



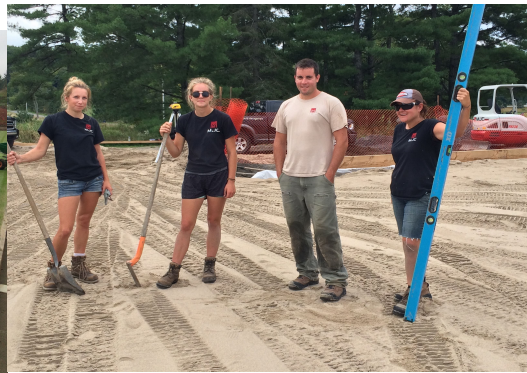
NEWSLETTER

November 2016

As I am sure you have read in the media, our new lawn bowling green has finally been built! We have been working on this project since at least 2010. Thanks to a \$150,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the construction got underway in August 2016 on land generously provided by the Muskoka Highlands Golf Course. Construction was completed in late September. The grass seed has sprouted, and we hope to open for play by July 2017. A grand opening ceremony is already being planned!



Newly sprouted grass



Mike Jefford & crew

Construction on the green did not get off to a smooth start. It took most of the spring and summer to arrange a contractor we could afford. In the end, the work was done by the excellent MJC Muskoka. They were a pleasure to work with. We also received support and guidance from Bracebridge's Recreation Department, and the excellent greens keeper at the Muskoka Highlands Golf Course. The area surrounding the new green needs some cleanup, and will be finished next spring.

Other than managing the Trillium grant, most of my summer was spent applying for additional grants that will enable us to complete the facility. We have received some equipment donations from other lawn bowling clubs (Orillia & Leaside), but we need more to fully equip the Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club (MLBC). We are optimistic that we will obtain funding for a fence, gates, storage shed, lighting for evening play, greens roller, benches, and of course, bowling equipment.



I was able to speak at the Annual Fall Meeting of the Ontario Lawn Bowling Association (OLBA) in Woodstock. Similar to the feedback we get from the Muskoka community, there is great excitement and support from the lawn bowling world about our new club. The MLBC is the first new lawn bowling facility to be built in at least 30 years!

The MLBC had our first Annual General Meeting in October, which was well attended. Thank you to all who came, and to those who have offered to help manage the new club. The ongoing adult membership fee will be around \$250 for a full season, but as we expect to open part way through the first season, the fee will be around \$150 for 2017 (includes \$31 payable to the OLBA). There will be a lower fee offered for youth members, as well as a daily rate. The Highlands Golf Course has kindly offered to assist with processing the fees.

We are very grateful to the Town of Bracebridge Recreation Department, which has been very supportive of the MLBC. They will provide no-cost advertising, and listing of our inexpensive Learn-to-Lawn-Bowl programs for all ages in their spring Leisure Guide. The program fee may then be used towards a full membership in the club. A few experienced bowlers from other clubs have offered to come and help teach.

Peter Cassidy, a very active member of the MLBC, has been working hard at securing sponsorships for the club scoreboards. If you would like to have your business displayed on a club scoreboard, please contact Peter at petercassidy95@yahoo.com, 705-801-5981. Peter has also arranged for students at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School to design and build wooden benches for the club. We are currently working on a donation for the building materials. Thank you Peter, and SDCSS!



Student designed & built bench



Sample scoreboard

We are also fortunate to have the assistance of the talented wood worker, Alan McLeod. Alan has volunteered to make some beautiful signs for the new club.

Many lawn bowlers from other clubs have expressed their interest and support in playing at our club. Todd Stevens has offered to be our Drawmaster, and help us plan our **first Invitational Tournament for September 10, 2017**. Todd is working with the Orillia club to partner for a weekend tournament. Orillia will host a tournament on Saturday, September 9th, and ours will be on Sept. 10th.

With the help of the Muskoka Highlands Golf Course, we will have gift certificates available for purchase starting this December. Consider purchasing a MLBC gift membership, or coupon for lessons through the Highlands online store (www.muskokahighlands.com). A thoughtful and appreciated gift would be a coupon for

Learn-to-Lawn-Bowl Lessons for 2 adults, which includes 4 classes on July 10, 12 17 & 18 at 10am-12pm or 7-9pm, for only \$120.

Happy holidays, and good bowling in 2017!

Written and submitted by Sally Mills, President, MLBC