



The Backline

... a newsletter for the members of the Vancouver Curling Club

Two Years to Go ...

This month - February 2008 - marks “two years to go” until the start of the 2010 Winter Games and the related Olympic and Paralympic curling competitions.

The countdown is an important milestone as the excitement continues to build towards welcoming the world in 2010. The physical evidence of the Games getting closer is evident with the construction of the Hillcrest Curling Venue that is in progress right outside the back door of our club.

Members of the club often ask questions of the Board of Directors and staff of the VCC about what they can expect to happen leading up to and during the Games as well as the progress on the legacy facility that the VCC is being offered after the Games.

So this edition of “The Backline” is intended to update you - the VCC members - on a number of different items related to the 2010 Winter Games ... as well as provide you with the news and events of the VCC.

There are currently a number of ongoing discussions between the club’s Board of Directors and different potential partners. Our External Affairs Committee is working hard and pursuing opportunities leading up to and beyond the 2010 Winter Games with the Canadian Curling Association, the Vancouver Parks Board, the City of Vancouver and VANOC.

In the months to come, as these discussions progress and 2010-related decisions are made, there will certainly be more information made available.

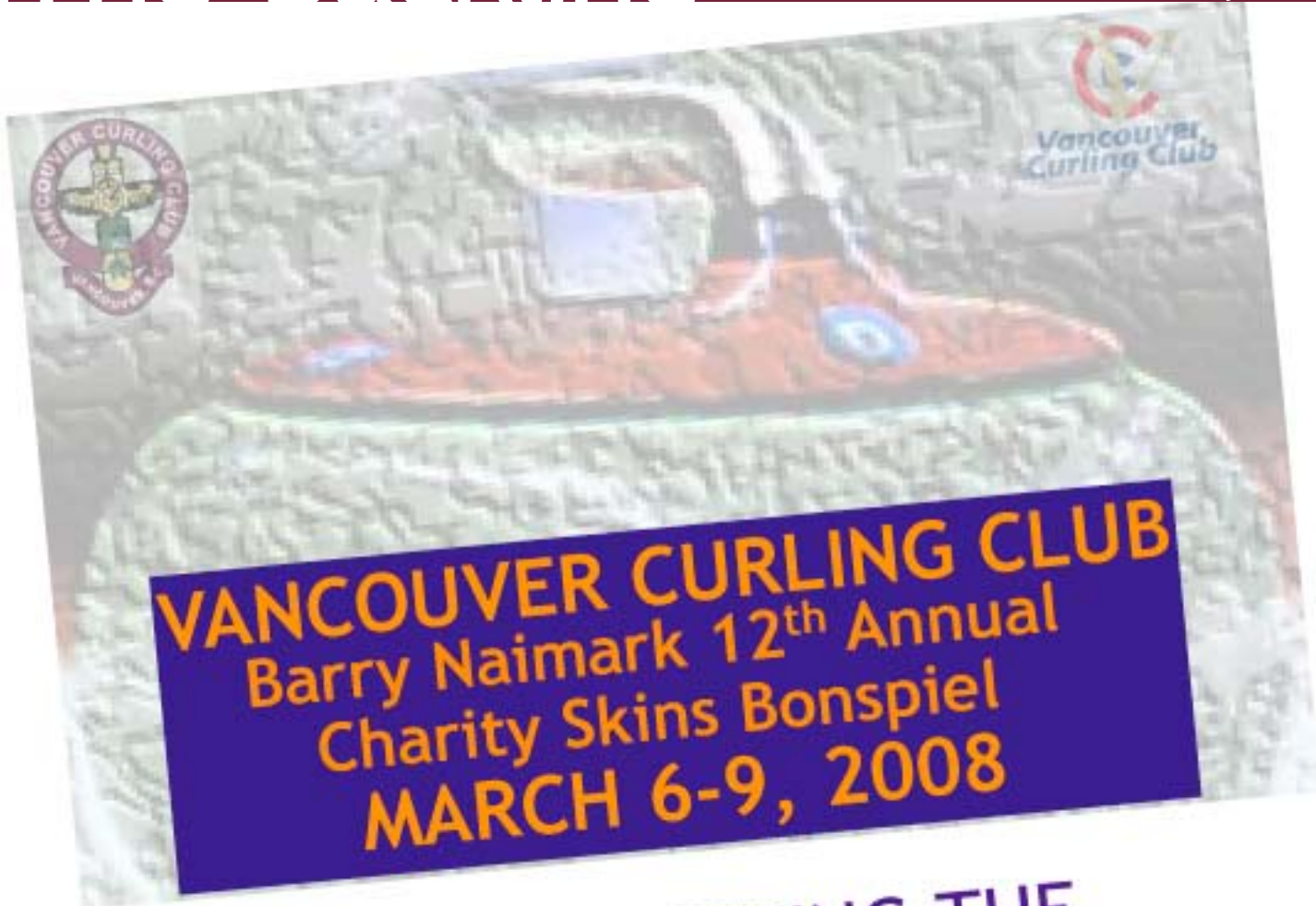
In the meantime, if you have any questions about the VCC, where we are now or where the club is going, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@vancouvercurlingclub.com.

