

THE T-LINE

VICTORIA CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER Dec. 2008

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The month of December is here and with it comes the start of competitive curling. Congratulations to the Dailene Sivertson and Stu Merrifield teams who will both be representing our club at the Provincial Junior Women's and Men's Championship December 26 to 31st. Well done and good luck in Kelowna! Congratulations as well go to the Dangerfield, Craig and Montgomery rinks in the Men's Coastal Playdowns. Good luck in the Coastal Championship.

We have the Mistletoe Mixed Bonspiel taking place December 26th to 28th, it is filling up quickly and if you are interested in curling in this popular event, you should register soon before it is filled. We currently have 18 teams registered.

The Planning Committee of the Board of Directors continues to work hard on your behalf on the concept of a regional curling facility. We are in the process of confirming a feasibility study with a qualified preferred vendor and will have more to report shortly in this regard. We continue to believe that the Victoria Curling Club is truly regional in nature as it draws its membership from the four core municipalities with the majority of our members residing in Saanich and Victoria.

The Scotties Tournament of Hearts draws closer with each passing day. The Victoria Curling Club will be the Heartstop Lounge and Bill Chester is working to ensure our interests are protected during this event. We are also working hard on the 50/50 draw and will be developing a schedule shortly for volunteers. Stay tuned, if you are a registered volunteer with the 50/50 committee you will be contacted shortly with the first draft of your 50/50 schedule.

To the staff, members and curlers of the Victoria Curling Club,

I wish all of you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season and prosperity in the New Year!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support.

Don't forget to stop into the Pro Shop for those Christmas gifts for your curling relatives and friends!

Bud Harbidge - President

Manager's Message

With Christmas fast approaching it must be time to congratulate our playdown teams for their first round accomplishments. These teams represent our club year after year on their road to National Championships. Hat's off to Dailene Sivertson and Stu Merrifield teams for reaching the Junior Provincials Dec. 27-31 in Kelowna. As well, congratulations go to Neil Dangerfield, Wes Craig and Jason Montgomery teams for advancing to the Men's Coastal Championship Jan. 23-25 at Royal City C.C. And, we must not forget to mention Wayne Silver, Mary Marcyniuk, George Marcyniuk and Marjory Silver for capturing the BC Senior Games 55+ Mixed Gold Medal Championship. Well done teams, and with more playdowns yet to come we are sure there will be more teams moving on to the next level. We are all very proud of you for representing the VCC! The club will be closed for a period of time throughout the holiday season. Please remember to check the practice schedule times posted at the office and on the website for hours of operation during Christmas. Remember to get your team entered into the **Mistletoe Mixed Bonspiel**. Deadline for entries is

Dec. 18th. Have you called us with your bid for the 55" Sony Wega yet? If not get down to see us with your dollar figure. Time is running out for this fabulous promotion. Lastly, please drive safe everyone and Happy Holiday's to all.

Bill Chester-General Manager

Special Olympics

The 36 athletes are looking forward to Christmas and their upcoming bonspiel in Parksville. Two of our athletes have achieved Curl BC Skill Awards badges and several others will follow. The Special O league wishes all the best for the season. Merry HO HO HO,

Head Coach Ed Gerhardt

Juniors

First of all, we wish to congratulate our Junior teams who qualified at Coastal Playdowns for the Provincials to be held in Kelowna December 26-31st. Kudos to the Dailene Sivertson Junior Women's team and to the Stuart Merrifield Junior Men's team. We are proud of all of you and wish you the best of luck in the Provincials!!

We hosted our Junior Bonspiel on the weekend of December 6 & 7th and welcomed 14 teams of curlers from our club, JDF, Esquimalt and Kerry Park. We thank our supporters - the Victoria Police Athletic Association, Gordon Head Villages Pizza, and Coca Cola. Brian May of Edge Curling also generously supplied a delivery aid for one lucky curler, which was won by Genevieve Thierbach from our club!

We are now gearing up for our Junior Christmas Party on the 16th. Fully HALF of our program participants are new curlers this season and we are having a lot of fun coaching them! More kudos - to our coaches: Ann Thompson, Bonnie Davies, Cathryn O'Brien, Debby Bottomley, Ed Gerhardt, Josh Manzer, Lu Neilson, Richy Thierbach, Sean Cromarty, and Steve Streifel - they are a fun, talented, encouraging and patient bunch!

