

THE T-LINE

VICTORIA CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER Aug. 2007

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There is no rest for the wicked, they say. Well, it is only August and already I have to start thinking about CURLING, AGM, ICEBREAKER FunSpiel and a new start for the season.

I hope you had a great summer and welcome back for another exciting season. Last year, as you know, was exceptional for the Club: 4 Provincial titles (Junior Ladies', Men's, Firefighters', and Juvenile Boys'). A record among curling clubs I am sure. Even Curl BC recognized us in several areas and multiple awards were received over the summer. Joel Cave, skip of the Juvenile Boys team won the Male Athlete of the year (his team came second to Kelly Scott's! Tough competition, eh?). Kathy MacKenzie was selected to receive two awards- the Janette Robbins Appreciation Award and the Curl BC official of the year. Ron Bilodeau from Irwin Industries will receive a plaque as Sponsor of the Year for 2006/2007. And finally, the Victoria Curling Club (that means all of us!) was named Club of the Year. Pretty impressive if you ask me! A proper presentation of these awards will be made prior to the AGM on September 20, 2007 at 6:00 pm, and I hope many of you will be there to celebrate this unique occasion as well as partake in the ensuing meeting.

Since we have moved the AGM into September, much of the information contained in this report in the past years regarding elections of officers, parking, fee structure, future of VCC, etc. will be given in greater detail at the AGM. Remember, your input is most important to us!

In the meantime, when you have nothing to do, take your curling shoes out of the closet, clean your broom, and consider signing up for the Ice Breaker Funspiel (September 21-23). Only six-end games, just enough to jog the 'old' muscle memory! See you then.

Georges Bombezin
VCC President

MANAGERS MESSAGE

What a summer we have had! Before the building was even warm from the ice removal we were loading in staging for our first of 8 concerts on the schedule. With young kids coming to most of them, to what I thought was a fabulous evening with Nazareth and the Headpins where the average age was well over 40 this has been a very busy summer. Plus

with the FIFA U-20 in-house the lights in the building weren't off very much. A new (newer) oven has been installed in the coffee shop for Janie and her crew to continue serving their mouth watering meals. **Please remember that all returning evening league teams have until Sept. 4th to register in order to get back into their leagues.** All curling fees are to be paid up completely no later than Friday October 12/07. **NO EXCEPTIONS UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE OFFICE!** We are currently designing a new updated website, so stay tuned for this. Robbins Parking has agreed to allow daytime and evening parking in the SOFMC parking lot on "NON EVENT DAYS". These passes will be available at the office in early September for a \$10 fee to active club members only. Some stipulations will apply so please check with the office. Green St. parking will also be available as usual for both members and non members. Don't forget to enter a team in the "Icebreaker Funspiel" Sept. 21-23. Highlights for the coming season will be the Men's Coast Championship and the Firefighters Provincial Championship. Both events will be held in the New Year. Please be sure to book your league and private shorty's early to avoid missing out as we are already getting booked up rather quickly with outside rentals for Saturday's throughout the curling season.

Bill Chester – General Manager

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, September 20
7:00 pm
Awards Ceremony
Before the AGM at 6:00 pm

LADIES' EVENING LEAGUES

Curling Season is soon ready to begin!! Hope all had a great summer. Welcome to all Tuesday & Thursday curlers. We are anxious to "fill" both evening leagues and welcome ALL curlers!! If you wish to register as an individual or as a team, please contact Deb McLaren @ 477-8324 or register by phone, in person, or by email at the VCC office. All curlers please attend the Annual General Meeting Tuesday September 11 @ 7p.m. at the VCC. Unfortunately Paula Bernard will be unable to curl this year, and it will be necessary to fill the vacant executive position of 2nd Vice President. PLEASE CONSIDER RUNNING FOR THIS POSITION. First nights of curling for the Tuesday and Thursday leagues will be Thursday, September 27 LATE draw and Tuesday, October 2 EARLY draw. Early draws commence at 6:30 p.m. and late draws at 8:45 p.m. Looking forward to seeing everyone

Lorna Taylor

CURLING CLINICS
September 24-27
Cost \$25.00 per person
Must preregister

MON/WED NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE

Hope you all had a great summer guys. I cannot believe how fast the summer has gone ... in fact it seems like it has not yet arrived in Victoria! Never-the-less curling is about to start again and we want to ensure the club accommodates as many curlers as possible.

