



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 13, 2017

## **Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club is On a Roll following their Grand Opening**

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*Bracebridge, ON* – A large crowd enjoyed bowling under sunny skies at the Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club's Grand Opening on July 8th at the beautiful Muskoka Highlands Golf Links.

Sally Mills, President of the Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club welcomed Norm Miller, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka and Richard Corcelli, a volunteer from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant review team, who presented Mills with a plaque at the Grand Opening. The lawn bowling club received a \$150,000 grant from OTF in 2016, which allowed the club to build the facility.

"I am very pleased to see the progress made here at the Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club. I want to commend all the people who worked so hard to bring this idea to fruition. You have created a unique opportunity for Muskokans to learn and enjoy this sport right in their community", said Norm Miller, MPP.

John Klinck, District of Muskoka Chair, and Graydon Smith, Mayor of the Town of Bracebridge were also in attendance, and congratulated the club on all their efforts to bring lawn bowling to Muskoka.

The President of the Ontario Lawn Bowling Association, Ken Simpson, was extremely pleased to attend the opening of a new lawn bowling club. Simpson presented Mills with a commemorative plaque from Bowls Canada. Simpson relayed a message from David Calam, President of Bowls Canada; "It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you and all of the members and volunteers of the Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club on the grand opening of your new facility. The perseverance and passion you have all demonstrated over the last years to make this dream a reality is truly inspirational."

Bag piper John Bowser led a rousing parade from the clubhouse to the new green. Bruce Kruger, Town Crier for Bracebridge was on hand to announce the rolling out of the first bowls, and a friendly competition amongst the speakers at the event.

It was evident from the crowd at the Grand Opening that there is a lot of curiosity about Muskoka's newest sport facility, and people were eager to learn about lawn bowling. Coaches and officials from the Ontario Lawn Bowling Association participated in the opening ceremonies, and were on hand to offer instruction to new bowlers.



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Mills is delighted that there are over 80 people registered for the Learn to Lawn Bowl classes that the club is offering from July 10 to 20<sup>th</sup>. Details about classes, games schedule, and membership are on the club's website at [www.muskokabowls.ca](http://www.muskokabowls.ca).

Earlier this year, the lawn bowling club also received a \$25,000 grant from the federal government's program 'New Horizons for Seniors'. These funds allowed the club to purchase new bowling equipment, including specialized equipment for those with mobility or strength issues, and offer the Learn to Lawn Bowl classes. As Calam noted, "Lawn bowls is an accessible, social and fun sport that positively contributes to a strengthened social network and overall sense of well-being within a community. I am confident that the Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club will be a considerable asset for the Bracebridge community."

Saturday, July 8th was the first time the club has been able to bowl on the new green. The area surrounding the green is still under construction. "The weather has delayed a lot of the construction", explained Sally Mills, President of the Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club. "We hope to finish the equipment shed, fence and landscaping in the next few weeks." It was obvious that the ongoing construction didn't deter the enthusiastic crowd of bowlers at the Grand Opening.

Mills thanked the many sponsors and volunteers who have put countless hours into this new club. "Without the assistance and support of my husband, Graydon Bell, the Muskoka Highlands Golf Links, other lawn bowling clubs, and so many generous volunteers and sponsors, this facility could not have opened."

The Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club offers members and guests the fun and challenge of a gentle sport and the opportunity to socialize with new friends. This non-profit club, run by volunteers, is now open on the grounds of the Muskoka Highlands Golf Links on South Monck Drive in Bracebridge. All equipment is provided. All that is required is to wear flat-soled shoes. For details about the club, the schedule and their programs, visit [www.muskokabowls.ca](http://www.muskokabowls.ca).

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For more information, please contact:  
Sally Mills, President  
Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club  
1036 South Monck Dr.  
Bracebridge, ON P1L 1X3  
705-646-0086  
[office@muskokabowls.ca](mailto:office@muskokabowls.ca)