

The Sweeping Times

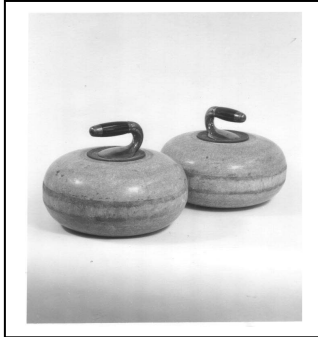
Monthly Newsletter

High Park Club - 100 Indian Road

416-536-8054

Message from the President

February 2008



We Heard You!

Last month I spoke to you about an initiative to upgrade our club's facilities. As you are aware the club is approaching its 100th anniversary and unfortunately so is most of our infrastructure. The drains, the wiring, the roof over the rink, the lighting and key pieces of our ice making equipment all need to be replaced.

Many of you responded to the survey with what you would like to see replaced/changed or improved in the club and what you wish to see preserved and/or enhanced. The results of the survey are printed elsewhere in the newsletter. Many of you pointed out that the men's washrooms and the bar are badly in need of an overhaul. Some of you even provided rough sketches of what you'd like to see done. Our women members would like to have a washroom of their own on the main floor and some additional locker room space on the second. In recommending these changes you also told us to be careful not to disturb the warm homey feel of the club. You don't want its character and charm changed. You want it enhanced.

You've told us what you want. Now it's time for us to act.

The renewal program to be executed over the next few years will be the largest financial undertaking in the club's history requiring a commitment of a few hundred thousand dollars. Obviously, a project of this magnitude needs a lot of planning so that everything is done in its proper sequence, that we remain within budget and that we meet all of our operational and membership needs. I have asked our planning committee to reach out to our architect members and to engage them in the development of a conceptual plan for the club. A plan that incorporates your ideas for change and the strong feelings you have to preserve what is best in the club. Your input is to be the center piece of that plan. Soon we will be asking for your help again as our team of architects present their sketches of a revitalized clubhouse and we will want to know what you think of the plans; what you like and dislike about them. It's important that you continue to participate because it's your club.

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Several of your ideas for improving the rink area such as painting the walls with brighter colours, washing the flags, adding posters, lowering the scoreboards and replacing the carpet have been forwarded to our house committee to see if we can implement them this summer. In the curling lounge you asked to have the far houses shown on monitors above the windows on each sheet. You also asked to have large screen TV's replace the old worn out sets that are currently in use. I have asked Abbie and our Capital Projects committee to cost out the installation of a closed circuit television system for watching the far houses and to present their findings to the Board. At our next meeting I will recommend that the club purchase a large screen television ASAP.

Yes, we've heard you. You took the time to tell us and we listened. And we will continue to listen because **High Park 100** is about you the membership. It's about renewing our club for a new century. Together we will make it happen.

Michael Adams



From the Suggestion Box.....

1. The sight line to the left/north coming out of the north parking lot is very poor - it will only be a matter of time before there's a tragedy.

Answer - Being taken into consideration.

2. The stairwell leading up to locker room and the carpet in ladies lounge area has not been vacuumed in a very long time - probably not the cause but could certainly contribute to our dirty ice.

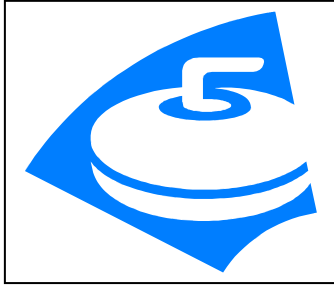
Answer - This staircase is vacuumed weekly and more often as needed. If you notice that it's in need of cleaning - leave a note for the manager in the office mail slot - or send an email.

3. Could we put the little white brushes for the broom heads at the end boards on the side where the waste basket is so that the debris has a better chance to go in the basket?

Answer - Thanks for pointing this out - the curling committee is looking into this.

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Men's Section

At a relatively calm time in the club's season we can reflect on some of the successes that various members and teams have enjoyed recently. Pride of place goes to Roy Arndt who guided his team to the Provincial final in the Fairfield Marriott Challenge (many of you might remember this as the "Holiday Inn"). Congratulations to Roy, Paul Attard, Ryan Gain and Mike Adams on a great run.

Two of our men's teams went to the second Saturday in the TCA Energizer. Tom Dearie (with Cam Beatty, Alan Pawelek, Kevin Sims, Adam Di Carlo) won the Main Event Consolation Final (third overall) despite the fact that Cam came up lame (back spasms) before the semi-finals necessitating the team to play with three (Adam appeared in time to help them win in the afternoon). They still took it to an extra end against the Dixie team that won the whole thing! At the same time Doug Pengelly, who later proudly told the dinner audience that he had never won one game in his previous six years, was playing in the Fourth Event finals with Jeff Hanning, Ron Courtney and Anthony Meli (having lost third; Sam Montesano earlier in the week).

Two High Park teams went down to the Chicago International in the same week as the Energizer. Peter Cauley, Rob Kavals, Rob Bryan and Don Stevens reached the Second Event Final (yet again). Bill McDonald and Mike Adams didn't! There is a great Don Stevens' story circulating but I'm not telling it!

