

EYCC Winter 2025 Closure

THE TIMELINE



Monday, January 6

Approximately 11:00pm

- A brine line on sheet 4 was punctured during routine maintenance
- The ice tech immediately turned off the brine pump and removed the rocks from the ice
- Brine covered the sheet 4 house to the hog line, parts of sheets 3 and 5, and soaked into the sand below
- Ice techs used shop vacuums to remove as much brine from ice surface as possible



Tuesday, January 7

- Leagues and members were notified of the closure while the club waited for an official notice from the City
- The City's refrigeration contractor made emergency repairs to the puncture and restarted the plant
- Office staff reached out to ice techs in the curling community and shared information with City staff regarding a course of action to minimize the damage and ensure safe playable ice

Wednesday, January 8

- City staff formulated a plan to patch the hole in the ice
- Office continues to communicate advice from outside ice techs with the City
- The Board convenes a special meeting to review the situation.

Thursday, January 9

- Leagues, event coordinators, and members are advised that the club will be closed until at least January 15th
- Club Manager continues to communicate with outside ice techs volunteering their advice, based on photos and visits to the club.

Friday, January 10

- Board sends email to the City's Facility and Parks and Recreation managers, supervisors, executives, and city councillors expressing concern over the attempted ice repairs, lack of communication, and cooperation
- The City responds stating that staff have the situation under control and will continue with the existing repair plan

Saturday, January 11

- The City's facility manager makes his first visit to the club to survey the repairs
- A Level III ice tech from another club visits the club and speaks to City staff, advising that the repair process would likely be unsuccessful
- Recommends to removing the sand in the affected area to ensure playable ice conditions with no future problems caused by brine

Sunday, January 12

- Consulting ice tech provides a comprehensive written report of his observations and recommendations to the club.
- The Office shares the report with the City staff, managers, supervisors, and executives, and councillors



Monday, January 13th

- City notifies the club of its intention to change course
- The plant is turned off to begin melting the entire ice sheet
- Members are notified of the update and advised that there would be no curling before Feb 1, with updates to come
- The Board meets to discuss the closure and implications for staff and members
- Club staff begin organizing social events with leagues to support bar and kitchen staff and keep members engaged



Wednesday, January 15

- The Board communicates updates to members regarding the closure and the actions taken by club staff and the Board

January 16 - 19

- Sand is removed from a smaller area than expected. Flooding of the sand floor begins

