



ENNISMORE CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER
NO 4: MARCH 2016

THINGS IN GENERAL AS THE SEASON WINDS DOWN

It's sometimes disturbing to recognize (especially for old folks like myself) that time never rests and as a result, the 2015/16 curling season is drawing to a close. Playoffs in our leagues are close at hand. Big money at stake, no doubt. Don't despair: remember that if your team misses the playoffs, you may be able to get a really good draft choice for next year – some well known hockey teams operate that way.

But, before the season ends, there will still be lots of fun. Our CLOSING BONSPIEL, once again hosted in their inimitable fashion by LINDA and MIKE BOSILJEVAC, is set for 19 March. The "sign-up" sheet is already posted: don your very best 1960s persona and join the march to change the world (wasn't that part of what the 60's was about?) Those of you who actually lived through the 60s (what did "stoned" mean?) won't remember what it was like but ask Reg or Jim Jopling. They'll describe the age for you (if they can remember).

Our curling season since January (and the last newsletter) has been highlighted by a number of our most popular bonspiels, which were joined for the first time by the inaugural "HURRY HARD FUNSPIEL" held by the Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton chapter of the MS Society. Regular league, Interclub matches, the School and After School programs and the instructional league filled out the calendar of activities. Your Board of Directors continued to address issues facing the Club and undertook several initiatives, including a member survey to gather information that can help in the development of policies and activities to run the Club.

MEMBER SURVEY

Through PETER GARDNER'S initiative, DONNA and ROB LOCKHART were brought onboard (they actually volunteered their expertise) to advise and help design the member survey that STEVE THOMSON and PETER administered recently. The data is now available and the Board members will be meeting with the Lockharts to analyse the results. Already we know that there were over 100 respondents, more than half our membership – a high level of response. These types of surveys sometimes gather replies from no more than 10% of the body surveyed. More information about the results of the survey will be available as soon as possible.

ANOTHER LITTLE SURVEY

A sobering fact comes from another smaller survey by the Board which revealed that our Club lost 51 members between fall 2014/15 and January 2016 seasons: approximately one-quarter of overall membership. That does not include "snowbirds" who go to warmer climes for at least

part of our winter – they leave only temporarily and remain registered as “members”. So you ask, “What could have been done about it?” Unfortunately, the reasons people left included injuries and medical conditions, moving away from the area, work or other commitments that conflicted with curling schedules, family obligations, parachute teams that registered with us for the immediate season only, and others (usually novice curlers) who left curling entirely because it proved to be an unsuitable activity for them. We also had two deaths. In short, we had little control over the circumstances of leaving. Only two of the 51 left because of unhappiness with some aspect of our Club, which might have been something we could have addressed.

SOME GOOD NEWS

While this situation is troubling, we do have some good news. Several of those who left have indicated they will return next season, for example, when their injuries heal or their commitments disappear. As well, those statistics do not include the results of the initiatives headed by KIM RAY and KATHY REID and their teams of volunteers. KIM has worked exceptionally hard to develop the “STUDENT AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM” and the IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM that brings students from St Martin and Chemong elementary schools, and the ADAM SCOTT PROGRAM that is bringing grade 12 students to ECC for curling as part of their curriculum. In addition, we gained new members who were either in Kathy’s NOVICE CURLERS PROGRAM or joined the Club and were integrated into the existing leagues. So, it is safe to say that there have been positive developments.

As of February 2016, we have 189 members. One obvious conclusion from this information is that because we appear to have little control over those leaving, we need to find new members to keep our Club operational. The Board is working hard to make that happen. Currently the relationship between Club financial outlay and income is a precarious balance. The Capital Reserve is virtually empty and needs to be rebuilt. In the meanwhile, any emergency situation requiring significant financial outlay would be near impossible to meet. A week ago, the wind and snow caught the edge of the Club roofing. Fortunately, Mike Richardson was at the Club and saw the problem, and was able to arrange for its repair almost immediately. The situation once again emphasized the truly fortunate circumstance the ECC is in as a result of its relationship with Selwyn Township. At an OCA Symposium earlier this year, we learned that one of the areas many curling clubs need to develop is a close relationship with their regions. ECC is remarkably fortunate and benefits immensely from its closeness to a very beneficent Selwyn Township administration.

