



Newsletter to Members

Fall, 2006

From Our President

Here we are with one month of the curling season already gone. The membership numbers have surpassed last year's numbers with most nights being full.

During the 1st month we enjoyed the fruit of the 50th Anniversary Committees' work. Everyone who attended these events truly enjoyed themselves. "Curl for a Cure" had another very successful day raising \$7,000.00 for the Cancer Society.

The Home Hardware Bonspiel is fast approaching and I'm happy to advise you that the Elmira Curling Club has once again topped all other clubs involved with the number of teams entered. Elmira has 22 teams entered this year with The Granite Club coming in second place with 19 teams. I hope all who have signed up will enjoy the experience and some will return to our club for the final banquet and possibly win an event.

Since this is a member run club I'd like to remind all of the membership that the volunteer sign up sheets are posted outside the locker rooms. Please check your schedules and sign up for a duty before they fill up.

On a final note the Board of Directors has submitted the Trillium Grant Application and is awaiting their decision within the next 4 months.

The Board of Director meeting dates will be posted on the foyer white board in advance for anyone wishing to attend. Please advise us in advance of a delegation wishing to make a presentation to the board at one of the meetings.

The Ontario Trillium Grant

An application has been completed to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for money to do several upgrades/repairs in the club (thanks to Lorne MacKinnon and Jim Anderson). This foundation is an agency of the Ministry of Culture, which receives money from the Ontario Charity Casino Initiative. If the application is successful, the following will be completed in the spring and summer of 2007:

- Upgrades to the water pressure/iron filter system
- New doors for the compressor room to meet safety requirements
- New draft beer cooler
- New cupboards for the bar
- New ice scraper
- Upgrades to dining room including closing in the stairwell
- New washroom stalls, fixtures, counters in both washrooms
- New carpet in the lounge and dining room
- New kitchen including cupboards, appliances and flooring

We have applied for **\$73,194.00** to complete the above and we should hear in March if our application has been successful.

50th Anniversary Celebrations

Elmira kicked off its 50th Anniversary for the 2006-07 season by hosting two special weekends. Guy Hemmings and the *"Rockin the House Tour"* visited the club on Saturday October 14. Guy hosted a Junior Clinic for 38 Little Rockers and Junior Curlers, teaching them the two-step delivery. In the afternoon, Guy competed in two "Battle of the Sexes" challenge games against local women's competitive curler, Elaine Voisin. Teams were determined based on an on-line auction. After the second game, Guy entertained the curlers and people who came out to watch with an hour-long keynote speech on his experiences of curling. It was most enjoyable and a wonderful way to celebrate 50 years of curling in Elmira.

On Thursday, October 21, a Senior's Jitney and luncheon were held, with 32 participants. And on Saturday, October 21, there was a 50's Bonspiel, Dinner and Dance. The music was all 50's music, and partiers danced the night away, with a few themed costumes.

Sunday, October 22nd was the Alumni Open House that began with eight teams being piped onto the ice by Sam Harrup, long time icemaker and curler from Fergus. Jennifer Rolson provided the third generation "toast to the piper". The "All Ages Demonstration of Curling" included Little Rockers playing on half sheets of ice; Junior Curlers; "Crutch" Curlers competing against regular curlers; and "Stick" Curlers against regular curlers.

The Demonstration Curling was followed by greetings and acknowledgements from Ted Arnott, MPP; Ken Seiling, Regional Chair; and Woolwich Township Councillor Pat McLean. Special acknowledgements of Original Members, and 14 Past Presidents was a highlight of the afternoon. Mr. Norm Clement and Mrs. Peggy Sochasky were the distinguished members invited to cut the 50th Anniversary Cake.

The "50Years of Curling at the Elmira Curling Club" were captured on displayed on five display boards, each highlighting the events of a past decade. As well, there were 150 slides of past events from throughout the years.

A commemorative 50th Anniversary pin (\$5) and a colour Program (\$10) is available to purchase through the Pro Shop. [Congratulations Elmira Curling Club!](#)

50th Anniversary Committee Members

Chris Pidgeon – Committee Chair	
Carolyn Adams	Holly Chapman
Wendy Anderson	Linda Lawrie
Linda Dickson	Susan Martin

New By-laws Adopted at the First Annual General Meeting of Members

Effective May 2, 2006, our club converted to a not-for-profit, non-shareholder corporation, owned and operated by club members. Prior to that date, the club was a not-for-profit, shareholder corporation. On March 26, 2006, the shareholders voted to cancel all issued and unissued shares in the corporation. Supplementary letters patent requesting a change in corporate structure were then filed with the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Business Services. The Ministry approved the change, effective May 2, 2006.

