

Club Welcomes Rob Swan from Curling Across the Nation

Rob Swan hails from the small town of Harvey Station, New Brunswick but is a man with big dreams. Founder of “Curling Across the Nation”, Rob has travelled across Canada and internationally to promote his love of curling and to help curling clubs raise awareness about this great sport.

It all started back in 2014 when the two-sheet curling centre in his home town needed plumbing repairs. At the time, Rob was splitting his time working two weeks at home and two weeks out west. When he decided to curl around New Brunswick to raise funds for the Harvey Station Curling centre, a buddy said “you work across the country so why not curl across the country”! And that’s how “Curling Across the Nation” got its start.

Curling Across the Nation is a simple concept – Rob decides where he’s travelling to and sends an email to area curling clubs asking if he can “curl just one game” in each club. Rob’s first game was at the St. Vital Curling Club in Winnipeg and he hasn’t looked back.

To date, Rob has curled in over 407 curling centres in 12 countries. His personal record was in 2016 when he curled “just one game” in 10 different countries in 11 days! When asked about other memorable moments, he replied that every curling centre has been a great experience due to the warm welcome and variety of curling experiences he’s had. Rob recalled curling with a 98-year old woman in Winnipeg and trying wheelchair curling, to name a few.

When asked about funding for his travels, Rob humbly replies that he’s “no one special” so getting sponsorship is a challenge. He is quick to add that a few companies have provided equipment and some funding but he pays for his own flights and travel expenses.

On his current **Curling Across the Nation** tour, Rob is visiting 13 centres in 13 days in Southeastern Ontario. He dropped into the Campbellford & District Curling & Racquet Club on Friday, November 7th for a 9:00 am curling game.

Mayor Bob Crate, Councillor Rob Pope, Meyers Sports Club President Bob Hemming, Campbellford & District Curling & Racquet Club President Tim Blake along with two dozen club members were on hand to welcome Rob to our Club.

Mayor Crate warmly welcomed Rob and presented him with a certificate from the Municipality while Bob Hemming offered Rob a giftbag with a shirt and hat bearing the Club's logo.

Rob's thank you speech was short but effective. He noted how important it is for elected officials to recognize the value of our centre as an all-ages, inclusive community hub for curling, squash and fitness and to consider supporting the club with tax dollars.



Rob's other key message was about Curling Canada's new "*Grow the Game*" campaign. Hoping to capitalize on Olympic and Paralympic fever, Curling Canada has launched a new *Grow the Game* campaign to introduce more people to the game. *Grow the Game* encourages curling associations, curling clubs and individual curlers to "Take the Pledge" to expand the sport. A

pledge could be anything from starting a new league, inviting new friends to the curling rink or sharing a love for the game on social media.

For more information and to make your own pledge, visit

<https://www.curling.ca/growthegame/>. Personally, I've made a pledge to post more

action photos on the club's Facebook and Instagram pages and to help out with the 6-week Learn to Curl Program. What about you?

Rob took to the ice for a fun 6-end game. Eunice Stapley skipped Rob's team with Cheri Tully and Mark Rendell-Green rounding out the foursome. Their opponents, and, eventual winners, were skipped by Ed Stapley with teammates Don Wedderspoon, Charlotte Hastings and Janice Wedderspoon. Fans cheered Rob on from behind the glass while enjoying refreshments and baked goods provided by Susan McIntyre.



The highlight of Rob's visit was no doubt the traditional post-game beverage and chat session. From his extensive interactions with curling centres across Canada and Europe, Rob generously shared interesting insights and innovative ideas about how to promote our Club and raise much-needed funds.

For example, Rob shared a sponsor sheet that we can use to benefit from his 2025/26 **Curling Across the Nation** tour. With Sponsor Sheet in hand, members ask friends, family and co-workers to sponsor Rob at \$2 (or whatever amount) for each of the 30 games he is scheduled to play this year. Rob does the curling and we collect the money – a win-win proposition! Sponsor sheets with instructions will be emailed and posted on the club's website to provide more details.

Rob's visit to our Club was so much more than "just one game" on his current tour. It was an opportunity to renew our excitement about curling, explore ideas for growing the sport in our community and to forge new friendships. Thank you Rob and safe travels from your new friends in Campbellford!

Story and photos by Jeanette Cournoyer.