



ROCK TALK



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Curling is into the final draws in most of the leagues. We will be looking forward to the playoffs and to the closing banquets for each of the groups.

The work in the Bradley room has made a great improvement. The new paint and the refinished floors look great. Thank you to all the folks who helped with the work to get this job completed.

The chairs in the lounge have been repaired and look great. With this, as well as the refinishing of the chairs in the Bradley Room we need to take a moment and thank the groups who made all of this possible. The Ladies section, the Senior men's section, the poinsettia sales team, the TSN Skins Ticket sales and the folks that worked on the Brian Roman concert. Thank you for helping to make these improvements to our club.

I would also like to thank all the folks who were involved in the Member Guest night at the club. This was a great success! We have a number of new members as a result. We have a new league on Sunday nights and were able to fill gaps in some of the leagues.

Remember that the Silent Auction is coming up quickly. We need your help and support to make this another huge success.

The golf tournament signup will be coming shortly. This is a great opportunity to get together in the off season.

*Good Curling,
Bob Winters, President WCC*

IN THIS ISSUE OF ROCK TALK

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Shamrock Spiel

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Monday Men's Draw Results

Robbie Burns Review

Upcoming Events to Note

Feb. 24, Silent Auction Night

Feb. 25, Bus. Women's Spiel

Mar. 17, Shamrock Spiel

Mar. 24, Bus. Men's Spiel

Mar. 26, Playoffs Start

The 2012 Golf & Leisure Savings Book

Just in time for the upcoming golf season, get your savings book at the Club. This is a great fundraiser for the club, and YOU SAVE \$\$\$'s on golf, dining and more.

See a sample book at the Bar for details. Purchase directly at the Bar.

Looking to Play in a Spiel...Try these...

Business Women's Bonspiel, Feb. 25th

A reminder that the Business Women's "We Will Rock You" bonspiel is taking place on February 25th. If you haven't registered already, please do so! This promises to be a fun day of curling, costumes, friendship and food. We also have the added treat this year of wine tastings/pairings with our lunch compliments of The Wine Rack (Ian Cavanagh). Please sign up as a team, or as an individual and we will help find a team for you! Tell your friends! To register please send an email to Sheryl Tavoularis sheryl.ann@rogers.com or sign up on the sign-up sheet in the ladies locker room.

Shamrock Spiel, March 17

If it's St. Patrick's Day, it's time for the Shamrock Spiel

It's that time of year again! Time to sign up for the 3rd Annual Shamrock Bonspiel being held on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday March 17th at the Whitby Curling Club. For those of you who played in it last year or the year before, you will remember the fun time you had. Our hope is that you will join us again! For those of you who have not curled in it yet, you are in for a lot of fun.

You can enter as an individual or a team. Choose which draw you wish to curl on, early (9:00 am) or late (10:00 am) draw. Your entry to your draw preference is on a first come first served basis and is only held when you register with full payment. Full payment for a team is \$240 or \$60 each. Registration forms are in the rack just outside the office.

This bonspiel pairs up 2 teams who work together as an Irish County to gather points. You will be assigned your partner team and county the day of the bonspiel. Each team plays 4, 4 end games and the county points totals are kept on our leader board throughout the day. Our defending champions are Ian Cavanagh, Denise McMillan, Melanie Vigrass, Doug Brown, Linda Oakes, Jeff Oakes, Carole Blackmore and Mark Blackmore representing County Cork.

We also offer some fine Irish entertainment, fantastic Irish specialty drinks, wonderful Irish lunch (not included in the bonspiel entry fee), a fine Irish dinner, our famous Pot of Gold Draw, a raffle table with lots of prizes, and of course the Shamrock Trophy for the winners. All followed by dancing the night away with your friends. Oh, and you can definitely dress up for the occasion too! Let's see you really get your Irish on!

