

ROCK TALK

Newsletter of the London Curling Club

March 2006

BRONZE FEELS GOOD!!!

As every London curler knows, Olympic Curling Medalists "Team Kleibrink" made a special visit to London during the Scott Tournament of Hearts to talk to curling enthusiasts and share the excitement of their bronze medal win in Turin, Italy. LCC Elementary curler Heather Aipperspach was thrilled to meet and chat with Skip Shannon Kleibrink and Vice Amy Nixon, who in turn were excited to find out that Heather was a young curler, and only nine years old at that! Amy and Shannon told Heather that they had started curling at age 15, and they inspired her to consider working towards the Juniors or Worlds! Heather said she thought that wearing Bronze felt pretty good!!!



Thanks to Heather's mom, Linda Whidden, for sharing the great photo and story! For more STOHH pictures and anecdotes (and to find out what kinds of antics your fellow LCC curlers got into) check out pages 10 through 15 in this special "STOHH Memories" issue of Rock Talk.

Mark this date on your calendar

LONDON CURLING CLUB'S

2nd ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT

- When: 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Friday, March 31, 2006
at the LCC (the mixed playoff evening)
- Price: No charge for admission
Pizza and a drink available for only \$10
- Games: Crown & Anchor, Texas Holdem poker,
Blackjack, Balderdash (any other suggestions,
call Mike Bancroft or Dave Shaw)
- Sign-up: Sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the main floor lounge



For GOOD FOOD, FUN and GAMES, SIGN UP TODAY!!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to the LCC members (over 100 of you!) who volunteered hundreds of hours of your time to curling over the past several months and during "STOH". Now that the Scott is a wonderful memory, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that your curling club needs you too! When you're considering future volunteer activities, please keep the LCC in mind!

I wish to thank Board Members Tom Fejes, Doug Hamather, Mike Bancroft and Past President Alec Curtis, who will be retiring from the Board at the end of this season. London Curling Club has openings for four new Board members, who will assume Board responsibilities and take over the following portfolios: Treasurer, Fundraising/Capital Improvement Liaison, and Curling Committee Coordinator. We encourage you to consider volunteering for one of these important positions, or nominating a fellow LCC member to do so.

Garry Thompson

A NEW EDITOR!

Rock Talk is pleased to announce that **Karen Lowry**, a familiar face around the London Curling Club, will be taking over the 'reins' as Editor of Rock Talk next year! Karen is excited at the prospect of reporting all YOUR news to your fellow members, and looks forward to working closely with club members, convenors, event co-ordinators, board members, and staff to keep you up-to-date on activities and events at the club.

Rock Talk provides the opportunity for many different factions of the club to communicate with one another and is an important "player" on the LCC "team". Welcome aboard, Karen! I KNOW you'll have as much fun working on this "project" as I've had over the past four-plus years!

Sincerely,
Wink DuBrule

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A FUN COMMITTEE?

Your advertising committee needs you to do three things:

1. To sit on the committee and contribute to our efforts. ie: sales, co-ordination, and ideas.
2. To suggest local businesses who should be approached to advertise at our club.
3. To indicate club members who own and/or are closely associated with businesses who might be interested in advertising at the club.

WE NEED YOU!

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Barb Vitkauskus	471-1821
Barb Park	850-0374
Harry Steele	660-0428
Dennis O'Connor	675-1945
Marg Sirna	667-3181



WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!



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DID YOU KNOW...

... that there is a relatively new innovation in curling stones for young children?

It used to be that there were two weights of rocks; full size (44 lbs) and half size (22 lbs). Now, thanks to technological advancements in our great sport, there is a new "intermediate" rock. These new stones are made of high-tech composites, to look just like granite yet are engineered to provide all the same characteristics of a regular 44 lb granite stone, at half the weight. "Little" rocks, of which London Curling Club owns two sets, are great for introducing kids to curling. However, they do not curl or react to the ice like "big" rocks. As children grow with the sport, yet are not able to throw full size stones, they are at a disadvantage to experience the true nature of how a rock curls when thrown down the full sheet of ice, or how rocks react to "hits and rolls." These new "intermediate" rocks would provide a "stepping stone" towards teaching the game to kids who are too big for little rocks, yet not big enough for big rocks.

The Sunday Elementary School Program (formerly the Little Rock & Bantam Programs), has had an outstanding turnout this past season with over 50 kids enrolled in the program. Beyond just curling, they have been working hard over the past two years to raise funds towards the purchase of a set (16) of these stones for their program. Thanks to a substantial private donation, donations from the Men's Sinner group, and the profits from the last two annual London-Middlesex Optimist's Little Rock Bonspiels, we are pleased to report that we are now within inches of reaching our goal. With a little help and just a few more dollars, we can start the 2006/2007 Curling Season with a set!

