



**Quebec Challenge Cup
Challenge #1024**

Lennoxville Curling Club (Challenger) vs
Ottawa Curling Club (Host)
December 29 2023



The Ottawa Curling Club was closed for the holidays and the Metcalfe Curling Club graciously opened their doors as a venue for Challenge #1024 to take place. Lennoxville travelled three and a quarter hour for 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 29, 2023.

The host club, represented by Billy Woods (who is a member of both the Ottawa and Metcalfe clubs) greeted the teams and explained the double-rink format play and traditions. The four leads drew cards to determine the random sheet assignment and opponents. This was followed by drinking a traditional pre-game whisky shot by the leads. The teams took to the ice for photographs with Ottawa playing blue rocks on Sheet 1 and black rocks on Sheet 2, while Lennoxville played red rocks on both sheets. Ottawa's Sheet 1 skip, Peter Lake, opted for hammer in the first end, meaning Lennoxville would start with the hammer on Sheet 2.

Ottawa		Lennoxville	
Peter Lake	Sheet	Ralph Fanning	
Trevor Turnbull	1	Kyle Gillies	
Earl Washburn		Charles Sangollo	
Kenneth MacDonald		Garry Bradley	
James Benson		Todd Rivett	
Eddie Chow	Sheet	Daniel Mercier	
Charlie Sheehan	2	Marc-André Massé	
Dean Sansom		George Fowlis	

Ottawa's Team Lake got off to a great start by scoring five in the first. Both teams had to deal with a bump half-way down the ice which caused some stones to slow down. Meanwhile on Sheet 2, Lennoxville's Team Rivett scored a deuce in the first. With Ottawa ahead on Sheet 1, Ottawa's Team Benson on Sheet 2 played conservatively to minimize any big ends. A blank end was scored in the third. Team Lake continued putting pressure on their opponents to increase their lead, while Team Benson stayed within striking distance of Lennoxville's Team Rivett. After 5 ends of play, Ottawa was ahead 13-5.

In keeping with tradition, the brooms were stacked at the ends of the ice, and the teams retreated to the lounge for a round of cold beverages and socializing. During the break, the Metcalfe Curling Club's icemaker graciously repaired the bump on Sheet 1. After the break, play resumed.

The fifth-end break stalled Team Lake's momentum on Sheet 1 and Lennoxville's Team Fanning made key shots. With lots of rocks in play on Sheet 1, multiple points were scored in 5 ends. However, the large Team Lake advantage going into the break proved to be insurmountable. Team Lake would defeat their opponents by a final score of 15-5. On Sheet 2, the game was much more defensive, with both skips preferring to call for more hits. Team Benson continued to keep the score close, finishing with a deuce in the eighth, to make their game 4-6.

Final Score: Ottawa – 19 Lennoxville – 11

The teams congratulated each other for a fine match and retired to the club lounge for the post-match tradition of drinking a Rusty Nail of “mammoth” proportions. Post-COVID-style, the Scotch and Drambuie was mixed in the Quebec Challenge Cup before being transferred to a glass pitcher for more sanitary consumption in individual drinking cups. Notably, the pitcher was wrapped in aluminum foil so that the competitors could not see how much drink was left. Each player put money into a pot that would go to the person taking the final drink. Several rounds of drinking by players of both teams occurred until the final drop was gulped by Lennoxville's Kyle Gillies.

A delicious dinner of lasagna, rolls and salad was served by the wonderful volunteers (Ian Rathwell and Graham Rathwell, who had competed for Ottawa in Challenge #1021). The sharing of stories continued throughout the evening, and some members of the victorious Ottawa team took pictures with the nearly 150-year-old trophy. It was a fitting conclusion to our evening of competition and camaraderie. Great thanks to Metcalfe Curling Club for opening up their club to both rinks in the full tradition of the game!



Ottawa Curling Club participants: Ken MacDonald, Earl Washburn, Trevor Turnbull, Peter Lake, James Benson, Eddie Chow, Charlie Sheehan, Dean Sansom.



Lennoxville Curling Club participants: Garry Bradley, Charles Sangollo, Kyle Gillies, Ralph Fanning, Todd Rivett, Daniel Mercier, Marc-André Massé, George Fowls.



Challenge #1024, December 29, 2023: Rusty Nail cheers with Leads, Seconds, Thirds, Skips.