

ROCKtalk

The newsletter of the
London Curling Club

March 2017



PAGE 2

Chuck's tough to beat at curling and lawn bowling

PAGE 6

Club history shows curling is a game for all ages

PAGE 8

Chatham rink wins womens two-day bonspiel

London to host 2018 WFG Continental Cup

When the Continental Cup comes to London next January, the city won't have off-ice attractions like those of the last host city, Las Vegas. But the vice-chair of the host committee, London Curling Club member Ted Smith says with the event being held at the Western Fair District, fans who love to gamble won't have to go far from the arena to the casino. There's also expected to be a traditional "patch" and a bar overlooking the ice.

While many Canadians went to Nevada in January to warm up, Ted says no one expects ticket sales to match Las Vegas. That's why they chose a smaller arena than Budweiser Gardens, the site of the 2006 Scotties Tournament of Hearts and the 2011 Tim Hortons Brier.

The Continental Cup includes traditional men's and women's teams, mixed teams, mixed doubles and skins games. The competition involves North America (Canada and the U.S.) playing a "world" team. Curlers who may be rivals can end up on the same team. While the competition is keen, there is a more relaxed atmosphere than in most bonspiels. As the event takes place about six weeks before the 2018 Winter Olympics, some teams may use it as a warmup.

London, Highland, St. Thomas and Ilderton curling clubs will split some event profits. 50/50 draw proceeds will benefit junior curling. The four clubs will also contribute volunteers. Only about 200 volunteers are needed, less than half of the 450 who worked at the 2011 Brier.

BY BURT DOWSETT

Second London Curling Club member receives the Order of Canada

London Curling Club member Paul Boothe is being inducted into the Order of Canada, which recognizes "outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation." It's one of our country's highest civilian honours. Boothe is being honoured for his



contributions to shaping federal and provincial economic and fiscal policy as an academic and as a senior public servant.

Boothe's contributions are ongoing. He's managing director of the Trillium Network for Advanced Manufacturing. A non-profit funded by the Ontario government, its mission is to promote manufacturing in this province. "Good things are happening in Ontario. There are lots of new companies starting up and lots of companies growing. London isn't missing out. There is lots of activity here," says Paul. "We lost a lot of firms, especially smaller ones, but we're seeing a renewal of manufacturing." Trillium collaborates with companies, unions and other stakeholders in advancing manufacturing.

"Manufacturing isn't just producing products, but also bundling them with services. It's less and less about labour costs but more and more about quality, skills and speed to market," says Boothe. "We're interested whether it is auto, aero space, pharma or agri-food."

...CONT'D ON PAGE 3

Chuck's tough to beat at curling and lawn bowling

Curling and lawn bowling and Gord Browne — these are a few of Chuck Townsend's favourite things.

"I enjoy bowling more than curling, probably because I'm better at it," says Townsend. He won the 2005 Canadian lawn bowling championship for three-man teams in Calgary.

"It's the same as curling. There's a representative from every province. You have to win your province (to advance to the nationals). I was the high team in the round robin and automatically made it to the final with an 8-2 record. We beat Manitoba in the final. It was fairly close."

Chuck's team was up by four points going home. That's an almost insurmountable lead for curlers. But in lawn bowling it's far from a safe lead because the scoring is much higher. Throwing guards is more difficult because the bowls curl so much.

"I won the Ontario championship seven times.



I've been first once, second twice and third once in the Canadians," says Townsend. He was also second in singles lawn bowling at the Canadians in 2004 at Vancouver.

His accomplishments in curling are more modest. Chuck says the best he's done on the ice is winning the zone in the 1996 Holiday Inn Challenge, an event for club curlers. Townsend and his team went on to the provincials in Trenton and finished third or fourth. Chuck's wife, Cathy, also competes in both sports. At age 78, Chuck stays in shape by walking two and a half hours every day.

While curling and lawn bowling are similar, there's one major difference — there's no sweeping in lawn bowling. One would think that should mean there is no point of calling the line. But Chuck's loud, distinctive "yep, yep, yep" is heard on both the curling ice and lawn-bowling greens.


"I still holler at the bowls but they don't listen to me at all," Chuck quips. "It is just something I do. I remember bowling in the Ontarios against an Ottawa team. My teammate threw a bowl and I'm hollering at it. He made the shot. The other skip said to me 'do you curl?'"