Thus our call to the membership. For just \$100 you could purchase one of these rocks and have the handle engraved in your name, or the name of a loved one – perhaps a child or grandchild! Up to two names can be engraved on a handle. This opens up the option, that two families could go together on a rock, for just \$50 each, and each have one name engraved on the handle. What a great legacy to leave to the future of our sport and our club ... the kids!

To purchase a rock, please see the Office Manager for the proper paperwork.

Thank You from all the kids (and future kids) of the LCC Elementary School Curling Program

BARBEQUE RAFFLE

Rose and John Geraghty, on behalf of the Tim Hortons outlets at Lambeth, Byron, and Southdale and Wonderland, have once again donated a valuable item to the LCC for raffle – this time a very fine barbecue.



Raffle tickets are being sold (1 for \$5, or 3 for \$10) by John Spetman at the bar, Barb Bourn in the office, and some of your fundraising committee (Mike Bancroft, Bruce Cooper, Jack Phillips, Dave Shaw and Sharon Sivak). In addition to the barbecue as first prize, there is a second prize of \$100 and a third prize of \$50.

The draw will take place at the LCC at the 2nd annual Casino Night on Friday, March 31 at about 9 p.m.

Thanks very much to Rose and John for their continuing generous donations to the LCC.

Please help the club fundraising effort to pay down the \$100,000 debt.



NO MORE DISHPAN HANDS !

The Board has agreed to a timeline for the electrical and plumbing work to occur so that the new dishwasher will be installed in the kitchen by the end of September. At that time credit will be given to all the groups who participated in the fundraising. To date over \$5000 has been raised. Many thanks to all who have worked to make this happen.

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TWO FIRSTS!!!

LCC hosted the **First Annual Business Women's Bonspiel** on February 18, 2006. Winners of the event were members of the Candis MacDougall team from the LCC ... shown accepting the trophy (from left to right, Lead Laura Rozon, Second Nancy Myers, Skip Candis MacDougall, and Vice Dorothy Bice). A good time was had by all, especially the **Sue Lawrence team who won their first game** since they joined the Thursday night women's league at the LCC in 2004 as a novice group of curlers! For proof of their win, the team posed for a photo in front of the score board!

A special "Thank You" to our sponsors who contributed to the success of the event:

Heather Greenfield, Dundee Private Investors Inc.
 John & Rose Geraghty, Tim Hortons
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 Dick Moffat, Personal Logic
 Selectpath Benefits and Financia
 Shoppers Drug Mart

Hosting team: Erin Cook, Sarah Gray, Trish Andrew and Jayne Broughton.



Elementary School Age Curlers

Linda Whidden

It's hard to believe that the curling season for the Elementary School Age Curlers is almost over. Sunday afternoons at the LCC are a rocking success with the sounds of 47 highly enthusiastic young curlers, learning to perfect their slide and delivery. The six sheets of ice are full and the fantastic support of our on-ice instructors has contributed to our very successful curling season. Almost every weekend, at least one team from our program has been playing in a bonspiel. We are very proud of the curling spirit of the elementary school age curlers. They have enjoyed the opportunity to travel to other clubs and demonstrate their skills. Thank you to all the parents who have throughout the season enthusiastically supported their children. Cynthia Simpson has done a superb job keeping everyone informed of Little Rocks bonspiels. Thanks to Jennifer Cuddie for finding the red and blue hooded jackets that the children wear to bonspiels, helping to create that team image. Thanks to Dave Dreher for organizing the bantam age curlers and getting them extra practice time on Thursday night.

We will be winding up our very successful year with our closing banquet on Sunday March 26th. Recognizing the spirit of "little rocks", we will be accepting advance registrations for the 2006/2007 season. We are confident that our numbers will continue to grow. Finally, thanks to the LCC club personnel who have helped to make this season such a wonderful success.


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SENIOR MEN'S REPORT

Dick Kilbourne

The Scott Tournament of Hearts! What a wonderful few days at the JLC. All of our curlers so graciously gave of their time so that this Bonspiel could be the success that it was. A result of the event was that our senior men lost a few days of their regular curling which no one objected to.

