



London Curling Club

ROCK



TALK

December 2003

2003-2004

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

- President**
Joanne Laws
- Vice President**
Alec Curtis
- Past President**
Don Dudley
- Treasurer**
Doug Hamather
- Secretary**
Pam Harrison

Board Members

- Mike Bancroft
- Andrea Child
- Tom Fejes
- Dave Heinrichs
- Pam Liston
- Fay Weiler
- Doug Weir

Board Liaison

- Ken Walmsley

CLUB STAFF

- Office Manager**
Barb Colbourn
- Head Ice Technician**
Kevin Breivik
- Ice Assistants**
Dan Currie
Dale Fanset
Robert Broughton
- Club Pro**
Andrea Child
- Bar Staff**
John Spetman
Paul Decarie
Alana Riley
- Housekeeping**
Lil Findlay

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 Four-Rock Rule
- 3 Christmas Gift List
- 4 Ghost Stories
- 5 TV raffle
- 5 League Standings
- 5 Skills Competition
- 6 History Lesson
- 6 Trivia

*Season's Greetings
for a Happy and Safe
Holiday Season*

to all Members and their families from the Board of Director's and Staff at London Curling Club. My personal thanks to all of the wonderful Volunteers throughout the Club, to our hard-working Staff and my fellow Board Members for the many hours you dedicate to the goal of making our Club the best it can be.

MAY YOU ALL BE BLESSED WITH LAUGHTER & WONDERFUL MEMORIES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Joanne Laws, Club President

THANKS TO SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE ...

Our Volunteer Interim Managers for the month of November were Fay Weiler, Glenn McDonald and Bruce Cooper. Thank you for taking time out of your busy lives to fill this important role. There are still some blocks of time available in the new year, so if YOU would like to volunteer for a week or two in the office, please contact Ken Walmsley at 660-4299. An article in January Rock Talk called "A Day in the Life of an Interim Manager" will give you some idea what the job is all about!

We are also enormously grateful to Bill Easton for his ongoing efforts in the day-to-day supervision of our construction project. There's hardly a day go by that Bill doesn't visit the club to check up on the latest work being done. THANK YOU!

The JVC TSN Women's Skins Games are fast approaching ... December 13 and 14 in St. Thomas. There are still tickets available for the event ... call 663-7402 for information, or check out the website at www.2003skins.com.

Be sure to watch for some **familiar and famous faces** around the London Curling Club during the week of December 8th. Some teams competing in this event will be holding their practice sessions at the LCC (and maybe even a game) on December 10, 11 and 12.



Ho!
Ho!
Ho!

Bruce Cooper's hand-crafted Santa's have been a huge hit at the LCC this Christmas season. They're made of all natural woods, and coated with water-based varathane to provide significant ultra-violet protection. Bruce has already sold nine of them for \$100 each, with the profits going to the LCC Capital campaign. As Rock Talk goes to the printers, there is only one of these beautiful Santas left ... don't miss your chance to take him home (the Santa, that is!!!). Bruce has also made more of the lovely wooden Christmas ornaments that he sold last year ... they're available for only \$2 each. Please give him a call at 433-3385.

*Celebrate
New Year's Eve
at the L.C.C.*



Another great New Year's Eve Curling Party is planned at the LCC. Plan to sign up early as space is limited. Cocktails will be offered at 7:00 p.m., with a full 8-end fun game from 8:00 to 10:00, followed by a buffet dinner and wine. The midnight celebration will take place in the downstairs lounge with prizes and noisemakers, and Champagne will be served when the clock strikes twelve. All this for only \$20.00 a person!

Tickets can be purchased from Don Agnew or at the Bar. Don't miss the deadline of December 15th ... sign up today!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Total Donations to December 3, 2003: \$75,763.11

The London Curling Club wishes to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and events for their generous contributions to the Capital Campaign since Rock Talk last published a contributor list in our March 2003 issue. If a name is repeated from the previous contributor list, it is because a member is making a second donation to the campaign:

Kerry Benson
 Dorothy Bullock
 Connie Collyer
 Sandra Connolly
 Holly Cox
 Dan Crandles
 Mary Lou Dickinson
 Mary Dirk
 Brent Duplessis and
 Caroline Pavlin
 Ruth Ann Dutzac
 David Firth
 Dave and Wendy Foster
 Paul Gaskin
 Rose Geraghty
 Duncan Hunter
 Bob Hyatt
 R. Lauckner Real Estate Inc.
 Bev and Pam Liston
 London Landscapes Limited
 Don McKay
 Jack McKay
 Walt McKenna
 Jack and Sharon McLaren
 Marjorie Moores
 Frank Nelligan
 Don Nickle
 Jim and Lil Richardson
 Bob Scruton
 Colin Shipley
 Earl and Miolyka Steele
 Pat Teasdale
 Norm and Shirley Vaile
 Carm Whitmore
 Lois Wright