Space is limited and we have filled up every year, so get your registration form filled in, write your cheque and give it to either Jo-Ann Jordan or Janice Brooks to reserve your spot.

Need some more volunteer hours? We need your help too! E-mail Janice Brooks to volunteer for this event at j_brooks@rogers.com. We will need help with decorations and set up, clean up, ticket sales, registration and package preparation.

More Spiel Info...

March Madness at the Whitby Curling Club...Thinking Basketball think again...Combine the finesse of a brain surgeon , the strategy of a Russian chess-master, the savage power of a sumo wrestler, a Dean Martinesque liver and you've got it...

IT'S TIME FOR THE BUSINESSMEN'S BONSPIEL

Saturday March 24th 2012 the Whitby Curling Club will be involved in a unique partnership with The Wellington Brewery. This one day event has always brought out the best from the "real men's" teams curling in our club. The winner of this event will not only be THE LORD OF THE RINGS but will also have to master many varied games of chance all while being waited on by beautiful barmaids serving the iceberg cold ambrosia from Wellington Brewery. Top it all off with the culinary delights of JB catering and, well...what more do you want. To have your chance at Whitby Curling Club's most illustrious men's prize be sure to watch the club for the sign up sheet and finalize your entry early. We welcome all men's teams that think they have what it takes and for the newer players we can certainly sign you up as an individual and try to get you into the fray. You would hate to miss THE major men's event at the WCC. Keep your eyes peeled...See you in March.

* * * * *

Not a Spiel, but the Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Friday June 1.

This is a week later than year's past to accommodate the Victoria Day long weekend. Further details to follow in the March 'Rock Talk.'

GENERAL CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES

After much consideration as to whether the chairs in the Main Lounge should be restored or replaced, a decision was made at the January board meeting to restore what we have. The restoration of the chairs got underway in late January and to date more than half of them have been restored. The cost of the project is being offset by fundraising efforts -- Brian Roman Concert, Poinsettia sales and Rama tickets in addition two very generous donations from the Ladies and Men's Leagues.

During the past month the restoration of the Bradley Room continued. Subsequent to the room being painted, the floors were sanded and varathaned. The tables were painted and due to fundraising efforts and an additional donation from the Ladies and the volunteer effort lead by Dale Boyce, all of the dining chairs will soon be reupholstered.

After a weekly carryover for 6 weeks of the 50-50 draw, the funds were finally won on February 12th by Bob Winters and Steve Crabbe, approximately \$375 each.

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A GRRRRAND TIME AT THE BURNS SPIEL !

Twenty two clans gathered in the Highlands on January 21st , rolled their rrrr's and celebrated the anniversary of the birth of the Scottish poet, Robbie Burns, in very Scottish conditions.

The 6th annual Burns Spiel, hosted by Malcolm and Tracey Macaulay and Jeff and Belinda Solly, was supposed to feature two – eight end games, however, gremlins had other ideas and unfortunately, we were only able to get one game per draw in.

Notwithstanding the technical difficulties, everyone still enjoyed fine Scottish hospitality including traditional Scottish fare for breakfast and lunch, a scotch nosing, bag pipes, the infamous Burns supper, and dancing the night away.

A highlight of the Burns' supper was the speeches. This year's toast to the Lads and Lassies was eloquently provided by Jeff and Anna Whelan. Karen Hetz tried out her Scottish brogue and provided the toast to the Immortal Memory of Robbie Burns. Malcolm Macaulay kept things under control as the master of ceremonies.

The winning team was the Tremblay rink featuring Mario MacTremblay, Ginette MacBellehumeur, Laurie MacLight and Doug MacKay. Second place went to the Dickson rink and third place went to the Fraser rink. A special award for the "friendliest" team was given to the Ellis rink.

At the end of the day, \$2,600 was raised for the club. Thanks to our sponsors for their donations to the raffle draw.

Special thanks goes to all of those who provided baked goods for breakfast and lunch. Another thanks to Rod for being our DJ and Karen for taking photos. Last but not least, thanks to Janet Bell for the great food!

