



# The Backline

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

## Welcome to the 2007-08 Season...

Welcome back for another incredible season of rock banging and sweeping!

As everyone knows, the summer goes by way too quickly and September brings back a new opening to the Vancouver Curling Club. Over the summer, we have tried to make some changes to the Club that will enhance our enjoyment of our space. Some color changes, relocation of some of our displays and ensuring a consistent look to our furniture are all attempts to make the VCC a better place to visit and to display our history.

Outside of the building you will notice that construction is well under way on the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games competition venue for curling.

For many of us, it seemed like it was not that long ago that Vancouver was awarded the Games and now we are moving very quickly towards the day when the world will be coming to our neighborhood to Curl. After we were part of the ground-breaking ceremony this past February, we now eagerly await the first event that will be held in the new facility - the World Junior Curling Championships in February/ March of 2009 – which is only 18 months away!

That will be followed by other events that will eventually lead up to the Big Show in February and March of 2010. In the coming months, it will become possible to put your name forward to participate in these events as a volunteer. We will make sure this information is posted around the VCC, on our website and in our newsletter.

I have an important reminder to all of our Members in regards to ice usage. Please be aware that each League has the ice for a period of 2 hours. Due to the large number of Leagues we have at the VCC, this is not a negotiable time allotment and as such it is necessary that everyone leave the ice at the time that their session has ended. *(Continued on pg 2)*

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## Welcome to the 2007/08 Season (cont'd)

This is how we ensure that each League gets their full time on the ice while allowing our Ice Techs to complete their job. I would also like to make the point that any procedures that are followed in regards to the ringing of the bell do not invalidate the need to leave the ice by the end of your 2 hours.

If you have any questions about this process, you can speak to your League Reps or contact me at [president@vancouvercurlingclub.com](mailto:president@vancouvercurlingclub.com).

As we saw with the almost 100 people who attended our recent open house, a new season brings forward many hopes and plans. A new season also provides us with opportunities to play the game we love, and to sit

and chat with our old and new friends in the Lounge area of the Club. I look forward to meeting even more of our Members this year as well as being able to watch everyone as they join together in a Curling Community that is second to none.

Sincerely,  
Ken MacDonald,  
President



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## Cruise for Charity

Ken MacDonald

During the summer, the VCC was honored by **Cruise Holidays of Vancouver** as the recipient of a tour of a cruise ship – which included an incredible lunch for everyone. One of our Members, **Kirk Olson**, was instrumental in this event. Needless to say, the tour was packed and everyone that attended enjoyed themselves.

More importantly, Cruise Holidays and our host (Holland America Line) set up the event to allow the VCC to receive 100% of all funds collected so we could them on to a charity of our choice.

The selected charity is the Sandra Schmirler Foundation. Each year we raise funds for the Foundation, and this year we have already raised well over \$2,500!

As you may know, the VCC has been the second highest Curling Club fundraiser for the Foundation in the past 2 years. All funds raised for the Sandra Schmirler Foundation are given to hospitals that support neo-natal care.

Thank you to Kirk and all the VCC members who attended this special event.



*Cruise Holidays of Vancouver  
CruiseExperts Travel Ltd.*

**Kirk Olson**  
*Cruise Specialist*

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## Paint Here, Flood There: Getting the club ready

Did you know that it takes Don Swann, our club's Ice Technician, and his team almost one month to get the ice ready for the upcoming season?



Don was in the club in the later weeks of August for two-plus weeks of slowly flooding and freezing water on top of the sand floor and brine lines. After three inches of ice had been created, the next steps took place.

The week after the Labour Day weekend, Don and Chris were in the club for extended hours each day



to paint the ice white, scribe and paint the circles, lay down the decals, lay down and paint the lines, and then seal everything in.



This was followed by another couple of days of flooding the ice to add 1/2" to 3/4" to become the running surface on which you will soon slide and sweep.

When you visit the club for the first time this season, be sure to check out some of the changes both inside and outside the ice shed.



As you walk through the club halls and lounge areas, be sure to note the work that was recently completed by a number of volunteers.

On Saturday, August 18th, the annual pre-season Work Bee saw a number of different tasks tackled and completed, and these included: re-hanging the Past Presidents' photos, painting the trim and ledges in the lobby and the lower viewing gallery, painting entry doors, putting on the final coat of enamel on the doorways and window panes, cleaning the locker rooms, and much more.



Special thanks to the Work Bee participants:

Dianne Petrant  
Don Swann  
George Opacic  
Jason Rowland  
Kutch Imayoshi  
Rob Hodgins  
Scott Allen



## Honouring Our Past

Pat McSherry

Several past and current members of the Vancouver Ladies Curling Club and the Tuesday Night Women's League (formerly the Business Women's League) gathered just prior to the 2007 AGM to honour **Phyllis Carpenter** and **Joy McLellan**.