Starting up the year always seems to be a challenge for everyone involved. Some existing teams 'forget' to register in-time, new teams are not sure if they can get-in, not all teams have put together four-players, teams drop-out at the last minute, start times for the first week of curling can be confusing, and communication is not always what we would like it to be.

So what are we doing this year to try and mitigate these start-up concerns?

The Men's League will commit to the following:

- ❑ Post all current information on our web site
 - <http://www.victoriacurlingclub.com/Leagues/Mensmonday/mondaynightmens.htm>
 - <http://www.victoriacurlingclub.com/Leagues/MensWednesday/MensWednesday.htm>
- ❑ Post all current information on the leagues notice board at the club.
- ❑ Will phone each team contact from last year to ensure you:

So ... do not be surprised to get this call ... there are some exciting news coming in Awards, in the AGM, and for all curlers next year...



- ❑ Know about the registration time-lines,
- ❑ Know about the **Annual General Meeting (September 20th)**,
- ❑ Know about the **Awards Ceremony (September 20th)**, and
- ❑ Ask the team to turn up for the **Skips-Meeting on September 17th**
- ❑ Will phone each team that has been accepted into the league to let them know when their first game starts.

- ❑ The Men's League will always be open to listen to concerns and suggestions for improvement.

The League will be asking for the following commitment from our teams and the players:

- ❑ Remember that running a League takes time from many volunteers, and we aren't perfect ... a little understanding and common-courtesy is expected.
- ❑ The Men's League needs new people to step forward to help run the league ... please consider offering your time to help-out.
- ❑ The Men's League is considered one of the foundation pillars of the club and it needs the Men's League to be an example of what we would like to see the club to be. A group of people enjoying the sport of curling, enjoying the comradely of our fellow competitors, and most importantly, having fun.
- ❑ (Wouldn't be nice if we could all finish our games in 2 hours ... how can we do this? ... more information coming this fall.)

As we have done for the last many years, the league will schedule two extra teams per draw (Hammer, Ice and Granite draws) which gives each team two byes during the regular season play, and if you do not continue to win in the playoffs, a potential third bye. While there are many opportunities to change the way we conduct our league, over the past four or five years we have set the schedule for the first 16 or 17 games. This has allowed each team to know their play dates, start times, ice number, and when they have their byes. Unless the vote at the **Skip/Team meeting on September 17th** changes this scheduling procedure, we will continue with a similar format for this year.

How do we select teams for this year?

- The teams from last year can ensure a spot by **registering their team** with the club **by September 4th**.
- New teams should get their name onto a list managed by the office and will be positioned according to the following formula:
 - New-Teams that are club members will be given first priority on the list (remember you can become a member of the club by paying \$50/year for 5 years) A team with four club members will get a higher priority than a team with only 1 club member.
 - New-Teams that have no club members will be prioritized based on date of entry.

The new curling year is going to offer some new ideas and new people involved in the running of the league. The change in the date of the AGM has resulted in the organizing of the league to be initiated with last year's people. However this league has always relied on the curlers to select how they want the league run and this continues to be the driving force behind our league. Please come out to the **Skip/Team meeting on September 17th at 7:00 pm** to help set the rules for this year.

John Coombs, Director

FRIDAY NIGHT FUN LEAGUE

Well, it's that time of year again! It's hard to believe that we are about to start planning our winter activities. It seems like we have only just started with summer. But September is just around the corner and the 2007/2008 curling season is upon us. I will be contacting all the Skips from the previous year to confirm their spots in this year's league. As usual, the league is open to return curlers first, and then it is on a first come basis. So start putting your team together now. Also, see if you can get a little friendly rivalry going with your neighbours, co-workers, family members, who ever. The more teams we have, the bigger the banquet at the end. If you wish to contact me with questions, or to confirm your teams spot, I can be reached a number of different ways.