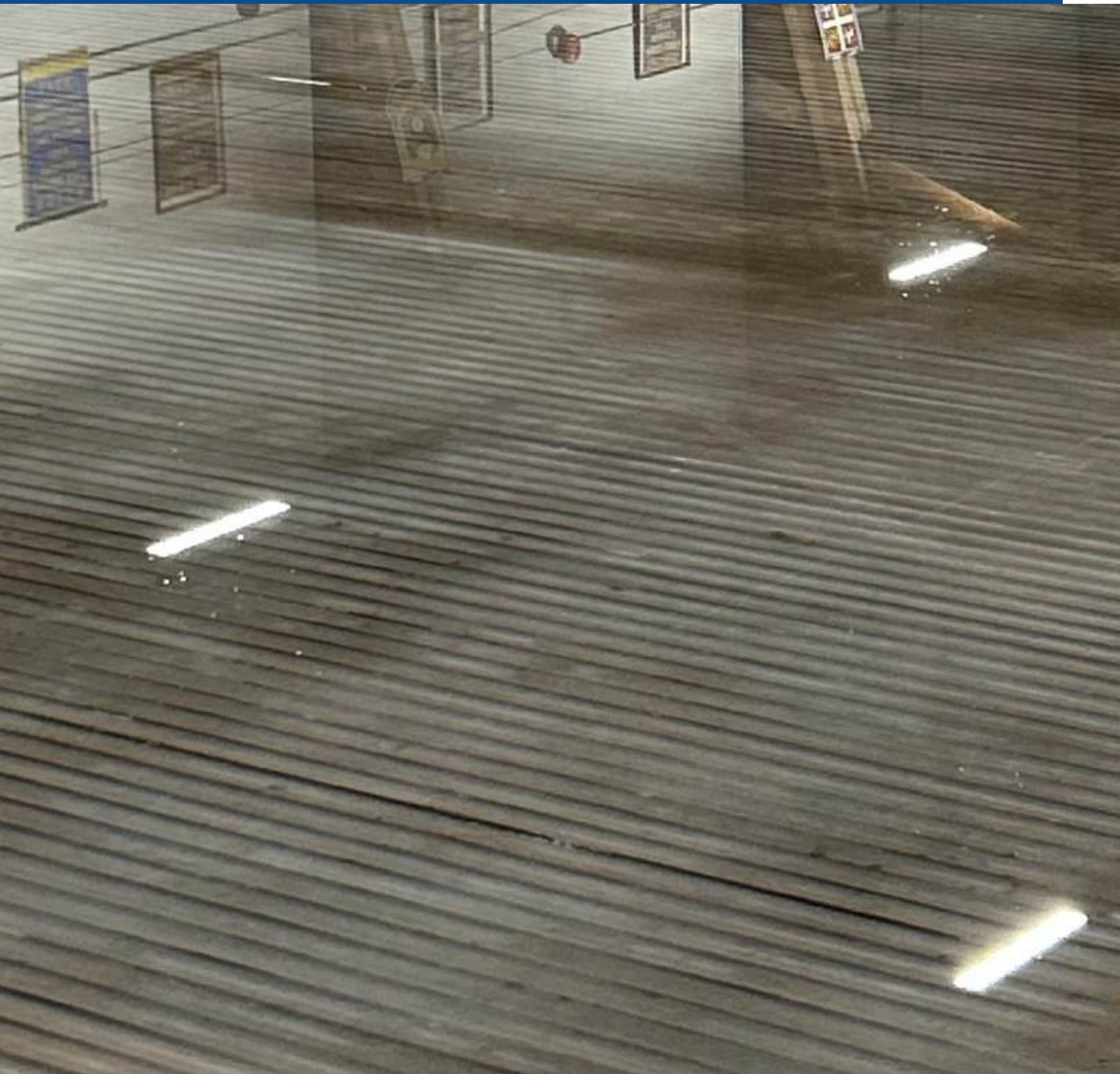
Monday, January 20

- The Board decides to express concerns to the City again, about the progress of the installation with brine still present in the sand



Thursday, January 23

- The Office arranges for two outside ice technicians to visit the club and assess the current situation
- City staff are also invited to participate
- The consulting ice techs confirm that brine has spread throughout the ice shed and is preventing the ice from freezing.
- They recommend that the entire sand floor be removed and replaced
- The City's supervisors indicate verbally that they will follow this recommendation



Friday, January 24

- Propane heaters are brought in to facilitate melting
- The Board sends an email to members confirming that no firm date for reopening has yet been provided

Monday, January 27

- The Board sent an email to the City requesting details of the work plan and expected timeline for reopening
- The City has cancelled permits until February 18 however there is no guaranteed date to return

The next few weeks

- The Office and Board will continue to monitor and advocate for the cleanup and re-install to be completed as thoroughly and quickly as possible.
- Information will be communicated to leagues and members as it becomes available
- As much notice as possible will be given before curling resumes



East York Curling Club

Excerpts from the proposal to
transition facility operations



Operational challenges

EYCC has increasingly experienced operational challenges that threaten our ability to deliver curling programs and special events.

Reduced access to the facility

Insufficient city staffing resulted in instances of early building closure or late openings affecting leagues and events.

Deteriorating ice conditions

A shortage of trained City staff and restrictive City employment practices prevent EYCC from seeking assistance from qualified non-City ice technicians and specialists.