But, on to the rest of the news.

COMPETITIONS BEYOND OUR CLUB

As the previous newsletter went out, two teams were about to enter their next competitions outside our own Club. The CRISPY CRUNCHERS – GAYLE WHITE, KATHY REID, SHARON STAFFORD, SUSAN PLANT, alternate ANNETTE THOMSON and Coach TARA WELBOURN—were scheduled to curl in the BEST WESTERN INTERMEDIATE LADIES ZONES competition on 9 Jan over in Haliburton. Happily, they won there and went on to the REGIONAL INTERMEDIATE competition in Newmarket. Unhappily, they lost their first game by about an inch in an extra end. History repeated itself when their second game was also a loss by about an inch on the last rock but in the eighth end this time.



The “Jackettes” – Gayle White, Kathy Reid, Sharon Stafford, Susan Plant

Later in the month, GAYLE and KATHY joined skip TOM McARTHUR and PAUL FIOLO to compete in the SENIOR MIXED REGIONALS in Lindsay. They curled well, but lost both their games in closely contested matches.

A conclusion that can be drawn from the results in these competitions outside our Club this year is that we have teams indeed able to compete at those levels.

29TH ANNUAL CHICKEN SPIEL: SPONSORED BY SCOTT CONCRETE

Our spiel continues to be a very popular event and this year we had half of the sixteen teams from away, which should help increase awareness of our Club in the outer world. Behind the scenes in the weeks leading up to the spiel, there was more than a moment of concern when we learned that because of his illness, RON HAWTHORNE wouldn't be well enough to provide the chickens and other food products. (And he certainly wasn't well enough to curl – so he was missed on both accounts.) Our concern was heightened further because Gayle White and Laura Toms, whose handling of the menus and meals had been a highlight of the spiel over the years, had decided they wanted a rest. What were the conveners to do?

Rescue was close to hand, so we discovered. Even though they weren't on white horses, STEVE and ANNETTE THOMSON and EMMA and CARL EKIN rode to the rescue with a savoury menu and remarkable culinary expertise. And with chickens supplied by the resourceful

GARY and VAL BOWLES, and the generous sponsorship of SCOTT CONCRETE, the spiel went forward. In fact, while the curling was good, the food was again the highlight of the event. The team members all went home, to quote US President Woodrow Wilson, “with a chicken in every pot” – some went home with many chickens for their pots. And others took home valuables they had won in the gathering of raffle prizes assembled by SUSAN PLANT.

The overall winner was the team of JIM WOODS, KAREN BARDECKI, DOUG and KAREN HOYLE by half-a-point over DAN and BETTY DESCHENES with PETER GARDNER and CYNTHIA GUERIN. Although Jim’s team calls Uxbridge home, he used to curl at Ennismore in the Monday night competitive league. TOM MCARTHUR’s team (CATHY STALKIE, DAVE HEVENOR, CLAIRE MCARTHUR) finished third overall with the team of JIM O’MARRA, SUE O’MARRA, PAUL FINNEY, BARB FINNEY only a quarter point behind them.

ROBEL MEN’S BONSPIEL, 16 JAN

ROBERT and ELEANOR YOUNG have been major forces in our community for years and were among the founders of the Ennismore Club. ROBEL ENTERPRISES, headed by their son Carl, continues their legacy of support for our Club in the sponsorship of the men’s spiel – aptly named the “ROBEL” -- that has been in place from as early as 1979 when it was won by a team of J. DELANEY, W. ALLEN, J. POWERS and D. SNOW. The current conveners, LARRY RIDPATH and KEITH HOWSON, ran another really enjoyable and competitive day of curling on 16 January – and it marked the return of RON HAWTHORNE from his illness to look after the meals – always a winning situation for diners. The final results had two teams tied so closely that determining the overall winner took four different tie-breaking steps before ROBERT HAYES’ team of MARK COLLINS, SHANE ANTONOPULOS and JOHN CONLIN came out on top of STEVE TILLIE, BOB HALL, ANDREW MCDOUGALL and COLE COTTER. By the bye: It’s an indication of the spirit surrounding the ROBEL that Rob Hayes generously presented the trophy he won to the young COLE COTTER because Rob felt Cole had curled so well.