Our usual enthusiasm waned a bit with an unusual response for our return visit for the Medcalf Trophy. On the other hand, the St. Thomas Club had difficulty in securing ideal ice time and poor response from their curlers as well. Finally, four travelling teams that were to be in Chatham on the Friday, March 10/06, could not be available that day. Could it be that it's near to the end of the season? Unfortunately, due to the fact that we field only seven curlers, we agreed to cancel the day, discontinuing the Medcalf Trophy for this year.

Seniors Men's "Shootout" - Convenor: Doug Petch. This contest will finish off our season, we hope. There again, The Malahide has resulted in minor changes from the original schedule but hopefully will be completed (see accompanying article).

Monday, March 27 is our closing luncheon for the Senior Men. Beside saying farewell to all our curling friends, we have the election for next years executive. Thanks to Dan McInnes who has guided us down the straight-and-narrow from his past-president's chair. Also, many thanks to all of the draw masters who kept each of the days running so smoothly.

I would like to personally thank all the members of the 2005-2006 executive for bearing with me throughout the year and the welcome advice that you gave me. And we, the executive of the 2005-06 Senior Men's Curling league, would thank all of you for your past support and to wish all good health in the future. Enjoy a good summer and be ready to come back prepared to enjoy another season of curling.

The MALAHIDE MEDAL returns to the London Curling Club!

Mike Williams, convenor of the 2006 Malahide Medal Competition, is pleased to report that the London Curling Club is proud to bring home the Malahide Medal! This event has taken place annually since 1865, with fierce rivalry between four area curling clubs: two from London (LCC and Highland), St. Thomas and Aylmer.

This event is believed to be the oldest annual curling event in North America. This year, three teams represented each of the competing clubs. Proud representatives of the London Curling Club were:

Team One: Skip Dave Mann
Vice Doug Crosbie
Second Frank Van Diepenbeek
Lead John Rudell

Team Two Skip Dave Beckett
Vice Tom Zavitz
Second Dave Frasier
Lead Paul Riley

Team Three Stan Hodge, Randy Brewes, Stan Smith and Mike Williams (who rotated positions from game to game).



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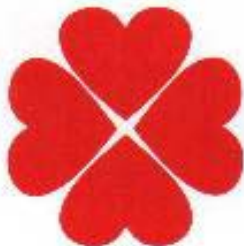
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INTERVIEW

This is the last in a six-part series of articles in Rock Talk this season with LCC Members who were involved in the organization and planning of the 2006 Scott Tournament of Hearts. In previous issues we introduced:

- Pat Chater, Director of Volunteer Recruitment, Uniforms and Appreciation
- Andrea Child, Director of Heartfest Activities
- Pat Steele, Director of Banquets and Receptions
- Marg Sirna, Director of Decorating and of Information Booth Volunteers
- Jack Phillips, (Director of Banking for the HeartStop Lounge)

This month, we are pleased to introduce Randy Brewwe, who was Director of Security and Accreditation. On page 7, you will find a report by Dave Shaw, Director of Liaison.

RT: *Please tell our readers about your background, from a curling and professional standpoint.*

Randy: I joined the Ilderton Curling Club in 1988 and switched to the London Curling Club in 2003. I have been with the Ministry of Finance since 1981 and I am a senior Tax Auditor doing audits locally and across Western Canada and the United States.

RT: *What prompted you to volunteer with the 2006 Scott Tournament of Hearts?*

Randy: As a member of the Oakridge Optimist Club and the Knights of Columbus, I have been involved in many events so when the notice went up at our club, I didn't hesitate to apply and get involved.

RT: *As the Director of Security and Accreditation, to whom did you report and what were your pre STOH responsibilities?*

Randy: I reported to Ted Smith, Vice Chair of Facilities. Prior to the Scott, I had to meet with staff from both the JLC and the LCC to tour both venues to draft a plan for security. I also had to meet numerous times with the CCA and Scott Paper staff and the event co-ordinator to outline my security plans and incorporate their requests for the accreditation process (which, as any volunteer will agree, was more than a little complex).

RT: *Tell us about assembling your committee and the tasks that your 'team' was expected to accomplish before the first rocks were thrown at the STOH in February.*

Randy: I had 47 volunteers assigned to me from the base of 560, along with obtaining 61 student volunteers from Fanshawe and Westervelt Colleges. I met with the students prior to the STOH and outlined what was expected at the Heartstop Lounge.

