



Greater Edmonton SHUFFLEBOARD

Association

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President's Message

February 26, 2025

My past President's Message dated January 30th, 2025 gave you the bad news about the Ottewell Curling Club wishing to terminate our agreement with them, and that we had to be out of their building by April 30th. I had met with their Manager Rick Kravonka and he informed me that this was a business decision made by their Board of Directors. It would be cheaper to leave it vacant than continue with our current arrangement. Your GESHA Board of Directors held an emergency meeting and prepared a proposal that almost doubled what we paid in 2024. The Ottewell Board outright rejected it. I met with Rick again and he presented me with a figure that he felt their Board of Directors *might* accept. This figure was considerably higher than our proposal.

And so that President's Message was presented to you, hoping that our membership could come up with some ideas that would get us through this season. And so we have had three members come forward with generous donation/loans. We would hope to repay them at a future date. We revised our proposal to include that amount and sent it to the Ottewell Board today. They have accepted it and this will get us at the Ottewell through this season.

This news is a big relief for our Board members. I want to thank each of them for their efforts with the pressure that we have been under. I can tell you that I personally have pulled a few hairs out and have had several sleepless nights. I also want to thank you the members who have come up with suggestions and ideas to get us through this.

Since our fees had already been set at our AGM, and our posters, brochures and website include that information, we did not want to impose fee changes for 2025. But it is obvious that our fees will need to increase for the 2026 season. And if GESHA is to continue, it is absolutely imperative that we get our membership numbers much higher than what we have seen through, and since the CoVid pandemic.

So how do we accomplish this increase? Well, your Board members will once again promote our club to the best of our ability in the next two months. But as I have commented before, *the absolute best promotion method is by word of mouth*. That means each of you telling friends, neighbours and family about our club. Wear your name tag where ever you go. People will ask about it. Grab possible candidates and bring them along with you. And a new feature we have this year is that their first day of play, and lessons if needed, are absolutely **FREE, FREE, FREE!** If each of us were to install just one new member, that would double our membership. Please, please, please take this seriously!

Looking forward to shuffling again!

Wally Bantt
President

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