



# Venerables CoffeeBreak



New Season Edition – October 2009

## President's Message

**With Thanksgiving behind us and cooler weather settling in, we once again**

turn our thoughts to another curling season. On behalf of your 2009/10 Board of Directors, welcome back returning members, and a hearty welcome to new members and interested guests.

A big thank-you to our six retiring Board members for their hard work. Their tireless contributions allowed the Venerables to maintain our standards of excellence in the curling community. Our thanks are extended to Jim Christie (Treasurer), Ron Cowper (Secretary), Andrew Lamb (Communications: web site co-ordinator and architect of our 2009 Focus groups), Ron Gendron (Director at Large), Jim Young (Facilities and organizer of the re-vamped Armstrong Tournament). And to John Elstone, last years' Past President. -The Venerables owe a deep debt of gratitude to John who along with Allan Green was paramount in re-structuring the Venerables to the organization we are today. Finally, we owe special thanks to outgoing president Reg Haney, who serves as Past President for this season.

It's now my privilege to introduce your 2009–2010 Board of Directors.

President: Dave Abrams

Acting Vice President: Bob Abernethy

Past President: Reg Haney

Treasurer: Tom Stephens.

Secretary: Ken Holmeshaw.

Membership Chairman: Brian Steen.

Facilities Chairman Peter Tibando.

Bonspiel Chairman: Gary Norris.

Communications Chairman: John Davidson

Director at Large: Cam Cowan.

Service on the Board of Directors, as an auditor, on bonspiels, golf committees, and for all other areas, is on a volunteer basis. Because all activities in our Club are volunteer activated, it's vitally important that when you get a tap on the shoulder asking for your help, please, seriously consider donating your time and input.

With the introductions out of the way, here's a quick overview of what's happening this year:

### **On the ice:**

We'll have the Armstrong tournament, invitational spiels, mini spiels, and, our usual three main in-house bonspiels. Our Venerables Memorial Bonspiel will continue to be our season closing event. Gary Norris will be filling you in on the on-ice related activities.

### **Social activities:**

Bob Abernethy will be updating you on these activities.

### **New this year is Venerables Competitive Curling....**

- The "Venerables Competitive Curling" (VCC) was conceived to address last springs' Focus Group requests for increased competition without impacting our present Tag Draw, and our recognition of a need to increase our use of Friday ice time. Make no mistake, poor utilization of Friday ice time has a very real impact on the operation of the club -i.e. food service, bar and ice staff. The Venerables have

**(President's Message: continued on page 3).**

## Raffle Tickets A Must!

**Submitted by Gary Norris**

This year's raffle tickets will go on sale at the start of the curling season and will be available until the start of the Presidents bonspiel in January. **There are 2 raffles this year, a golf raffle and a dinner raffle.** The tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$15. If you buy the 3 for \$15 you can mix with the purchase of 1 golf with 2 dinner, or 2 golf with 1 dinner, or 3 golf, or 3 dinner. If you mix your purchase you can win a prize within each side for the raffle but you can't win more than 1 prize from golf or dinner raffle. Remember that your support of the raffles makes it possible to maintain the enter fee on all bonspiels the same as last year while maintaining the high quality of the bonspiels. Please support your club and yourself by purchasing your raffle tickets.

## Ron Murphy honoured in Uof T Sports Hall of Fame

**Submitted by Reg Haney**

On Wednesday evening June 24 this year, Venerables W group member Ron Murphy received well deserved recognition for his many years of contribution to sport. Ron has been inducted to the University of Toronto Sports Hall of Fame in the prestigious Builders category.

The Sports Hall of Fame was established to honour U of T's greatest athletes and builders and Ron's involvement over a



great number of years in the University's sports programs made him an ideal selection.

A member of the Varsity Blues football coaching staff when the team won the

inaugural Vanier Cup title in 1965, Ron

**(Ron Murphy: continued on page 2)**

## Fit to be tied –Venerables Memorial Bonspiel brings the season to a fitting conclusion.

Submitted by Andrew Lamb

Our 2008/9 season came to a fitting end with the last in-house bonspiel, the newly named Venerables Memorial Bonspiel. In past years this bonspiel had been known as the Trophy Spiel with the name Memorial Spiel only applying to the final one day spiel in “fun week”. Your Board decided that it was much more fitting that the Memorial name, which commemorates past Venerables, be applied to the final three day event, which draws a greater attendance from the membership.

This year’s event came to an extraordinary conclusion on Friday April 17 with the top three teams in the main event all having combined scores over the three days of 201. How to determine the winner? Some think this involves seeing who had the most wins or the most ends or the least points against. Others believe it’s time to consult the curling ogres (or should that be augurs?), who study the entrails of frozen road kill and read the leaves in a used decaf teabag. Still others claim to be called to the bar to raise the curling spirits of the glens: Fiddich, Morangie and Howard.

I can’t tell you which theory is correct, but the clear winner was the Bob Griffith team. In second place came Ralph Warren’s team, followed by team Norm Rhora. Well done to all. It couldn’t get any closer.

Results in the consolation final were not as close. Bruce Taylor’s team at 151 had a clear seven points over the Harley Williams and Alex Smith teams that placed second and third respectively tied at 144 points.