Thanks to every one who participated.

By popular demand, here is the famous Burns curling poem as discovered by Jeff Solly

To a Skippie

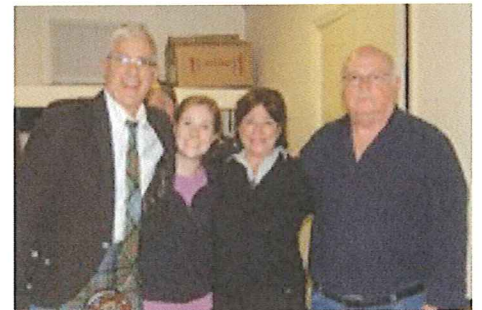
Wee, sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous skippie,
O, what a panic's in thy breastie!
Thou need na throw awa sae hasty,
Wi' bickering brattle!
I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee,
Wi' sweeping pattle!

I'm truly sorry that your minion's
Ha' not played in their usual unison,
And justifies that ill opinion
Which makes thee grate
At me, thy poor earth-born companion,
And fellow team mate.

I have no doubt you have to heave;
What then? Poor skippie you must live;
On one last rock and trust to give
The stone a chuff.
I'll hurrie with you and sweep it heed,
Without rebuff.

But, skippie, thou art not alane,
In proving foresight may be in vain,
The best played rocks of mice and men,
Go oft astray,
And leave us nought but grief and pain,
To rend our day.

Still I art blessed, compared with thee!
The last rock never touches me,
But, oh, I backward cast my eye
On prospects drear,
And forward, though I cannot see,
I guess and fear.



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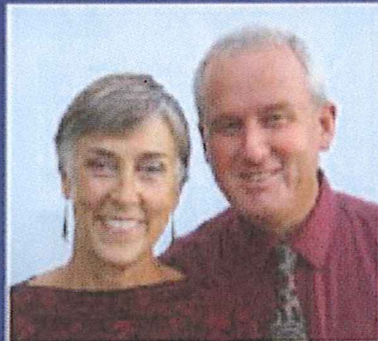
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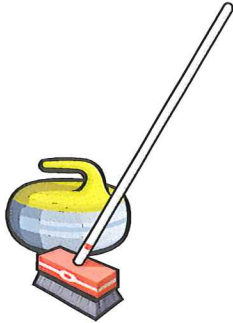
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Next ROCK TALK deadline for articles is Friday March 9, 2012.
Please submit your articles to Sean Crowston, Advertising and Marketing Director,
and editor of the ROCK TALK.
Send Sean an email at: sean43@me.com

CONGRATULATION TO TEAMS AT THE BEAVERTON SENIOR MIXED BONSPIEL. THE RINK OF JOHN BUECKERT, SKIP, JOAN WISEMAN, VICE, 2ND. ED GOSTLIN, AND LEAD MARLENE GOSTLIN WON THE 2ND DRAW OVER ANOTHER WHITBY RINK OF THE STILLERS & YOUNGS.

Volunteer Hours



Do you have your volunteer hours for the season?
Contact Casey about events and projects that you can help with. It's everyone's club, so pitch before the end of the season.

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It is time to get ready for the WCC Members' Annual Silent Auction on Friday February 24th.

This is the only place in Whitby where you can bid on those "special" items donated by our members.

Past auction donations have included works of art, specialty baking, curling lessons, car and cottage weekends, pool parties, Brooklin Spring Fair & BBQ, golf lessons, event tickets, fire hydrants, traffic lights and an assortment of other very cool items. No item is too big or small!!!

Donations for the auction can be dropped off at the club at any time. This is a great opportunity to show off your skills, promote your business, or get rid of some of those unwanted bonspiel prizes!! All proceeds are directed back into the club to improve the facility & services.

So..how does this work?