RT: *Your duties started in the Fall of 2005. What specific work was done during the "Scott" week in February-March and when is your job officially completed?*

Randy: During the Scott week, I had to schedule the 108 volunteers to cover the nine checkpoints at the JLC and five at the Heartstop Lounge from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. There were three shifts each day at the both venues which had to be changed along with handing out the accreditation passes to the numerous volunteers going through the JLC. I was on-site from 7:15 a.m. to 11:15 p.m., between the two venues, each day. My job will be completed when I submit my report to the CCA later this month.



"Scottie" and Randy Brewwe

Photo Credit Marg Sirna

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HOSTING THE LETHBRIDGE CONTINGENT !!



On Thursday morning February 23rd Wink (my committee!) and I met the first wave of five members of the Lethbridge contingent for breakfast and the first round of briefings for their infiltration of the knowledge base that the London and area Scott Tournament of Hearts executives had accumulated over the previous 18 months for their benefit in hosting the 2007 Scott. It was still three days before the event started but the strategic plan for the “brain picking exercise” was well underway. Ted Smith had said that Darrell Eil and Bob Winter could follow him and his team around for the next couple of days as they prepared the ice and other facilities. Kerry Lackie told Fran Yoshida that she would meet her on Monday afternoon the 27th at the Heart Stop Lounge to discuss its operation. This morning we were going to tour the John Labatt Centre and the Convention Centre and the Hilton to see first hand what the facilities were like and who was available for a quick chat, or a sneak preview, or a dress rehearsal.

So off we went walking to the JLC, through Galleria and into and through the market. Wow! The market was a big hit. Then into the JLC and all around that facility. Double WOW! The Lethbridge facility holds 4,700 so the capacity of the JLC was impressive. And the lounges and the ice surface and the decorations all scored high in their impressions. And we ran into Ann Lapchinski and Lorie Hill who both indicated an enthusiasm for meeting with their Lethbridge counterparts to discuss the issues and opportunities that they had encountered in the planning cycle up to that point. And then Triple WOW!! Dale Hunter (coach of the London Knights) took them off to tour the Knights dressing room. Well! That was almost too much excitement and stimulation for the entire visit.

By Sunday evening the rest of the nine person entourage was in residence including Jody Meli, Chair of next year's event. Play was now well underway and the outcome of all those months of preparation was clear – the 2006 Scott was a huge success. Meetings between the two groups took place in many venues: in lounges, in restaurants, in any room that happened to be available and during conversations as the London volunteer did his/her job. Peter Inch met with Jody several times, Vice chairs from the Lethbridge delegation met with their counterparts and the directors who reported to them. The exchanges were considerable and effective. Reams of notes described activities “that no binder from the CCA could possibly describe” as one Lethbridge member told me.

So our task of helping the Lethbridge “brain pickers” was made very easy by the London “brain pickees” who willingly and enthusiastically disgorged their knowledge base to the Alberta raiders without even a hint of proprietary right or copyright protection. Not only that but the two groups seemed to like each other and exchanged email addresses in case some additional information was needed.

I met the Lethbridge delegation at 6:00 am on March 6th at the Tim Hortons at the airport as they prepared to catch their flights home. They were our friends now and Wink and I were sorry to see them go. Clearly they enjoyed their visit. The London volunteers had made them welcome, the executives of the 2006 Scott had given them everything that they could ask for and more, Dale Hunter had taken them into the hallowed halls of the Knights, the facilities that London enjoys such as the JLC were winners in their eyes, but most of all everyone they met made them welcome and cooperated to the fullest. It was a great experience for all of us.

Dave Shaw



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Daytime Women's News

by Sheila Novlan

Closing Luncheon & Meeting – Wednesday, April 12

You may purchase tickets for this closing event from any member of the Women's Daytime Section Executive for only \$13.00. We encourage all of our curlers to attend and send a special invitation to our new curlers to come and see how your Club works.

A Special Thanks

On behalf of the Women's Daytime Section, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wink DuBrule, Editor-In-Chief of Rock Talk, for her continued dedication to making our LCC newsletter so outstanding over the years. Our heartfelt thanks, Wink.

The Marj Carson Curl for Cancer Bonspiel

Ruth Prentice and her team of Linda Karl, Deanne Fitzpatrick and Marnie Sherritt won the 23rd annual Marj Carson Curl for Cancer Bonspiel held on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at the London Curling Club. Pat Chater brought her father, Bill Carson, and their good friend, Bev Blair, to help present the trophy. Bev was chair of the women's section at LCC in 1975-76 and talked about curling with Marj and Ruth Prentice. Bev presented the trophy to the winners. Joan Bongers and Leanne Behrns from the Canadian Cancer Society gave a short talk.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the raffle table, the silent auction and assisted with the day by working in the kitchen, scoring, selling tickets and, of course, for curling. You helped to raise \$1,002.00 for cancer research!

