

# Photography

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Stereo view of Montreal in connection with sports in 1909 (curling).

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Fabricant / Éditeur Keystone View Company

Date 1909

Medium and Support ink, paper

Measurements 8,8 x 17,8 cm

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## Historical context

This stereoscopic photograph, entitled “Playing for a ‘Wick””, taken in Montreal in 1909, shows a woman from the Montreal Curling Club at a women’s curling match.

Curling was introduced to Canada by Scottish immigrants as early as the 19th century. In Montreal, it was the icy banks of the St. Lawrence River that welcomed curling fans in winter.

The Montreal Curling Club, founded in 1807 by merchants and a chaplain, was the first curling club in North America. Known as the Club de curling Royal de Montréal (CCRM) since 1924, the CCRM is Montreal’s oldest active curling club.

As early as 1894, a women’s branch of the club was created, making it one of the first women’s curling clubs in the world. Long considered immoral and dangerous to health, women’s participation in sporting activities in the 19th century was governed by strict social and moral standards. However, individual sports such as tennis, golf, snowshoeing, skiing and curling were taken up by middle-class and affluent women in the late 19th century.

Curling is a sport played mainly by Canada’s English-speaking elite. Very few Francophones, regardless of gender, were on club membership lists in the early 20th century, and membership was expensive.

While some curling clubs in Canada admitted women, the CCRM Ladies Auxiliary played a key role in the development of women’s curling in Canada. In 1904, they organized a meeting of over forty women members of the major curling clubs in Quebec and Ontario to form the Ladies Curling Association (LCA), which is still active today.

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