- Items up for auction will be available for viewing & bidding during the week of February 20th.
- Bidding on items will begin to close at 7:30 pm on Friday February 24th and will continue to close on items over the evening with the last items closing at 11:30 pm.
- Items will be randomly drawn, so you never know what is going or when.
- **New this year...you will be able to bid from the ice!!!** Once an item is drawn, it will be closed to open bids. The item & 2nd last bid will be announced to the room and posted for the players on the ice. Bidding will continue for 5 minutes by confidential bid. Runners will be on the backboard by the glass to take bids from those curling. The item will be awarded to the highest bid.
- Payment will be accepted in the form of Cash, cheque, Visa, Mastercard or on your club account.

JB Catering will be providing dinner in the Bradley Room beginning at 7 pm. You will receive the menu prior to the date. If you are joining us for dinner, remember to reserve early..this will be a busy night!

We hope to see you at the auction. Remember..even if you can't donate, you can always bid!

The Silent Auction Committee

Any queries, please contact: andy_sarah@rogers.com

Learn to Slide

The basis for throwing a good shot is a good delivery. The basis for a good delivery is knowing how to slide.

We will be offering two one-hour sessions for beginners and "near beginners" to improve your slide technique.

Are you leaning on the rock? Are you sliding on your backside? Are you struggling with weight (throwing the rock silly!)? Are you missing the broom? This session is for you!

Session One was held on Feb 15th and Feb 22nd, and fully booked.

Session Two is March 6th and 20th -- 6:45-8:00.

These sessions are limited to the first 15 people who sign up.

cost FREE cost

These one-hour sessions will be run by Angela and Andrew Brown.

To register please email Andrew at a.brown@firstdurham.com



OCA UPDATE - February 5, 2012

It's hard to believe that we are more than half way through our season. There is still a lot of curling to happen but most of the OCA Zone events are almost over.

We have the Stick Regional happening at the club right now. The teams started on February 1 and come back on February 8 to complete the competition. There may be 2 teams playing on the 9th but that will be determined on the 8th if required. Come on out and watch.

The 2012 Dominion Tankard started February 6 in Stratford. Did you take a drive and watch some amazing men's teams? If you don't feel up to the drive it was be televised on Rogers TV and Cogeco, so you could sit and watch in awe of the shot making skills.

February 11 and 12, we will have had 2 senior mixed teams representing the club at the Tam Heather Curling Club.

Jim Cushnie and his team, Lynne Plamondon-Long, Gary Downs and Joan Cushnie.

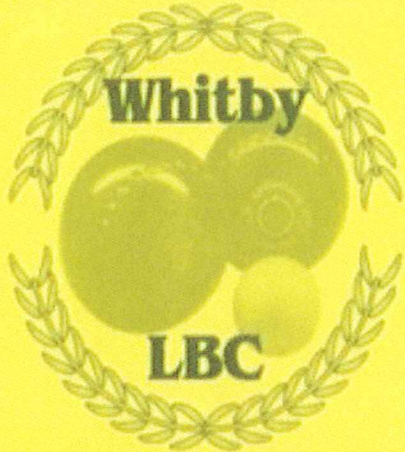
Bob Winters and his team, Liz Winters, Steve Tooze and Sandra Thain.



Liz Winters, OCA Rep, WCC



Victoria Lavery, Lindsey Macaulay and Carolyn Elliott, winners of the "Rocking in Whitby" Fun-spiel, on February 4th



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WCC Youth Curling

Recreational Program

It has been another busy season for the kids curling at Whitby. We have 55 Little Rockers, 48 Bantams and 1 lone junior! Luckily we have a lot of great volunteer coaches! In addition, some of the Bantam curlers are helping on ice with the Little Rockers....gotta love those high school volunteer hours.

There have been a couple of changes to our program. We are using a team/draw system, similar to the adult leagues. In between draws, we have skills training and fun events for the Little Rockers such as jitneys and Parent/Child bonspiels. With the Bantams, the teams are playing for prizes for this draw.

