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What's happening at the Gibsons Curling Club?

GCC BAR RENAMED IN HONOUR OF TERRY CONNOR



On December 6, 2016, club members got together to remember long-time curler, founding member and former President of Gibsons Curling Club, Terry Connor. Our bar has been renamed in his honour. Marie Connor, Terry's widow and Richard Connor, his son, joined GCC President, Kate Barratt, for the unveiling of the mirror.



KATE BARRATT IS CURL CANADA'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Our very own, Kate Barratt, will be honoured on-ice during a semi-final game at the Brier (Canadian Men's Curling Championship) in St. John's Newfoundland. Kate is responsible for, among other things, raising \$140,000 for our new ice plant. She was picked by Curling Canada to receive the Volunteer of the Year Award.

"As much as our sport is about the athletes, it's the people behind the scenes whose names rarely, if ever, make the headlines who make it possible for those athletes to perform at a high level," said Curling Canada Board of Governors member Scott Comfort, who chairs the Awards and Hall of Fame Committee. "While Barratt's contributions to her hometown Gibsons Curling Club go back further than the 2015-2016 season, it was then that she stood tallest to ensure that her fellow curlers on the Sunshine Coast had a dependable ice surface on which to play," a press release from Curling Canada said. "She applied for grants and donations of all kinds, and in the end her single-minded tenacity would end up producing a remarkable \$140,000 of the \$160,000 cost of the project."

THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS TO CURLING

There are many benefits to the great sport of curling that we guarantee you will enjoy when you make the decision to join the local rink. The key benefits are featured in these short, video interviews (two minutes in length) with 'real' curling members.

- **Meet people and play with friends** (<https://youtu.be/K47LrYGa2yw>)
- **Curling is great exercise** (<https://youtu.be/xcoCDj4RUGM>)
- **Good bang for your buck!** (<https://youtu.be/dR2BosuCZW4>)
- **People of any age can play** (https://youtu.be/TC2Gr0FR9_s)
- **Play against great competition** (<https://youtu.be/TCIp1xcGBfE>)
- **Curling is fun!** (<https://youtu.be/8iE7hXeCqx0>)



Recent Happenings...

FALL SESSION OF DAYTIME MIXED LEAGUE



The championship game was played, Team Todosychuk versus Team Relkie with Team Todosychuk prevailing. Team Todosychuk: Tony Todosychuk (Skip), Pat Hunt (third), Albano Lovrich (2nd) and Brian Sanderson (Lead). Geran Capewell spared for Al Lovrich on December 15th. The Fall session of the league had 10 teams registered and was coordinated by Bob Hodgson, Fred Rupert and Roy Wren.



RECYCLING GRANT AWARDED TO GCC

SCRD Waste Reduction Initiatives Program approved our project proposal and has funded \$175 toward implementing a recycling program for the club.

MEMBERS BONSPIELING



Betty Masson, Sharon Biggin, Joy Hill and Aileen Reilly

GCC members (noted above) participated in the 'Bye the Sea Bonspiel', held in White Rock, on January 13th to 15th, 2017. It was a Senior Ladies bonspiel—2 draws that hosted 16 teams. Although they didn't come home with a trophy, they could have won 'best looking'!

MEN'S BONSPIEL



Skip Cal Fister, third Barry Meyer, second Murray Day, and lead Bryan Fitchell

January 20-22, 2017 was a successful weekend of fun and good curling. There were 28 teams participating in total. The winning team was Team Meyer—Skip Cal Fister, second Murray Day, third Barry Meyer, and lead Bryan Fitchell. Fitchell is from the Sunshine Coast while Meyer is a part-time resident. Many thanks to Juanita Wannamaker and her committee for all their hard work and time in making this a great event. Thanks also to all the volunteers who donated their time and energy over the weekend. We received so many positive comments about the 'great ice'!. Thanks, Peter, for all you do!

HIGH SCHOOL CURLING



Students from Elphinstone Secondary School have been participating in a ‘learn-2-curl’ program this winter. A total of 235 students participants have come out between February 1st and February 23rd. The Club is also looking forward to three groups (Grade 9s) coming in March. Sue Mearns (GCC member and teacher at Elphinstone Secondary) reported that the students are really enjoying the curling. Peter—our ice maker—is very excited about working with kids and growing the program. Adding youth to any sport is always good—it brings enthusiasm, energy, and hopefully, helps to grow the sport.

DOUBLES CURLING MINI-COURSE AND BONSPIEL ON FEB. 5TH

On February 5th. 16 curlers from GCC braved the snow to come out and play a mixed doubles tournament. For those that have yet to play it, mixed double consists of two teams with two players of each gender. Each team throws five stones (the two in place at the beginning of the end count as the sixth stone for each team and are part of the scoring). Doubles curling requires a lot of communication, plenty of draws into the four-foot circle and games are played faster than traditional curling.

Eight teams in two division played a round robin and a crossover final with the eventual spiel winners being Ed and Joy Hill. Congratulation to them on being the first to win Peter’s donated ‘Doubles Challenge Cup’. The cup is actually a ‘*World’s Worst Curler*’ drinking glass that now sits proudly in the bar waiting for the next challenger to claim it.

The prize for best dressed was won handily by Shelley and Darcy Lawrence and their Norway inspired curling pants. Unfortunately, there is no prize for this, but they looked darned good.



Thanks to all who participated and to Mark Smith for catering a very tasty lunch. Mixed doubles in going to be an Olympic event in South Korea in 2018 and many curlers are very enthusiastic about the format. GCC members can look forward to invitations to two more club bonspiels to be played in October 2018. (written by Jay Dear)



Doubles Bonspiel 'winners'—Joy and Ed Hill



DAYTIME MIXED LEAGUE INTERCLUBS

The daytime mixed league hosted the Howe Sound Curling Club on February 15th for a one-day inter-club bonspiel. It was a great event and everyone had a good time. Isn't that what curlers do?!

Also, on Feb. 27th, this dynamic group were hosted by the Powell River Curling Club for a one-day inter-club bonspiel. This group has got to be our most 'social', and we are proud of them for being such good ambassadors for our club.



- **March 6-8, 2017** – Masters Bonspiel
- **March 17-19, 2017** – International Tankard

Being hosted at the Marpole Curling Club in Vancouver. Jay and Tracey Dear will represent our club at this annual event which honours volunteers from curling clubs in BC as well as in Washington State and Oregon. Canadian and American curlers compete in a friendly curling bonspiel in pursuit of the International Tankard.



- **March 29th, 2017, 7:00 P.M.** - GCC Annual General Meeting
- **April 1st, 2017** – Brewers Bonspiel sponsored by Persephone Brewing Company and GCC



Thinking about... Chuck Anderson, Al Lovrich and Ron Neilson whose health concerns are keeping them for curling at the moment. We miss you and hope to see you back at the club soon.

We welcome... Betty Mantyla back to curling after she suffered a broken elbow while curling.

Happy to see... Bill Climie up and around again after his recent set-back following his hip replacement.