



ENNISMORE CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2018

Peterborough's John Epping has won the Ontario Tankard, Jennifer Jones is now the Scotties champion, and Kaitlyn Lawes and John Morris have won gold at the Olympics. It won't be long until the Brier and the Worlds, so it should not come as a surprise that we have only about five weeks left in our own curling season. In that light, this newsletter has a lot to catch up on and, with a busy rest of the season, quite a bit to look forward to. On to the news at hand – in no particular order.

THE GENERAL STATE OF THINGS: At the recent Board meeting, Treasurer WAYNE STAFFORD reported that the Berg Ice Plant Management System installed last year has cut our hydro consumption by 35% over two years ago. Overall, the Club's financial situation is stable and approximately at the level of last year, which, as you may remember was a significant improvement over two years ago. And that is a good thing: JOHN NORTON has reported that the brine pump was making an unhappy sound recently – a reminder that ice-making equipment doesn't last forever. It's a fact of life other clubs have faced this season, as I briefly mentioned in the November Newsletter. This past month when our ladies curled at the Peterborough Curling Club, they dodged ice mounds and orange cones on various sheets because the club's ice plant had gone down. Fortunately, our brine pump seems to have quieted down and is working fine now but at some point will need bearings replaced.

The ECC Board is constantly looking for ways to improve our Club and as a result, you will soon see the name NEXICOM on our SPONSOR board in the upstairs lounge and on a new wall ad out in the ice arena. We have negotiated a very favourable agreement with Nexicom to provide internet and telephone, which means we now have both local firms, Eastlink and Nexicom, associated with our Club. Both businesses have a number of customers in our Club.

While on the subject of communications, I can add a note about our television contract. Rogers and Bell convinced the CRTC to allow an increase in tv rates, so that any outlet with a liquor license would be paying more for tv programming. Simply said, the argument was that places such as sports bars should be paying a rate for every television because all were making money from the programming. Curling clubs fell under the new regulations which almost tripled our tv costs. We now have basic coverage (limited sports) for the rest of the season and the board will be reviewing the situation in the months ahead to prepare for next season.

As you entered the Club lately, you will have noticed new heavy rubber mats at the outside designed to catch snow and sand before they are carried into the foyer. We should have a cleaner facility. You will soon see additional mats inside the front doors and a new runner in the coat and boot area. The DODGE CARPET logo you will see in the runner indicates

who provided the carpets – at a very agreeable price for the Club. Dodge Carpets is one of our major sponsors – the business is located on the Twelfth Line just east of Selwyn.

POLARFEST INVOLVEMENT

On the weekend of 2-4 Feb, our Club took part in POLARFEST, held in Ennismore this year. During the Friday evening fireworks-hockey game-and-speeches event, PETER GARDNER mingled with the fireworks spectators, inviting them to the Club where they could have a coffee, hot chocolate or drink at the bar, get warm and watch some curling. Although there were Polarfest organizational obstacles along the way, the plan brought a few visitors to the Club where our “greeters” told them about curling and the TRY CURLING Drop-in on 11 Feb. [Fast forward: a group of nine actually took advantage of the Drop-in and are considering curling next year.] But back to Sunday of the Polar Plunge, where the highlight surely was suitably garbed MIKE RICHARDSON’s glorious entry into the frigid lake. Complementing that splash, PETER and MARSHALL FERGUSON ran a rock throwing contest on the outdoor ice which drew attention to the ECC. So, thanks to Peter for organizing the events. Thanks to MIKE and LINDA BOSILJEVAC for loaning the rocks. Thanks to ERICA and MICHAEL GALLAGHER, who not only donated the coffee and hot chocolate on Friday evening, but joined those on our ice demonstrating curling.

SCHOOL PROGRAM and JUNIOR PROGRAM

Our school program has been underway since shortly after the Christmas break, with BILL MURNEY and his band of volunteers working with the students. Chemong school is in our program and St Paul has now joined, replacing St Martin who are sitting out this term. Overall, a total of approximately 150 elementary students are enrolled in the program on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. At the High School level, Adam Scott CVS will be doing a week-long curriculum-based curling program at our Club, which Bill and his instructors also conduct.

