



**Challenge #968
Quebec Challenge Cup
Saturday, October 1, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Ottawa Curling Club (Challenger) vs Cornwall Curling Centre (Host)**

The Quebec Challenge Cup is the oldest competitive trophy in North America, and has been continually contested since 1874.

The last time the Ottawa Curling Club challenged for the Cup was Challenge #801 on April 5, 1998, and Ottawa narrowly lost to cup-holders R.C.N. (Navy) C.C. by a score of 12-11. Ottawa defaulted Challenge #858 in March 2004, and the Cup remained with R.C.N. (Navy) C.C. Ottawa also did not participate in the last go-around in Challenge #912 on November 22, 2009, and the Cup was retained by Baie d'Urfé.

On this occasion, 8 members from the Ottawa Curling Club travelled on October 1, 2016 to Cornwall for a 2:00 p.m. afternoon rendez-vous with the Cornwall Curling Centre. The host club was represented by Neil MacLean, who greeted the visitors, explained the double-rink format play and traditions, and organized the random assignments of sheets and opponents.

OTTAWA		CORNWALL
Eddie Chow (Skip) Fred Barbieri Jeff Pouw Dan Boulet	Sheet 3 (Benson)	Frank Spagnolo (Skip) Lew Stanley John Rattray André Parisien
Spencer Cooper (Skip) Doug Johnston Brian Vance John Sherar	Sheet 4 (Baker)	Ron Leroux (Skip) Paul Carroll Patrick Diebel Jace Patkai

Although the curling season had just begun that week for both clubs, the Challenge was a very spirited affair! After 5 ends of play, Ottawa was ahead 9-6. In keeping with tradition, the brooms were stacked and the teams retreated to the clubhouse for cold beverages. After a short break, the four teams returned to the ice to resume play. The Ottawa Cooper team continued to hold an advantage over their opponents, and the last ends of both Ottawa teams were played to preserve the aggregate lead. All 10 ends were played, and Ottawa won. **Final Score: Ottawa – 17 Cornwall – 14**

The teams congratulated each other for a fine match and retired to the club lounge for a post-game libation and photos with the distinguished Challenge Cup trophy. After an enjoyable chicken dinner, the teams continued the post-match tradition of drinking a Rusty Nail of mammoth proportions (Scotch and Drambuie) from the Cup. The Cup made several rounds from player to player of both teams, until it was emptied by a number of giant gulps by Ottawa's Doug Johnston! Doug generously helped conclude the evening by buying a round of "Smoking Whisky" shooters, which a number of participants imbibed for the first time! It was a fitting conclusion to our evening of competition and camaraderie. Great thanks to Cornwall Curling Centre for being tremendous hosts in the full tradition of the game.

For the first time since 1957, the Quebec Challenge Cup trophy was returning home to Ottawa.