

George Macnoe, *Curling and Curling Reminiscences* (1886) Archives & Special Collections 10th Floor Stacks; GV 845 M345 1886 (RG 714)

Researched by Jordan Howcroft



This image is from George Macnoe's *Curling and Curling Reminiscences* (Brock University Archives & Special Collections, RG 714), which covers the history of curling in the Niagara Region. The book focuses on an international match between Buffalo and St. Catharines in 1865. It includes historical illustrations, game anecdotes, and details about the formation of curling clubs. The featured image, sketched with either pen or marker, humorously illustrates curling participants, highlighting the social side of the sport.

The image humorously captures a moment in curling, with a central figure intensely sweeping a stone while others watch. In the background, a struggling player stumbles, exclaiming, "Can't do it, boss, I'm paralized!!" The contrast between skill and struggle adds to the lighthearted feel of the scene.

The 1865 international match between Canada and the U.S. marked an important moment for curlers, symbolizing the close relationship between the two regions.¹ Held on outdoor rinks, the event was a display of skill and sportsmanship, with players receiving medals from the Royal Caledonian Club for their contributions to the game.

A key moment in the book is the Niagara Falls curling team's victory over Buffalo to win the George Macnoe Perpetual Medal. This silver medal, decorated with Scotch thistles and an

¹ George Macnoe, *Curling and Curling Reminiscences*, 1852-1897 (Brock University Archives, RG 714)

agate curling stone, represented the friendly rivalry between the regions. The match ended with a celebratory dinner, where players and attendees praised the spirit of the competition.²

Curling in this area dates back to 1836, with clubs forming in towns like Newmarket, Dundas, and Niagara.³ The Niagara Falls Curling Club, founded in 1853, was one of the region's most active, while St. Catharines Curling Club, established in 1869, also grew in prominence. Songs like "St. Catharines vs. Buffalo" were written to celebrate the rivalry, showcasing the passion and community that curling sparked in the area.

Further Reading:

George Macnoe, *Curling and Curling Reminiscences*. 1852-1897, RG 714, Brock University Archives.

Korchok, Kathryn A. *The St. Catharines Golf and Country Club, 1899-1989*. St. Catharines Golf and Country Club, 1990. St. Catharine's Public Library: Special Collections.

St. Catharines Sports History. St. Catharines Public Library, Special Collections Department, 2004.

St. Catharines Sports History. St. Catharines Public Library, Special Collections Department, 1996.

² Ibid., 167

³ *St. Catharines Sports History* (St. Catharines Public Library, Special Collections Department, 1996), 53