

THE HOGLINE

SEPTEMBER, 2011

FROM THE PEN OF THE PREZ.....

Larry Jenner

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend a warm welcome to returning members. You, as a loyal membership body, are essential for another successful year at the St. Thomas Curling Club. At the same time, I would encourage all returning members to extend the warmest welcome to all new curlers. Let's make them feel at home. If you are a new to the city, or just new to the St. Thomas Curling Club, welcome aboard. You will meet many fine curlers, and some great people, on some of the best ice in Ontario.

At this time, I would like to extend a warm welcome to four new board members. They are Alwyn Verbeek, Jeanne Gray, Wayne Kelly, and Andrew Pearson. Alwyn will be taking over the finance portfolio; Jeanne is in charge of advertising; Wayne is now ice chairman and Andrew will be planning our club bonspiels. I would also like to welcome back board members, Paul Choma, Don Marcou, Diane Marcou, Christine Hale-Sanders, Al McRorie and Jim Frederick. We have all been very busy over the summer, making plans and decisions that will allow us to move forward with the business of curling in the city of St. Thomas, for the 2011-2012 year and beyond. My utmost thanks to all board members for your hard work, and making my job easy.

Kevin Breivik will be returning as head ice maker, as will Ed Jermyn as his assistant. So again, we can look forward to another year of great ice.

Over the summer, one of the major issues has been the Ontario Bill 168, which deals with the prevention of violence and harassment in the work place. As employers with more than five employees, we have a responsibility to ensure that all of our employees have a safe and healthy working environment through the prevention of harassment and violence. The board has recently passed a new 'Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention Policy' and it is the responsibility of all members to ensure that this policy is followed. Such policy will be posted at the curling club.

As always, the budget process was somewhat difficult this year as costs continue to escalate and membership seems to remain relatively constant. We did manage to pass a balanced budget. However it will require the vigilance of all members and staff, to maintain cost control, and to ensure that all funds are wisely spent.

On the facilities side, you will not see many changes when you return. The most visible will be a large new desk at the front door, thanks in part, to the very generous donation from the Ladies' League. Other changes are more efficient lighting in the lounge and the locker rooms, as well as efficient 'LED' exit lights.

Your board has worked very hard over the summer to ensure that all members have another successful year of curling. They deserve your appreciation and support. Please give it to them. In the meantime welcome back, and good curling.

AMAZING

Diane Ferguson has been one **very** busy woman this summer building a storage cabinet and cupboard doors for the Ladies' lounge. Rumour has it that she spent over 100 hours building, painting and installing them. And they look tremendous!!! Thank you very much, Diane.

And thanks too to the Ladies' and Women's Leagues for supporting this venture financially.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It's that time again to dust off the old curling shoes and brooms and come out to the club to work the kinks out during Guest Week October 4, 5, 6, between 7 and 9 p.m. This is also a great time to renew old friendships and make new ones in the lounge. Please bring out your friends, family, neighbours, workmates and general people off the street who have expressed an interest in the game, this is where they get to try out the club and make the decision to join our great club.

Once again the club will be issuing **Bonus Bucks** to its members, remember these are only valid for the season in which they are issued.

You will only receive the bonus bucks during Guest/Registration Week and as in the past these may be used to purchase equipment from our pro shop or to enter any board sanctioned event. Returning unlimited members will receive \$20 and limited members will receive \$10. If you bring out a new curler who signs up you will receive an additional \$20 per curler. The new curlers will receive \$30 with the hopes that they will buy equipment during our open house sale.

New this year you will also be receiving St. Thomas Curling Club window clings if you sign up during guest week. There will be three styles to choose from. This way we can all be proud curlers as we drive around town.

Christine Hale-Sanders, Membership

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Are you a Human Resources person? Are you familiar with the laws surrounding human resource issues, work place safety requirements, with Ontario Bill 168, etc. If so, the Curling Club Human Resource Committee needs your help. We need someone familiar with the new documentation requirements etc, to fill these needs. If you would like to volunteer and help the curling club in this area, please call Larry at (519) 769-2498, or email – (jenner35529@netzero.net). Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Larry Jenner, President

OUR GRANT REQUEST

We recently received word that our application for funding under the "Mid-sized Projects Enabling Accessibility Fund 2011" was declined. Back to the drawing board.



CLUB 50/50

Please remember to sign up for the club 50/50 draw during Guest/Registration Week. This will ensure that you are signed up for the entire year and you will not have to remember to sign in each week. Forms will be available and payment can be paid at that time. This year we will curl for 25 weeks so the cost will be \$25. Because we roll over non-winners from one week to the next, every year a lucky few take home a tidy sum of \$300 to \$400.

BAR REPORT

The bar committee and Shirley met during the summer. We are pleased that all staff from last year will be returning for the coming season. We hope to have some new offerings available this year in the snack area. We also plan to have some curling club spirit wear and other items available for purchase both during guest week and throughout the year. Shirley will of course be keeping the cooler stocked with your favourite beverage.