SPECIAL FUND RAISING
 EFFORTS
 Senior Men
 Little Rockers
 Ladies Sinners Bonspiel
 Krispy Kreme Donut Sale
 Christmas Card Sale
 Tuesday Night Mixed Social
 Ladies Flip Flop Fun Day
 Juniors Chocolate Bar Sale
 Computer Draw

Theft and Vandalism

The roof of a convertible car was slashed and a locked van was broken into during the middle of the day on November 22, when the Curl for the Cure Bonspiel was being held at the LCC. Damage to both vehicles was significant and 30 prizes valued at approximately \$750 (which were left in the locked van during day until they were required later in the afternoon) were stolen.

It is extremely unfortunate that this destruction and theft occurred on a day when members were participating in a charitable event which was so successful. Please be mindful not to leave any articles in your vehicle which can be easily viewed and take all necessary precautions to avoid a repeat of these upsetting incidents.

FOUR-ROCK RULE REVISITED

After receiving a significant amount of feedback from the LCC membership over the first part of the curling season, especially from those curlers who are interested in competing in events outside of the club (e.g. OCA events), the board recently decided to adopt the four-rock rule for all LCC league play, effective immediately. This is in line with the adoption of this rule by the Canadian Curling Association this year. This rescinds the board's earlier decision not to follow along with the rule change since it was thought that it might increase the amount of time required to play ends, effectively decreasing the number of ends that could be played in a 1 hour, 50 minute time frame.

For those unfamiliar with the Free Guard Zone Rule, it is as follows: Under the CCA General Rules of Play, the new rulebook states that any opponent's rock cannot be removed from play in the Free Guard Zone until the fifth shot of the end. Another significant change in the Free Guard Zone rules allows either team to remove their own stones from the Free Guard Zone at any time.



David Heinrichs and Linda Karl
 OCA Representatives, LCC

THE SIFTON CLASSIC

Congratulations to the overall winner and Sifton Champion for 2003 from the London Curling Club ... Jim Fitzpatrick and his teammates, Ken Walmsley, Al McLeod and Chuck Townsend.

Watch for a full report and photos from the bonspiel in January Rock Talk.


BITS AND BITES

As a courtesy to your fellow members and our housekeeping staff, and in an effort to ensure that the space you wish to use for that informal meeting is available when you arrive at the club, PLEASE SIGN IN WITH YOUR BOOKING ON THE CALENDAR ABOVE THE PHOTOCOPIER IN THE OFFICE.

A Curler's Christmas Wish List




 **LCC New Curler Memberships**, only \$75 after Christmas, \$50 of which is applied to next year's fee when the new member rejoins in the fall.

 The **NAME-A-ROCK** program is still in full swing. For just \$100, your favourite curler can have his/her name engraved on an LCC curling stone. Application forms at the office.

 **GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR CURLING LESSONS** -- ask Club Pro Andrea Child (680-7308) to put together a package for the new curlers on your list, or for experienced curlers who could benefit from a few pointers about their game.

 Hunt Chisholm's **MINI SOAPSTONE CURLING ROCKS** are gift-wrapped in red plaid, all ready to give to your favourite curler. Hunt designed and manufactured these stones as an LCC fundraiser and would like to see a minimum donation of \$30 for each rock to the capital campaign ... feel free to donate more if you wish! Inquire at the office.

 **THE PRO SHOP** has great ideas for everyone on your list. How about an LCC-embroidered vest, fleece or mock-neck shirt (available in both men's and women's styles and sizes). Stop watches, grippers, jewelery, gloves and mitts make great stocking stuffers. Watch for the Christmas display table set up in the main floor lounge over the next week.

 You'll sweep them off their feet with tickets to the **GRAND THEATRE** production of **THE BLACK BONSPIEL OF WULLIE MacCRIMMON**, February 3-21, 2004. Tickets at the box office or by calling 672-8800.