We are also setting up the program so that there is one committee overseeing Juniors, Bantams and Little Rocks. Each league will have a separate coordinator and coaches. We are hoping that this will make the transition between the groups easier for the kids & parents.

Our Bonspiels

The **Lloyd Sonley Memorial Little Rock Bonspiel** took place on December 3rd. The kids had a great time, with some good curling and great sportsmanship being demonstrated. We hosted teams from Sutton, Unionville, Donalda, East York, Annandale and Leaside.

We received a nice email from the East York CC.... "Our kids really enjoyed the day at your bonspiel, especially our new leader he wants to go in more! Your focus on fun and sportsmanship paid off as our team commented that both teams we lost to were very nice about it!"

The over-all winner was from the Leaside Curling Club. The Whitby team of Adam MacKay, Stephanie Meadows, Tim Rose and Mackenzie Dafoe won their draw and placed 2nd overall. The Whitby team of Ben Mitchell, Ryan Mitchell, Scott Mitchell and Noah Mitchell placed 3rd in their draw.

A big thank you to the organizing committee and all the volunteers who helped on the day of the bonspiel! It was a huge success with a lot of curlers already looking forward to next year!

On Saturday February 4th, we hosted the 1st Annual "**Rocking in Whitby**" Funspiel. Teams from Unionville, Oshawa, Donalda, Minden and Stirling joined our kids on the ice for 2 eight end games.

Congratulations to the winning team of Victoria Lavery, Lindsey Macaulay and Carolyn Elliott from the Whitby Curling Club. A big thanks to Jacob Drummond, Sabrina DeSousa and Emily Collett, who left their teams to fill a spot for a last minute team drop out. Especially to Emily, whose original team went on to win the bonspiel!

Right from the first end we knew there was going to be some good curling by the comments from the gallery... "Wow, what a great shot"... "Boy, there are a lot of good shots being made". Many skips bailed out their teams with amazing draws and hits.

The curlers seemed to enjoy the day and have a lot of fun. All teams commended us on the great ice and the lunch. The parents were very pleased to have a new non-competitive bonspiel for the kids to participate in.

Many thanks go out to the organizing committee and to Anne DeSousa, Reid Edwards, Karen Konoby and Brent Collett for running a successful event.

Out of Club Bonspiels

Our Little Rockers have been quite active on the bonspiel circuit this season. They have had a lot of fun and had some great showings. Here are some of the notable finishes to date:

Oakville: Melissa Gray, Ben Mitchell, Ryan Mitchell, Liam Windrem – 1st place

Bayview: Melissa Gray, Liam Windrem, Olivia Peterson, Max Whalen – 2nd place

Brampton: Tim Rose, Liam Windrem, Sabrina DeSousa, Adam MacKay- 3rd place

Oshawa CC: Ben Mitchell, Ryan Mitchell, Scott Mitchell, Noah Mitchell – 1st place

Colin Schnurr, Grant Schnurr, Christopher Vine, Brooklin Keats – 3rd place.

WCC Youth Event Information Continued...

Port Perry: Ben Mitchell, Ryan Mitchell, Scott Mitchell, Noah Mitchell – 2nd place
Stephanie Meadows, Liam Windrem, Jared Rambaran, Josh Rambaran – 4th place

Our kids are also playing at Thornhill, Leaside, Uxbridge and Tam Heather later this season.

Competitive Development Program

WCC has started a competitive development program for our bantam and older little rock curlers. Our focus this year is to get the kids used to being coached. It has been very rewarding to watch the kids improve in their skills and understanding of the game.

A big thanks to Katherine Brown for sharing her coaching experience with us, and also to Linda Corcoran for her behind the scenes support and encouragement! Sarah Gray and Karen Bemister will be attending the OCA Competition Coach course in March. This will allow us to have qualified coaches to accompany any of our teams wishing to participate in OCA events.

