

# ROCK TALK

Newsletter of the London Curling Club

December 2010



***MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL!!!!***



## **'TIS THE SEASON... OF CHAMPIONS!**



It's the time of year when holiday shopping is top of mind and everyone's searching for those unique gift ideas. Well, all you have to do is get some Rocks in Your Socks!

Rocks in Your Socks is the special yuletide promotion for the 2011 Tim Hortons Brier, March 5 – 13 in the John Labatt Centre – one of the premiere events on curling's Season of Champions schedule. This year London plays host to the best men's teams in the country, competing for our national championship.

Now fans have two more ticket package options available to them through the Rocks in Your Socks promotion. The first is a single ticket to the first five draws. The second is two tickets for one draw or one ticket for two draws on the same day (draws 1-14 only). These packages start at just \$39. This is a limited-time offer and only available until December 24.

Rocks in Your Socks is ideal for the hard-core fanatic or the armchair enthusiast who hasn't had the opportunity to experience the thrill of live curling at the elite level. And, curling just doesn't get any better than the Brier!

"Last February, the Olympics generated an overwhelming level of awareness for the sport," notes Peter Inch, Host Committee Chair. "Millions of new fans across the country tuned in to watch on television and they we're captivated by the game... the drama, emotion, and unbelievable skill of the athletes. There's really no better gift for a new fan than the chance to experience curling live... and the competition at the Brier is definitely as good as it gets."

Another great option – especially for the more serious fan - is the Flex Mini Pack. Priced at \$179, \$209 and \$229, the package features eight, ten or twelve game selections where they can pick the days and times that fit their own schedule.

The best part is, with Brier ticket purchases, you'll avoid all the annoying line-ups at the malls. Shop conveniently online at [seasonofchampions.ca](http://seasonofchampions.ca), by phone at 866.455.2849 or in person at the John Labatt Centre Box Office.

Every ticket also includes complimentary admission to Keith's Patch... curling's legendary post-game party place. The Patch is where fans and competitors alike meet to enjoy an appetizing array of food and beverages and dance to the sounds of an outstanding line-up of live musical entertainment.

So, rock the socks off the holidays this year... with the gift of the Tim Hortons Brier!



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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT----**

We are, as I have emphasized before, a volunteer driven organization that is only as strong as the commitment of its members. We estimate that more than 20% of our members are involved in some type of volunteer activity that directly benefits the club in some way. Whether it is serving on one of our numerous committees, convening a league or a bonspiel, assisting in the office, selling raffle tickets, helping out at a skills clinic or learn-to-curl league, or working in the kitchen during an event, our members make an invaluable contribution to the successful operation of this club. To be more precise, we couldn't do it without you!

For that reason the Board has made it a priority this year to try to recognize some of the dedicated people who help make our club the great place that it is. Last month, Bruce Cooper started a series profiling our committees, and this month, Gwen Crossman, current Board member and chair of the Curling Committee, has begun another series, profiling our league convenors. Some of these individuals have been quietly getting their jobs done for several seasons, often with very little recognition. So we plan to remedy that. I know we won't have time to tell you about all our convenors this year, but we're making a start. In the meantime, if you haven't done it already, make sure you thank the person(s) who is (are) convening the league(s) that you play in. It's important that they know that we appreciate their efforts. Or, if there's a club member you'd especially like to see recognized, write a few words of appreciation and submit it for next month's Rock Talk.

On another note, I wanted to provide an update on membership numbers. The total is now just over 700, about thirty-five more than this time last year, which is certainly encouraging. It means that even though we lost more than eighty members, we have gained back more than that with new and returning members. The new UWO student league is up and running Sunday afternoons, with between 25 and 30 curlers, and efforts are being made to reach out to various community groups who may be interested in participating in a "learn-to-curl" session during that same Sunday time slot.

---Connie Weir, President

**NEW TO THE CLUB OR  
NEW TO CURLING?**

In November, members new to the club were asked to complete a survey about their experiences to date. The information below is in response to requests for some additional information about the club or the sport of curling.

