



# Venerables CoffeeBreak



Fall Edition – November 2008

## Art Harland successful kick-off to invitational bonspiel season

Submitted by Jim Young

The Tam Venerables hosted the first of their Invitational Bonspiels for the 2008/2009 Curling Season, with the running of the twenty-first Art Harland Bonspiel, on Wed. Nov.5th. The Harland is somewhat unique in its design as the thirty-two teams are divided into four divisions of eight teams. The early draw featured eight Stick Teams and eight teams whose member's age totalled at least 280 years. The second draw had eight teams whose member's total age was 260 years or more and an eight-team open division.

Each draw played an eight and a six end game. The first draw started with an eight end game and finished with a six end game. The second draw played the six end game first, followed by an eight ender. Using this format it shortens the time that the teams wait between games. The top two teams in each division won a turkey for each team member and cash. There was over five hundred dollars of lucky draw prizes with the big prize being a round of golf for two with a power cart at Deer Creek Golf Course. Ray Matsunaga was this year's winner.

The Del Hicke team from Unionville won the Stick Division and was the overall winner for the day making it the second year in a row that they won the Harland. The other division winners were the Philips rink from Bayview (280+), the Stark rink from Thornhill (260+) and the Goodchild rink from Tam Heather (open). A special thank-you to Gary Norris, our Bonspiel Co-ordinator, for helping me with the organization of the day and to Peter Tibando and John Elstone for working the registration and scoring tables. From all reports a good time was had by all.



Overall Winners – Unionville's Del Hicke



Thornhill's John Stark team

## President's Message

Our curling season is off to a flying start. In the past month or so we've had our guest curler days, the Art Harland spiel, a euchre evening, Veterans Appreciation Days, the McKennitt Bonspiel, and the Scarborough visit. The first contests of The Armstrong Tournament are about to start and very shortly the Christmas Dance will be held. There's certainly a lot to do for Venerables members, and speaking of members, our membership continues to slip. Your continued efforts to recruit are much needed to keep the Club healthy, and bringing a prospect out as a guest is a great way to introduce him to the game.

I want to remind this year's new members that they can buy a Tam Jacket, with their name embroidered, in the pro shop for \$25, (the guy that sponsored gets the same deal). The pro shop also has a special price for Venerables needing to replace a gripper.

As the holiday season quickly approaches I take this opportunity, on behalf of your Board of Directors, to wish each of you a safe, healthy, and joy-filled time with family and friends.

## Forty-four attend first euchre game of the year

Submitted by Reg Haney

The evening of Tuesday November 4 was the first of four games on the euchre calendar for this season. Once again this year, Betty and Ron Murphy volunteered to take on the responsibility for providing a fun-filled and truly enjoyable venue.

The top lady player on the night was Betty Murphy with a very impressive score of 77. Second was JoAnne Seeley and playing as a gal and taking most honest spot was Bert Tate.

The gents' side had Ross Ellis come out

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**Anything to contribute to the next issue of CoffeeBreak?**

**Contact Andrew Lamb, Peter Cant or Reg Haney**

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# McKennitt Spiel scoring bonanza

From the first rocks on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, the competition was on. In Z Group Alex Smith's team won all seven ends and posted a round 1 total score of 48. However, Tom Carroll of X Group was the round 1 leader with a perfect score of 50. The top teams after the first games in the other divisions were Wes Warden's Y Group team with 42 points and Bob Abernethy's W Group team with 38 points. This season's scoring in bonspiels awards a full point for each scoring rock (maximum 12) and four points for each end won, rather than a quarter point for a rock and a single point for an end as in seasons past. This noticeably changes the value of winning an end versus winning the game (still ten points); so scores are higher than we saw under the old scoring rules. This year the teams that 'won big' really posted some massive scores.

In the second round Alex Smith's team looked well on their way to repeating winning the first four ends. However, they lost the fifth and sixth to be tied up going into end seven. In the end they won that with a convincing four points to post a two game total of 89. Team Carroll led X Group with a two round score of 82; Guy Elliott led Y Group with 76, and Ben



Petch led W with a two round score of 70 points.

The Consolation Final started early, 8 am on Friday morning. The Consolation event was won by Norm Nowry of X Group with 96 total points followed closely by Ralph Warren's team with a three game total of 93 points.

In the Main Event Final Bob Griffith's team won a closely-fought match with  
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## Surprise AGM presentation of Memorial Bell

Every organization of substance takes great pride in the observance of the traditions and rituals that help to define it. Over the years, we in the Venerables have established occasions which are designed to remember, or to honour, or to recognize achievement. One such significant and important event in our curling year memorializes those members who have passed away in the preceding year. This will now be done at our closing in-house spiel, The Venerables Memorial Bonspiel.