 For the serious curler on your list, you can't go wrong with the **OFFICIAL RULES OF CURLING HANDBOOK** available for \$6 plus tax by calling the OCA at 1-877-668-2875

SWEENEY LEAGUE

As convenor of the Sweeney, the Men's Thursday Night Social League, Jo Noon has submitted the names of the highest points by position during the 2002/2003 season. Players play the same position during the season; however, skips draw new teams every 5 weeks. Points are awarded as follows -- 5 for a win, 3 for a tie and 1 for a loss. If a player is absent, they receive 1 point less than their team earned that night. The winners were Skip Don Lowry, Vice Bob Morse, Second John Benny and Lead Bob Sivak. Congratulations!

ON THE ROCKS

If you recently ordered a club nametag, don't forget to pick it up at the bar, \$9.00 COD, in cash or by cheque to the LCC.

THE 94th ANNUAL CITY OF LONDON MEN'S BONSPIEL JANUARY 15, 16 and 17, 2004

24 Teams in 6 Events
4 Games Guaranteed

All Games 8 Ends - OCA Rules Apply

Entry Fee: \$280.00 per team, GST included

For information or to confirm your entry please contact one of the bonspiel convenors:

Greg Lewis: (519) 471-3155

Doug Crosbie: (519) 641-6459

Dave Heinrichs: (519) 434-5966

or E-mail greg.lewis@lhsc.on.ca

FRIENDSHIP DAY

Comments overheard from our Manager-of-the-Week, Bruce Cooper, "Boy, these women really know how to have fun ... I had no idea how much!" And from our Ice Technie, Dan Currie, "That meal was fantastic ... how do I get the recipe?" These guys were talking about the Day Women's League Friendship Day, held on November 27 at the club. This annual event gives members an opportunity to invite a friend to the Club for a day of curling instruction (we did have fifteen first-timers this year), a game of curling, lunch and a whole bunch of fun and good fellowship. Convenor Sheila Novlan extends a big 'thank you' to all those who helped make the day such a great success!

A Ghostly Ending?

Rock Talk's esteemed judges have chosen the following stories as plausible solutions to the mystery of the LCC Ghost. Could it be that finally the resident ghost has found a place of rest and peace? (If so, then who was responsible for the loose wire in the new compressor system in early December?!) Only you can be the judge of that. Your opinion is always appreciated and respected by Rock Talk's roving reporters.

Ghostly Mission

by Marg Signa

This had not been a normal summer for Herbie and as a result he was feeling a little cranky and irritable. For many years he had spent several quiet months floating around in the lower regions of the LCC and planning his winter escapades. He had even come to enjoy that solitude, because that was when ideas for ghostly mischief would take shape in his head.

This summer was different. There was never a quiet moment! How could he possibly get ready for the Curling Season?

Now Herbie was not a mean ghost, just a little naughty, and he liked to play some tricks on members, especially on those who did not believe that he existed. He watched in fascination as the workers poured foundations, installed piping, moved materials, hammered and painted. What was going on? Could it finally be happening? Was the new ice-making machinery being installed? Would his job soon be obsolete? It was noisy and loud with all the work going on. How could he practice those strange sounds which needed to come from the basement ice-making machine? He would just get warmed up for some special moans, when a club staff member or volunteer would disturb his concentration.

Several years ago, when he was given this mission, he had been assured that his spirit would be free as soon as the members realized that they needed a new ice-making plant. He had made the pipes creak and groan and on occasion made them leak a little, just to hurry the process. Nothing occurred. Now he was feeling a little sad that it was happening, but mostly because few members believed in him.

So, when he heard the flurry of excitement as the new machinery hummed quietly into action, he decided to perform his final prank. In the dead of night, when all honest folk are at home and sleeping, he made his tour looking for trouble. With a mischievous chuckle he spied the coffee machine in the upstairs kitchen and couldn't resist turning the valve, just a little. He watched gleefully as the water dripped from the machine onto the floor and started to seep through to the ceiling below. He would finally get some recognition as a real ghost. All he needed to do was float around and wait.

The next morning he watched, a little remorsefully, as the staff worked long and hard to clear up the huge mess he had caused. Then, when he overheard that a mechanical difficulty was what had caused the unfortunate accident, he quietly and sadly left the building.

GHOSTS OF CURLERS PAST *

Harry slithered, as ghosts do, behind the old compressor in the basement of the London Curling Club and waited. He loved the warm, damp, dark basement especially when the equipment started up with all the noise and vibration. But most of all he loved to wait in one of the alcoves until there were only one or two persons in the building at night – and as they turned the lights out to leave – he then touched one of them with a brush. Last year a woman screamed. A man ran for the door forgetting to lock it. Perfect! That was fun!

