

HOGLINE

SEPTEMBER, 2009

FROM THE PEN OF THE PREZ.....

Tom Devaney

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff I would like to welcome all new and returning members of the St Thomas Curling Club to our 54th season. There has been a considerable amount of activity over the summer months to say the least:

In late April early May we had a "Low E" ceiling installed in the ice area, this is the silver membrane that you will now see as you look upwards. We are hoping that this change will gain us considerable savings in electricity charges.

In late June during a torrential downpour, our city sewer system was unable to cope and this unfortunately resulted in sewage backing up into the basement of the club. The insurance company was called immediately and a restoration crew has been working diligently since then to ensure our club meets the highest of sanitary standards. In addition to thoroughly cleaning the whole basement you will notice that both the men's and women's locker rooms have received new carpeting and a fresh coat of paint. For those of you who had belongings still stored in the club lockers they have now been disposed of and if you wish to claim these items you must submit a claim through your personal homeowners insurance.

All of our committees have been hard at work over the summer months ensuring everything will be ready for your arrival in October. The membership committee in particular has come up with a few ideas to attract new members. One such idea is the awarding of \$25.00 in St Thomas Curling Club Bucks for each new member that you recruit to the club. There is also the addition of an Intermediate membership category and changes to the mixed membership fees. Details follow.

Amidst all the change and activity one thing will remain the same and that is the St Thomas Curling Club will continue to provide the highest quality of curling ice and a warm and friendly lounge in which to socialize. So I challenge you to not only use our facility to curl but also to bring your family, friends and colleagues here to socialize. Remember this is your private club and I encourage you to use it to the fullest.

Good Curling.

LADIES' BELLES AND BROOMS 2 DAY BONSPIEL

Our Bonspiel Committee met on August 31 and the team is excited about plans for this year's Bonspiel on November 23rd and 24th. The theme is *Santa's Workshop*. We are asking teams to start considering to be a part of this great event. The sign-up sheet for in-house teams will be available during the Open House from October 13 to 15 and the week following when curling should begin. There are some nice offers already from league members to use their homes for Home Entertainment.

Out of town teams will be drawn on October 20 and our lottery draw will be the following week. So start talking with your teams and let's have at least 6 teams signed up by October 15!

Diane Marcou and the Bonspiel Committee

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CHARITY CASHSPIEL

The dates for this year's event are October 16th to 19th. Once again St Thomas is unable to host any games due to ice uncertainty (let's hope the problem is rectified forever this year!)

Games on Friday and Saturday will be at Highland and Ilderton and the playoffs and finals will be Sunday and Monday at Ilderton. Times and the draw are still being finalized but all info will be on the web site- <http://sowcc.isp.ca> by the end of September and will be posted in the club during Registration Week.

There is a fantastic field this year- **Team Mott** from Switzerland and **Team Wang** from China (defending world champion) have already qualified for the Olympics. As well **Team Middaugh**, **Team Homan** and **Team McCarville** (defending Ontario champions) have all qualified for the pre-Olympic Trials and will be honing their skills against **Suzanne (Gaudet) Birt** and teams from the U. S. and Scotland.

Jim Waite will be hosting a curling clinic on Friday night October 16th. The fee is \$50 which includes instruction, a wine and cheese with the teams and a tax receipt. A few spots are left. Contact Christine Hale-Sanders or Barb Jones for more info. The clinic is open to both male and female curlers and juniors.

Ann Lapchinski

Two buddies Bob and John were two of the biggest curling fans in Canada. Their entire adult lives, Bob and John discussed curling history in the winter, and they pored over every game and score during this off season. They watched and played 60 games a year. They even agreed that whoever died first would try to come back and tell the other if there was curling in heaven.

One spring night, Bob passed away in his sleep after watching the Canadian victory earlier in the evening. He died happy. A few nights later, his buddy John awoke to the sound of Bob's voice from beyond.

"Bob, is that you?" John asked.

"Of course it is me," Bob replied.

"This is unbelievable!" John exclaimed. "So tell me, is there curling in heaven?"

"Well I have some good news and some bad news for you. Which do you want to hear first?"