Convenor Linda Peeling and Co-convenor Sylvia Leuszler

Closing Events & Still To Come

Leads & Seconds – March 22

For Fun – March 29

The Nash – April 4

The No Name – April 6

The Sheila Betkus Women's Two-Day Bonspiel

"Silver Hearts" was the theme of this year's annual two-day bonspiel, named in honour of Scott Paper's 25th anniversary of sponsorship of the "Scott Tournament of Hearts" (which wound up at the JLC the day before this event started). Pat Bell and her team (Connie Weir, Sandy Ronson and Wink DuBrule) convened the event. Twenty-four teams (nine from the LCC) curled four 8-end games over two days, enjoyed the "silver" atmosphere created throughout the club, wine and dined in "silver" style and chose their prizes from a lovely selection of elegant "silver" items. Our bartender, John Spetman, even created a special "Silver Hearts" drink for the event.



Teams had the opportunity to entertain their fellow curlers at a "fashion extravaganza" on the evening of the Monday banquet. Each team was asked to dress one of their team members in a "silver-themed" costume. The results were hilarious (as evidenced by the photos on the next page!). Fashion diva, Joan Bidinosti, hosted the show and provided the commentary for everyone's enjoyment.

The overall 2005 winner of the Bonspiel was the Gayle Annett's team from the Roseland Curling Club in Windsor ... Gayle's teammates were Marg Varga, Gail Grosjean and Anne Matassa. Prizes for this event are made possible through the generosity of our six event sponsors: Scotiabank, Vincor International, Gregory Optical, Cameron Glass & Window Inc., Lesser Brothers Jewellers Ltd., and Can-Am RV Centre.

Pat and her team are grateful to the members of the London Curling Club who volunteered many hours of time to work in the kitchen and dining room and assisted the team in so many other ways. As always, the cooperation and help from the club staff was much appreciated.



“Silver Hearts”
Women’s Two-Day
Bonspiel



Photo Credit:
Ruth Dutrizac,
London Curling Club



Your LCC "Scott" MEMORY BOOK

Rock Talk is pleased to present YOUR memories of the Scott Tournament of Hearts on the following pages. Thanks so much to everyone who shared their pictures and stories!



What would a curling event BE without ice! Bob Leigh shares this photo (autographed by STOH Head Icemaker Dave Merklinger) of the entire STOH ice-making crew.. You'll find Bob Leigh in the centre at the rear, Dave Merklinger at the far left, and LCC's icemaker Ken Breivik fifth from the left.



Is this the REAL Garry Thompson?!!

Who could resist capturing a photo of our President -- wearing a suit! Garry was proud to take part in the Opening Ceremonies of the STOH. He and the Presidents of the other three area curling clubs responsible for bringing the STOH to London had the honour of raising the banner to open the tournament.



This LCC team won BEST FAN OF THE GAME award at the JLC! Pictured from left to right are Sandy Connolly, Caroline Pavlin, Brent Duplessis and Ross Stachow. Thanks to Dave Beckett for the photo.

More STOH memories ...

SCOTTIE!!!

From coast to coast to coast, Canadian curling fans were impressed with the wonderful job organizers and the more than 550 volunteers performed to make the 2006 Scott Tournament of Hearts such a huge success. So.....which job **was** the most fun? The answer is easy: SCOTTIE's, of course. Not only did the Game's lovable mascot have the opportunity to get up close to Canada's best female curlers each and every day; in addition, Scottie was able to mingle amongst the greatest fans of any sport. Absolutely EVERYONE loved Scottie, particularly kids and volunteers who wanted to be hugged and cuddled by the cute puffball at every chance.

Scottie says THANK YOU, all you wonderful people, it was a blast ... see you in Lethbridge next year!



EDITOR'S NOTE: This photo of Scottie with Sandra and baby Jackson was taken by Dad Phil Williams. Mom and Dad are both LCC members ... 6-month-old Jackson is at the London curling club Thursday and Friday nights and has become known as the LCC's "biggest curling fan" !