The Quebec International saw its usual contingent of High Park entries recently and the Rajan Burman team, with Joe Coneybeare vicing, made the second event final for the Ontario Cup. Meanwhile Al Larden, Mike Adams and Ken Brock won the third event, the U.S.A. Cup.

Please continue to let me know of any successes so that we can post them on the Wall!

Howard Stanfield

Visit the High Park Club website and check out our new photo section!

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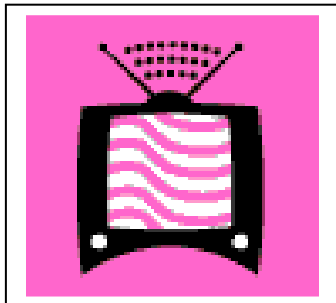
Upcoming Events

February 15-16th HP Men's Bonspiel

March 28th-29th Primetime Mixed Bonspiel

April 3rd Calcutta Night

April 11th-12th Grand Mixed Bonspiel



Mixed Competitive Section

A brief note to let you know that, beginning in February, High Park teams can sign up for the Prime Time Mixed Spiel (Friday March 28th and Saturday March 29th). The sign up sheet will be in the Draw Room and presently there are four places available. If more teams sign up than there are places, there will be a draw. Dates of the deadline for entry and the draw are on the sign up sheet.

As always, the five members of the committee plead for some extra hands to help run this two-day spiel. On Thursday night we need a few people to spend an hour putting up decorations and stuffing grab bags; on Friday night we need one person to help manage the snacks for teams after their game; Saturday is a long day and anyone who can stop by for an hour to help set up the breakfast table, sell raffle tickets or help manage some off-ice games would be much appreciated.

We are really in need of some loot for the eighty grab bags. If you have any inside tips on where we can get some swag, let us know. You can find us on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or by email; Nadine O'Gorman, Kelly Cochrane, Lisa Rawlings, Jeni Mah and Anne Lumsden.

Anne Lumsden

Congratulations

The 2008 QUEBEC INTERNATIONAL BONSPIEL was held from January 19th to 25th. Five High Park curlers along with three friends from Burlington and Kitchener fared very well this year. The Al Larden team which consisted of Mike Adams, Ken Brock and Ton Hollis (Kitchener) won the USA Cup "C" event. The Rajan Burman quartet that had Joe Coneybeare plus Mark Braden and Glen Attridge from Burlington were the runners up in The Ontario Cup "B" event. Congratulations to everyone!

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Sunday Open Section

Sunday night curling is going well, the second series ended and the third series has begun. The committee would like to congratulate the four flight winners for the second series by awarding each winning team with a \$30 credit on their skip's account. The winners of the second series are:

Flight A: Colin McMichael, Joanne McMichael, Martin Schuh, Kathryn Poloczek

Flight B: Jennifer Gray, John Estok, Rob Gray, Heather Fraser

Flight C: Chris Kott, Bozena Kott, Ivan Fok, Jodie Ferrante, Zach Levinsky

Flight D: Richard Dickenson, Sophie Nguyen, Kelly Hoppler, Joel Scavuzzo

One noteworthy item of section business to report: starting at the beginning of the second series, the committee introduced the use of a team shoot-out score to break ties that remain after team record and head to head games are considered. Each team is required to do one shoot-out per series before the last game of the series. Each player throws one rock, towards the glass, sweeping allowed, and points are allocated according to how close the rock is to the button for each of the four rocks. Shoot-out scoring sheets are located in the draw-room and can be left in the Sunday night mail box at the bar once completed.

Good Curling!

Jennifer Gray

Grand Mixed Curling Committee

This is to formally announce the creation of the Grand Mixed Curling Committee and invite all interested parties to participate in running this historic High Park event - now and into the future. This committee will be solely dedicated to making the Grand Mixed Social Bonspiel as grand as it can be and we are currently seeking out people to sit on this future-oriented committee or aid in smoothly executing this year's Grand Mixed scheduled for April 11th and 12th. While some of the committee will meet year round to lay the groundwork for the Grand Mixed, any time or resources you have to volunteer for this event [especially in the execution phase of this year's Grand Mixed] is also sought. Sign-up sheets are currently in the draw room or you can contact me at: zachary.levinsky@gmail.com.

This event has been sustained by the tremendous volunteer efforts of our members and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who has at one time or another organized the event; donated prizes, taped decorations, attended meetings,

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created fun games or contributed in other ways to this wonderful social event and to invite you to participate again.

Your humble liaise,

Zachary Levinsky

Rock Fund

It is amazing that less than one year ago it was no more than a dream to purchase new rocks. Thanks to the Board agreeing to a challenge that, if a fundraising committee could raise 50% of the costs, then the Board would contribute the other 50%.