Our kids have been travelling all over the GTA to compete in bonspiels this season. Congratulations to the team of Jacob Drummond, William Lavery, Victoria Lavery and Samantha Edwards on their 2nd place finish at Tam Heather in December.

Not all successes are counted by wins.... our girls team of Lindsey Macaulay, Victoria Lavery, Samantha Edwards and Melissa Gray found themselves up against a team of 15 year old competitive boys for their first game at the Oshawa CC open bonspiel. Despite a lopsided scoreboard, the girls played hard and took 2 ends and 4 points from the boys. We were very proud of their focus and especially their attitude!

We will be offering a competition clinic for our teams on October 13th to help them prepare for the upcoming bonspiel season.

WCC Youth Curling Committee.

Monday Night Men's League February Newsletter Report

The second and third draws of the Monday Night Men's League are in the books and members of the winning teams have booked their places in the playoffs. The team of Gary Downs, Todd Ness, Sean Crowston and Luke Mueller were the runaway winners in the second draw scoring 69 points. Jamie DeHart, Bill Newman, Bryce Jordan and Gerry Arnott scored 60 points in the A division and Paul Morgan, Craig Muir, Scott Henderson and Erroll Gee recorded 55 points in the C division.

The Ice Maker must know a few secrets as Jamie DeHart continued his winning ways in the third draw leading Dave Barton, Peter Warnica and Rod Bemister to 69 points and the high score for the draw. Steve Tooze, Steve Smith, Stan Senkowski and Brian Field scored 65 points in the A division to make it a close race. Todd Ness also continued his winning ways but now as skip leading Jim Nichol, Stan Markiewicz and Bill Anderson to 58 points in C division.

The fourth draw gets under way on February 13 with 16 teams honing their game in preparation for the playoffs which will begin on March 19.

Good Curling everyone!

WCC Annual Golf Tourney Reminder

The date for the golf tourney is Friday June 1st - One week later than in past years.

The date has been pushed back 1 week to avoid the May long weekend so those who can only take one day off that week can play too.

Details to be posted in the club very soon.

Brush up on your golf jokes and practice your putting. and we will see you on June 1st.

New Member Spiel & League!

Wow!! Registrations keep pouring in and, as of Thursday, we now have **42** new members, along with a number of existing relatively new members who want to take advantage of the new Novice league and the extra instruction available. We are delighted to have Malcolm Macaulay and Andrew Brown taking a leadership role in providing instruction to the curlers, but we need more help as some curlers are brand new to the game, others have some experience, but are rusty and others just want to bring their game up a notch. Therefore, the nature of the instruction will vary.

Bill Newman will be providing help to Malcolm and Andrew, but we need more. Once we get a handle on the amount of instruction curlers need and want, we'll be able to determine what our total needs will be moving on. The league basically operates 7pm Sunday, once approximately every other Sunday, with practice between subject to ice availability, so what we need for now is help Feb 12, 26, Mar 4, 18, 25, Apr 1 and 15. By the way, it would be really great if we could have some volunteers from each of our leagues.

Please contact Bill via email at (irene_and_bill@hotmail.com) or by phone at 905-666-3841 if you can help.

SENIOR MEN'S CURLING LEAGUE

The 2011 - 2012 curling season got started with the 24th annual golf tournament which was held on September 7th at Whispering Ridge Golf Club. The weather was superb and 64 golfers enjoyed a scramble "best ball" tournament. A great luncheon by our caterer "Janet Bell" was served at the curling club and was followed by the prizes presentation. Funds raised from the tournament will be used for special curling events as well as to support the Whitby Curling Club in their quest to bring about improvements to the club. Recently through these funds the senior's league was able to provide a new "Dayco Frymaster fryer" which was installed in the club kitchen to replace the old non operating fryer.