It was a well kept secret, and as a result a big surprise to Club President Reg Haney at the 2008 AGM, when the trio of Jack Grant, Francis Sharon, and Jim Young, presented the Club with a Memorial Bell which is to be rung as the name of each departed member is read at our closing ceremony. The Bell is a beautiful enhancement for the Venerables Memorial Bonspiel.

There's a history that lead to the bell's creation. When the Stew Wheler Memorial Bonspiel was first held a few years ago, Jack Grant read the names of the Venerables and past Venerables who had died the past year and Francis Sharon rang a bell that he had brought from his school after each name was read. In April this year Jack asked Francis if he thought it was about time for the ceremony to have its own bell, and Francis agreed. Shortly after, Jim Young was enlisted for his woodworking skills and the trio then set about to create the piece.

Jack Grant ordered and bought a small ship's bell from Lunenburg, Nova

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## Veterans Appreciation Days well received by Venerables curlers

In November of 2007 Veterans Appreciation Days were initiated by the Board as a way of giving each Venerables curling group an opportunity to observe the contribution of veterans, and of those who gave their lives. Dates on two consecutive days were chosen to be as close as possible to Remembrance Day in order to provide all four groups an individual commemorative service.

This year the services occurred on Monday, November 10 and on Remembrance Day itself. In the first time slot on Monday Club President, Reg Haney, directed the program for X group and The Act of Remembrance was recited by Elmer Haney standing between Chris Armstrong and Doug Perkins. All three are veterans who served in WWII.

Young delivered the program to the Z Group curlers when they came off the ice for coffee break, and at the sounding of the bell after the reading -- a moment of silence.

The Y Group on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> had the advantage of Remembrance Day for the commemoration. The service was performed by Art Corby, a Veteran who  
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## Armstrong Tournament teams picked, set to go

**Submitted by Jim Young**

We are off and running with the inaugural Armstrong Tournament. The teams have been selected, as outlined in the initial plan, and the schedule started.

The teams will finish their schedules no later than February the 4<sup>th</sup> and a play-off round involving the top four teams in each group will take place in February. This will determine the two teams that will represent their group in the inter group play-offs.

There was a varying degree of interest among the groups. X group has six teams involved; Z has five teams, and groups W and Y each have four teams. This is a new format for the Armstrong which should heighten interest in the event while providing a few competitive games with a set team over the curling season.

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## Veterans Appreciation Days

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served in the Royal Canadian Navy during the war years', assisted by Reg Haney. Prior to the reading of The Act of Remembrance Art included a very heart-felt recital of 'In Flanders Fields'. The Day Ladies had just come off the ice prior to the start of the program and we were pleased to have them included in the observance.

The Canadian men and women who served in both world wars and in foreign conflicts everywhere were not conscripted; they volunteered. Our debt to them is too great to ever be adequately repaid. Hopefully our Veterans Appreciation Days express our gratitude and pride in them.

**We will remember them**

## Venerables Honour Roll plaque now hangs in the Tam upper lounge

Submitted by Reg Haney

Each January over the past few years at the Presidents Bonspiel, one or more of our members gain recognition for their outstanding contributions to the Venerables and are presented with The Venerables Appreciation Award.

Facilities Chairman Jim Young has designed and created a very handsome plaque bearing the names of all past recipients of that Award, and with the kind permission of Tam General Manager Ross Oldham it is now on permanent display on the front wall of the office. The addition of this plaque is an in-club memorial to those members who have contributed so much to our success. The names of Chris Armstrong, Francis Sharon, Alf Connor, Jim Frandsen and Al Lee, already grace the plaque and at the upcoming Presidents Bonspiel in January the presentation of the Venerables Appreciation Award to another two



members will ensure more names are added to the Honour Roll. We're indebted to Jim Young for his initiative and efforts in making this display possible.

While we're on the subject of creating useful and attractive things for the Club, I'd also like to thank Jim Young for the work he put into our tag board over this past summer. It has surely become a master work of design and functionality, serving as tag board, sign-up station, and as communications and information central. Well done Jim, it's much appreciated.

- **Christmas Dance 7.30 December 10<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to get your tickets now! \$20 per person.**
- **Donate to the Christmas Toy Drive today! Give generously, give often!**

## High scores characterize McKennitt spiel (continued from page 2)

Tom Carroll's team. Scores were tied at the end of the sixth end, but Bob's Team scored a big five rocks in the seventh end. Those points were critical as Bob's team finished in first with total score of 123, just three points ahead of Guy Elliott's team in second place. Ryk Weber's team ended Alex Smith's run to end in third with a total score of 118 points. Wes Warden's team took fourth spot with 115 points.