The first annual general meeting of members under this new structure was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2006. It was well attended, with 31 members present in person and 13 represented by proxy, a total of 44. The major item of business at this meeting was the adoption of new by-laws. These new by-laws are posted for your perusal on the bulletin board in the basement foyer.

Important Message From the Board of Directors

Recognition of Extraordinary Contribution

We have many members who have done extraordinary things for the benefit of our club and its membership. Those people volunteered their time, expertise and work because they wanted to support their club. We have not done a good job of recognizing these people recently with any more than a handshake and a thank you. We believe they expected no more.

In the past, life membership has been awarded to some who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Life membership bestows free curling privileges for life ... an exceptional reward for exceptional work. We have four active life members at this time and they will continue to receive their free membership given to them for their exceptional service performed in the past. The club would not be what it is without their dedication and we thank them for their efforts.

However, the Board is of the view that, for a club of our size and financial base, granting further life memberships is not financially prudent. A reward of this magnitude (free curling for life) could have a present value of \$5,000 or more, depending on the age of the recipient. As there are a number of members who have made extraordinary contributions, it would be extremely difficult to establish and administer criteria that would limit any such reward to one or two people, so the financial impact on the club of granting further life memberships would be major.

We would like to hear your thoughts on what should be done to honour our volunteers who give so much to the club. Do you disagree with the Board and feel we should grant life memberships? Should awards of lesser monetary value be considered – such as waiving of duty fees or reduced curling fees? Would a recognition plaque, posted in a prominent position in the club, be appropriate?

Regardless of the recognition method chosen, it is necessary to establish criteria that would be used to identify deserving members. So, in addition to your input on recognition method, we would really like to hear your thoughts on the criteria to be applied.

As we consider this matter, we must keep in mind that we have an aging building and ice making equipment that will require many repairs/ replacements over the next few years. We will need to replace our chiller and compressor within the next five years at a cost in excess of \$60,000. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we have applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for funding for a number of capital improvements. However, even if this application is successful, replacement of the compressor and related equipment is not included in the funding request.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions on how we can appropriately recognize club members who contribute time and effort that goes far beyond the average, please communicate those to any Board member soon. The Board will consider all input received.

Setting Up Rocks

The Board received a request from a member to review the practice of setting up rocks for the opposing team. The issues centered on safety (curlers have tripped over the set-up rock on several occasions) and speed of play. O.C.A. was contacted and after a brief discussion, the Board decided that both the issues could be a concern for some. The decision was made to allow each draw to determine their own course of action while keeping safety as the primary concern. If you have any questions, please see any board member.

Thanks to Our Junior Curlers

Members of the junior curling program purchased the ice cameras, monitors and the large television that are in our lounge. Since all monitors can be linked to the television, curling at both the club level and national/international levels will be viewable from all areas of our lounge. Thanks junior curlers. Your donation will be an asset to all members.

Membership

At this time, we have 260 members. This number is closing in on the record of 265 three years ago and as new members join us during the season, we may surpass this.

Volunteers Needed

You will find postings in the lower hall for events that require volunteer assistance. Sign up early and complete your volunteer time to receive your duty fee refund.

Coming Events

November 20 to 25	Home Hardware Bonspiel – no league curling
December 2	Skins Spiel
January 13	Couples Spiel
January 20	Ladies Spiel
February 3	Men's Spiel
February 4	Super Bowl Party
February 17	Junior Spiel
March 3	Ribs & Tails Spiel
March 10	Men's Spiel
March 12	Teacher's Spiel
March 21-24	Provincial Colts – no league curling
March 31	Maple Syrup Spiel

Board of Directors, 2006-2007

Steve Chapman	Past President	519-669-3507
Al Dickson	President	519-669-0140
Vice-president	open	
Lorne MacKinnon	Secretary	519-595-7012
Jason Rolson	Treasurer	519-748-0934
Colleen Coghlin	Assistant Treasurer	519-669-9208
Michelle Rozendal	General Services	519-664-0150
Mike Lenaers	House Facilities	519-669-3162
Jim Anderson	Membership	519-886-9555
John Ross	Club Events	519-886-4418
Wendy Anderson	Special Events	519-885-9555
Chris Pidgeon	Golf Course Liaison	519-885-4618
Bob Johnson	Junior Curling	519-884-1920