

The Sweeping Times

Monthly Newsletter

High Park Club - 100 Indian Road

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July 2004

President's Message

I suppose all new Presidents start by wondering "what did I get myself into?" Certainly, that is my starting point!! I must admit that when Tom Dearie asked if I would sit on the board I never contemplated that I would also have to sit for the President's portrait (and yes, my goal this year is to get my picture up on the wall). I thought that my first assigned task of purchasing the hot dog steamer would be the highlight of my service. Hopefully, I was mistaken.

On behalf of the members, I would like to thank James Cockhill, Julie French, Cathy Richardson, and Howard Stanfield for their time and efforts as directors. I would like to introduce this year's Board, with their respective portfolios':

Virginia Chuprina	Social
Blair Clemes	Past President
Jim Cochrane	Capital Projects
Marina Frykowski	Secretary
Karen Hajdur	Bar & Kitchen
Alex Killoch	President
Neill MacMillan	Tennis Liaison
Bob Matthews	Property
Franco Rovazzi	Marketing
Laurie Safranka	Curling Liaison
Duane Sorrey	Communications
Genia Vanderkruk	Vice-President
Mark Wells	Treasurer

This coming year holds out much promise. To start the season we will have a new in-house icemaker. I would like to introduce Craig Bancroft, who is joining us from Lodi, Wisconsin. Craig brings several years of experience, as well as a passion for curling that I think we will value. At the end of the coming season we hope to be able to begin the remodelling of the main floor, but there will be more on that as the year progresses. During the season, we plan to launch a new web site with improved features, improve our accounting system, implement a new chitting system and perhaps throw some rocks. Meanwhile, the grass is green and while it may not be the warmest summer ever, the tennis section is enjoying the quality of the courts. It is not too late to consider playing for the remainder of this season, if you are interested please contact Chris in the office.

Have a great summer. Come on down to the club for a beer and enjoy the verandah.

Alex Killoch

Home of the Grand Match

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The following is an excerpt from an article entitled "*In praise of the verandah*" published in the Toronto Star on Sunday, May 2, 2004 in the Metropolis section and was written by Mr. Angus Skene.

" There is one other verandah we should step on to.

Unless you're told about the hidden wonders of the **High Park Curling and Lawn Tennis Club**, you will never know what they are. Built in 1912 to the design of architect John Gemmel, it started as a typical private club of its day; all men and those men were all well to do. Women were admitted in the 1930s, and today the club is so inclusive and easygoing it occupies the middle ground in our verandah survey: it's not a public park, but its not an exclusive enclave either.

Located on Indian Rd. just east of High Park, the club conjures up images of the pre-World War I world. The members curled in the winter and bowled in the summer. In the summer, starch-shirted staff served food and drinks on the verandah.

Recent renovations have changed Gemmel's original work, but the bulk of the place is still there. The scale of the columns is big enough to enclose the space, and even the low railing has a pleasing thickness to it. It is definitely a great verandah.

As for the lawn bowling connection, don't let the name fool you. This was a lawn-bowling club and the verandah was originally a lawn-bowling verandah. The last lawn bowlers left the club in the early 1980s. It's a shame the lawn bowling ended, but the tennis on real grass does reinforce the retro-Edwardian qualities of the place".

Home of the Grand Match