LCC PRO-AM

EDITOR'S NOTE: London Curling Club was pleased to host the STOH Pro-Am event on Saturday, March 4th. LCC member John Rudell was even MORE pleased when he was invited to participate. Here's his story:

"A few weeks back I received a call out of the blue that my name was selected from those who took part in 'The Closest to the Heart' contest to play in the PRO-AM portion. 24 teams came together on Saturday, March 4th at 8:00 am and played in 2 draws of 2 ends each. One of the girls from the STOH competing provincial representatives was assigned to a team of 3 amateurs like me. We were TEAM 1. When the dust cleared, TEAM 1 was in the top 2 in our draw! Therefore, we got to go and curl at the JLC after the afternoon semi-final. Our team consisted of Andrea Kelly (AKA the New Brunswick skip), Mark Edmundson, Tara Grey from Norwich, and myself. What a fabulous once-in-a-lifetime experience for all who had the privilege of being involved. Did I mention that we were only about an inch (2 to 3 centimeters) away from the **Golden Toilet Seat!** The draws to the button by both skips made the win all the more valuable. The silver medal wasn't too shabby either.

Thanks to Andrea, Mark, and Tara for their awesome support and a fun time. What a great venue for these curling competitions! It was sure an honour to be one of twelve amateurs Canada wide to be curling in the final of this event.

Thank you also to the ladies that put on a wonderful lunch at the LCC for the competitors in the PRO-AM. Thanks as well to the representatives from Scott Paper Products. P.S. Sorry I forgot my camera."

John Rudell



EDITOR'S NOTE: We're glad that Don Dool remembered HIS camera! He got these great photos of the Pro-Am from the LCC and the JLC.



More STO^H memories ...

LCC's TWO "JUNIOR STARS" Share their "Moments in the Spotlight"!

EDITOR'S NOTE: LCC Elementary curler Steven Pettigrew was "Junior Star" to Team Ontario. Here's his story:

"On Thursday, March 2, I had the opportunity to attend the Scott Tournament of Hearts as an honorary member of Team Ontario. When I first got there, I was given my team jacket and a bag of prizes. Then we went into the Volunteer Lounge and waited for the teams to arrive. We then went out to the ice where I met the members of Team Ontario, their coach and their fifth player. The ladies were really nice to me and I got to do their warm up exercises on the ice and got to hold the broom for their practice. The ladies presented me with an autographed broom at this time. I even got to throw two rocks and put both of them in the house with only a little bit of sweeping! Then the game began and I got to sit behind the scoreboard between Coach Bruce and fifth Michelle Boland. We were playing against Newfoundland & Labrador.

After the first end, I was taken on a tour around the John Labatt Centre and got to go into the TSN trailer and then we went up into the Broadcast Booth and met with Vic, Ray and Linda. They chatted with me and were really great.

After my visit to the TSN booth, I went back down to the ice and watched the rest of the game. During a timeout I got to go out onto the ice and listen to the team discuss strategy. It was a really exciting game and we won when Skip Krista Scharf made a raise takeout to score 3 points and win 9-7. I shook all the people's hands and then was taken back to where I first came in and met my Mom and Dad.

It was just a great experience!"

Steven Pettigrew



EDITOR'S NOTE: LCC Elementary curler Aaron Chapman was paired with Team Saskatchewan as a Junior Star. He's pictured here in the centre with all of the members of the team. To quote Aaron on his experience,

"My favourite part was throwing rocks with Amber Holland and the Coach after the game was over."

RT thanks Aaron's Mom, Anne Chapman, for sharing this great photo!

More than 100 LCC members came out to volunteer at the STO^H. Here are a few quotes:

"Spoke with Rick Lang from Thunder Bay for a few minutes, then found out it was THE Rick Lang....did I feel silly!"

"Met two women who curled years ago in the Scott for Quebec. One of them showed off her necklace with two diamonds, which means three Scott appearances! That was fun. Sometimes I feel like a kid in a candy store, meeting these people and hearing such great stories."

"The mom of one of the girls on the Ontario team claims she visited a club and tried to curl once ... and was asked to leave! I told her to try another club!"

"I was lucky to be at the Hilton for the Blind Ball. Lots of lovely folks wondering what curling is!"

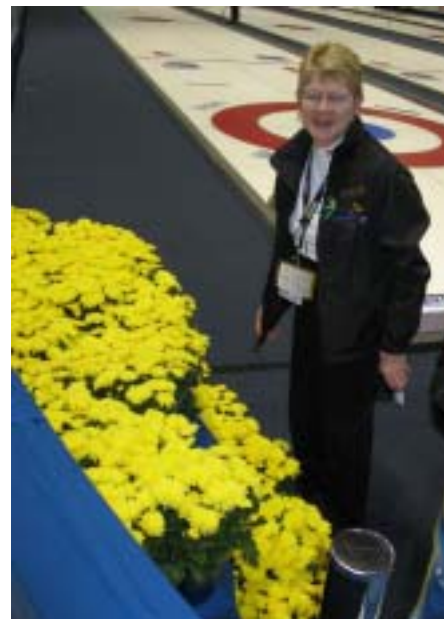
"As the teams headed out for their welcoming banquet, it was interesting to see they were all dressed as teams in the same outfit. This was amazing to this volunteer ... a non-curler."