We have four kids who have won prizes for drawing to the four foot so far this season: Alex Horvath, Bailey Tinkler and brand new curlers, Darcy Macdonald and Rachel Carey. Way to go!! Many thanks to our club for supporting the program and kids with the coffee shop gift certificates they win and with the hot chocolate for our little rockers after those cold sessions!

All of us in the Junior Program wish each of you, curlers and staff, a happy holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year!

Ellie Gerhardt
Junior Program Coordinator

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Mon. Dec. 15
Aft. Ladies Xmas Luncheon

Wed. Dec. 17
Wed. Ladies Xmas Luncheon

Thurs. Dec. 18
Eve. Ladies Xmas Banquet

Fri. Dec. 19
Teacher's League Xmas Banquet

Sun. Dec. 21
Building Closed

Happy Holidays!
Building Closed
Dec. 24-25

Dec. 26-28
Mistletoe Bonspiel

Dec. 29-Jan. 1
Building Closed

Jan. 10 & 11
Club Coach Workshop

Jan. 26-30
Senior Men's Bonspiel

Wed. AM Ladies Select

Time is marching right along towards Christmas and the festive Season. To kick things off, league players will be participating in our annual **Turkey Shoot on December 10th at 9:00 am. December 17th will be another 9:00 am start as this is the date of the Christmas Luncheon.**

To one and all, I wish you a very happy and joyous holiday season.
Curling resumes at 9:30 am on Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Maxine Hanson

Aft. Ladies

The curling season is speeding along with the 2nd of 3 draws already well underway. Thanks to Alice Howes for her Hallowe'en treats and to your competent executive for their good efforts on your behalf. **November's Interclub** was a huge success with 7 of 10 teams placing in the tournament. Host Club Esquimalt did a great job and provided a wonderful luncheon and entertainment. Also, thank you to our own ladies, Pam Shemilt, Jean Burrows and Pat Morrison who worked so hard towards making Interclub the success that it was.

Before listing the various winners, please remember the **Christmas Luncheon on December 15th** at 11:30 am at the Club. Your skip has your \$20 ticket and your capable social convenor, Alice Howes, promises another wonderful luncheon. Remember that we will not be curling that day. Curling **commences on January 5th & 8th.**

Congratulations to the following Interclub 2008 winners.

Winner C division: Skip Jean Burrows, Linda Carswell-Bland, Bea Wright, Edith McHugh.

Winner D division: Skip Joan Lopeter, Val Turner, Delores Troyer, Marie Duff

3rd A division: Skip Barb Copley, Joyce Parsons, Bronwyn Hackett, Gwen McKinnon.

4th A division: Skip Orma Paton, Elaine Shirley, Elsie Anguish, Ev Sigalet

2nd B division: Skip Nina Olson, Joanne Schmitke, Alice MacGillivray, Peggy Knapik.

3rd B division: Skip Roberta Fredrickson, Sharon Kelly, Cathy Bartlett, Lucy Denham.

3dr C division: Skip Pam Shemilt, Myrna Pringle, May Ingles, Helen Currie.

I would also like to congratulate the **winning teams from the 1st draw.** Both Nancy Mawle and Roberta Fredrickson's teams tied after the round robin and had to compete in an exciting "shoot out". The team of Roberta Fredrickson, Sharon Kelly, Cathy Bartlett and Kaye Hirose won the Monday draw. Thursday's winner was Jean Burrows, Henriette Ballinger, Muriel Turner and Ev Sigalet. Well done!

In conclusion, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Linda Carswell-Bland

Legion League

Time has gone by so fast it hard to believe Christmas is almost here. Our league is at the half way point of our season Dec. 14. We will return Jan. 4, 2009.

On behalf of our executive I would like to wish everyone a
MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Stew Thomson

Evening Ladies

Tuesday and Thursday Ladies Curlers have finished one round robin and are in A or B blocks. Some of the games have been very close going down to the last end. A **'thank-you'** to the group of Thursday curlers who decorated the lounge. There have been many positive comments. It looks great. We are looking forward to our **Christmas Party on Thursday, December 18**. There will be a box for the Mustard Seed should anyone wish to contribute. All attending the party may participate in the \$10.00 gift exchange. Bring a present for under the tree as **Santa** and the **Elves** will be making an appearance. The **Semi-annual General Meeting** will be held after the early draw @ 8:45 in the upstairs lounge on **Tuesday January 27, 2008**. Please attend. Keep the weekend of March 12-15 open. It is the **'Daffodil Spiel'**
Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy prosperous 2009.