Chuck's voice also comes into play in the London Curling Club men's locker room, the lounge and the top floor of the building. That's where Chuck and fellow club member Gord Browne like to chirp at each other.

"We do like each other," says Townsend of trading barbs. "You know how Gord is. He's a sitting target for me and I can't resist. He comes right back at me. In our end of the locker room, we keep it going." In the lead up to the Prostate Cancer bonspiel last year, in which Browne and Townsend were teammates, Gord told Chuck that he must be thrilled to spend the whole day with him. Chuck looked at him with a straight face and replied "I'd rather have prostate cancer." The loudest laughter came from Gord.

BY BURT DOWSETT

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...ORDER OF CANADA FROM PAGE 1

Trillium is connecting with more than 45 companies that fly under the radar and having business and economic students write a profile on them that can be posted on its website. They also use Twitter.

“Technology replaces some jobs and creates other jobs. People have to realize we are always exhorting firms to be more productive. Productive means doing more with less, so unless your sales are growing even faster than your productivity your work force is going to decline. You need more sales,” says Boothe.

“That’s why growth is important. The fastest growing markets are emerging markets. Companies need to open those markets and governments have to do what they can to help them,” says Boothe, adding that in Asia and Latin America, the middle class is growing and they have businesses that require machinery Canada produces.

Paul has been curling for four years, which is understandable given his busy, multi-faceted career in both academia and high-ranking civil service jobs in the Saskatchewan and federal governments. He was Saskatchewan’s Deputy Minister of Finance and Secretary to the Treasury Board. In Ottawa, he was Associate Deputy Minister of Finance and G7 Deputy (also G20), Senior Associate Deputy Minister of Industry and Deputy Minister of the Environment. “My biggest file at Industry Canada was leading the Canadian team on restructuring General Motors and Chrysler. We negotiated with the companies and unions in both Canada and the United States. In 2010, I became Deputy Minister of the Environment. I attended those climate change meetings.” He supports putting a price on carbon to help fight climate change and argues that it only amounts to seven cents a litre. He retired from the federal public service in July 2012. During his career he worked in governments led by each of the three major parties – former Saskatchewan NDP Premier Roy Romanow, as well as former Prime Ministers Paul Martin and Stephen Harper, leaders of the Liberals and Conservatives respectively.

Boothe returned to London and Western University, where his post-secondary education began as an undergraduate before moving on to do his doctorate at the University of British Columbia. In London, he was professor and director of the Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management at Western’s Ivey

Business School. He recently retired from there also. Boothe calls the Order of Canada (shown below) “a nice recognition. One of the nicest things is I heard from people at every stage of my career.”



Paul isn’t the only London Curling Club member to receive the Order of Canada. Willie Weiler was honoured in 1972. Willie’s accomplishments in gymnastics included five Canadian men’s championships, as well as serving as a competitor, coach, judge and judge’s official in the Olympics. He remembers then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau congratulating the winners and saluting Willie’s agility. Weiler responded, “You’re not bad yourself,” referring to the prime minister’s athleticism in a photograph of a spectacular high dive. Trudeau laughed.


BY BURT DOWSETT

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Women's daytime league event winners, bonspiel report

Event four winners

On Feb. 2, the Daytime Women's Thursday morning league completed their event four draw. The first place team with five wins and two losses (shown below, left to right) was Connie Harris, Pat Boothe, Joyce Hetherington, and Susan Turner (skip).



In second place team was Mardi McLachlan/Pat Bell (skips), Cheryl Adams, Wanda Mara and Barb Leisinger. Finishing third was Linda Bailey (skip), Lise Tranmer, Donna Millar and Mary Lucas. Our celebration included warm scones and jam for a delicious snack. Congratulations to all winners.

OCA event report

Feb. 11 and 12 in Vanastra, three players from London Curling Club, Kyra Woodend, Graeme Daley, Grace Phillips and coach Pete Daley had a record of 2-1. At the same event, Scotia Maltman, Avery Sinisac, Grace Elliott, Kate Phillips and coach Tony Francolini were 1-1-1.

Feb. 11 and 12 in Chatham, the under-21 mixed doubles team of (shown at right, left to right) Jayden King and Caitlyn Evely and went 3-0. They're now off to the provincial championships in Huntsville, March 11-12. Good luck!

Feb. 24 and 25 in the under-18 mixed standards at Toronto St. George's, the team of Kyra Woodend, Loris Elliott, Grace Elliott, Graeme Daley and coach Greg Elliott were 0-2.

