

## Biography of Rick Thurston



Rick Thurston will tell you his greatest life accomplishments are his role as a husband and father. Since there's not enough room to explain how proud he is of that in detail, let's begin with his professional life.

Rick retired as general manager of WFS Ltd., an industrial distribution company with thousands of customers throughout southern Ontario and the U.S. Rick joined WFS in 1984, working his way from delivery driver to his final role as GM from 2007-2023 leading more than 250 employees, as head of the company's operations. He played a leadership role in the sale of WFS (then an employee-owned company) in 2014 to Canada's leading industrial distributor, Grainger Canada.

Throughout his 39 years in business, Rick has served on numerous steering committees, boards, advisory councils and strategic planning groups.

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His involvement in each of these groups has a common theme: Rick has an ability to mould consensus in a way that respects diverse opinions – and ensures everyone leaves the room feeling like a contributor. He lives by the motto *"enjoy what you do, and when you can't, find a way to make it so you can."*

Now retired from business life, Rick balances his passions for family, golf, reading, coaching and, of course, curling. He approaches these pursuits with lessons handed down from his parents on their family farm in southwestern Ontario, and at the local curling rink in Kingsville, ON, where Rick helped his father perform his duties as icemaker.

Watching his dad interact with club members, board members and local sponsors planted a seed that grew into a life-long love of the sport. Above average at his local club, but middle of the pack on the competitive circuit, Rick has a unique perspective on the role local curling organizations play in supporting grassroots and competitive curlers' needs.

Rick maintains his relationship with the sport through a recent 10-year volunteer and financial commitment to CurlON, supporting “stick” curling. He also remains active on the rink. And even when his knees decided he could no longer slide, and the game wasn’t as much fun, he couldn’t imagine a life without competing, so he picked up the stick, suffered the barbs of good-natured competitors, and found a way to *“make it so he could” have fun again.*

Hi-lights:

Member of Stanley Proto Distributor Advisory Council (former)  
Member of Saint Gobain Distributor Advisory Council (former)  
Member of supplyFORCE Steering Committee (former)  
Member of Affiliated Distributors Safety Task Force (former)  
Member of ISA Strategic Information Committee (former)  
Member of Quantum Shift Fellows Network since 2009  
Pitcher on 1979 Juvenile “C” Ontario Baseball Association Champions  
Skip of 2008 CurlON Intermediate Mens Provincial Champions.  
Skip of 2009 CurlON TSC Stores Provincial Curling Tankard qualifier.  
Skip of 2013 CurlON Senior Mixed Provincial Champions.  
Skip of 2015 CurlON Senior Mixed Provincial Champions.  
Skip of 2022 CurlON Senior Mixed Provincial Champions.  
Skip of 2022 CurlON 4 Person Stick Provincial Champions.  
Member of 2024 CurlON 2 Person Stick Provincial Champions.  
Member of Dundas Granite Curling Club Board of Directors 2006 to 2009.  
Member of Canadian Stick Curling Association Board of Directors 2019-Present.  
Member of CurlON Board of Directors 2019-Present.  
CurlON Board Chair 2022-Present.

Grateful husband to Wendy Coulson....Proud father to Jasmin and father in law to Lucas.....Blessed grandfather to Baxter and Hailey.....Lucky son to Miles and Kathleen.....Beloved brother to Susan, David and John.