Marilyn Sutton

Friday Night Mixed Fun League

Well...Tis the season. The bells are ringing, the skips are screaming. I just wanted to take a moment out of the holiday rush to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year! 2008 has proven to be a great start for us in the Fun League and we are looking forward to a great 2009 season. Our last night of curling before Christmas will be Dec 19, and then we start back up again on Jan 2, 2009. And I just wanted to remind everyone that tickets to the Scott Tournament of Hearts and the Bear Mountain Classic make excellent gift ideas. The Victoria Curling Club, where else can you do your Christmas shopping, play a game, and go for a beer all in one stop? I hope everyone has a great holiday season.

SEASON'S GREETINGS EVERY ONE!

Darren McKinty

Saturday AM Curling League

The 2008-09 Saturday AM Curling season is made up of 11 round robin and 5 playoff dates, as well as two skins game dates, December 13 and March 7, with each game playing for \$100 in prize money. After 10 round robin games the Ron Danderfer rink has a perfect record and has accumulated 20 points while the Ron Grant team holds down second spot with 15 points.

This group, which curls from 9-11 am on Saturday mornings, is an open and 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 as well as good curling. Curlers who may be interested in joining this league are invited to get in touch with:

Roger Davidson at (250) 477-8515 or roger.davidson@shaw.ca

Brian Morin to participate in the Strathcona Cup

Brian Morin, a Victoria Curling Club member who curls in both the Saturday AM and Wednesday Commercial Leagues, has been selected as a member of the Canadian team that will compete in Scotland for the Strathcona Cup during January 2009. The Canadian team consists of 40 curlers representing all 10 provinces that have been assigned to 10 teams that will play games in a variety of towns and cities in both north and south Scotland over the period January 7 to 31, 2009.

The Strathcona Cup, one of the oldest international curling competitions in the world, is a friendly curling competition between Canada and Scotland which began with the first visit of a Scottish team to Canada in 1902-03 and a subsequent visit of a Canadian team to Scotland in 1909. Initially held on a somewhat irregular basis, it now alternates between Canada and Scotland every five years. Further information about the event can be found on the website www.strathconacup100.ca.

Brian is one of three curlers from the Victoria area on the six member contingent from British Columbia. He expects to play in 3 warm-up games as well as 20 games among the total of 200 games that count toward the total team score. Brian also participated in the previous event held in Canada in 2003. Brian notes that the late Elmer Hoffman, a former Victoria Curling Club member, participated a record three times in the Strathcona Cup when held in Scotland.

Men's Leagues

There have been a lot of great games and great shots in both the Monday and Wednesday night men's leagues. Everyone is enjoying the season and the draws have been going along smoothly. It will soon be time to start thinking about the **Thunderbird Men's Bonspiel**, March 19-22, 2009 so mark you new 2009 calendars. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Don McMullen
Men's League Rep.

Sports Traders

After 11 weeks of curling, many of the same old teams are fighting for the top spot. The Keith Kresse team who, for the last 4 years, has managed to win either the round robin or the playoffs but not both in the same season, is tied for first place with a new contender for the coveted title of round robin champions, the Gord Irwin team. Both teams have 18 points apiece & meet each other on the ice on December 14th. The Al Mellett team is lurking close behind with 17 points & the Maurice Auger team is also within striking distance with 16 points, leaving the other Auger boys far behind.

Our **Annual Xmas Potluck Party** is after curling on December 14th & as always, there will be many delicious dishes to choose from. After our pigout we'll be drawing the 3 winning Xmas Cheer Raffle tickets, so please try to hand them in to the Keith Kresse team as soon as you can. This is an important fundraiser for the league as it helps to support the prize table for our curling windup in March, so a bottle of wine will be awarded to each person who sold a winning ticket & to the person who sold the most tickets. Another highlight of the evening will be our 50/50 ticket draws, as there will be some extra & special prizes to be had, thanks to Al Mellett and his many connections, so dig deep into those wallets of yours & you may be handsomely rewarded.

Have a Merry Xmas & a Happy New Year.

Cathy O'Brien, reporter

2009 Bear Mountain Curling Classic Mar. 26-29, 2009

The 4th annual Bear Mountain Arena Curling Classic is now only a few months away and all the plans are in place for what will be our most exciting event yet!! In March 2009, we will be able to witness the strongest

field in the history of the event. It 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 Asham World Curling Tour.

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. Our event is one of the last possible chances for Canadian teams to earn these points so every top team in Canada will be attending. This years change of dates has also enabled us to attract National Champions from Scotland, China and the US.