TARA WELBOURN and her volunteers are again running the Sunday afternoon JUNIOR program. Under her inspiration, our Club recently hosted a local stage of the HIT, DRAW & TAP competition run by CurlOn (new brand name of the OCA) in which curlers aged 6-13 gained points for hits, draws and taps. AIDEN FRASER-FREEMAN, ARIANNA LEBRUN and MACKENLEY FRASER-FREEMAN placed in the top 13 of 153 curlers ranked provincially in the 6-8 age division and earned their way to the PROVINCIAL HIT, DRAW & TAP competition in Huntsville on February 3 where ARIANNA came fourth, AIDEN was eleventh and MACKENLEY was twelfth. A great accomplishment for all of them. Our fourth high-ranking Junior curler, JACKSON FREEMAN, finished 42nd out of 207 curlers in the 9-10 age division, a personal best for him and a great accomplishment also. Overall, the Junior League is growing. There are now 12 Youth Curlers ranging from 6 to 14 years of age. If you know of any youths who might be interested in joining our league, it is not too late. Curlers can pay either \$5 per Sunday or \$36 for the half season. All skill levels are welcome. Please contact Tara Welbourn (tara.welbourn@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

CONTINENTAL CUP PACKAGE: The youth program offers more benefits than just the instruction, fun and competition the young curlers have. As a participating club in the competition, the ECC

entered – and won -- a random draw for a Continental Cup Ticket and Hotel package. You may remember that this package was raffled off during the last week of curling prior to the Christmas shutdown and raised \$860 for our Youth Curlers. SYRIE GARDNER was the lucky winner of the package and she and Peter enjoyed sitting a few meters from Brad Gushue and other big-timers as they came out of the hacks.

CLINICS

January was clinic month, so to speak. TARA WELBOURN organized a STICK CLINIC on 21 January which, from all reports, was well attended and informative. The clinic was an “in-house” event using instructors from our Club. The next weekend, Jan 28, we took advantage of the CurlOn offer of a free strategy clinic, which drew a dozen-and-a-half participants. It too was a kind of “in-house” event because the instructors were BRYAN CATHCART and DEBI LAPOINTE, long-time CurlOn certified coaches.

BONSPIELS

Since the previous newsletter, we’ve had a number of bonspiels, but to avoid a book-length newsletter, I’ll just do a quick summary. The BOB REEVES MEMORIAL STICK SPIEL was once again honored to have a team from the REEVES family to help remember the greatly loved curler in whose name the spiel is held. This is an Open Bonspiel but it was dominated this year by teams of ladies. The overall winner was a women’s team from the Peterborough Curling club skipped by MARY ELLEN BANNON who earlier that month had won the Winnie’s Winter Warm Up at our Club. The winner of the opposite draw was another all ladies team of JUDY KISHBAUGH, BETH HALLIDAY, LIN PIESANEN and CAROLYN STYLES from Bobcaygeon. Word must be spreading about the spiel because not only was it almost full this year but already there are some teams not in this time who have inquired about entering for next year.

The 31st Annual CHICKEN SPIEL, sponsored by SCOTT CONCRETE, offered its usual fun and frolic urged on by Yellowbirds and a large supply of chickens for lunch, dinner and awards. The overall winners were a team skipped by LARRY WOOD with MARILYN WOOD, WAYNE HORNER, and DIANE HORNER, followed closely by the winner of the opposite draw skipped by RANDY HORTON, with TARA WELBOURN, MARSHALL FERGUSON and DEBBIE BOULTER.

ROBERT YOUNG CONSTRUCTION is the long-time sponsor of the ROBEL bonspiel, almost as old as the Club itself. This year it was an OPEN event, meaning that any combination of players -- men or women-- was eligible, and conveners LARRY RIDPATH and KEITH HOWSON plan to keep it that way for next year. The overall winner was the team skipped by JASON HOGAN with AB DOYLE, ROB LEWIS and LAINE BROHM.