Harry had curled at the Club for years – he lost the championship when a straw on the ice caused his stone to pick on the last shot. He vowed his revenge for that loss and now he made sure that others encountered unfavourable conditions. Once he threw dirt down on the ice from the rafters, but Harry hated heights so tried that only once. Another time he loosened the horse hair in the brushes and chuckled as hairs caused rocks to veer off target. Harry tinkered with the compressor making sure it stopped and started up again in key games causing the greatest change in ice conditions. A few times, Harry shut down the entire system which caused sheer panic.

But hold on, they were making ice but the old compressor was not running! Harry quickly found the new equipment room. No noise or vibration. Bright, quiet, dry. Awful! Nothing to monkey with. Harry suddenly realized that fear was the only thing left for him. Fear was the ultimate motivator to cause missed shots. He would scare curlers with noises, touches and sightings and they would miss shots. NEW YEAR'S EVE was the perfect night to start. Harry slithered up the back stairs, turned off the lights and waited. Who would be first?

* (author's name withheld for reasons of personal safety!!)

(CURLING CONFUSION

by Marj Dudley (alias Glenda Ghoul)

I used to haunt at Theatre Grand,
But it seems that job goes hand in hand
With listening to Ambrose Small
Recite soliloquys and all.

Now, life is short, but haunting's long –
I just could not ensure his song,
And centuries go on and on,
And so does Ambrose Small! I'm gone

To London Curling Club, on Lyle.
THIS is the place to make me smile.
I really love the atmosphere –
The people grinning ear to ear!

I'm having fun! The brooms I switch
On days I feel more like a witch.
I sometimes take one for a ride,
Confusing everyone inside!

What IS this contest played on ice?
It came from Scotland – haggis frozen,
Then they toss it back and forth!
This is the STRANGEST game I've chosen!

I join right in, I'm not too proud!
But then the "skipper" gets so loud!
She's so hygienic, so she'll nag us
To CLEAN that ice afore the haggis.

I'm sweeping, cleaning – I confess
I've sometimes slipped and caused a mess.
It's good I'm just a ghost. You see
I canna suffer injury!

I push the haggis left or right,
I make it stop afore it should
I use the hex – I'm having fun –
At LCC the tricks are good!!!

And then the ladies go inside.
They're always eating, but they're picky.
They leave the haggis (not clean enough?)
Discussing how the ice was "tricky"!!

Coffee, cookies, yummy lunches,
Consumed by female curling bunches –
Now here come the handsome men,
So expert at it all, I ken.

The womenfolk have left some grime!
The MEN will sweep it up this time!
Among the skips the volume rises.
(The loudest one will win the prizes.)

Now wait! This "domestic goddess" strife –
I had enough of that in life!!!
I used to clean and sweep all day –
It's just NOT my idea of play!!

SKILLS COMPETITION



How are your curling skills? Can you draw to the button? Through a port? Raise a stone onto the button? Hit a rock and stick? Make a double hit and stick? Sounds like shots you make all the time, right? Well, now's your chance to prove it.

Early in the new year we will hold a skills contest – six separate well-defined shots set up with points assigned for each level of performance. So, for the straight draw five points are awarded for a stone that touches the button, four for the four foot, three for the eight foot etc. Each of the six shots has a scoring system attached. The idea is to try the six shots and get an aggregate score.

The competition within the club will involve finding the top aggregate scores within each group of members, identified as men, senior men, day ladies, business women and Tuesday night social members. The top four scorers in each of the five member groupings will take part in an end-of-year competition for the LCC Championship in their group with cash prizes and global recognition.

This skills competition is part of a fund raising event for the Club's building fund. The test will cost you \$5.00 – a small price to pay to prove to your teams that you are as good as you say you are. Along with the skills competition we will hold a drawing to see who can pick the five group winners from the four competitors in each group for big cash prizes. Sounds like easy money, eh?

So keep your eyes and ears open for the announcement of the skills competition. You can enter more than once – for the \$5.00 each time of course. And then watch for the four playoff contenders in each group and the chance to pick the winners and win.

BOOK SALE

What a wonderful sale we had! Thank you, club members, for all your book donations and for all your purchases. The response was overwhelming. Accolades go out as follows: TO Joan 'Bookie' Bidinosti, my co-convenor, who deserves every praise in the book for the hours she spent with me sorting in the equipment room, for the hours on the sales floor and for being treasurer; TO Dan Currie and Ken Walmsley who carried books from the lower level to the lounge from 6:00 until 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning; TO Shirley Vaile for your generous donation of time and 'muscles', and for the use of your car for book removal; TO Jean Walmsley, Fay Weiler, Dorothy Cousins, Linda Peeling, Barb Gordon, Janet and Ron Stenson, Isobel Campbell, Dick Kilbourne, Jean Cameron, Deanne Fitzpatrick, Wink DuBrule, Doreen Stacey, Audrey Robertson, Phyl Galpin, Marg Fliss, Shirley Vaile and Marj Dudley for your help during the three sales days. SPECIAL THANKS TO George Wearing (Marilyn's husband, a non-member) for helping us remove the leftover books from the club and for the use of his van for transporting them from the LCC.

