

Monday, November 4, 2024

Burlington Curling Club in Burlington, Ontario

The USA Friendly team was greeted under an arch of 16 brooms, and a very fine Burlington High School marching band at the Burlington Curling Club. Karen Watson opened the Ceremonial tour with welcome remarks and 4 teams from both USA and Canada were piped on the ice. The club offered a healthy lunch with entertainment by the BCC and USA ladies. The BCC club president, Martin Lyndon introduced himself and the World Curling president, Beau Welling. Wendy Morgan, who was inducted into the Governor General curling club, warmly welcomed the lady curlers. Matthew Allen of Ontario Curling and World Champion Curler, 3-time Brier winner, Pat Ryan shared a word about the lady curlers' impact on the future of the sport. Karen was presented with the US Senior Women's Friendly Tour banner by our Captain, Cindy Wilson-Nordskog, from Duluth.



Tuesday, November 5,
2024

Leaside Curling Club in Leaside, Ontario, Canada

Team USA was welcomed to a Taylor Swift Road walk of fame under the Leaside ladies' brooms and piping onto the ice. Ice wine toasts to the teams at lunch, a treat to the locals and visitors. Audrey led the ladies in early warm-up exercises and spoke of the clubs she visited in the United States including Broomstones, Utica, Denver, Belfast, Maine, Cape Cod.



Wednesday, November 6, 2024
Idylwylde Golf and Country Club
Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

The ice was brand new and the teams had time to take a few slides before the start of the game. The Broome Belles' Vice had an exciting end. The Sudbury Golf and Country Club invited the Mayor of Sudbury to address the USWCA Friendship tour at lunch. Mayor Paul Scheywer spoke about news of the nickel industry in Sudbury. Captain Cindy presented the USWCA banner to the Ladies of the IGCC. The outside view from the terrace was breathtaking.



Thursday, November 7, 2024
Huntsville Curling Club, Huntsville, Canada

The President talked about the HCC Stick invention from their club and their sponsoring Rachel Homan, from the IGCC in Ottawa. The Piper led teams onto the ice, the USA had 1 win over team Canada and an exciting measure for the tie by the Guarding Gals. There were some close games. The USA ladies sang several songs including the Canadian Anthem. The games

continued with a trivia contest after lunch. The creativity on and off the ice was amazing.



Friday, November 8, 2024

Quinte Curling Club, Belleville, Ontario

A Broom Arch welcomed the USA into the Quinte Curling Club with a warm room full of cheer. Canada and the USA were well-matched. The USA had Canadian hats and props to share their host's home ice spirit. We had a wonderful Italian Dinner with our Canadian friends.



Saturday, November 10 to Sunday, November 11
 Ottawa Billets
 Ottawa, Canada

Ottawa, home of Rachel Homan, included a stop at Rideau Curling Club. The best surprise was a scavenger hunt through the city including the Hockey Hall of Fame. The USA ladies were taken around many parliament buildings and the By Market. The USA ladies had a lovely meal at one of the billet's home



Sunday, November 10, 2024

Hunt Club Golf and Curling Club, Ottawa, Canada

The location at the Hunt Club was elegant and the hospitality was superb. The ice was fast and the curl was too. Special thanks to the ice crew, our Guarding Gals opposing skip, Kim's husband. The best part of the banquet was the chance to catch up with old friends, Nancy and Lisa, our couriers, had some fun.



On the way to West Montreal. Our journey took us to glorious Montebello for lunch and an unforgettable glimpse of the curling, indoor swimming pool and gym.



Monday, November 11

USA ladies were honored to attend the Beechwood Cemetery on Monday, November 11, Canada's Remembrance Day. Honoring a military flyover. The military wives choir made this day a heartfelt moment.



Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Montreal West Curling Club,
West Montreal, Canada

Good curling on some fast ice, and a toast to the piper just before the start of some fast curling. After a spectacular lunch, the ladies had a complimentary tour of the Chateau Ramezay, the home of the 4th and last Governor in old Montreal. The USA ladies sang the American and Canadian anthems and one goodie inspired by the Beatles.



Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Royal Montreal Curling Club, founded 1807

Montreal, Canada

RMCC Ladies curled in their tartan kilts while a piper warmly greeted the USA ladies with the history of the Regimental pipers. Team USA was piped to the dining room and the ladies all toasted each other for the wonderful sportsmanship. RMCC President Caie and the first RMCC female president, Dr. Pat Forbes, (1997 photo) spoke well of RMCC women's commitment to lady curling. The first lady curlers were formed in 1897. She talked about the royal seal's inscription and the gentlemanly intent of curling. The USA ladies sang their last songs for the tour and put on a passionate show of flags for the American Anthem. The Canadian ladies wrapped up the tour through songs and music.



Final tally USA 10 Canada 22

When the American ladies arrived in Toronto on Sunday, November 3rd, friendships formed while exchanging pins, high fiving our singing practice, and sharing the journey. Curling words were put to songs such as the Yellow Submarine, Happy Trails, and Getting to Know You. While curling at the eight clubs, there were opportunities to visit landmarks, and one in particular was the Nickel Mine in Sudbury. In a short conversation with staff at the Science Education Center, we learned about the history of the mine and the innovations. In the meantime, Sudbury had quite a week. The ice crew at Idylwyld Golf and Country Club had compressor issues and worked hard the day before to ensure we had ice to curl on and all were impressed. Idylwyld Golf and Curling Club was a beautiful space to unwind.

Another spot that impacted the ladies was Miller's Oven outside of Ottawa. This is a non-profit restaurant where volunteers serve breakfast and lunch to support senior programming and health services in the region. We managed to devour a mile-high meringue pie on the bus to our Billets.

We will always remember our Billets from Belleville to Ottawa. We walked the Rideau River and drove through the Manotick area. A triple rainbow made a lasting impression with our hosts and endless pictures in Belleville. Montreal concluded the USA Canadian Friendship tour with warm and fuzzy feelings. The USA ladies were piped upstairs to the banquet for a toast and curling blessing. Diane Boles and Kerrie Gottschild's daughters and friends arrived to watch their curling matches at the Royal Montreal Curling Club. The remainder of the tour was a sweet reminder that loved ones were home rooting for us.