We also have a wide selection of curling brooms, shoes and gloves available either on hand or that you can order in all price ranges. All profits from these sales support the curling club operations and allow the club to keep your membership fees low. We do try to keep a good range of sizes on hand, but as you can imagine we cannot stock every possible size, so your size, style or colour may have to be ordered. We do not charge shipping fees that on-line orders do. And don't forget, once again we will be offering a 10% discount on purchases made during Guest/Registration Week, so come out to the club and purchase or order your curling supplies. You can also use your 2011 – 2012 bonus bucks in conjunction with this discount.

FINANCE REPORT

The finance committee met during the summer and with input from the other committees set an operating budget for the 2011 to 2012 curling season. As you can imagine there are many pressures on the curling club budget, but we expect that a small operating surplus will be generated from operations this year barring significant unanticipated costs. We will report on actual revenues and expenses as the year progresses.

Jim Frederick

LADIES LEAGUE

After a lovely hot sunny summer it is time to think about rejoining the good times of curling – warm relationships and great competition.

Guest week will be on Oct 4th, 5th, and 6th. The Tuesday league conveners are Linda Manchen, Ardythe Anderson, and Pam Smith. The Thursday conveners are Carol Gagen, Pat Monteith, and Sharon Blaxall. If you know of anyone who might like to try curling by all means bring them out during Guest Week. The **opening banquet** this year will be Tues., Oct 25.

The **Ladies Two Day Bonspiel** this year is on Nov. 28 and 29. With Dianne Ferguson as convener again this year we know it will be the extremely successful event it always is. It is going to have a ‘Candy Cane Christmas’ theme and the committee members are cooking up lots of great ideas!

See you in October.

Barb Green, President

TUESDAY LADIES’ LEAGUE:

Our league starts the year with a Fun Day to be held October 11 at 9:30 a.m. We’ll be curling 6 ends followed by lunch and lots of socializing. The Sign up for this will be during Guest/Registration Week or call: Ardythe Anderson 519-633-1796 to register.

The draw dates are as follows:

Draw I: 6 weeks-October 18 to November 22

Draw II: 6 weeks December 6 to January 24

Draw III: 6 weeks; January 31 to March 13

Playoffs will last 3 weeks: March 20, 27 and April 3.

Our last week is Tuesday April 10 which will be a snow day or a Fun day.

Ardythe Anderson, Tuesday convener

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 very social group. On 'Food' Nights, there are only 6 ends played to leave lots of time for eating and visiting. At the end of the season, there are several 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 welcome. All skill levels are accommodated. Sign up as a team, a couple or an individual. We have spots for all.

Good Curling!

Phil James, League Convener

ADVERTISING

My name is Jeanne Gray and I am your new board member. I have been assigned to Advertising.

I thought I would let you all know that I've been very busy all summer learning the ropes around Advertising. I have formed a sub-committee consisting of:

Phil James	New 2 You Auto
Don Toth	Toth Jewellers
Rohan Hoefman	Arctic Snowplows/Spreaders/Equipment

These individuals have many years of experience behind them and have been a huge asset to helping me look at new and improved ways to make advertising at our club bigger and better.

We have completed a revised Advertising/Sponsorship Schedule. This schedule offers a few new options for companies to advertise their businesses at the St. Thomas Curling Club.

Larry Jenner, Diane & Don Marcou, Jim Frederick and I have spent a great deal of time contacting all our current advertisers to ascertain how they wish to advertise this season. Don't be surprised to see a few more signs hanging on the wall this year.

Also, for your information we are looking at using our website to advertise. You probably won't see any immediate changes because this alone is going to take some time to develop.

Remember, advertising brings new revenue to our club. So if any of you know someone who would like to advertise at our club, please direct them to me. And, if you would like to view the Advertising/Sponsorship Schedule, please contact me and I would be happy to accommodate.

I liked to take this opportunity to thank my team of helpers, Phil, Don, Rohan, Larry, Diane, Don and Jim.

Looking forward to another great year of curling at the St. Thomas Curling Club.

Jeanne Gray, Advertising Director

A NEW BEGINNING

The wish of our ice makers for the new curling year is that all curlers keep their hands and knees off the ice when delivering their rocks. Make it your New Curling Year's Resolution!

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved or are planning to move this fall, please let the Curling Club know. We can't make the changes to the Membership book unless you tell us! If your telephone number has changed or is incorrect, we need to know that, too.

The easiest way is to email the club: wecurl@stthomascurlingclub.com. It will only take a moment of your time.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Here is a list of your hard working Board of Directors and their areas of responsibility.

Larry Jenner: President

Jim Frederick: Past-president, Finance, Bar

Paul Choma: Vice-president

Jeanne Gray: Advertising

Christine Hale-Sanders: Membership, Bar

Wayne Kelly: Ice

Diane Marcou: Facilities

Don Marcou: Rentals

Al McRorie: Web-master

Andrew Pearson: Club Bonspiels

Alwyn Verbeek: Finance, Membership

They are working to make your curling experience a great one. Thank them when you see them!

SWING AND SWEEP

Our Swing and Sweep event will be hosted this year with the St Thomas Golf and Country Club. It will be held Saturday, October 22nd. The day will consist of golf in the afternoon, dinner at the curling club with four ends of curling to complete the day. Registration will be on a first come basis with a sign-up sheet posted at the golf club and available during Registration Week at the Curling Club. Phil and Helen James will be assisting with the event and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Ellen Luft