Safety concerns

Limited training and lack of exposure to advancements in ice making has resulted in poor quality ice and more frequent slips and falls.

Demands on EYCC staff

Time spent supporting City staff with non-EYCC permits and coordinating facility staff put pressure on EYCC staff to carry out club-related work.

Financial challenges

Rising permit fees have forced EYCC to regularly increase membership fees at the risk of making curling less affordable.

Regular City fee increases

The City permit fees rise yearly irrespective of the actual facility operating costs. EYCC must decide whether to absorb the increase or pass it on to members.

Restrictive permit rules

Conditions placed on permit holders prevent EYCC from carrying out certain advertising and sponsorship activities to help offset costs.

Inability to compete

Lack of control over costs and inability to generate revenue from rentals put EYCC at a significant competitive disadvantage over other nearby curling clubs. EYCC fees now exceed those clubs.

Curling affordability

Rising costs will limit EYCC's ability to continue to offer affordable experiences for seniors and subsidized programs for youth and underserved communities.

EYCC proposal

EYCC is interested in entering into a **lease agreement** with the City to take over the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the building, ice shed, and parking lot.

We believe this agreement will have a positive impact for the City, EYCC, and the community.

EYCC will hire and manage staff to:

- Maintain and clean the facility and parking lot year-round
- Install and maintain the ice throughout the curling season
- Maximize facility usage through non-EYCC rentals
- Continue to manage membership, curling programs and events

EYCC will handle future operating costs, including:

- Utilities
- Routine maintenance and repairs to the building, ice shed, and ice equipment*
- Required capital expenditures and repairs less an agreed threshold**
- Maintaining bar and kitchen facilities*
- Garbage and snow removal*

* Subject to a current state of good repair, and terms and timelines to be negotiated.

** Capital expenditures greater than the threshold amount, including the planned ice shed floor replacement remain the responsibility of the City

Benefits for EYCC

Managing the curling facility gives EYCC greater flexibility to offer a range of curling programs and events to our growing membership.

Add revenue sources

Sponsorship, advertising, and increased rentals provide additional revenue to help offset operational costs and keep membership fees affordable.

Provide member assistance

Greater financial flexibility allows EYCC to fund member support programs and explore new curling programs to foster inclusive growth and increase the sport's reach.

Maximize ice time

Setting our own schedule and managing ice maintenance provides flexibility to optimize use of the ice shed without additional permit costs and helps meet demand for curling in the city.

Improve experiences

Managing all aspects of the operation allows EYCC to provide better experiences for members and rental groups, on and off the ice.

Benefits for the City

Offloading the facility operation to EYCC alleviates some of the City's current administrative and staffing challenges.

Safer ice conditions

EYCC can hire highly qualified ice technicians and consultants to improve the quality and safety of the ice.

Eliminate a 'one-off' facility

Reduce City operational costs and the need for the City to hire and train specialized ice maintenance staff for a single unique facility.

Supports Parks & Rec Curling Strategy

The City's [curling strategy](#) assesses the trends and identifies opportunities to increase public interest in and access to the sport. The report found that that the delivery model for curling in Toronto presents a barrier to broader participation.

Positive experience for the public

EYCC can deliver a simplified rental process with greater flexibility, greater reach, and improved communications for outside rental groups.

Benefits to the community

Managing the curling facility and operation allows EYCC to continue promoting the sport of curling and maintaining an important social network for our members.

- Continue to bring together people from across the GTA to play in our adult and senior leagues, youth programs, and participate in curling and off-ice social events year-round
- Increase our reach to diverse and underrepresented demographics
- Build positive partnerships with local schools and community groups

Curling is...

Low-impact physical activity suitable for any age from youth to senior.

Accessible to people with a wide range of physical abilities.

Growing in popularity although several private clubs in Toronto have closed in recent years. This is putting pressure on existing clubs to meet demand and keep curling accessible.