Feb. 25-26 in the mixed standards in Mount Forest, the team of Michael Ens, Gabrielle McSloy, Hunter Csetri,

Event five ends on March 21 and event six finishes on March 23. Thanks to Lise Tranmer and Katie Ungar for convening these events.

Sweetheart Sisters Bonspiel

The Sweetheart Sisters Bonspiel was hosted by the Ilderton Curling Club on Feb. 15 with participants from Ingersoll, Highland, St. Thomas and London curling clubs. Each team consists of members from each club which makes for a fun day. Representing London Curling Club was Pam Harrison, Jinx Findlay, Wanda Mars, Sandy Ronson and Sylvia Leuszler, who skipped the winning team.

Upcoming events

- Leads and seconds event - Curlers who normally play lead and second will play skip and vice on Tuesday, March 7. Connie Harris is convenor.
- Closing General Meeting and Luncheon, Tuesday, March 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Laura George and coach Cheryl Csetri were 2-2, while Jayden King, Sarah McDougall, Patrick Meyer, Scotia Maltman and coach Karen Caldwell were 0-2.

Curling season ending but hard work goes on

A message from Dave Rush, president, London Curling Club

As our curling season draws to a close, your board of directors is still working hard to complete or extend these on-going initiatives:

- New Facilities Committee developing long-term strategy
- Exciting plans from conveners of leagues, skills and development, promotions, and member services to engage Millennials to be active club participants



Financially we're in sound shape and in good hands thanks to treasurer Bruce Turner. Club manager Greg Lewis keeps the club running smoothly and his work ethic is a tremendous asset.

Your volunteer participation would be welcomed for the OCA Mixed and Senior Mixed Provincials Bonspiel, March 29 to April 1, 2017. Contact Bruce Thom to work daily assignments and Paul Pergau for timing duties. This event will generate positive cash flow to your club, so please get involved if you can.

In other exciting news, London has secured the 2018 WFG Continental Cup in January 2018. Our club has three members on the volunteer committee: Don Agnew, Tim Lindsay and Dave Rush. Ask them and they'll give you volunteer information.

The final event of the season is our Annual General Meeting on June 6, 2017. It's important club members attend to elect the new board of directors. It's also your chance to make your concerns heard, and meet and hear reports from all the executive and directors. If you're unable to attend, please send in your proxy.

On a personal note, I want to thank London Curling Club board members and our staff for their continued support during this year. Also a big thank you to all those members who volunteered in some capacity at the club. We could not be a success without you.

Enjoy the rest of the season and have a great and safe summer.



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Club history shows curling a game for all ages

Few sports are ageless regarding participation, but curling is one of them. London Curling Club history offers proof.

In 1860, just 13 years after the club was founded, members turned to a 10-year old to fill out their numbers for a game. According to *The London Free Press* in 1928, the rink manager at the time, Dr. J.A. Wright, wrote that R.C. McFie told him how he began curling after he turned 10 years-of-age. His first contribution was to drive curlers down to the Coves, likely by carriage or sleigh. His driving skills were even more useful following the game when players had consumed their celebratory scotch and beer.

McFie said that if the players came up short in number, he was allowed to curl. To compensate for the discrepancy in strength between McFie and the other players, he threw his rocks from a temporary hack, halfway down the cleared sheet on the Thames River near the Dundas Street bridge. McFie's father became the London Curling Club president in 1885.

That same newspaper story celebrated the London Curling Club's new Lyle Street rink and its artificial



ice plant. And the club was still boasting of young prodigies taking up the sport. Dr. Wright wrote about Russell Miller who at 10 years-of-age, had been curling in club bonspiels for the last two seasons. Wright indicated that Miller was eagerly sought out by skips to play either first or second on their teams in bonspiels. He said that Russell had a perfect delivery which readily explained his perfect shots. Wright wrote that much was expected of "this young portent of curling futurity." Miller apparently went directly from school to the rink each day for practice, thus developing all that skill on the ice.

Today, the London Curling Club boasts Little Rocks teams which compete successfully around the province as noted in last month's *Rock Talk*.

And while the games "futurity" is enhanced through younger curlers getting hooked on the game, those who continue to come out and compete after 50 or more years also do much to contribute to our club's longevity. It isn't unusual at all to see curlers with a span of more than half a century in age competing at London Curling Club events.

The late Harry Sifton set a mark for fellow London Curling Club members to match by winning a regular season game while celebrating his 90th birthday.