**IN SOME CLUBS, THE ROCK IS SET OUT FOR THE NEXT CURLER. WHY DON'T WE DO THIS AT THE LCC?**

Primarily, this is a safety reason. Experience has taught us that it is much safer to leave the stones to the side of the hack rather than placing an unattended stone at the hack. What we really want is for the next curler to get into the hack and get ready to throw the next stone once the just-delivered stone is on its way to the house. This keeps play moving along and helps the teams meet the two-hour time limit.

**WHY ARE THERE SIGNS ABOUT PARKING LOT SECURITY AT THE CLUB?**

We encourage all members to be diligent in keeping valuables out of site in their cars and to ensure that their car is locked at all times (daytime and evening). The installation of the video cameras in 2010 has made a difference in reducing theft, but keeping temptation out of the way is our best first step.

**HOW CAN I KEEP CURRENT WITH CLUB ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS?**

The club prints (and posts on the website) a monthly newsletter called *Rock Talk*. The print copies are available in the Main Lounge and in the locker rooms about the first of week of each month. As well, check the bulletin boards, particularly the ones for your leagues. The club prints a Club Directory each November. This has contact information for all club members and it has the monthly schedules, as known at the time of printing. The website posts the draw schedule for each league. For those wishing to enter a bonspiel, the mailings from other clubs are available in a binder that is kept on the desk in the Main Lounge.

**WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT RULES OF THE SPORT AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION?**

The Canadian Curling Association has an excellent website for those wishing to learn more about the sport. In addition to information about curling terms, general rules of play, some basic game strategy, the website has videos on some basics about delivery, etc. Go to [www.curling.ca](http://www.curling.ca) and click on "Go Curling!" on the red bar near the top of the page.

-Peter Askey, Member Services Comm.

 <p><b>LONDON CURLING CLUB</b></p> <p>377 Lyle Street London, Ontario N5W 3R5 Telephone (519) 432-3882 E-mail <a href="mailto:londoncurling@execulink.com">londoncurling@execulink.com</a> Website <a href="http://www.londoncurling.ca">www.londoncurling.ca</a></p>	<p><b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b> President Connie Weir Past President Don Agnew Treasurer Larry Round Secretary Pat Bell</p> <p><b>BOARD MEMBERS</b> Peter Askey, Gwen Crossman, Mary Cole, John Fraser, Al McLachlan, Roger Moyer, Paul Pergau,</p>	<p><b>CLUB STAFF</b> Club Manager Office Manager Head Ice Technician Ice Assistants</p> <p>Doug Petch Barb Colbourn Kevin Breivik Ed Jermyn Matt Mueller Mark Phillips Chris Becker Sarah Westman Jason Laroque David Easter Les Sonier Natalie Blake Janice Henry</p> <p>Ice Helper Bar Coordinator Bar Staff Housekeeper</p>	<p><b>WEBSITE</b> Eric Duggan <a href="http://www.londoncurling.ca">www.londoncurling.ca</a> <a href="mailto:webmaster@londoncurling.ca">webmaster@londoncurling.ca</a></p> <p><b>ROCK TALK</b> Karen Lowry 519-472-1625 <a href="mailto:rocktalk@londoncurling.ca">rocktalk@londoncurling.ca</a></p> <p>Issue Deadlines: September 17 October 22 November 19 December 31 January 28 February 25</p>
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## KNOW YOUR MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE!!



Flo Kuchynski, Roger Moyer, Mary Blasl, , Joan McKinnell, Peter Askey, Chair & Board member, Wendy Foster(Absent)

This committee has been extremely active over the past several years under the original leadership of Don Agnew and the current leadership of Peter Askey. Don put great effort into getting our on-line registrations procedures established. Peter has taken up the themes of growing the membership, preparing recommendations for our annual fees, responding to member needs and suggestions, coordinating the Spirit of Curling Awards, encouraging people to become qualified coaches and helping with the free Club curling clinics.

The first theme, "Growing the membership", took Peter and his committee down many paths, one of which was Open Doors London for the past 2 years. This committee has put together a commentary on our Club for use by the more than 20 volunteers who escorted over 200 visitors through our club. Peter has also encouraged members to "Bring a Friend to Curling" each January. We all know that current members are our best source of new members. Also our September open houses, the curling clinics, the establishment of the New U.W.O. Student League, and February Family Day activities have all been promoted and facilitated by members of this committee.