More STO H memories ...

DECORATING DIVAS !!



Marg Sirna (pictured with just a few of her 400 "mums" at the JLC) and her crew were responsible for all the decorations you saw at the JLC, the HeartStop Lounge, and all of the banquets and receptions that happened during the STO H! Above, helping her assemble some table centrepieces are Pat Bell and Rhonda Persichilli (both LCC), Linda Lauzon (Highland), Penny Yip (non-curler), Sheila Novlan (LCC), Joan Cuthbert (LCC), Dorothy Beattie (non-curler) and Karen Lowry (LCC). At right, Marg and Karen take a well-earned break! Thanks to Marg for the photos.



20 YEARS AGO ...

"A very special memory I have was renewing acquaintances with the four original Scott executives from 1986. They are very warm, wonderful people and we shared stories and reminiscences as if they were yesterday."

Pat Steele

EDITOR'S NOTE: Pat Steele was Chair of the London Scott Tournament of Hearts in 1986. At the 2006 STO H, she was Director of Banquets and Receptions.

DREAMING!



Sorry, Ken ... you can dream as long as you want to, but you're **NEVER** going to get your name on that trophy!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ken Schofield is a member and former manager of the LCC. RT thanks Pat Chater for the photo.

DID THEY REALLY SAY THAT?

Some comments overheard by volunteers manning the STO H information booths around London:

- One man wandering by the booth said he kept seeing "nice people sitting in the booths, all smiling at us". He wanted to know what **they** knew that he **didn't** !!
- A gentleman (a non-curler) was wandering where we got the pebbles that we put on the ice.

More STO^H memories ...

FUN IN THE HEARTSTOP LOUNGE



MC Stu Brown asked the audience if anyone had panties in her purse! Tell us why again, Pat???

Thanks to Rhonda Perschilli for the photo and caption

HOT STORY from the BANKING ROOM !!

We had barely entered the HeartStop Lounge banking room when Dudley cried out, "I want to do Linda." I froze in my tracks. Did I just hear what I thought I heard. Has Don Dudley the "hots" for my wife? Can he not at least wait until I am out of the room before making such a bold come on!

Linda and I volunteered to work at the convention center. Before each shift we'd meet at the banking room to collect our tokens and cash. On the second day, Don was working his first shift in the banking room and was keen to check out his first token seller. He was charged with ensuring each volunteer started and ended their shift with the correct cash and tokens. In his enthusiasm, Don blurted out, "I want to do Linda". What he *meant* to say was he wanted to check out her cash and tokens.

You never know what you'll hear when volunteering. It was my first volunteer experience at such an event and I really enjoyed it. The guys in the banking room were a fun bunch and had a great time, *especially* Don!

Larry Round

CONVERSATION WITH A CHAMPION!

I was very fortunate to be on Pat Steele's committee (Banquets and Reception) and part of my job was to meet and greet the special guests at each of the banquets. As a long time admirer of Colleen Jones, I was thrilled when she approached me to ask something about where to put her coat, and she admired my earrings! I was wearing the Hearts earrings that Mary Lou Dickenson's daughter made for us and she really thought they were "fun and unusual"!

This led to a wonderful few minutes in which I asked her about the hats she wears on CBC (yes, they are hers) and she told me about buying four new ones in Italy that she was excited about and that her hair is so ridiculous in the morning that hats are an absolute necessity! It was all so woman-to-woman and normal that it blew me away, and my admiration for her went up another notch.

Thanks for letting me share one of my special memories of a wonderful week!

Bonny Shawyer

" The Curling Community "

Tina Sturgeon

I had such a great experience volunteering for the STO^H. I received much more satisfaction from the eight-day tournament than expected. Not only did I get to be a spectator of first-class curling, but I had the opportunity to meet many of the competitors and find out just how nice the girls are out there representing our country and our sport. It proved to me that the old nickname for curling is still alive and well: "The Gentlemen's Sport" ... or is that "The Gentelady's Sport"? When I came home from a game at the JLC or a shift at the Heartstop Lounge, I was always excited to tell John about who I had been talking to that day.