While curling remains an ageless and very social sport, some things have changed. Sticks and stabilizers can make throwing the stone easier if you have aching knees. Helmets and padded hats can soften the blow when a fall occurs during play.

Leads might also be happy about one other change. In the account of a match where the London Curling Club hosted the Paris Curling Club, the Paris lead had to pull a handcart carrying the team's stones from the railway station all the way down to the Coves.

BY GEORGE CLARK



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Skills development report

The Family Day Clinic was a success with 50 participants, including many family and friends of club members. We had a number of calls from outside the club that we couldn't accommodate and therefore we'll run another novice clinic on March 11 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Other programs all seem to be running smoothly. Dan and Melissa Neeb continue to have around 25 participants most Tuesday nights in the Learn to Curl program. Many are playing games and so coaching needs are a little less than earlier in the season.

The elementary Learn to Curl program continues to use lots of coaching time, but it is a fun morning for those who participate and for those who coach.

Joyce Hetherington, members services, and club manager Greg Lewis are working on a contact list so prospective new members get information about our fall open house in early autumn.

Pat Boothe is also wishing to add to the list of people who willing to help with novice curlers to give us a bigger stable of coaches/mentors.

Little Rocks meet star

At a recent bonspiel at Highland Curling Club, the Little Rocks team of (left to right), Carter Bradley, Justin Lamb, Braden Johnston and Noah McIlraith met Mark Ideson of London, wheelchair curling gold medalist at the 2014 Winter Paralympics in Sochi, Russia. The boys came in fourth place this event.



Family Day Clinic photos



Chatham team wins Scotiabank trophy at 2-day bonspiel

On Feb. 27 and 28, the Womens Daytime Section held their 65th annual Two Day Bonspiel with the theme, 'Rock the Rainbow'. Fourteen out-of-club teams and six in-club teams played for five event trophies.

Winners of the Scotiabank Trophy (top photo, left to right) were Mary Robertson (skip), Brenda Taylor, Linda Brown, Polly McDonald of the Chatham Granite Curling Club. It was Mary Robertson's 17th year of playing in this event.

London Honda winner (photo two, left to right) was Joyce Hetherington (skip), Marnie Dickout, Linda Peeling, Rose Kuchynski of the London Curling Club. First event consolation winner was long time attendee, Jeanette Pesall from Aylmer.

Constellation Brand "Jackson Triggs" winner (photo three, left to right) was Ruth Alexander (skip), Gayle George, Miolyka Steele (of London Curling Club) and Cheryl Krobisch of Highland Curling Club. Runner up in the second event (photo four, left to right) was Shanti Nichol, Marj Dudley (skip), Sherry Chambers and Sue Lundy of London Curling Club.

Other London Curling Club winning teams included Jinx Findlay, Jan Murray, Cindy Thom and Sandy Ronson, winning third event runner up in the Krown Rust Control Trophy. Linda Bailey's team of Cheryl Adams, Darlene ten Haaf and Pam Browne won the fourth event sponsored by Caryl Baker Visage. Runner up in this event

was Sylvia Leuszler's team of Mary Ellen Duggan, Mary Lucas and Sandra Fox.

Meals were catered by Linda Arthur, Village

Catering of Thorndale and Subway at Western and Sarnia Road. Many London Curling Club meal organizers and helpers included Jean Cameron, Barb Leisinger, Mary Lois Cooper, Jeanette Walker, Gwen Steffler, Wanda Mara, Sue Ferguson, Pat Boothe, Susan Van Arkel, Barb Elliott, Marilyn Van Buskirk, Heather Greenfield, Guiti Massoumi, Jean Walmsley, Karen Jacobsen, Mary Cross and Lise Tranmer. The London Curling Club standby team, not curling Monday, helped most of the day in the kitchen.

Thanks to the committee of secretary Pam Harrison, draw master Fay Weiler and assistant Karen Shearer, Sherry Chambers (prizes), convenor Pat Bell, meal co-ordinators Mary Lois Cooper, Jean Cameron, Karen Jacobsen, Pam Harrison and the advice and experience of Sharon Sivak and Joan Dickie. Also thanks to club manager Greg Lewis, office manager Barb Colbourn, Kevin Breivik and the ice crew, Les Sonier at the bar and housekeeper, Kristen Venner.

Due to illness we missed Pam Harrison on and off the ice but she was there in spirit and many thanks to her for her attention to detail, and constant help.