The fundraising got off to a great start last spring with the raffle for a free membership which raised over \$5,000 (and ended up costing the Board nothing as the winner, Ron Hancock, was not a member, did not become a member - and threw his winnings back to the club!). Tom Dearie's summer "Poker Night" kept things going and their winner, Steve Brokx, also threw much of his winnings back into the pot. The Men's Section generously contributed to the fund and challenged all the other sections in the club to match them. Various events were run by different sections and many thanks to the Mixed, Women's, Friday Social and Day Men for adding to the total (is there still more to come from other sections?). The various curling clinics run in the Fall under the traditional leadership of Dave Reid added close to another \$1,000 but the "killer" has turned out to be the 50/50 draw (thanks to Sue Mooij for generating the idea and plan). The weekly draw continues until the end of the curling season so good luck to all of the more than 300 of you who are participating.



All of this means that we are now very close to the original target of \$20,000. The rocks have been ordered, the granite is now in the country and we can expect to be playing with the new rocks by the beginning of next season at the latest. We should not close off this update without a huge "Thank You" to Kelly Cochrane who has spent countless hours and much energy throughout this project. Let her know what a great job she has done!

Howard Stanfield

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Manager's Corner

The cold weather is here and the club is busier than ever. We have the Senior Men's Bonspiel, and the Men's Invitational bonspiel going on throughout February along with a few other special events on the weekends. Support of these spiels through sponsorship or prize donations is more than appreciated; please contact me if you can help.

Just a reminder that fees must be paid by the last day of the month, anything after that is a late payment and interest will be charged. You can use online banking for bill payments, or drop off a cheque.

The first bunch of TCA tickets have been charged to your accounts. If you have already bought your ticket you are in for quite a great time. Right now we have 90 tickets sold and really would like to hit 150. This is definitely going to be quite the event. The High Park Club will be allocated a complete section just for our members; we can use to help advertise our centennial year. If you have not yet purchased your GRAND SLAM TICKETS, do so at the bar today. The cost is \$150 for one, after March 15th it will be \$250 with no proceeds going back to the club, from the early bird tickets sales money will be going back to the TCA and our own club. If you enjoyed the Briar, you will love this event! Purchase your tickets today at the bar and help support your club.

Just a reminder that like anything else your curling equipment does wear out. If you have not yet changed your gripper this year, or purchased a new broom head, please do so this month. Grippers wear out and debris is left on the ice surface. Help out our ice staff and keep your curling equipment in great condition.

I will be away curling for a few days in the month of February; Melanie will be helping out in the office if you have any questions.

Good Curling.

Abbie Darnley

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The Toronto Grand Slam of Curling Event October 21-25th, 2009 Air Canada Centre

This event is being advertised well in advance to give you substantial savings cost. The event will showcase 10 of the teams participating in the 2010 Olympic Games. It will give us a preview of what to expect for the upcoming year.

The cost to purchase the ticket after March 15th will be \$250.00 - you will be saving up to \$100.00 for the event package. There are 15 draws over a 5 day period. Help support curling, help support the Toronto Curling Association and help support High Park Club by purchasing your tickets before the deadline.

To order tickets please see Abbie in the office, these can be chitted, paid by cheque or by cash. Receipts will be issued for each purchase and once the tickets come in they will be handed out.

High Park Club will be assigned a section of the Air Canada Centre for our members, so we can all sit as a club. This is going to be one of the best curling events held in Southern Ontario – so don't miss out on it.

High Park 100 - It's Our Club Results of First Survey

We received a total of 143 responses to the following survey question:

"The club is about to begin an initiative to upgrade/renovate our facility in time for the club's 100th anniversary in 2011. We would like your opinion as to what YOU would like to see replaced, changed or upgraded. What You would like to see preserved and protected. Please make your comments below; take as much space as you need. Your opinion is important to us. It's your club and we want to hear from you. Thank you for participating." The survey was conducted during the week of January 17th to the 25th, 2008.

The number one reno/upgrade mentioned was cameras/monitors for watching the houses at the far end, a total of 33 members requested this change. This was followed by upgrading the men's washrooms (31), putting a woman's washroom on the main floor (27), a large screen TV (19) and expanding the women's locker room (14).

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Twenty nine members mentioned rearranging the layout on the main floor (positions of bar, washrooms & office). A few specifically mentioned "the plan" or the "Hanning plan". Nine members said that our priority should be to make sure the club's infrastructure was in good repair (eg. roof, machinery).

Members were also asked to suggest things they would like to see preserved, enhanced or protected. The club's trophy & historical displays were the number one response (10) followed by the club's atmosphere or the general feel of the club (6) and the wooden panelling in the curling lounge (3). A few members mentioned that we should be "very careful" with making changes to the club in order to protect what we already have. Two members said to leave the club as it is.

The tables below list the desired changes by areas in the club.

Rink Area Basement

- improve lighting (6) general appearance (10)
- get rid of drop ceiling (5) showers (4)
- music on ice - classical (4) sauna (4)
- paint walls - brighter colours (4) fix pit (4)
- new carpets (4) carpet on floors (3)
- 6th sheet (3) exercise room (2)

- lower score boards (3)
- posters/advertising (2)

Main Floor - General

- rearrange layout (29)
- add woman's washroom (27)
- enhance trophy & historical displays (10)
- new sound system (6)
- new furniture (13)
- freshen draw room (3)
- house cats (2)

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