Peter and his group have over the past two years spent considerable time surveying present and past members. This has led to insights into why curlers drop out of our club (primarily health issues, and increased job and family responsibilities). New members have been asked about their experiences at the club in order to ascertain whether or not they have been good.

Your Member Services Committee can take great pride in the fantastic job they have done, the results of which can be seen in our expanding membership especially in the middle age bracket.

If you think you can bring some ideas and enthusiasm to further the work of this group, please contact Peter Askey (519-691-1299) and volunteer a few hours of your time to help make your Club even more of a success.

### LATE REGISTRATION ISSUES

Did you know that approximately 21% of club members did not get their registration and fees in by the September 13<sup>th</sup> deadline this year?

The late arrival of registrations causes significant challenges for the office staff and league convenors trying to get teams and draws established. The September 13<sup>th</sup> deadline leaves a window of about two weeks before league play begins. With over 700 members in our club, there is a considerable amount of paperwork and communication to be completed in this very short timeline.

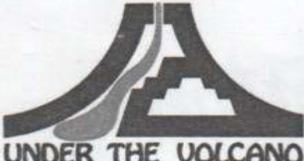
The board of directors will be looking at a variety of options to improve this situation for the next curling season. If you have some suggestions, we would ask that you send an email to Peter Askey, chair of the Member Services Committee (peter.askey@rogers.com).

-Peter Askey

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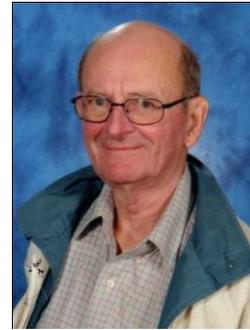
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Bring *ANYBODY* (doesn't even have to be your sweetheart !!) and receive  
**\$10.00 off the lowest entrée**  
(During March, any time except Fridays and Saturdays after 5 o'clock)



# MEET OUR CONVENORS!!!



## Laura Murphy - UWO Student League Curling

Laura comes to the London Curling Club with a lot of enthusiasm and a "can do" philosophy. Presently, as a first year convenor at the LCC Laura coordinates a mixed league including graduate and undergraduate students, as well as professors and others.

Within the UWO mixed league there are curlers of varying abilities and skill levels and their league goal is to have fun and enjoy the socializing among league members.

Rounding out the year at the end of March they'll host an open fun spiel and have a goal for a few teams to participate in an out of town spiel.

Organizationally, the UWO Student League will have 2 meetings including a meal at the start and at the completion of their year.

Recruitment involved working with campus recreation at UWO and the LCC. There was a focus on providing instructional skill opportunities for new curlers and the help of the LCC instructors and volunteers were appreciated.

A strong goal of their league is promotion of a welcoming and sportsmanlike atmosphere for all.

Laura has shared she is happy to have a student curling league and enjoys seeing curlers gain in their confidence, skills and enjoyment of the sport. She has enjoyed meeting others and is appreciative of support from Wes Vanderlinden at UWO and Peter Askey, Connie Weir, Doug Petch and others at the LCC.

Thank you Laura for your time and energy to start a new league!

## Derek Smith – President of Daytime Men's

Derek is new to the leadership role of Daytime Men's, a social men's league that uses a daily "pick-up / sign-up" format for its games. Although composed mostly of seniors, the league is open to men of all ages able to play during the day.

The Daytime Men's executive organizes the Sifton Bonspiel (Nov. 30 - Dec1), convened by Ed Galloway, and the Tier 55 Bonspiel (Jan.14), convened by Garry Thompson at the LCC.

The executive is also responsible for the Highland Friendly exchange, whereby members of the LCC visit the Highland in November and Highland curlers reciprocate and come to the LCC in late January and early February. Bob Hyatt has convened this exchange for a number of years and Derek has taken this organizational role on this year. All executive members take an active role in preparations for hosting at the LCC in January and February.

Social events hosted by the league include a Christmas party involving curling followed by a luncheon on the second Tuesday in December. The second event is the Annual Meeting and wind up in late March with curling followed by lunch.

Derek has enjoyed organizing the lunches and shared his leadership role has brought him closer to league members in the Daytime Men's league. He's been surprised to discover all of the organization involved and is also appreciative of fellow curlers and LCC staff in the help and assistance offered to organize and run their events. Sounds like all of the curlers are a unified team and very collaborative to get things done! Derek conveyed there are not many complaints, which speaks highly of his leadership and the team effort of all of curlers in the Daytime Men's membership.