Sincerely,
Pat McSherry
President, VCC Board of Directors

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VANCOUVER CURLING CLUB
Barry Naimark 12th Annual
Charity Skins Bonspiel
MARCH 6-9, 2008



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In the Spotlight ...

In the Spotlight is a casual Q&A where we tell the stories of the VCC - our past, our present and our future - through our members and staff. So if you know of a member who has a great story to share, please email us at newsletter@vancouvercurlingclub.com.

VANCOUVER CURLING CLUB

The Building

A slight departure from our usual feature about the club's members, this month's spotlight focuses on our current and future facilities.



What is the history behind our current building?

Curling began in Vancouver in 1912 when Lester and Frank Patrick built the Denman Arena, and the Vancouver Curling Club occupied the basement of the Denman Arena.

Curling stopped during the First World War and did not recommence until 1931 at the newly built Forum on the current PNE grounds with 10 sheets of curling ice. In 1936, the Denman Arena burned down...and hockey took over the Forum, forcing curling to only one sheet of ice at the end of the Forum...and it was 12 feet short of regulation length.

The need for more space and the desire of keen competitors brought new funds for a new facility at 18th & Heather in 1938. Plans were scrapped after the sod turning with the start of World War II. After the war, J.W. Cornett, our Honourary Life President, spearheaded the fundraising, design and construction of our present five-sheet facility which opened October 7, 1949.

What can be expected in our new facility?

The new home of the VCC will be an eight-sheet curling facility with a concrete slab floor. Our new facility will include upstairs and downstairs viewing

lounges, a kitchen, changerooms, offices, meeting space and more.

The new VCC will part of a larger community centre that is a legacy of the 2010 Winter Games. The neighbours of the VCC will include a new Percy Norman Pool (including a leisure tank, 50-meter lap pool and an outdoor aquatic facility), library, public ice rink, gymnasium, aerobics and fitness studios, preschool, fieldhouse and Parks Board offices.

When do we move into the new facility?

A meeting with the Vancouver Parks Board on 14 February 2008 indicated that it is still too early to confirm the occupancy date for the legacy facility. Following the completion of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, VANOC will need to complete a deconstruction phase before handing the building back to the City of Vancouver. The city will then lead the legacy conversion, but the timing of this is still to be determined. Once the legacy drawings are completed (and these are being worked on right now), a conversion construction timeline will be created and as soon as the Board of Directors knows when the VCC will have occupancy, we will be sure to let you know.

Where can more information be found?

The [Vancouver Parks Board website](#) has a number of fact sheets and preliminary drawings that are available. And, as more information becomes available from the ongoing discussions that the External Affairs Committee is having with the City of Vancouver and VANOC, it will be shared with the membership in "The Backline" and on the VCC's website.

Pac Rim Cup Shines Silver ...

Harry Berg

The Pacific Rim Curling League hosted the Silver Anniversary edition of its annual open bonspiel at the Vancouver Curling Club from February 1-3. Thirty-two teams from across Canada and the United States participated in the three-day event, with nearly \$5,000 in cash and prizes awarded over the course of the weekend! And, for the third consecutive year, the VCC and PRCL welcomed a team from the sunny state of California making for a truly international bonspiel.

On the Friday night, the crowd enjoyed a 1960's lounge-style theme. Morning coffee and snacks, followed by a Mimosa bar, helped keep the energy level high until the opening ceremonies at noon on Saturday, which were followed by the "Old Farts Cup" draw to the button competition.



On-ice action from the Pac Rim Cup

The 'A', 'B', and 'C' event semi-finals and finals were held on Sunday in front of a large crowd of spectators. The quality of curling was extremely high, with the final victory in the 'A' event being decided in an extra end. The winning team was skipped by Stephen Schneider from the PRCL.

The PRCL Board wishes to thank the many volunteers, as well as the staff of the VCC, for their hard work to make this Pac Rim Cup Bonspiel the best yet. We hope that our wonderful VCC bartender, Marilyn, has had a chance to catch up on her sleep! And, most importantly, the PRCL Board wishes to thank the many curlers and friends who made this bonspiel such a fantastic event, both on and off the ice.



Pac Rim Cup Opening Ceremonies

A Saturday afternoon barbeque ensured that everyone was well fed throughout the day. On Saturday evening, the legendary Bill Monroe hosted the Disco Divas with two very special drag shows to commemorate the first Pac Rim Cup Bonspiel of 1983.

Many people dressed in 1980's style, and prizes were presented for the best costumes.



Vancouver 2010 Tickets and Schedule ...

The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) [has announced their ticket plan](#) for the 2010 Games.

Tickets for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games will go on sale this October. The process to purchase tickets, though, will be conducted in stages. And for those events with high demand, a lottery will be held to distribute tickets fairly. This lottery process has been used successfully at previous Olympic Games, and is one of the methods that VANOC is using to ensure fair ticket allocation. If you would like to learn more about the different stages for purchasing tickets, please visit the [VANOC website](#).