The annual Scotch-drinker’s introduction to bonspieling for new curlers, the GLEN FIDDICH, was a resounding success, highlighted by the participation of twenty-two new curlers. That is a record turnout of new curlers, due in large part to the remarkably effective instructional league run by KATHY REID and her volunteers over the fall season. The team of MIKE and LINDA BOSILJEVAC, ERICA-HOWE GALLAGHER and MICHAEL GALLAGHER edged out JIM JOBITT’S foursome of CRAIG WHITNELL, CORY STEWART and BILL STEWART. Many thanks to MARSHALL AGGREGATE REPAIR for sponsoring the event.

On Saturday, Feb 3, our Club was the host of the third annual HURRY HARD FUNSPIEL TO END MS, run by the Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton Chapter of the MS Society of

Canada. This is an important fundraiser because virtually everyone knows someone who has multiple sclerosis. AUDREY DAVIES and ANNE DRISCOLL (an ECC curler) and their organization committee put together a great day which raised approximately \$5000.00 for the fight to cure MS. A team of SUSAN PLANT, SHARON STAFFORD, WAYNE STAFFORD and DICK PLANT won the early draw and a team of RICK MEDHURST, CHERYL MEDHURST, KATE BAXENDALE and GAIL ALLMAN won the second draw.

WHAT'S UP NEXT? CURL FOR A CAUSE and COMMUNITY CARE FUNSPIEL

Feb 17 is the date of the Club's annual CURL FOR A CAUSE bonspiel, this year raising funds to help develop the SELWYN TRAIL SYSTEM, already a popular chain of walking, hiking, running, cycling or skiing trails in the area. This spiel, run by co-conveners SHARON STAFFORD and SUSAN PLANT is sponsored by a number of local businesses, including BOWLES VALUMART, MEDICAL CENTRE HEARING, PAULMAC'S PETS, EASTLINK and MARSHALL AGGREGATE REPAIRS. The spiel's strong local reputation means that the draws filled up quickly. There will be raffle prizes and a giant silent auction with a range of fifty or so valuable items.

Feb 24 the ECC will be the site of first CURLING FOR CARE FUNSPIEL by PETERBOROUGH COUNTY COMMUNITY CARE. This non-for-profit, charitable organization has its administrative offices in Peterborough and of the eight branches, our local is the CHEMUNG OFFICE at 549 Ennis Rd, just up the way from the Curling Club. COMMUNITY CARE offers approximately a dozen-and-a-half different services, ranging from home help and the Caremobile to Meals on Wheels and health and wellness clinics. Contact DENISE GOULD, the Community Development Coordinator (705-292-8708 or www.commcareptbo.org) to get information or enter a team.

OTHER EVENTS BEFORE THE SEASON ENDS

Sat 18 Feb, the next stage of the SENIOR MIXED competition is at Lindsay Curling Club. TOM MCARTHUR will be skipping his mixed competitive team of PAUL FIOL, GAYLE WHITE and KATHY REID who have made it through to this Qualifier 3. Games are 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm. Check the CurlOn web site: ontcurl.com/#1/competitions/2671.

The annual men's SKINS BONSPIEL is on Sat 3 March. Call REG SINCLAIR 705-292-5666 for information or to enter.

The ROBERT YOUNG CONSTRUCTION LADIES LEAGUE BONSPIEL is on 7 March and offers two draws of two games with lunch and prizes. Contact JUDY SCHRAMAYR 705-652-7604 for information.

Make room in your calendar for the annual CLOSING SPIEL, Sat 24 March, once again under the skillful, imaginative guidance of co-conveners LINDA and MIKE BOSILJEVAC. This year in our round-the-world voyages, we're coming home to CANADA.

DON'T FORGET: annual GARAGE and BAKE SALE – bake and gather your treasures: 21 July.