110 unsold hard cover books were donated to the Curl for the Cure for their 'goodie bags'. The remaining books were given to CPRI which has a book sale in the spring.

With your help, \$1,304.70 was raised. Thank you!

Lil Richardson, Convenor

TUESDAY NIGHT MIXED SOCIAL

Thanks from Dick Merrill and his league to all of you who participated in their November fundraiser. You'll be passing along your holiday greetings to friends and relatives on the beautiful Christmas cards sold by the group, who raised over \$625 for the Capital Fund.

If you are a skip or a vice and can volunteer on Tuesday evenings, please call Dick and offer to donate your time. These new curlers need your help as they learn the basics of our favourite game.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Convenor Dave Usprich reports that the first round of the Wednesday night **President's League** has been completed. Dave Mann's team finished first in Flight 1 with 46 points, followed by Phil Devereux's team with 42. The six teams skipped by Jack McLaren, Robert McKinley, Dave Weber, Judy Rolston, Matt Rankin and Jim Champagne will move up from their respective flights. Congratulations to Jack McLaren, whose team was the only one undefeated in the league at the end of the first round, finishing with 60 points. No doubt he'll be facing stiffer competition in the top flight over the next six weeks!

After the first 5 game draw in the **Miller League**, convenor Tom Fejes reports that the following teams moved up one flight: to A flight, Ray Sweeney and Jim Champagne; to B flight, Jack McLaren and Rick Corcoran; to C flight, Ken Novlan and Garth Kidd; and to D flight, Wayne Nickerson and Matt Rankin. The team with the highest number of points after the first draw was Rick Allum's rink with 23 points.

The following individuals skip the teams that are the winners of the first draw in the **Friday Evening Mixed Curling** event, as reported by convenor Don Agnew: flight 1 -- Mike William; flight 2 -- Tom Zavitz; flight 3 -- Al MacLeod; flight 4 -- Brent DuPlessis; flight 5 -- Joe Noon; and flight 6 -- Doug Weir.

There are 14 teams in the **Daytime Women's Competitive League**, convened by Marlene Benny. The round robin standings after 7 games show Marlene's team ahead with six wins. Tied for second place are the teams skipped by Mary Lou Dickinson and Sylvia Leuszler, with five wins each.

Convenor Dot MacRae reports that Lou Dean leads the **Thursday Night Business Women's League** with seven wins. Moving up to A flight, tied with five wins and one tie, are teams skipped by Cathy Osbourne-Rice and Miolyka Steele.

WOW! A chance to win a 27" JVC FLAT SCREEN TV!

Raffle tickets are \$3 each, or 2 for \$5
Proceeds to the London Curling Club Capital Fund. TV donated by DirectBuy of London and LCC member Rob McGrath. Draw will be made at the end of the 2003-4 curling season.
Look for details at the Bar or in the office.

THE MIDDLE YEARS (1924 – 1960): FROM FRUGAL TO FABULOUS

By Connie Weir

In the year following the installation of artificial ice (1928), the club's membership grew to close to 200. That same year, LCC boasted that it had the youngest curler in the country: 10-year-old Russ Miller, who had already been curling in club bonspiels for two years. The next fifteen years, understandably, saw a decline, as the country battled first the Depression and then the War, during which time the membership dropped to between 100 and 150. These years were not without their highlights, of course. In 1940-41, long-time member, Dr. J. Alex Wright (who had earned OCA top point honours in 1931) was elected OCA President.

With the end of the war, LCC membership started growing once again, reaching 170 in 1946 and 195 in 1947. In 1948, LCC won its first Ontario Silver Tankard Competition, with teams skipped by Russ Miller and Bob Wilson. Membership continued to grow, hitting a high of 250 in 1950. The "fabulous fifties" were about to begin...