"Tell me the good news first."

"Well, the good news is that yes, there is curling in heaven, John."

"Oh, that is wonderful! So what could possibly be the bad news?"

"You're skipping tomorrow night."

HAVE YOU MOVED?

IS YOUR PHONE NUMBER WRONG?

Is your address or telephone number wrong in the membership book? Let us know. If you have moved and not told us, please do so. If you have changed your email address, we would like to know (not that you will get this if you have!)

Email Cathy Hedley at hed.less@rogers.com so we can get it right.

TUESDAY LADIES' LEAGUE

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the new curling season. To help us prepare the team lists and draw schedule we need to know who is planning to curl in the first draw. If you are not able to come out for registration, please contact one of the conveners listed below so we can make sure that you are on a team.

Carol Gagen 519-631-9957 Ann Lapchinski 519-633-8539

Ardythe Anderson 519-633-1796

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dear members:

The finance committee has met a couple of times over the summer months. The Board has approved the operating budget for 2009 - 2010. The very difficult part of the committee's job is trying to predict, with the input of the other committees, what is going to happen over the coming season. The biggest problem we face, not just as a committee, but as a club, is that generally speaking the most likely thing to happen is for our revenues to meet or fall short of plan, and for our expenses to meet or exceed plan. We have presently budgeted for the operations of the club to essentially break even whereas for the 2008 to 2009 fiscal year the club operations lost just under \$19,000. The net loss of even a few members would immediately put us into a loss position for 2009 - 2010.

With the state of employment in the area, I would be very surprised if membership revenue were to exceed our budget. So you might ask what can you do to help? The answer is quite simple really, act as an ambassador for the club, get your friends, and the friends of your friends to come to the curling club. Even if they just watch you play once in a while, they might still buy a pop or some chips which contributes to the income of the club. Get non-members involved in the fun spiels throughout the year with you. Get someone who curled in the past to come out and join again. They may even qualify for a new member fee if they have been away long enough. Have a bowl of popcorn, have a pop or juice. Remember the social aspect of the game when you are at the club, and help teach the newer members.

The membership committee has done a great job of creatively trying to keep fees reasonable for the members while at the same time creating new revenue. Both the ice and building committees have really buckled down, but there simply are things that we have to do in the club to operate and to make the club safe for both the workers and the members.

I am looking forward to an excellent year of curling with the changes already made in the ice area and wish you all good curling.

Jim Frederick, Vice-President

CURLING 101

This successful program will be once again offered. New curlers are welcome to join any league they wish as in the past, but for those who would prefer to learn the basic skills first, participants will take 8 weeks of instruction on Sunday evenings 7- 9PM. After Christmas, they will then join the league of your choice for the rest of the year. The cost for this is the basic first year low rate of \$195 + OCA and GST. It is a perfect solution for those a little hesitant to try the game without knowing much about it.

CURLING 102

If you took Curling 101 last year or would like to refresh your skills and take your game to the next level then Curling 102 is for you. This program will run Sunday evenings 7 – 9 PM.

Three older ladies were discussing the travails of getting older. One said, "Sometimes I catch myself with a jar of mayonnaise in my hand in front of the refrigerator and can't remember whether I need to put it away, or start making a sandwich."

The second lady chimed in, "Yes, some times I find myself on the landing of the stairs and can't remember whether I was on my way up or on my way down."

The third one responded, "Well, I'm glad I don't have that problem; knock on wood," as she rapped her knuckles on the table, then told them "That must be the door, I'll get it!"

CURLING ETIQUETTE

In addition to the "Rules of the Game" these are the unwritten Laws that every highly respected curler observes:

1. Don't be late. If unavoidable, inform your skip as soon as possible.
2. If you cannot be there, it is your responsibility to arrange a spare and let your skip know.
3. Make sure your footwear is clean; no street shoes on the ice surface.
4. Shake hands at the beginning and end of each game.
5. As a general guideline: 2 hrs = 8 ends.
6. Posted game time indicates when the first rock should be thrown and not the time we move from the lounge to the ice.
7. At the conclusion of each end the lead who will throw first should concentrate on preparing themselves to throw and let others clear the stones.
8. In a recreation game, bring out the opponent's stone unless requested otherwise.
9. The next player to throw should stand near and behind the hack ready to clean their rock and prepare to deliver their shot while the opposition stones are being played.
10. Get up immediately after delivering to avoid knee and hand print on the ice surface.
11. Sweepers are responsible for catching deflected stones or stones set in motion.
12. Compliment good shot making on either side.