“HURRY HARD TO END MS FUNSPIEL” HUGE SUCCESS: 30 JAN

The PETERBOROUGH, KAWARTHA LAKES AND HALIBURTON CHAPTER OF THE MS SOCIETY held its first annual bonspiel at our Club and the entire day, sponsored by MOTION SPECIALTIES, was a resounding success. Organizers ANNE DRISCOLL and AUDREY DAVIES had worried early on that they might not have full draws, but to their surprise and delight it sold out weeks before the event. Looking back, that might not be so surprising: virtually everyone has some contact through acquaintances, friends or family members who have experience of the devastating neurological disease. Teams from as far away as Toronto played a series of fun-filled four end matches as part of the fund-raising event. The overall curling winner was a team of DICK PLANT, SHARON STAFFORD, WAYNE STAFFORD and SUSAN PLANT but more importantly, the event raised \$4000.00 to be used in the search for a cause and a cure for MS. And, there will be a second annual “Hurry Hard to End MS Funspiel” next year. Watch for it and become involved in a major worthy cause.

EIGHT ENDER AT ECC 9TH ANNUAL “CURL FOR A CAUSE” BONSPIEL

It’s hard to say who was happier on Sat 20 Feb: the overall winner of the 9th Annual “Curl for a Cause” bonspiel or a team that scored a rare “8-ender.” But the ultimate winners were the

ENNISMORE AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY and THE BRIDGENORTH BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE who received cheques for \$2000.00 each from the charity spiel. That surprisingly large sum was raised by the “little Club that could” headed by conveners SHARON STAFFORD and SUSAN PLANT through the sale of raffle tickets and a silent auction supported by donations from local businesses and club members. The major sponsor was BOWLES VALUMART in Bridgenorth with additional sponsorship from PAULMAC’S PET STORE, MEDICAL CENTRE HEARING SERVICES, and EASTLINK. During the past eight years “Curl for a Cause” has donated to the Chemong and District Lions Club and the Ennismore Optomist Club, both of whom had teams in the spiel, as well as Community Care, LAWS, and the Ennismore and Bridgenorth Libraries. As for the other “winners”: the 8-ender was by a team of WAYNE STAFFORD (SKIP), SHARON STAFFORD (VICE), RON SPEAR (2ND) and LOUISE MARTIN (lead). The overall spiel was won by BILL MURNEY’S team of ANNETTE and STEVE THOMSON and DAVE MINTY. Second overall was MIKE RICHARDSON’s team with GAYLE WHITE, PAUL FIOL, and LUCIE RICHARDSON.

LADIES “ROBERT YOUNG” BONSPIEL, 2 MARCH

One of the longest running bonspiels in the area, the “ROBERT YOUNG,” had another enjoyable day of curling on 2 March. Inaugurated in 1977 with a win by a team from Warsaw (E. TEDFORD, skip, D. MCKEE, S CHALLICE and P. MUNROE) this bonspiel is now only a year short of four decades of ladies competition. Much has changed over those years, but some things remain the same. One of them is good food – and this year, conveners LAURA TOMS and ANNETTE THOMPSON did it again: the exceptional culinary and management skills of ANNETTE and STEVE THOMPSON provided a delicious lunch: roast pork, roast vegetables and LAURA’s special dessert. And the curling wasn’t bad either. TONI RUTLAND’s team from Peterborough Curling Club was the overall winner followed closely in second by CAROL KIDD’s team from the late draw and AUDREY DAVIES from the early draw. Next year will be the 40th anniversary – and that’s something to really celebrate.

MEN’S SKINS SPIEL

There may be some reading this who don’t know the “skin’s” game so a moment to explain: taking an end (winning a “skin”) requires the hammer team to score two points or the team without hammer to steal a point. If neither happens, eg the hammer team only scores one point, the “skin(s)” is carried over to the next end. The Ennismore “skins” translate into money, so the winners take home cash – and again this year, a feed of chili for lunch and steaks grilled to perfection by GILBERT (“do you want that rare or well done?”) SPERRY. The Skins spiel is another long-standing competition that has been and remains very popular since its initial run sometime in the late 1990s. This year’s competition was won by JOHN WILLEMSE’S team from Woodville: BEN WILLEMSE (skip), JOHN (vice), BRAD GERGUS (2nd) and JEREMY KLUMPER (lead). The high team from the opposite draw was BRYAN CATHCART’s foursome of MIKE RICHARDSON (vice), ANDY STINSON (2nd) and PAUL FIOL (lead).