Before you submit your application of interest for tickets this October, it may be helpful to know how much they will cost. For the Olympic curling events, Men's and Women's Qualification Round Games, as well as any needed Tie Breakers, will cost \$65. The Men's and Women's Semifinal Games and the Men's and

Women's Bronze Medal Games will cost \$100. And the Men's and Women's Gold Medal games will each cost \$125 for a ticket.

So now that you know a little bit more about the process for purchasing tickets, what about finding out the completion dates for the different events? Well, VANOC has also announced the competition schedule for all of the Olympic events that take place during the Games period of February 12-28, 2010.

The Olympic men's and women's curling tournaments start on Tuesday, February 16 and the round-robin finishes on February 23. Any necessary tie-breakers and the semi-finals follow on February 24 and 25. The women's finals are scheduled for Friday, February 26 and the men's finals on Saturday, February 27.

If you are interested in receiving updates directly from VANOC on ticketing, the schedule and much more, you can [sign up on their website](#).

-- with files from [Vancouver2010.com](#)

Masters Champs ...

Congratulations to the **Martin Rink** from the VCC for finishing first at the Zone #11 Playdowns!

The playdowns were held at the Mission Curling Club from February 7-9, and the Martin Rink will now move on to compete for the Provincial title in Revelstoke on March 12-15.

Team members include: Gerry Martin (skip), Shorty Sellars (third), Jim Foffinoff (second), Ken Grahame (lead), Gary Dunnet (fifth) and Owen Thomas (coach).

Team Dynamics ...

As we announced in the January edition of *The Backline*, our mid-season intermediate clinic date had to be changed. So the new date for the clinic is Saturday, March 15.

This upcoming clinic will be a **Team Dynamics and Technical Skills clinic**. The goal of the clinic will be to support teams in getting ready for next year as they progress towards a higher level of competition.

If you would like to register or want more information, please contact our club manager, Ken MacDonald at 604.874.0122 or manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com.

BC Blind Championships ...

The West Coast Blind Curling Association Playdowns - the Provincial Championships - were held at the VCC on January 11 and 12. While Team Conway from the VCC was two-time defending provincial and 2007 Western Canadian champions, they were unable to repeat their success.

The Prince George rink of Terry Pipky, Dean Martell, Bill Mah and Shane McCreery captured first place. They - along with the Kelowna rink of Bob Comba, Frank Costello, Sandy Neddow, Darren Stallnecht and Barb Comba (coach) - will now move on to represent BC at the Western Blind Curling Playdowns being held in Parksville from March 5 to 8.

Team Conway placed third and the VCC would like to congratulate team members Jim Hall (coach), Leif Bjarko, Carl Cartier and Jack Conway for their hard-fought efforts during the Championships.



Team Conway, VCC Blind Curling Representatives
- 3rd place, 2008 BC Blind Championships -

Special thanks also go out to Carol Kent - the VCC Blind League Coordinator and BC Championships organizer - for all of her hard work.

New Champions are Crowned ...

Jan Bos

The inaugural VCC Mixed Doubles Championship was recently held on Saturday, February 9. Eight teams competed to have their names inscribed on a brand new trophy celebrating the winners of our newest competition.

Congratulations to our inaugural winners: Ken MacDonald and Pat McSherry. The final was tightly contested with the win being sealed on Pat's final stone. The VCC will be donating \$640 to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation from the proceeds of this event. Thanks to everyone who participated in this fun and challenging format.

Photos featured on the right (clockwise from the top):

A Champs - Pat and Ken

A Runners-up - Cecelia and Scott

B Champs - Bill and Leanne



VCC and Facebook ...

For all of our members who are Facebook users... did you know that there is a VCC Group in Facebook?

If you haven't already joined, just follow these quick steps to become a VCC group member:

1. Log in to your Facebook account
2. In the search field (at the top left of every page), enter: Vancouver Curling Club.
3. The search results should list the VCC Group at the top. You can also select the "Groups" tab at the top of the search results to reveal just groups in your search.
4. Click on the VCC logo or name. This will take you to the Group Page.
5. From the Group Page, click Join this Group on the right side.



The VCC would like to welcome a new supporter of the club: **VanPrint**

Providing printing support for our monthly newsletter, VanPrint has three locations to help you with any of your printing needs. Visit them online at www.vanprint.com.

Upcoming Events ...

There are many exciting events planned at the club for second half of the 2007-2008 season ...

Saturday, Feb. 16

Sandra Schmirler Day / VCC Club Challenge Day 1

Thursday, Mar. 6 to Sunday, Mar. 9

Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel

Saturday, Mar. 15

Team Dynamics and Technical Skills Clinic

Sunday, Mar. 30

Last day of league curling - 2nd half

Monday, Mar. 31 to Thursday, Apr. 3

Club Championship

Thursday, April 24

Volunteers' Barbeque, League Reps Meeting & Annual General Meeting

For more information on any of the events scheduled at the VCC, please contact the Club Manager - Ken MacDonald - at 604-872-0122 or manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com.



Vancouver Curling Club

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