Phyllis and Joy were nominated as Honourary Life Members for their contributions as builders and founders of the Vancouver Curling Club. Their

nominations were accepted later at the AGM. Phyllis brought with her an amazing scrapbook full of photos and newspaper articles chronicling her, and the Club's, colourful history. She and Joy shared their memorabilia with all who attended. The Club is pleased that they will attend the annual Past President's and Honourary Life Members Dinner at the VCC on Saturday, September 22nd at 6 pm.

### *Background on the two newest Vancouver Curling Club Honourary Life Members:*

**Phyllis Carpenter** - Charter Member of the Vancouver Curling Club since 1949.

Phyllis Carpenter along with Nancy Osborne, who is confined to the hospital, are the only remaining women Charter members. In 1951, Phyll won her Purple Heart representing the Vancouver Curling Club and winning the BC Provincial Championship (note: in 1951, there was no Canadian championship for women).

She's been an ambassador for the game, curling and traveling extensively all over BC, to the United States, Scotland, and open-air curling in Denmark. About 15 years ago, while attempting to learn a new delivery method, Phyll suffered a serious fall on the ice breaking both her wrists. She switched to bowling where the surface is not so slippery.

Phyllis continues to attend all the Vancouver Ladies Curling Club special event, keep us all entertained and informed with her curling stories and be an inspiration to us all. Phyll will be 95 on September 15, 2007.

**Joy McLellan** – Winner of the 1949 Vancouver Curling Club Bonspiel that celebrated the opening of the Vancouver Curling Club building.

The photo of this event is hanging just outside the Manager's Office door. She curled with her uncle Lorne Nurse, cousin Glenn Quittenbom, and friend Jean Cruickshank.

Joy was the draw convener of the Business Women's League and remained in that position for 25 years.

Like Phyll Carpenter, Joy along with the only other remaining original members of the Business Women's League, Colleen McCollough and Katherine Wright, continue to attend all the Vancouver Ladies Curling Club special events and inspire us with their curling experiences.

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## New Look at the Club... New Look Online

Be sure to visit [www.vancouvercurlingclub.com](http://www.vancouvercurlingclub.com) and check out the new site.

With the feedback that was received from the membership website survey (conducted this past March and April), the Communications and

Membership Committee of your Board of Directors have been working on the creation of the new site. In partnership with the club manager, Jason Rowland, and future input from you – the club's members – the site will continue to grow and evolve.

## Who Rings The Bell ?

In the past few years, the VCC has used a 25-minute bell system. What this meant was that the teams that were playing could complete the end that they were playing and then play one more to complete their game. The result of this procedure is that some people were under the impression that the clock stopped once the bell had been rung.

It is important to be aware that the clock does keep running and both participating teams must still be off the ice by the end of the two-hour time slot provided for the game.

At the recent League Reps meeting, it was agreed that **we would now use a 20-minute bell system**, and each Curler in each League would be responsible to ensure that they left the ice by the end of their two-hour time limit.

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## From the IceMan

Don Swann

Hey there, curlers. Welcome back to the Club for another great season of curling, and I hope you all had a healthy and happy summer.

As we are getting ready for the start of our season, I want to remind you about some things you should be watching out for in regards to your curling equipment.

How has your broom been in storage over the summer? Has it been in some area of the garage or storage locker where it might pick up dirt?

You can help me keep the ice clean by brushing the head with a hard brush, then wiping the surface a clean damp cloth, and store the broom –“head up” - somewhere it won't get dirty again.

Next, have a look at your curling shoes and grippers. If the gripper sole is smooth, then it's time for a new one. You will only end up putting bits of fine rubber on the ice surface from an old gripper. This can and will cause your rock to “pick”, either turning in the wrong direction or even stopping. This might even make you lose your game.

If your gripper is good – how is your Teflon slider looking? Are there any nicks or scratches on the surface that might scrape the ice? Are there any sharp edges around the toe that will leave scrape marks in the ice surface, thereby removing the much-needed pebble for the rocks to run on?

Finally, your curling attire. If you bought new curling pants or jackets, watch out that they do not drop bits of lint or fibre on the ice surface. These little bits will not only make the rock do funny things but they get stepped on and thereby frozen into the ice making the ice look dirty - and we don't want that at all.

If you have any questions about curling equipment, please come and talk to me (or email me at [icetech@vancouvercurlingclub.com](mailto:icetech@vancouvercurlingclub.com)) and I will be more than happy to help you out.

“Rock on” guys and gals and have fun during the 2007/08 season!.