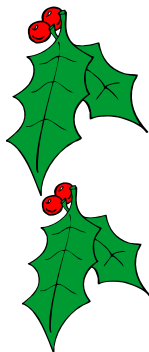
The most significant change to take place, signaling the beginning of a new era in curling at LCC, was the decision to admit female members – 77 ladies for the 1951-52 season. While the admission of women certainly can't take full credit for the tremendous growth of interest in the game, it was, without doubt, an important factor. In a LFP article written Nov. 9/57, to mark the beginning of LCC's 110th season, Bob Ferguson credits this "feminine invasion" for giving "new life" to the sport of curling. As a result, more games were scheduled during daytime hours and club facilities were expanded to accommodate the expanding membership. In the summer of 1957, the second story was added to the building (current kitchen/dining/viewing area) - for only \$30,000 (My, how times have changed...). But most importantly, the introduction of women's curling meant that curling became what it always had the potential of becoming – a true family game.

"The beauty of curling is that basically it is a sport that knows no restrictions, aside from available facilities, and can be played with a minimum of expense.... Like golf and lawn bowling, curling is an ageless game" (Austin McLeish, past president of LCC board, 1957).

As membership and regular club play expanded, so did the success of its teams in competition. 1954 saw another Silver Tankard victory, with teams skipped by Russ Miller and Charlie Haskett. In 1955 and 1956, two more Londoners earned OCA top honour points – Don McKay and J.E. Bright. Others, like Gil Walker, Jack Nash and Bob Gilbert, who had played on Tankard winning teams, went on to become highly successful skips, winning numerous regional trophies.

As the "fabulous fifties" drew to a close, the London Curling Club was in excellent shape – proud of its newly renovated and expanded facilities, and boasting a membership close to 600. The future did indeed look bright. To be continued

Note: At the end of last month's article, a question was posed regarding the location of the Simcoe Street site used by LCC from the 1880's until 1907. I wondered if it might be the old London Arena. Clearly this was not the case, since this arena was a much newer building and on Bathurst not on Simcoe Street. CW



TRIVIA QUESTIONS Answers on page 8

1. Where will the next Canadian mixed Curling Championships be held?
2. Who is this year's coach for the LCC Junior Curling Program?
3. What was the name selected for the bar's famous "Cranberry Orange Drink" and who won the "Name That Drink" contest?
4. Which two members were awarded the "Spirit of Curling Award" for 2002-3?
5. In the 1800's, when granite was unavailable, what natural material was first used to construct curling "stones"?

DAYTIME WOMEN'S IN-HOUSE HAPPENINGS

by Pat Bell

Results are in for the first draw and the THE WINNERS ARE ...

The Tuesday afternoon **Dianne Whittaker & Associates** event winners are Mo Cloghesy's team of Marg Sirna, Deanne Fitzpatrick and Audrey Robertson. Convenors Linda Peeling and Dorothy Cousins join everyone in thanking Diane, who is a member of the club, for sponsoring this five-week, full 12-team event.

The secret is out ... The **Carr's** Wednesday morning event is great fun! Convenors Joan Cuthbert and Sandy Ronson report that ten teams participated in this six-game event. The winning team was skipped by Isobel Campbell, whose teammates were Sandy Ronson, Doreen Carrothers and Audrey Robertson. They received the traditional "Carr's 2003" pins, and everyone who played received "pick-of-the-table" prizes. Betty Burrows and Lynda Reesor were the winners of the draw for beautiful fur earmuffs donated by Meyer Epsein furs. Thank you Ron and Kay for sponsoring this event for the 12th year ... hopefully we'll have six sheets filled next year! P.S. Kay -- you are an inspiration -- still out there curling. Kay joined the LCC in 1965 when she was 37.

Convenors Audrey Robertson and Hennie Melles convened the Thursday morning **Young & Co.** event -- eight teams participated in this 6-week event, which was won by Jill Day (skip), Mardi McLachlan, Donna Millar and Marnie Sherritt. Prizes were lovely vases, travel clocks and jewellery. Thanks to our sponsor for their continuing support.

Advertising for the new **Theme Team** event held on November 19th required that curlers "Sign up as a team, where all members fit a theme". And as usual, the daytime women rose to the occasion. Teams made up of nurses, educators, lefties, travelers, Canadians and scarf-wearers (just to name a few) played in this 'just for fun' event, and each team prepared a short verse to reveal their theme after the 8-end game. Seems like they were having too much fun to choose a winner, so prizes were drawn out of a hat!

