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February Thaw Sinks Canal Curling

Palmyra, NY – February 4, 2019 Phil was right!

The world's most famous groundhog weatherman didn't see his shadow last Saturday, indicating an early spring. While some may cheer, those wishing to curl outdoors on the Erie Canal cannot.

The recent rise in temperatures has dashed any hopes the Village of Palmyra and Friends of the Rochester Curling Club had for hosting their annual Curling on the Canal event at the Port of Palmyra Marina on the historic Erie Canal this year.

The ancient Scots' game of curling had been planned for Sunday, February 10, 2019, but rapidly melting ice means no curling! Curling on the Canal can only take place if the weather permits, which, in this case, means having weather **cold** enough to maintain a sturdy, ice covered marina! Sorry, no thaw date.

Event organizer and host, William Unterborn regrets having to pull the plug on this year's event, but "as fun as this event is, we always have to place the safety of participants first, and at this time, we cannot guarantee that the ice will be safe and/or playable next Sunday."

Response to this unique event has been tremendous in recent years, with nearly 500 curious newcomers braving the elements to curl on the Erie Canal.

Palmyra Town Clerk and curler Irene Unterborn has been overwhelmed by the response, "It's been amazing to see so many people come out and curl right here in the heart of Palmyra. On one hand, I hesitate praying for cold and ice, but on the other, I love to be able to offer outdoor curling."

About Curling

Curling is enjoyed around the world, wherever winter sports are played. Scotland is recognized as the spiritual home of curling, having originated there as early as the 16th century. In fact, a curling stone was found near the city of Stirling engraved with the year 1511. Like many of the Highland Games, curling is a test of skill and stamina, performed with natural materials at hand.

The game we know today developed chiefly in North America, especially in Canada where curling is a national obsession. Curling in Canada is as popular a participation sport as bowling is in the United States.

You can learn more about this event and other local curling opportunities, including adult leagues and junior programming by visiting the Rochester Curling Club website: <http://www.rochestercurling.com>.

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