When John would accept a position in another part of Ontario we would always take a few days in the area to check out the small towns within driving distance from the office that had curling clubs at them. Our choice of curling clubs would be the town we had the Real Estate representative zero in on. We had our priorities in order, right ?

Some of the friends we met up with at the Scott's were from either workplaces or team members, competitions or just rivals in leagues at our club ... some that we hadn't had the opportunity to see in up to 20 years. When I called my son Rick to tell him of people who had been asking about him, it aroused his curiosity to join me to attend some of the first-class games at the JLC . He had the opportunity to watch Tara whom he had been in Juniors with in Sault Ste. Marie. We spoke to Tom who so many years ago shared coaching privileges with me: I say "privileges", as we so proudly have seen the appearance of at least three of the boys in the Brier and now Tara in the STO^H. They were a good group to coach and made us proud when they went on to Nationals.

Rick said, "Mom, I don't know why you are so surprised to see all of these people -- the 'Curling Community' is a close knit community." He made me think of something I never thought of before and that is that curlers do seem like they have their own little community, and do remember their fellow curlers whether it be a team member or a coach or a rival. That comes from being involved in the most social sport in the world -- and I am so proud to be a part of it.

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in the STO^H. I would not hesitate to be available to help out with the next undertaking the London and area "Curling Community " will be bidding for. I know there will be more.

More **STOH memories** ...

CURLING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS!



Curlers enjoy the Rotary Rink at the London Market

Thanks to Karen Lowry for the photos of Don Lowry (left) and his team below: Don, Doug Petch, Don Agnew and Fred Wiesegger.



Above, Fran Yoshida of Alberta's Lethbridge Curling Club -- hosts of the 2007 STOH -- tries out the outdoor rink.

HOBNOBBING WITH CURLING "ROYALTY"!



Here's Mary Ellen Duggan with the Olympic Bronze medal, and someone who says she's Shannon Kleibrink trying to take it away!

Photo and caption from Eric Duggan!

... and here she is again, partying with the newly-minted TEAM CANADA (Kelly Scott's team from B.C.) at the STOH Victory Banquet! That Mary Ellen REALLY gets around!



**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS
MARCH**

- 18 Elementary Bonspiel
- 26 Juniors Closing Party
- 27 Senior Men Closing Lunch
- 27 Miller Playoffs
- 30 Sweeney Dinner
- 31 Casino Night, Mixed Playoffs

APRIL

- 3,4,5,6 Miller Playoffs
- 6 Business Women's Party
- 8 Organ Donors Bonspiel
- 12 Women's Closing Meeting

275 Dundas Street - London, ON



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Etiquette

What a treat to watch the Scott Tournament of Hearts at the JLC! We were exposed, not only to an excellent display of curling strategy and shot-making, but an equally impressive show of GREAT curling etiquette!

With that in mind, here is some "food for thought" as you put your broom and slider away for the summer months. The following excerpt was taken from Edition 3 of the Norwich District Curling Club Newsletter, "In the House" (with thanks to the LCC curler who collected the newsletter for Rock Talk's files):

"When playing the role of lead or second on a team, after you have thrown your rock, you must stand between the hog lines. Many players get sloppy and when waiting for the opposing skip to throw the last rock, they go and stand behind the vices on the boards instead of being out at the hog line. This may be fine in your own club, but if you happen to go out-of-club to a spiel, you need to know what is correct etiquette."

We all need the occasional reminder! In next year's issues of Rock Talk, watch for a new feature called "Etiquette Tip of the Month". Have a great summer!

This is your **LAST CHANCE** to nominate a **SPECIAL CURLER** for the

SPIRIT OF CURLING AWARD

Nomination forms can be found on the tables and wall rack in the downstairs lounge until March 31st.

Guiti Massoumi,
Member Service Committee

PRO SHOPPE REPORT Bob Davis



Your London Curling Club Pro Shoppe is winding down a very successful season. Although there are few areas in which we are over-stocked, we are offering a 10% discount on all remaining in-stock items. This will clear the way for us to negotiate volume discounts for next season with our suppliers.

So if you're considering new curling shoes, a broom, gloves, a golf shirt, or any of the items from our clothing line – now is the time to do it. Stocks are limited and, of course, items will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

On another pleasant note, the recent ladies two-day bonspiel saw sales in excess of \$1,000 of merchandise being purchased from our display set up on the main floor of the club. Our thanks to the bonspiel committee for all their help in making this happen.

And many thanks to everyone for supporting your Pro Shoppe this season.



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