The Whitby Senior's Curling committee welcomed all new curlers and returning members to the 2011- 2012 season. Approximately 110 curlers are enrolled to the Senior Men's Curling League this year. The Senior Men's Curling Executives for the new season are: Peter Watson, Doug Sauer, Dave Humphries, Peter Conrad, Ray Gorecki, Paul Barnett, Steve Greening, Ray O'Toole and George Bilodeau.

The 2011- 2012 Special Events Calendar is posted on the bulletin board and already a number of events have taken place. The first event "Fill the House" took place on Thursday, November 10th and was followed by the prize presentation and a luncheon. First place winners of this event was a team made up of Walter Mueller, Peter Dewsbury, Dave Humphries and George Bilodeau. The second event was a "Mini Spiel" which was held on December 1, 2011.

Again this year, seniors are supporting the "Salvation Army Christmas Hamper" project which assists the organization in providing for the needs of Hungry Children and their families. Every year at Christmas time, Charlie Burns, the director of Community and Family Services drops in to the club and picks up a cheque for approximately \$2000 to be used for this worthwhile project.

The senior's morning curling as well as the Wednesday Interclub Curling has been well attended since the start of the season which clearly shows that members are having a good time socializing, curling and having fun.



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News from the Business Ladies League.

Our league finished our first draw of the curling year December 6.

Congratulations to our draw winners Laurie Light, Donna Matsushita, Carol Blackmore and Hilary Bennett.

We followed up the next week with a wonderful evening of a Christmas dinner and loonie raffle. We raised \$545 for charity and will donate it to YWCA Adelaide House. Thanks everyone who contributed time and raffle items and loonies. Happy Holidays and we'll see you in the New Year.

The Business Ladies are hosting a "We Will Rock You" Bonspiel for February 25, 2012 so ladies mark your calendars and find your air guitars.



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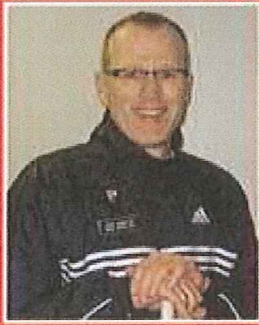
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Want to advertise in "Rock Talk", contact Sean Crowston, Advertising and Marketing Director.
Just email sean43@me.com for details on advertising opportunities within the club.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

On February 4th the Club hosted a Member/Guest Spiel. The premise was to have members introduce guests to the spirit of curling. The response was tremendous with participation of 90 curlers. Bill Newman and Casey Warren had an idea that if enough people were interested, we would create a Novice league on Sunday evenings. Ultimately 25 guests from the event signed on as new members for the remainder of the season. We opened the league to our membership to participate or invite friends/family to join the league. 15 additional new members joined and 8 of our newer members also joined the league, rounding out the league at 12 teams which started on February 12th. Thanks to approximately 14 seasoned WCC curlers/volunteers the league had a strong start on their first night with an hour of instruction then a 4-end game.

Please welcome the new members when you see them.

Silly Quotes Heard from Skips...

1. I Called that shot
2. Sweep Harder
3. They missed the broom
4. I called the right ice
5. Sweep Really Hard
6. Not enough pebble
7. Too much pebble
8. That shot picked
9. I made that shot before
10. Rock must be chipped

FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for articles for the March "Rock Talk" will be March 9th. Please forward articles to my email:

sean43@me.com

Thanks, Sean Crowston

Some Dates to Note:

April 3, Ladies Luncheon
April 13, Mixed Finals
April 14, Mixed Closing
Dinner
April 17, Bus. Ladies
Closing
April 20, Men's Closing

The Whitby Curling Club
815 Brock Street North
Whitby, Ontario, Canada, L1N 4J3
Tel: (905) 668-5021 Fax: (905) 665-0770
www.whitbycurlingclub.com

Just another reminder of the date change...

Annual Golf Tournament will be Friday June 1st.

Details to be posted in the club soon.