BANTAM BOYS ONGOING SEASON

The Bantam Boys team, ZACHARY HATTON, COLE COTTER, LIAM COLE and SKIP HAYDEN TEKAUC, bring an air of youth and energy to our Club. After finishing first in the Zone’s at Peterborough Curling Club in January, they moved on to the Regionals in Cobourg in late January where they had a solid pair of wins but missed reaching the championship match.

ST PETERS SAINTS WIN KAWARTHA HIGH SCHOOL TITLE

FRANK BARRY and COLE COTTER were on the ST PETERS SAINTS team (with Gord McLaughlin, Mattias Metcalfe and alternate Ben Hickey) that defeated Holy Cross Hurricanes (10-1) in the final of the Kawartha High School curling championship. The team, coached by Gord's father, Tim McLaughlin, qualified for the COSSA championship in Halibuton CC (24 Feb) where they played well but lost the chance to go on to the OFSAA championship.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: NEW MEMBERS NEEDED FOR 2016/17

As our current curling season enters its final month it is time to start thinking about next year. One of the items that needs to be addressed is the replacement of board members who will have completed their term at the end of this year.

This is an opportunity to participate in the management of your club and to help ensure that it continues to provide excellent curling facilities and a welcoming environment.

Please consider making this commitment to your club. If you have any questions or would like to be nominated please contact a member of your Board of Directors.

OPEN CURLING

This season in December, January, and February, "Open Curling" has been a once-a-month Sunday afternoon opportunity to curl with your family and friends that was initiated as part of the ECC Board's membership recruitment/retention strategy. The feedback has indicated that our guests had a positive experience and that they appreciated the support of the ECC Board volunteers at the event. And Open Curling and other activities to welcome new curlers have been productive. Three new members, Doug Patterson, Jen Guerin and Ed Timleck have become new curlers in January. Also Bernice Smith, spouse of Ed Timleck, has joined as a non-member volunteer. Please introduce yourself to these new members who are curling in the Novice and Thursday Night leagues.

CURLING IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THE GAME WAS INVENTED

The "CRISPY CRUNCHERS" --aka "TEAM WHITE", "JACKETTES" or simply GAYLE WHITE (skip), KATHY REID (3rd), SHARON STAFFORD (2nd), SUSAN PLANT (lead)—will be travelling to north-east Scotland to curl in the Moray International Bospiel in late March. Combined with a bit of touring (Editor's note: and some shopping?), they will curl seven games before heading south to North Berwick near Edinburgh where they will meet up with GRAEME MCGUIRE'S SCOTTISH TEAM – Graeme was at Ennismore with the Strathcona Cup. Then they fly home through Iceland where, as of yet, they haven't found a curling match (but probably some shopping, [Ed's note]).

By the Bye: did you know that the team's favourite "nutrition" bar, the "CRISPY CRUNCH", is a Canadian invention and is available only in Canada? Says something about international taste, eh?

FLY DOGS: OUR CLUB GOING TO THE DOGS

The PETERBOROUGH FLY DOGS organization will be training their four-legged athletes at our Curling Club every Thursday night between 14 April and 29 Sept (except for GARAGE

SALE WEEK). The sport is a high intensity, speed and agility activity that is fun to watch.

GARAGE and BAKE GOODS SALE: 8, 9 JULY

Since the subject has been mentioned, everyone is urged to gather their unwanted treasures and donate them to the annual GARAGE SALE being organized again by DIANE HARRIS and MARILYN SMITH. As well, SYRIE GARDNER and CYNTHIA GUERIN will once again be looking after the baked treats, which made such an impact last year. So, when you are not spending time deciding what treasures to donate, head off to your ovens and make some delicious goodies for the bake sale. Remember: the sale normally raises between \$3000.00 and \$4000.00, funds the Club needs. Look for the volunteer sign-up sheet at the Club.

And that's all the news fit to print until next time.