WOMEN'S EARLY BIRD BONSPIEL



On Monday, November 17, teams from Aylmer, Ilderton, Brantford and London "landed" at the LCC for the "Early Bird". Participants had two 8-end games and a delicious lunch provided by caterer Linda Arthur, with help from LCC volunteers. They also proved to be great "charades" actresses (can you spot the Blue-Footed Booby?!). A big THANK YOU to our sponsors, "The Jeanettes" -- Joyce Jeanette Hetherington, her mother and niece. Thanks to Faye Weiler, Lil Richardson, Shirley Vaile, and decorator extraordinaire Sheila Novlan, for their help. Finishing in first place was Carolyn Sheppard's team from Ilderton, followed by Kathy Wilson's team from Brant Curling Club and Jean Walmsley's team from the LCC. See you next year!

Convenors Marj Dudley and Sylvia Leuszler

NEWS FROM THE SENIOR MEN

The St. Thomas Curling Club held their **Tier 55 Bonspiel** on Friday, November 21. The London club team of Bud Boyd (skip), Don McKay, Doug Hamather and Colin Shipley won the event. They scored 39 ½ points to take the win.

The **Tier 70 Bonspiel** was held on Friday, November 14 at the Samia Golf and Curling Club. Bud Boyd again skipped a London Curling Club team to a win, this time playing with Don McKay, Dave Austin and Gerry Favell. They counted 37 points to take the overall win. In their second game, they stole 8 ends with a 16-0 win. Well done "boys"!

The London Curling Club senior men hosted their counterparts from the St. Thomas Curling Club on November 4, 2003 for the **Medcalf Trophy Bonspiel**. There was a great turnout from both clubs and the day was very enjoyable, particularly for the London Club as we led at the half way point and finished ahead by 21 points. Don McKay reports that this is a fun spiel that has gone on for many years between the two clubs. The format is two 6-end games and lunch. The score is left after the first draw and the host teams move one sheet to the right and finish the second draw for the total. The Medcalf was also a financial success, as there was a profit of \$247.41 for the London Curling Club. The second half of the Medcalf will be in St. Thomas on February 6, 2003.

KIDS CORNER

Brent DuPlessis is busy running the **Little Rock Program** (Grades 3, 4 and 5) this year. Their registration numbers are great, and the kids are looking forward to the Christmas party they have planned for December 14th. They even hope to have some teams in bonspiels after Christmas.

The **Bantam Program** (Grades 6, 7 and 8) is rocking! Rick Battson reports that they have 32 young curlers registered for the program. The kids have been learning the game and having a great time as well. From this group, four teams have been entered in the LCC Bantam-Junior Bonspiel to be held on December 13th. Look for these kids in the coming years -- they are the future of our club.

The **Juniors** (high school age) are busy as usual. They curl every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The group is very active with 31 members, all of whom are working hard to develop their skills. The Junior Men participated in the Zone Competition on the weekend of November 22-23 at Highland. They competed against 10 teams from Zone 16 and made it to the quarter finals. David Marchant, Robert Broughton, Jordan Sutherland and Thomas Beckett represented LCC. Good work!! Convenor Jayne Broughton and the group are busy organizing their Junior Bantam Bonspiel for December 13. It looks like it's full and everyone is looking forward to a fun day. Teams are even coming from Rochester, New York. The Christmas Party will be on Dec 14, a fun afternoon featuring the famous LCC potluck, which should fill the teens' enormous appetites!

7th Annual Curl for the Cure Bonspiel

by Pam Harrison, Chairperson

The 7th Annual "Curl for the Cure" Women's Charity Bonspiel was held on Saturday, November 22, 2003. 24 teams were piped onto the ice by Natasha Ohler, Police Pipes and Drum Band. **\$28,500.50** was raised (\$2,880 from Registration, \$21,534.50 from Participant Pledges, \$3,082 from the Silent Auction and \$1,004 from the Raffle). This brings the fund raising total to \$160,878.49 since "Curl for the Cure" started at the London Curling Club in 1997. Congratulations to Sandy DeMelo, Laura Rozon, Mary Cole, Judy Rolston, Claudette Reily and Deanne Fitzpatrick, who raised \$2,400, \$1,011, \$796, \$689, \$645 and \$625 in pledges, respectively. **\$27,379.41** was donated to the Breast Cancer Society of Canada to support education, research and local programs in the London Area. **\$1,004** was donated to Wellspring, a Cancer Support Centre in London, in memory of Kit Benson. Linda McFadyen (Skip), Denise Grafton (Vice), Nicole McLaughlin (Second) and Barb Seaton (Lead) from the St. Mary's Curling Club won the bonspiel and were presented with the "Curl for the Cure - Kit Benson Memorial Trophy" by Mary Shorten on behalf of the Benson family.