LADIES' LEAGUE REPORT

WOW! The summer has flown by and the ladies league executive has been very busy planning for this year.

Many thanks to all of the individuals who contributed volunteer hours towards stripping/painting/varnishing the surfaces in the club that required it and by doing general repair and upkeep. We also appreciate the time spent on clean up after some summer events caused many issues.

You will notice that there is new carpet in the entranceways, down the stairs and in the offices due to the contributions of this league. The dedication of each of the leagues towards making the club the best place to curl, have fun and socialize is truly remarkable!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that our opening ladies' dinner has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 27th. We will be hosting the banquet on our own as the Women's League is trying something new this year. Please mark the date down – you will be able to purchase tickets during Guest Week on October 13th, 14th and 15th.

Not to be outdone by last year's committee, this year's ladies two-day bonspiel with the theme of '**Santa's Workshop**' has been planned for November 23rd and 24th by Diane Marcou, Jeanne Gray and Diane Ferguson. I thought that I was organized – you should see these three ladies plan an event!! **I challenge all of the ladies and members in the club to contribute towards the bonspiel decorations by buying a toy, stuffed animal or doll – all of which will be distributed to Christmas Care and needy children in the area after the bonspiel.** What a great idea!

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." So, my phone and ear is available - if any of the ladies in this league have ideas, concerns, questions, positive feedback or want to chat give me a shout as it is important to listen to everyone with the ultimate goal of playing great curling and having fun at the same time. See you in October!

Kim DeKlein, President

OUR OTHER LEAGUES?

The other leagues are so busy planning that they haven't had a chance to include anything for this edition of the newsletter. Come out to Guest/Registration Week to find out more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

As most of you know, there is a lot more to the Curling Club than just curling..... *if* you take advantage of it. One such experience is our **Opening Party**, which will be held on Saturday, October 24th. The evening begins with a 4-end game of curling and is followed by dinner and a Murder Mystery presented by your industrious Board of Directors. It will be fun.

On October 31st, plans are underway for a **Brunch and Car Rally**. It is a chance for you to discover some of the secrets of St Thomas and surrounding countryside and will be completed in plenty of time to rest up for Hallowe'en.

FROM KEVIN'S PERSPECTIVE

NOTE: When we caught up with Kevin Breivik last week, he was asked how many hours go into the creation of the ice at the club each year. Kevin was far too busy to figure out how much time he and his assistants spend, but indicated that "many, many, many" would sum it up pretty well! Between floods, while waiting for the water to freeze, Kevin prepared the following 'log' for your information.

At the St. Thomas Curling Club, approximately 10,000 gallons of water are required to install the ice each season. The finished product averages one-and-a-half inches thick. With the sand pad base at the STCC, approximately three weeks are required from start to finish. In contrast, a six-sheet club on a concrete base requires about 4,000 gallons of water and takes from 7 to 10 days.

END OF SEASON

1. Plant shutdown
2. Decals and lines are removed
3. All paint is squeegeed to the sides
4. Refrigeration contractors inspect all parts mid-summer
5. De-ionized water tanks and paint are ordered