Thank you, Derek, for convening and to all Daytime Men's members for their helpful teamwork in running their events!

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**MIOYLKA STEELE -THURSDAY WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEAGUE CONVENOR**

Mioylka started as a convenor this year with the Thursday Women's Business League. Although the members are mostly working women who are unable to curl during the day, the league is open to all women. The league uses a team entry system and members curl with their designated team throughout the curling season.

The Thursday Women's League hosts a one-day bonspiel (Jan. 29), as well as a Christmas party and closing banquet.

Mioylka shared that her convening responsibilities include setting teams and the game schedule, ensuring members are notified about events and club functions and organizing the Christmas party and closing banquet.

Mioylka said she takes satisfaction in knowing she has taken her turn in this leadership role, so it is not left to the same people each year, and she enjoys getting to know all of the members in her league.

Thank you, Mioylka, for leading the Thursday Women's Business League this curling season!

(Profiles prepared by Curling Committee chair, Gwen Crossman)

**NOVEMBER SKILLS CLINIC**

The Skills Clinic held on November 13th had a number of novel approaches that tested the participants' skill levels. The Beginners Clinic which focused on balance and correct line of delivery saw the introduction of a "yoke and blue jeans" (see photo below) that was built by Jennifer Cuddie, the clinic's lead instructor. This device was even tried by several of the club's more experienced curlers who were out for the first session in a helping capacity.



The Intermediate and Advanced Clinic featured the opportunity to practice specific shots that we all face during game situations: putting up a guard, takeout, peel, and coming in behind a couple of stones. Once those skills were practised, participants had a chance to play a game called "Grazy Eight's" where you tried to replace eight red stones, set out around the house, with eight blue stones. This was not only a great drill for the shooters, but gave experience for setting the broom.



Thanks are extended to the team of instructors: Jennifer Cuddie, Don Dudley, Russell Cuddie, Wil Francolini, Joyce Hetherington, Jim Russell, Steve Hobbs, Dan McInnes and Peter Askey.

The next skills clinic will be on January 15th.

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## ROLLING STONES!!!



Well, just passed the half way point of our regular season schedule, the Burns Rink of Kirk George, Frank Hubbs, Steve Eimer and Sean Burns have broken away from the pack with only 2 losses so far. There's a healthy line up of teams nipping at their heels, so they still have their work cut out for them.

Some heavy lifting....a few lucky breaks are badly needed for a few squads if they are to climb in the standings - keep at it, boys.....somebody wants you to win!

For those of you who follow Rolling Stones fashion trends, rumour has it that we are slowly reaching consensus on new league apparel. Chief Fashion Consultant Frank Hubbs has taken on the charge of finding us just the right new look and many of us hope it helps us find just the right new game.

Our annual Funspiel is set for Saturday, February 12th at the club, with our annual Rolling Stones Inter-city Spiel the following weekend. This year, the Toronto Rolling Stones host the event with teams coming in from both London and Montreal chapters. Another memorable weekend that many will probably never remember again is anticipated this year

.The Rolling Stones wish you and yours Good Curling and a wonderful holiday season!

Ken Symns, Rolling Stones Communications

## DAYTIME MEN'S



The first round of the "Highland Friendly" was held November 16 at the Highland. They were most hospitable to us in the lounge, but merciless on the ice. The LCC's teams lost by 10 points in the eleven 6-end games. Winners for our Club were the teams skipped by Jim Lone, Don Agnew, and Roger Leblanc, while those of Nick Sauter and Lew Stacey drew. Their visit to the LCC and our chance to catch up will be on February 1.

We welcome one new member to the Daytime Men's league: Murray Turner.

Two senior men's bonspiels are in the works. The Sifton will be held Nov. 30-Dec. 1 will have 24 teams, eight from the LCC. A playoff was held to determine our eighth, in which Barry Montgomery defeated Chuck Townsend.

Ed Galloway is the Convener, assisted by Peter Jackson, Don McKay, Larry Round, Colin Shipley and Fred Wiesegger.