Don Swann  
Ice Technician, VCC

## League Updates

Some upcoming changes will be forthcoming for a couple of the leagues that curl on Thursday and Sunday. Both the Thursday Open and the Sunday Novice leagues will be starting the year with Club support; however, the plan is to finish the year with most of that support having been withdrawn so they would be fully self-supported leagues within the context of the VCC.

As was presented by President Ken MacDonald at the recent League Reps meeting, the club's human resources are being shifted from the staff running specific leagues to ensuring that the club's resources are spread across all of the leagues. So more information will be forthcoming for the leagues in question as we move towards them becoming self sufficient – just like all of the other leagues in the club.

## Looking to Curl?

A few of our club's leagues are looking for a couple of teams. So if you are interested in curling one more night per week, please be sure to check out the chart below and then contact the Club Manager at 604.874.0122 or [manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com](mailto:manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com) to get the name and contact details of the league rep.

	LEAGUE	TEAMS NEEDED	CURLERS NEEDED	RESTRICTIONS	SKILL LEVEL
Monday	Daytime Ladies	n/a	all interested	women (all ages)	all - even novices
	Ministers	n/a	always adding	none	all - even novices
	Jr Development	n/a	always adding	under age 20	all - even novices
	Pacific Rim	n/a	always adding	none	all - even novices
Tuesday	Senior Men	n/a	always adding	men (all ages)	all - even novices
	Motors	n/a	adding spares	men (all ages)	all - even novices
	Tuesday Womens	need 2 or 3 teams	4 to 6 individuals	women (all ages)	all - even novices
Wednesday	Blind	n/a	always adding	none	all - even novices
	Super Seniors	n/a	2 to 3 individuals	men (50+)	some experience req
	Point Grey	n/a	5 to 8 (esp. skips)	none	all - even novices
Thursday	Daytime Ladies	n/a	all interested	women (all ages)	all - even novices
	Senior Men	n/a	all interested	men (all ages)	all - even novices
	Pharmacists	n/a	3 to 4 individuals	none	all - even novices
	Thursday Open	n/a	adding spares	none	some experience req
Friday	453	may need 1 team	always adding	none	all - even novices
	B & B	need 1 team	always adding	none	all - even novices
Sunday	Shamrock	n/a	4 to 6 (esp. leads)	men (all ages)	all - even novices
	Sunday Open	n/a	adding spares	none	mostly leads
	Novice	n/a	always adding	none	novices only

## 2007 - 2008 Season Calendar

### 2007

**Monday, Sept. 10 to Tuesday, Sept. 11**

Basic Skills Clinic, Group 1

**Wednesday, Sept. 12 to Thursday, Sept. 13**

Basic Skills Clinic, Group 2

**Monday, Sept. 17 to Wednesday, Sept. 19**

Intermediate Skills Clinics (VCC Members only)

**Friday, Sept. 21**

First day of league curling

**Saturday, September 23**

Past Presidents' and Honourary Life Members' Dinner

**Sunday, Oct. 8 and Monday, Oct. 9**

VCC closed for Thanksgiving holiday

**Saturday, Oct. 13**

VCC Opening (Mix 'n' Match) Bonspiel

**Saturday, Oct. 20**

Pink Broom Bonspiel

**Thursday, Nov. 22 to Sunday, Nov. 25**

4th Annual Grey Cup Bonspiel

**Monday, Dec. 17**

Last day of league curling - 1st half

**Friday, Dec. 21 to Tuesday, Jan. 1**

VCC closed - Happy Holidays!

### 2008

**Wednesday, Jan. 2**

Mid-Season On-Ice Clinic (VCC Members only)

**Thursday, Jan. 3**

League curling resumes - 2nd half

**Thursday, Jan. 10**

League Reps meeting: 7:00 pm

**Friday, Feb. 1 to Sunday, Feb. 3**

Pacific Rim Cup Bonspiel

**Saturday, Feb. 9**

Scotch Doubles Bonspiel

**Saturday, Feb. 16**

Sandra Schmirler Day

- Open House

- VCC Playdowns for the BC Challenge Cup

- Team Dynamics Clinic

**Thursday, Mar. 6 to Sunday, Mar. 9**

Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel

**Sunday, Mar. 30**

Last day of league curling - 2nd half

**Monday, Mar. 31 to Wednesday, Apr. 2**

Club Championship

**Thursday, Apr. 24**

Volunteers' Barbecue, League Reps Meeting & Annual General Meeting

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*For more information on any of the events scheduled at the VCC, please contact the Club Manager - Jason Rowland - at 604-872-0122 or [manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com](mailto:manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com).*

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**Vancouver Curling Club**

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