



Did You Know...

Part I...

A fixture in Prescott's sporting history since the late 1800s, the Prescott Curling Club has survived many moves in its century and a half legacy. The Prescott Curling Club was officially founded in 1893 after gaining a charter from the Canadian Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, splitting members off from the already established Brockville Branch. The club's pin, featuring the Windmill, is still shown on their logo to this day. The sport had been played in Prescott for several decades before the club's inception. Here at the Prescott Museum, we have a photograph of these early pre-club games.

During the early decades of the club, they would often play games on the frozen St. Lawrence during the winter, while also using the old drill shed on the north-east corner of Prince and Dibble Streets, on the location of the Leo Boivin Centre today. A covered open-aired building built in 1867, the drill shed was used for skating, hockey and curling along with another ice rink at the waterfront between West and George Streets, dubbed "Kelly's Rink."

Both were immensely popular locations. By the 1920's, the club had moved to a wooden building on the south side of Henry Street east of St. Lawrence Street.

It was here that the club's first few official games as part of the Central Ontario League were played against clubs such as Brockville and Nappanee.



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Part 2...

After the Henry Street building was torn down in the late 1920s to make way for new homes, the club then moved to a vacant lot on the Wiser's Distillery property (now the location of the Prescott Tennis Club), which they rented until the complex was purchased by Prescott Brass in 1945 and the club was once again looking for a new home.

Due to the efforts of members Jack Toshack and Lorne Armstrong, the club secured two plots of ice at the open-air rink at the Dominion Lighthouse until it garnered enough funds to build their own rink. In 1947 the Prescott Curling Club launched a successful fundraising campaign and moved to Henry Street on the south side west of West Street, where the club still resides to this day.



The building was constructed by member Jack Saunders' firm, J.F. Saunders Construction and opened for play in January 1948. For the first five years of the building's operations, it used natural ice that was maintained by Charlie Fortier, who was one of the first employed by the club. In 1953 artificial ice was installed. This would be one of two major upgrades that the club would see during the early 1950s.



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Part 3...

In 1952 a team consisting of Prescott Curling Club members would compete in the Canadian Branch RCCC Tweedsmuir competition, where they would receive a set of granite stones, the standard for curling that had been implemented in the game worldwide since curling's debut at the 1924 Olympics, thus ending the club's usage of the more brittle and less effective iron stones. Some of these old iron stones still exist today and one of them can be found at the Prescott Museum.

The Henry Street building has gone through many renovations and improvements over the years. It maintains an active membership 76 years since its opening and now offers a variety of divisions and classes ,making the game of curling more accessible to those in the community.

Information provided by Morris' History of Prescott by J.A. Morris: Published 2001.

**You can learn more about Prescott's sporting history at the
Prescott Museum and Visitor Center
202 King Street West
Open 11 - 5, Wednesday - Saturday**