Thanks to all participants, to all those who sponsored the participants and to all those who donated items for the Prize Table, Silent Auction, Raffle, Food Table and Gift Bags. A very special thanks to the London Curling Club for donating the ice and club facilities and for the tremendous assistance provided by John Spetman, Kevin Breivik and his son, Dan Currie, Dale Fanset, Lil Findlay and Barb Colbourn. Thanks to Committee Members (Marylu Fulkerson, Jessie McLean, Pat Steele, Tina Sturgeon and Jean Walmsley) and to Volunteers (Maureen Cloghesy, Paul Downing, Heather Greenfield, Ed Harrison, Terry Kelly, Sharon McLaren, Carol Moir, Paul Reily, Mike Rozon, Marnie Sherritt, Harry Steele, Lesley Steele, John Sturgeon, Marlene Suzuki, Pat Teasdale and Connie Weir), all of whom helped to make this a truly successful event, one in which we were able to exceed our fund raising goal of \$27,500.

Thanks to all for a great day of fun, fellowship and good curling. Thanks to all for joining us in the fight to end breast cancer.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

DECEMBER

13	Junior Bonspiel
15	Senior Men's Christmas Party
17	Women's Daytime Christmas Party
18	Business Women's Christmas Party
24-25	Closed for Christmas
26	Open for Reservations*
27-30	Closed for Maintenance
31	AM, PM Open for Reservations*
31	NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

JANUARY

1	Closed New Year's Day
5	Women's Clinic
6	Live Broadcast, The New PL
9	Tier 55
13	Novice Clinic
14	Grandmother's Bonspiel
15,16,17	City of London
19	Women's Card Party
24	Spring Thaw

*Book your ice at the office for practice time or a fun game on these dates.

NOVICE CLINIC

Club Pro Andrea Child will be holding a Novice Clinic on Tuesday, January 13th at 7 p.m.. If you're a new curler, there isn't a better way to get started. Members who are new to the club in January can attend free of charge. There a \$20 fee for non members. Be sure to Andrea a call at 680-7308 to sign up.

ICE PICKS

If you miss when you "shoot for the basket" and your tissue misses the garbage pail, please try again!
Thanks from your ice-making staff !!!

LCC Bridge/Card Party raises \$500

On Monday, October 27, ninety card-playing curlers, former curlers (including two past ladies' chairs, Irene Hood and Jean McDonald) and friends enjoyed luscious desserts prepared by fourteen good cooks at the LCC. Other volunteers who made and donated draw prizes, and hard-working kitchen helpers, all helped to make the day a success. Tickets for this popular event were sold out on day the tickets went on sale.

Isobel Campbell reports that another bridge party will be held on Monday, January 19. Tickets will be available from convenor Lynda Reesor in mid-December.

CURLING FOE PAWS by "Mr. Completely" and "Ms. Takes"

One of the nicest things we do in curling is to greet our opponents before the game with a handshake and to wish them well with the greeting, "have a good game" or "good curling". And the right way to end a game is with a "thank you" and a complimentary comment or two to your opponents about their game. What a proud tradition we have!

Check out the Curler's Christmas Gift List in this issue to find out how to purchase a copy of the "Rules of Curling" ... an informative booklet about the curling code of ethics.

Southwestern Ontario Women's Cashspiel

Ann Lapchinski, chair of this October event, wishes to thank the LCC and its Board of Directors for their support.. She extends a special thank you to Sharon Sivak and her committee for running a very successful Silent Auction and to Kevin and Dan for their hard work and great ice. Proceeds from the spiel -- \$16,000 -- will be donated for breast cancer research.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

From page 6

1. McIntyre Curling Club, Timmins
2. Jayne Broughton
3. CRIMSON NAVEL, Ron McLennan
4. Jean Glendenning and Ken Walmsley
5. Hardwood, soaked in water, then frozen and shaped

Christmas is . . .

Christmas is the rustle and whisper of secrets
Christmas is the stockings hung by the chimney with care
Christmas is the sparkle of lighted trees
Christmas is the Christ Child's birthday
Christmas is the warm feeling in your heart
Christmas is Santa in a red flannel suit
Christmas is laughter, fun and food
Christmas is the many friends at the LCC



ROCK TALK is the "voice " of the London Curling Club

377 Lyle Street
London, Ontario N5W 3R5
Club Telephone: 432-3882

ROCK TALK is available on the World Wide Web at www.curling.com/london

Deadline for the January 2004 issue is January 9, 2004

Please direct articles for publication, advertising inquiries and subscription requests to:

Wink DuBrule:

Telephone (519) 434-4410

Email rocktalklcc@yahoo.ca