Garry Thompson will convene our Tier-55 bonspiel on Jan. 14.

The Christmas celebration with curling and lunch will be held on December 14. Again, the "catering" will be done by the section's executive - fair warning for fearful folks.



## OCA

We have two teams competing in Junior Zones the weekend of November 19/21, 2010 in Kingsville. Good luck to Team Hopkins (Girls) and Team Francolini (Boys). Bantam Zones are being held in January so teams need to think about signing up. Deadline is just a few weeks away - check the bulletin board.

Teams Foster (Eileen Rochefort, Wendy Foster, Rhonda Persichilli and Dayna Dann) and Beckett (Dave Beckett, Tom Zavitz, Paul Reily and Chris Thompson) played in the Dominion Club Championship Zone 16 play downs Oct 22/24. They both represented our club well but were unsuccessful in moving on to the next level.

Other OCA events coming up that have Zone 16 closing dates are: Women's and Men's Challenge Rounds, Tournament of Hearts and Men's Tankard.

Get a LCC team together and get registered! Contact your LCC OCA Rep (Teresa, Sandy or Paul) for help as soon as you decide to enter your team.

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**WOMEN'S DAYTIME SECTION NEWS----**

**New Member:** We welcome Deb Laing and wish her good curling this season as a new member. Fay Weiler is her Big Sister.

**Jeanette's Early Bird Bonspiel:**(Convenor/Barb Vitkausas, Co-Convenor/Mardi McLachlan)  
November 10th, forty eight competitors gathered to curl in the Jeanette's Early Bird bonspiel. There were 5 out of town teams and 7 LCC teams competing.

The bird theme was reflected in the club's decorations with 3 large birds greeting the curlers as they entered the club. Lime green serviettes with small metal bird house stands were used to decorate the downstairs. The upstairs tables were adorned with wooden stands holding bird houses, raffia and small birds. The luncheon was catered by LanDen Farms and was enjoyed by all.

The trophy winners were from the Aylmer Curling Club: Jeanette Pessal, Bodena Boadway, Katlin Vandemeer and Bertha Strickland. Second prize went to the Marj Dudley team of LCC, third to Christa Brouwer of Aylmer and fourth to Ruth Alexander from Highland.

Special thanks to Joyce Hetherington for sponsoring this event. Joyce is a member of our club and one of the "Jeanettes".

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event a "sweeping success.

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE WOMEN'S SECTION:**

- December 2 MARSHALL'S PASTA MILL (Dale McIntyre & Joan Bidinosti)
- December 7 BERNIE'S ( Jan Murray & Brenda Thompson)
- December 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY (Sandy Ronson, Cathy Townsend & Linda Round)
- January 26 CARD PARTY (Deanne Fitzpatrick & Marilynne VanBuskirk)

**BONSPIELS**

- January 12 GRANDMOTHERS'S SPIEL (Pam Harrison & Bonny Shawyer)
- Feb. 28t& March 1 SHEILA BETKUS 2 DAY SPIEL (Joan Dickie's Team)



**TRIBUTE TO OUR COACH**  
**WARREN BROOKE!!**



We think it would be very tough to find someone as intense, dedicated, and knowledgeable about the game of curling as our coach.

He has committed time in the summer to attend a high performance camp with us, he runs practice for us at least every other Sunday for the entire curling season, he travels by himself all over Southwestern Ontario to coach us in competition, he opens his home to us while we watch and critique professional curling; and through the whole process he remains extremely patient, positive and encouraging.

With all of his help, our team has had the confidence to try new things. We had the courage to try our first OCA competition two years ago. Last year we have really jumped into the fire with four OCA competitions. We won our first competition game last year at the Best Western Challenge in Beachgrove and felt we were well on our way to bigger and better things until the Sunday morning game. We tried the tankard for the first time finishing second in a field of 2 clubs, but enjoyed joining Eileen, Wendy, Cheryl and Judy. We entered two other competitions the Intermediate Zones and the Women's Trophy.

We will again try and earn one of those OCA badges for both our club and our treasured coach this season.

Thanks for everything Warren.

Sincerely,  
Team Lawrence - Sue Lawrence, Rhonda Persichilli,  
Linda McFadyen and Deanna Dougan

*Tim Hortons*

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