EARLY SEPTEMBER

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| 1. Pad and paint on sides dry and are scraped up and removed | 16. Plastic sheeting is removed.....no clean-up required |
| 2. Pad is raked and screened to level out sand | 17. Located centre holes, hogs, mark out backs |
| 3. Plant is started up | 18. Scribe rings |
| 4. Sand is soaked to bottom of pipes | 19. Edge and fill all paint |
| 5. In 32 hours, sand is frozen solid | 20. Seal all paint |
| 6. More sand is added if needed | 21. More light sprays |
| 7. Light sprays (30 to 40) are started to seal impurities and sand | 22. One flood |
| 8. Light floods are started, being careful not to go through seal | 23. Lay all lines (cotton) |
| 9. Levelling floods are started | 24. Seal all lines |
| 10. When ice is close to level, hacks are set in | 25. More sprays |
| 11. A few more floods are done | 26. Decals installed, flood until level |
| 12. Pad perimeter is prepared (plastic sheets) for white paint | 27. Cool down rocks on mesh |
| 13. Ice is scraped | 28. Chip out hacks and scrape backs |
| 14. Ice is painted white | 29. Scrape, pebble ice many times to ready ice for play |
| 15. White paint is sealed in with light seal sprays | 30. CURL! |

.....And there you have it. And you thought it was as easy as making ice in an ice cube tray!

MEMBERSHIP: SOME NEW IDEAS

This summer the membership committee has been very busy deciding how to thank the current members for choosing the St. Thomas Curling Club. In order to do so we have come up with the following:

CURLING CLUB BUCKS:

1. For each and every new member who joins and pays for a membership to the St. Thomas Curling Club, the current member who is named as the source of their interest will receive \$25 in St. Thomas Curling Club Bucks. These can be redeemed at our pro shop (for curling equipment or clothing) or at any Board of Directors sanctioned event (i.e. Breakfast Spiels, Steakspiel, Euchre

nights etc). So yes, if you bring out enough friends you could receive the equivalent of your curling dues in STCC Bucks. Let's see who can spread the word about our wonderful club the widest.

2. For those people who are curling for their second year, we welcome you back and are so excited that you have fallen in love with the game that we are giving those of you who sign up and pay during Guest/Registration Week \$20 in St. Thomas Curling Club Bucks, just for coming back.

3. For our long term members we are the most thankful that you are returning. Without you there would be no club. Each of you who sign up and **pay your dues** during Guest/Registration week will receive \$10 in St. Thomas Curling Club Bucks; this is in addition to the \$25 you will get for bringing out a friend.

We also have developed several new membership categories so please pay careful attention to what you are signing up for.

New this year is an **Intermediate Membership** for \$300 that is available to all those ages 29 and under. This is an unlimited membership open to all current members who fall in this category.

We also have started a new **Mixed Membership**. For \$260 you will be able to curl in any one mixed league (Wednesday, Friday or Sunday). You do not have to be part of a couple to do this, however it is limited to one evening a week.

*It was October. The weather was fine. Two of our curlers were walking out of the curling club when one said,
"Where did you get such a great bike?"*

The second curler replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike.

She threw the bike to the ground, took off all her clothes and said,

"Take what you want."

The second curler, who shall remain nameless, nodded approvingly, "Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn't have fit."

HAVE YOU MOVED?

IS YOUR PHONE NUMBER WRONG?

Is your address or telephone number wrong in the membership book? Let us know. If you have moved and not told us, please do. If you have changed your email address, we would like to know (not that you will get this if you have!)

Email Cathy Hedley at hed.less@rogers.com so we can get it right.

WEDNESDAY MIXED LEAGUE

The Wednesday Mixed League plays every Wednesday evening (as our name implies) at 8:30. At the start of the year, teams are formed and stay together throughout the season. We are a social group. On 'Food' Nights, there are only 6 ends played to leave lots of time for eating visiting. At the end of the season, there are 2 weeks of play downs to the final game between the top 2 teams. The rest of the teams play a fun game followed by prizes for everyone.

New players and teams are always welcomed. All skill levels are accommodated. Sign up as a team, a couple or an individual. We have spots for all. Good Curling!

DO YOU WANT MORE ICE TIME WITHOUT A WEEKLY COMMITMENT?

SPARES SPARES SPARES

The Wednesday Mixed League is looking for Spares (especially women)

Contact Phil at 519-631-2272 or see you at Registration.

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Plans are underway for a **Brunch and Car Rally**, on October 31st. It is a chance for you to discover some of the secrets of St. Thomas and area and you will be home in plenty of time to rest up for Hallowe'en!

That's it.... you're done. If you made it this far, Congratulations!

See you during Guest/Registration Week!