Home phone: 250-383-8960

Cell phone: 250-881-4844

Fax: 250-391-9995
Email: dmckinty@shaw.ca

I look forward to seeing you all again this year, and hopefully a few new faces as well.
I'll see you on the ice.
Darren McKinty

WHAT'S HAPPENING

September 11
Evening Ladies AGM

September 14
Friday Night Skip's Meeting

September 17
Aft. Ladies Meeting & Luncheon

September 17
Mon/Wed Mens Skip's Meeting

September 20
AGM

September 21-23
Ice Breaker Funspiel

September 24-27
Curling Clinics

September 29 & 30
Jr. Coaches Clinic

**BAR & COFFEE SHOP STAFF
Needed for the upcoming season.**

**Please call Bill or Janie if you are
interested
*Serving it Right & Foodsafe
required***

**School Instructor needed
for Student Classes &
High School
League Coordinator
Mon. – Fri. daytime**

**Set your own hours
Enjoy working with kids
*This is a paid position***

JUNIORS

We are preparing our practice plans and gearing up for a new season of junior curling for kids eight and up, starting on Tuesday, October 9th. Beginners are welcome!

Our first planned "event" is Bring-a-Friend Day on Tuesday, October 30th. If you know of any kids who aren't sure they would like curling but might want to give it a try, this is the perfect time. It's free, it's fun, equipment is available and there are no commitments! It's drop-in too, so no need to register ahead of time. We do require kids to wear a clean pair of shoes on the ice.

If you'd like to get involved in our junior program, we are always on the lookout for volunteers and coaches.

Good curling to all for the 2007-08 season!

Ellie Gerhardt
Junior Director

LEGION LEAGUE

Welcome back! This is a fun, open league that curls Sunday mornings @ 10:00 am. We are always looking for new curlers to join us, beginners or experienced.

The teams are formed in a draft system so you can sign up as an individual. If interested, please call Carmel Marshall @ 385-0052 or Kathy MacKenzie @ 383-7751.

Carmel Marshall

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

We anticipate about 30 athletes for the coming season. We will participate in 3 bonspiels, Parksville, Nanaimo and our own in Victoria. We will also send a team to the Western regional championships. We have a team that has qualified to attend the national playdowns in Quebec. All athletes and coaches are looking forward to a great season.

Ed Gerhardt
Head Coach

TEACHER'S LEAGUE

The Friday night Teachers league has mixed teams and curls from 4:30 to 6:30. The league is open to everyone, the majority of players are not teachers. The league runs from the beginning of October and ends in the beginning of March. The Teacher's league is focused on having fun after work on Friday evenings and sharing a meal afterwards. Friendship and sportsmanship is uppermost. Players range from beginners to experienced. We strive to have a good mix between woman and men. Couples and singles are welcome. We need additional women this year to improve our mix, so if you know anyone, ask them to join us. Contact: Kirby Rimer for information 479-9605.

Kirby Rimer

2008 BEAR MOUNTAIN ARENA CURLING CLASSIC

The 3rd annual event will feature 24 of the top men's teams in the world coming once again to Victoria to curl for one of the largest cash purses on the World Curling Tour. We are very excited to announce that 2007 World Men's Champion Glen Howard and 2006

Olympic Gold Medal winner Brad Gushue have accepted our invitation and will be competing against top returning teams such as Randy Ferbey, Kevin Martin, Kerry Burtnyk and defending champion Jeff Stoughton. They will be playing for \$81,000.00 in prize money as well as valuable (CTRS) Canadian Team Ranking System points which these teams need to earn in order to qualify for the 2009 Olympic Curling Trials.

Date: April 3 - 6th 2008

Place: Juan de Fuca Rec Centre, Victoria B.C.

