



Canadian Amateurs over Fourteen

[AND THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE WHO PLAY]

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|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Swimming (32%) | 6 Cross-country Skiing (8%) |
| 2 Ice Skating (17%) | 7 Downhill Skiing (8%) |
| 3 Tennis (13%) | 8 Curling (5%) |
| 4 Golf (11%) | 9 Alley Bowling (4%) |
| 5 Ice Hockey (8%) | 10 Softball/Baseball (2%) |

These preferences are notably different from those of adult Americans. Bowling ranked first with Americans, and swimming second. Curling and ice hockey were not included, but volleyball, water skiing and basketball were.

In 1972 approximately 732,000 Canadians played tennis. By 1976 the number had almost tripled, rising to 2,175,000. Participation in other sports rose almost as spectacularly. The number of Canadians skiing (both down hills and cross country) went from 1,001,000 to 2,534,000, an increase of 153 per cent. Joggers increased from 1,039,000 to 2,575,000, up 148 per cent. Swimming showed a less phenomenal rise, from 4,191,000 to 7,117,000, up 70 per cent.

Some Canadians bowl in alleys, some on greens. Lawn bowling, in which players roll balls toward a stationary ball called a jack, is probably a British modification of Italian boccie. It was played in Nova Scotia as early as 1732 and has been most popular wherever there are folks with close British ties.

Canadian curlers are not simply plastic cylinders that housewives wear to supermarkets. They are also players of an ancient Scottish sport. There are four on a team — the lead delivers the first stones; the second and third, or mate, deliver the following pairs; and the skip directs them all. The stone, a granite rock weighing about forty pounds and shaped like a plum pudding, slides along a 105-foot expanse of ice toward a bull's eye target. Players with brooms may, or may not, sweep the ice to help it on its way. Right, the bad boy of curling, Paul Growsell of Calgary, former world junior champion, eyes the stone as Doug McFarlane and Kelly Stearne man the brooms.

