



**Quebec Challenge Cup
Challenge #1022**

Ottawa Curling Club (Challenger) vs
North Hatley Curling Club (Host)
November 19, 2023



Members of the Ottawa Curling Club travelled three and a quarter hours in three vehicles to the North Hatley Curling Club for 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov 19, 2023.

The host club, represented by Marty Rourke, greeted the visitors and explained the double-rink format play and traditions. The four Leads drew cards to determine the random sheet assignment and opponent. This was followed up by drinking a traditional pre-game whisky shot.

The teams took to the ice for photographs with Ottawa playing blue rocks and holding hammer on Ice 1 and North Hatley playing red rocks with last rock on Ice 2.

Ottawa			North Hatley	
Billy Woods		Ice	Marty Rourke	
Graham Rathwell		1	Steve McPherson	
Philippe Letendre			Joe Cox	
Ian Quinn			Marc Cote	
Tom Sinclair		Ice	Matt McCrea	
Eddie Chow		2	Josh Bronson	
Paul Martin			Dan Camber	
Ian Rathwell			John McCrea	

The first end saw a steal of 2 by North Hatley on Ice 1 and a steal of 1 by Ottawa on Ice 2. In the second end, a fantastic double-take-out by Ottawa on Ice 1 reversed the tide to even their score, and North Hatley on Ice 2 took 1 to also make their game tied. The next few ends on Ice 2 resembled a game from decades ago, with many takeouts and 3 consecutive blanked ends in a row. Ice 1, on the other hand, had more excitement with a steal of 1 by Ottawa in the fourth end, and a deuce in the fifth end by North Hatley. After 5 ends of play, North Hatley was ahead 5-4.

In keeping with tradition, the brooms were stacked and the teams retreated to the lounge for cold beverages and socializing. After a short break, play resumed. On Ice 2, North Hatley stole 1 in the sixth end, and then the teams exchanged singles in the seventh and eighth ends. On Ice 1, the sixth end was blanked, and singles were scored by each team in the seventh and eighth ends.

Both sheets kept an eye on the other's game and occasionally paused to watch shots and allow the slower game to catch up. Heading into the ninth end, Ottawa was trailing 8-6 with hammer on both sheets of ice. Ottawa then answered with 2 on Ice 1 and 1 on Ice 2 to make the score 9-8.

Last end, and it was North Hatley's turn to have hammer on both sheets. On Ice 2, the Ottawa team went all-in by playing 6 consecutive centre-line guards. An unlucky double-peel by North Hatley resulted in an Ottawa rock hanging in the back 12-foot behind a couple of staggered guards. North Hatley awaited the conclusion of the other game to determine their strategy for their skip's stones. On Ice 1, rocks accumulated on the right side of the house and Ottawa executed a tap-raise that placed two of their rocks in a position that was hard to remove. Indeed, North Hatley was only able to takeout one opposition rock with their last stone and gave up a steal of 1. Ottawa added to their aggregate lead. Needing 2 points to tie the game on the remaining Ice 2, North Hatley was run out of rocks. Ottawa won.

Final Score: Ottawa – 10 North Hatley – 8

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 pitcher for more sanitary consumption in individual drinking glasses. Each player put \$5 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 Ottawa's Ian Quinn. (Ian graciously donated his winnings back to the curling club.)

A delicious dinner of lasagna and Caesar salad was served by the wonderful volunteers and the sharing of stories continued to round out the evening. It was a fitting conclusion to our evening of competition and camaraderie. Great thanks to North Hatley Curling Club for being tremendous hosts in the full tradition of the game.



Ottawa Curling Club participants: Ian Quinn, Philippe Letendre, Graham Rathwell, Billy Woods, Tom Sinclair, Eddie Chow, Paul Martin, Ian Rathwell.



North Hatley Curling Club participants: Marc Cote, Joe Cox, Steve McPherson, Marty Rourke, Matt McCrea, Josh Bronson, Dan Camber, John McCrea.



North Hatley Curling Club: (Starting top left) Action on the ice. Mixing of the Rusty Nail. Rusty Nail COVID-style. Cheers by the participants.