The prize giving started with a special draw for those members who had completed the 'member satisfaction survey'. To date 51 members had responded of whom six had chosen to remain anonymous. The names of the others were entered in the draw. There were two prizes: second prize, a \$25 certificate for the Tam Heather Tennis and Curling Club Pro Shop, was won by Don Somerville; the first prize, dinner for two at the club's restaurant, was won by Jim Young. The prize table draw took place over an excellent lunch provided by Chef Damiano, Robert and the staff. The top prize, free round of golf with



cart, was won by Dave Abrams. A unique item on the agenda was Reg Haney's introduction of Rick Atkinson, whose self-help book "DON'T JUST RETIRE. Live it, Love it" was recently published. In a short presentation to the lunch crowd Rick outlined guidance the book provides and explained how his Dad's sudden death



shortly after his enforced retirement started his thinking on the subject. Rick generously presented an autographed copy to the Venerables and another for the prize table. Much of the inspiration for the book came from conversations Rick had with his fellow Venerables and he credits the Club in the acknowledgements.

Those interested in purchasing a copy can visit the website: [www.dontjustretire.com](http://www.dontjustretire.com). CARP will be featuring it on their website. You may also buy directly from Rick.

## Safety First – a timely reminder

As mentioned last season a number of members were very grateful that they wore helmets as they took falls that might easily have resulted in head injury. For those who wear helmets, be sure to do up the chin strap. If you have the misfortune to fall and the strap is undone, your helmet may fly off at the very time it's needed. In any instance where an individual falls on the ice and strikes their head it is strongly recommended that 911 be called. It is also recommended in every case of potential injury that due diligence be used to assess the condition of the individual before they are moved. We are not qualified to assess possible concussions or neck injuries.

Also remember that in the case of heart failure there is now a defibrillator located in the Club Office; the Tam-Heather Staff have been trained to use it and only they should use it.

## Scarborough Visit a real pleasure

Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, saw twenty-four Venerables arrive at the Scarborough Golf Club for the annual interclub visit. At 10 a.m. the games began; Tam took an early lead on most sheets. However, Scarborough soon came back to make a fight of it. In the end, while the Venerables triumphed narrowly on four sheets, Scarborough delivered a crushing defeat on the sixth sheet to win this year's bragging rights by a score of 49 to 48 (only total rocks count). After the game teams enjoyed lunch together and left with the promise to meet at Tam in the New Year. Thanks to Ian Campbell and Scarborough for their warm hospitality.

## Memorial Bell surprise

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Scotia, engraved *The Memorial Bell*. Over the course of the summer Jim Young designed and created the mount for the bell and affixed the inscription plates which were provided by Francis Sharon. The top plate reads 'Tam Heather Venerables' and the inscription on the bottom plate is simply 'We Remember'.

In presenting the bell Jack stated that he, Francis Sharon, and Jim Young, hoped that the Executive and Club members would welcome and accept their donation. Reg gladly accepted, and on behalf of the Club expressed heartfelt thanks for a gift so generously given.

We look forward to its introduction at The Venerables Memorial Bonspiel in April 2009 and in future years at our Veterans Appreciation Days ceremony,

## Euchre night 'season' underway (continued from page 1)

on top, with Jim Britten finishing in second spot. Norm McFarlane fended off all of the other guys to emerge as undisputed low male finisher.

A pleasant social evening was topped off with the popular 50/50 draw, which made Effie Carlin \$39 richer when her ticket was pulled.

The next game will be held Wednesday January 7, 2009, followed by the third game on Wednesday February 4, and the last of the season on Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup>. All games are at 7:30 p.m.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and watch for the sign-up sheets to go up.

## Upcoming Events:

- Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Sign-up starts - Presidents Spiel
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dance
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Senior Mixed Christmas Spiel
- Dec 16<sup>th</sup> Day Ladies Christmas Spiel
- Dec 17/18<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Shoot
- Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> Sign-up ends – Presidents Spiel
- Dec 24, 25, 26<sup>th</sup> Club closed
- Dec 29/30<sup>th</sup> TCA Energizer Junior Bonspiel
- Dec 31/Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Club closed
- Jan 7<sup>th</sup> Euchre Night
- Jan 5<sup>th-9<sup>th</sup></sup>
- Jan 10-16<sup>th</sup> TCA Energizer Men starts
- Jan 12<sup>th</sup> Sign-up for Scarborough at Tam

Visit us online at

[www.tamheathervenerables.com](http://www.tamheathervenerables.com)