Tickets: Advance Ticket Sales will be available for 3 day's only on August 22, 23, 24 from 5 - 9pm at Victoria Curling Club

They will then be on sale again from September 5th until the event starts next April. The tickets will be available at Victoria Curling Club, Juan de Fuca Curling Club and Duncan Curling Club during the day.

Ticket prices: Full Event Pass Ends \$75.00 Full Event Pass Sides \$64.00
includes G.S.T. and all service charges

We will be pleased to make ourselves available for an interview to provide additional information on this event please contact

Al Sutherland phone 474-0950 or e-mail sudsy-ice@shaw.ca

Jim Kinnear phone 383-1001



SPORTSMAN

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer. Our dedicated CFA Sportsman League executive is currently putting aside their golf clubs, fishing rods and paint brushes in preparation for the upcoming curling season. Our league curls on Saturday mornings and we welcome all good sportsman regardless of your curling abilities. This league is one of the few that have the skips draft their players on an annual basis making it a great way to meet others. We run an annual Shorty Spiel, Turkey shoot and a crossover weekend with other Sportsman leagues. If you or anyone you know are interested send me an email at holland3d@shaw.ca or call 744-4465.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,
Dan Holland

AFTERNOON LADIES

Summer with all the weather variations is slowly coming to a close and so welcome back to the 2007-2008 curling season. Our first curling function will be the **General Meeting and Luncheon on Monday, Sept 17 at 10:30 am** at the Victoria Curling Club. Your executive will be contacting you to confirm your attendance.

We curl Monday and/or Thursday afternoons starting at 1:00 pm. We encourage new members to phone Beth Senini (membership) at 744-1664. Spares are always welcome so please phone Dolores Troyer 472-1971 (Monday play) and Claudia Hemphill 658-6118 (Thursday play).

Our first curling date will be Monday, Oct. 1st at 1:00 pm. It will be great to see you all again as well as new members at the club and on the ice.

Sylvia Bradley

WED. LADIES SELECT

Welcome to the 2007/08 Curling Season for both new and returning curlers. The Wed. Ladies Select is a **TEAM OF CHOICE** league. Our executive will be meeting on September 5th and we will be passing on further information after that date. *We are looking for new curlers and encourage all who are interested to call Eileen Defoe (membership) at 479-4115.* We welcome teams or individuals and any extras will be put on a Spare List. Looking forward to seeing everyone and hearing "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" stories.

Diane Caldwell

SPORTS TRADERS

Just like last year, we'll be starting the weekend *after* instead *before* Thanksgiving. Thanks to Al Mellett, who has agreed to be our president for the 13th year running, & to Karen Mellett, who's been our treasurer for just as long. Thanks also to the Melletts for Sports Traders' generous sponsorship to our league & the VCC.

Looks like we've lost at least a handful of players from last year but don't worry, the Auger clan is expanding & so we'll now have to contend with 3 Auger teams this curling season. See you all on October 14th/07.

Cathy O'Brien, Reporter

SATURDAY AM CURLING LEAGUE

Saturday AM Curling League curls from 9 am to 11 am Saturday mornings. The *Saturday AM Curling League* is an open, relatively unstructured mixed league for men

and women, playing any position, in any combination. Players range from novice to experienced, with the objective of having fun on Saturday morning. We are doing this by keeping the whole league as a casual place to curl and enjoy the fellowship the game offers.

Our League plans to continue to provide Curl BC clinics. Two sessions are again planned for November and January. Both clinics last year were well attended by our regular curlers and registered spares. The main focus was to improve our basic skills at the novice level and intermediate level. The league appreciates the support from the Victoria Curling Club and Curl BC staff for coming in early on these Saturday mornings.

Because of the popularity of the Skins Games that we played last year we will again be holding two games, one on December and another January with each game playing for \$100 prize money. This should add some fun to the season and help us appreciate the unique strategy and how the pros play.

We have plenty of spaces open to experienced and novice curlers.

Brian Morin 479-0088 bwmorin@gmail.com