

## **2022/23 Volunteers of the Year Recipients:**

- **Val Kittner:** As the convenor of the Friday Night Social League, Val's strong leadership, organization skills and dedication had a significant and positive impact on the league and our curling club. She took on the initiative to enhance the brand of the "Social League" with positive development in all areas. Her networking allowed her to tap into the working community to attract a younger demographic which has brought 30 new curlers to the Club growing the league from 7 to 15 teams. This has resulted in significant incremental revenue for the Club through registration fees and bar usage. Val also initiated and organized the league's very successful 25th anniversary celebration, hiring a local band, securing prizes and creating various fun activities.
- **Dennis Rolland:** A three time VoY recipient, over the course of the year Dennis has put in immeasurable hours, working with multiple stakeholders, in leading the Club's journey on the path of accessibility. In addition, Dennis has taken the initiative to be our resident historian. This past year he took the initiative to write articles for the Doppler and the Club's internal newsletter. And if that weren't enough, Dennis is the convenor for the Mon/Wed tag league.
- **Marilyn Kreutzer:** Two time winner. If you are ever looking for Marilyn here at the club, chances are you will find her in the kitchen - cooking, cleaning or organizing. Those who have worked with Marilyn will tell you she is super organized, and has the highest standards of cleanliness. And she makes cooking for 30 to 60 people look easy! Curlers from other club's in the area who participated in HCC events will tell you that our club has a reputation for delicious meals.
- **Dale Heiydt:** Most of you would not have visibility to Dale's incredible contributions, but he played a major role in the Rocks to Ridges sponsorship team. Even though the tournament is not until August, Dale started securing vendor support in April and didn't stop for four months. Try to imagine how many hours are involved in personally contacting 98 potential sponsors, and then signing up an incredible 77

of them. The relationships that Dale has built has positioned the R2R golf tournament and any other sponsorship opportunities well for the future sponsorships.

- ***Sue Bionda***: Sue is always willing, not to just help with kitchen duties, but also with being in charge of planning, preparation, and clean-up for multiple Master and GrandMaster meals. In addition, Sue administers our weekly capital fund draw.
  - ***Martha Lapp***: As one of our team of three bar managers, Martha has done a great job coordinating bartenders for all our bonspiels, Masters & Grandmasters games, and Friday Evening Rec League games and often tends the bar herself. In addition, she is the convenor of the Monday Evening Ladies League, co-chair of the Ladies' Open Bonspiel and co-organizer of the Ladies' year end banquet.
  - ***Larry Hope***: Over this past year, Larry consistently stepped up and volunteered his time with the various youth programs at the club, including the many school programs we run and our after-school league. He is patient and positive with the youths and is a very dependable volunteer. In addition, Larry offered to help with our adult Learn to Curl program and provided excellent feedback in helping participants new to the sport become more comfortable and competent on the ice.
  - ***Richard Tousignant***: Many of you know Richard because he is the first to help behind the bar after league play. Many also know him as the organizer of Wednesday Men and Sunday couples golf outings for many of us curlers. And a lot of you know Richard as the chairperson for last year's R2R, which brought in record revenue for our club. In addition to all that, Richard was also our Volunteer Director this past year, and when we were unable to recruit a Sponsorship director, he willingly volunteered to take on that role.
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## **Lifetime Achievement Award**

- **Nicole Dutkiewicz:** Joined curling club 43 years ago, and many of us new members may not have had visibility to Nicole's many contributions to the club, so let me give you a sampling: In addition to being on the BoD for 25 years, including 3 years as president, Nicole: instrumental in founding the Little Rocks Program; created the Friday Night Social League; created Bring A Friend to Curling Events; personally organized numerous special fundraising events, dinners, dances, spiels; personally ran numerous curling clinics, curling 101, and school programs; organized a Burn the Mortgage dinner dance; and founded the Steak Spiel. In recognition of her many contributions to youth curling, she was awarded the Ontario Provincial Sports Achievement Certificate from Premier Bob Rae and also awarded the Huntsville Sports Hall of Fame Award for Volunteerism. The criteria to be awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award is to be someone "who significantly contributed to the Club's sustainable growth and success through their leadership and contributions over multiple years and in multiple areas", and Nicole certainly is a worthy recipient.