social atmosphere.

This year the club introduced two competitive formats;

- doubles, and
- singles tournaments,

which determined our club champions.



Competing at the club level is a good way to improve bowling skills like strategic thinking, sustained focus and stress management. Playing competitively within the club makes playing in surrounding clubs and regional tournaments less intimating and builds confidence. The greatest satisfaction comes from performing under pressure. Now you can choose to play just for fun or competitively.

Shed

Our new shed was purchased from the Stayner Lawn Bowling Club which, unfortunately after 102 years of existence, had to close its doors this fall. A few of our members travelled to Stayner, disassembled and transported it to our club where it was reassembled and now is situated behind our main shed.





It will provide much needed storage space. The area around the new shed could be enhanced as a garden space, so members with green thumbs, can submit suggestions and ideas.



CLBC in the Community

Hawaii Theme Night

CLBC held an in-house Hawaii Theme Night with BBQ on Aug 20, 2026. Three 6-end fun games were played. Proceeds of ***$288*** was raised for the Georgian Hospice.









CLBC Fundraiser Potluck

CLBC held a Fundraiser Potluck on Oct 4, 2026 for the Salvation Army foodbank, in memory of longtime member and friend Bruce Lowe. A wonderful potluck was held, followed by a game of Bowls. The Club raised ***$800.***







Ontario Service Award

As well as being a member of the CLBC, Bill Scott is a member of the Prime Time Club in Wasaga Beach. They nominated some of their active volunteers for the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards, and Bill was presented with his at the Club's AGM. Well done Bill!



Gimme Shelter

Is there anything more essential to life than having a roof over one's head? You're going to have more fun and get more done if you can find shelter from the harsh conditions that Planet Earth sometimes sends our way.

In the past many months, it has been hard to miss the construction that has been taking place immediately adjacent to our clubhouse. You may remember that what was there before was an open-air play space which got a lot of use as a Collinwood sports facility. There was hockey and recreational skating in the winter; pickleball and floor hockey in the summer.

But it wasn't perfect. There was an insurmountable problem that messed things up from time to time.

The weather.

Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot, it can play havoc with what we want to do outside. Snow is welcome if you're a skier and you have access to groomed trails; not so welcome if you want to play hockey, but there is six inches of snow on the ice... and not a Zamboni in sight!

Likewise, in summer, sunshine is welcome if you're outside playing pickleball and the temperatures are temperate. But when the mercury climbs into the 90's with not a whisper of a breeze - and it's hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk - the direct sun is not your friend.

So... what if you could bring the ***out***side ***in***side?

Imagine a lofty space with a solid roof that keeps the rain and snow out, but with open sides which allow the breeze in... along with the natural light?

Gimme shelter?

You got it, Collingwood!

In the past 6 months what we have seen rise up from the ground right next door to our club is an impressively large structure with low walls that have plenty of air space above them. And a roof. This covered playground is now a sheltered space that can accommodate all kinds of sports... starting with hockey. The same network of pipes that have long been under the floor will allow artificial ice to be formed on the concrete slab. And when the ice is gone, the floor can be put to good use for pickleball, basketball, gymnastics... and who knows what?

Gimme shelter... and bring it on!

The bottom line is that this covered play space will be able to adapt to all kinds of activities in all kinds of weather and be ten times more useful than what was there before. And it's a giant step forward to consolidate the reputation of the Central Park area as Collingwood's vibrant hub for sporting activities... with the arena, 2 baseball diamonds, pickleball courts, a curling rink, the YMCA, a lawn bowling club... and now the addition of this brand new, covered, multi-purpose sporting venue.

And... the Collingwood Lawn Bowling Club is right in the middle of it all.

Hallelujah!

Andrew Crighton