Winning Bob Griffith Team

When all the games were played the participants and guests sat down to another excellent lunch provided by chefs Damiano and Robert and their staff. As is traditional at the season closing Bonspiel special thanks were given to the kitchen  
**(Venerables Memorial Bonspiel: continued on page 4)**

## Ron Murphy honoured (continued from page 1)

Murphy spent 17 seasons (1966-82) as head coach and is the Blues all-time leader in career coaching victories (93). After high school, Ron was signed by the CFL’s Hamilton Tiger Cats and played on their 1953 Grey Cup championship team. He then attended McGill University where he played three seasons with the Redmen and later returned to become an assistant coach after four more years in the CFL where he played with the Montreal Alouettes.

Under his guidance, the Varsity Blues won league titles in 1967 and 1974, and posted only one losing season. Ron received the Frank Tindall Trophy and was named the CIAU coach of the year in 1974, as the Blues were Vanier Cup finalists and set a U of T record for season victories (10) which stood until 1993. During his tenure, the Blues produced 13 CIAU all-Canadians and 110 Ontario all-stars.

After stepping down as head coach in 1983, Ron undertook several administrative challenges within U of T’s former Department of Athletics and Recreation.

Ron returned as an assistant coach from 1986-93, winning his second Vanier Cup in 1993. At the inaugural OUAA Football Legends dinner in 1993, he received the league’s prestigious John S. McManus Award in recognition of his coaching contributions to university sport. The following year, Ron received U of T’s Thomas R. Loudon Award, which is presented annually for outstanding services in the advancement of athletics.

**Congratulations Ron, well done and richly deserved.**

## Effort to update e-mail addresses of members

e-mailing is a wonderful tool to communicate but one of its biggest drawbacks is the fact that many of us change our e-mail addresses. We let those that are family or friends know of the change but often forget to inform organizations such as the Venerables. If you have not received e-mails from the Venerables over the past few months and wish to, please look on the “Tag Board” for the form “e-mail Address Update” and simply fill in your name and e-mail address. If you prefer, as an alternative, you may e-mail it directly to John Davidson ([jsd20@rogers.com](mailto:jsd20@rogers.com)) with the subject line “e-mail address update.”

Remember that the e-mail is the Venerables quickest and easiest method of communicating with you. **Thank you.**

## On The Road Again

Once again this year the Tam Heather Venerables will be looking for curlers interested in hitting the road to curl at other clubs in the eastern GTA.

The curling will take place on Friday afternoons at 1:00 PM and offers a chance for a little inter-club rivalry while mainly promoting the social aspect. There is a \$9.00 cost payable each time you curl and that also includes a drink. One nice feature is that you only need to curl every third Friday. The clubs include East York, Leaside, Donalda, Richmond Hill, Scarborough and Unionville.

**For more information please contact Carman Chisamore at 416- 497-5196 or by e-mail at [carman7@sympatico.ca](mailto:carman7@sympatico.ca)**

## Upcoming Events:

- October 19<sup>th</sup> McKennitt sign-up starts  
Armstrong sign-up starts
- Week of October 25<sup>th</sup> Bring a prospective member as a guest
- October 28<sup>th</sup> Scarborough Exchange sign-up starts
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> Mc Kennitt sign-up closes  
First Euchre Night
- November 6<sup>th</sup> Armstrong sign-up closes
- November 9/13<sup>th</sup> McKennitt Bonspiel week
- November 10/11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Appreciation Days
- November 17<sup>th</sup> Scarborough Exchange closes
- November 18<sup>th</sup> TCA Day Ladies Bonspiel
- November 23<sup>th</sup> Scarborough Exchange (away)

For more visit us online at

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

## President's Message (continued from page 1)

NOT been confronted with any ultimatums. However, we'd prefer to use rather than lose the ice.

- The Friday afternoon competitive curling has a full 16 team draw.
- The VCC will not impact our tag draw system.
- The VCC is Skip's Entry. Entrants must be a member of the Tam Heather Venerables or a member of the Tam Heather Curling Club.
- Play commences Oct 16th and concludes with the final playoff and dinner on February 5th. 2010.
- For further VCC details talk to bonspiel chairman Gary Norris.

### Venerables Appreciation Award :

A very important event each year is the recognition of those Venerables who have contributed to the success of our organization. The Venerables Appreciation Award is bestowed annually at The Presidents Bonspiel in January. Prior recipients are Chris Armstrong (2006), Alf Connor and Francis Sharon (2007), Alan Lee and Jim Frandsen (2008), Allan Green and Jack Grant (2009). Contact Reg Haney with your nominees for this year.

### Ice Rental:

Favourable terms for the 2009/10 ice rental agreement were negotiated with the main club. We've also negotiated a five year contract on our Venerables on-ice sign.

### Finances:

With careful Board stewardship of our funds, I'm pleased to report that the Club remains healthy financially. However, our membership is down slightly and this presents a concern that must be addressed. Please take every opportunity when in the company of friends and relatives to tout the advantages of Venerables membership. Prospects can be found everywhere, and sometimes most unexpectedly. Every member is encouraged to "Bring a guest prospect to curl!" Remember, guests may come out any time and curl up to three games at no charge to try it out.

### Safety:

Safety is your personal responsibility. Worn grippers as well as fouling ice conditions are unsafe and could cause a fall. If your gripper is worn, head start a safe season with a new gripper. The choice to wear protective headgear is a personal consideration. Finally, if you are at all unsure of your balance, a curling stick may be a solution.

### Health:

Health is also a concern to seniors. A concern was brought to the Board about the increased possibility of contracting the H1N1 virus via the pre-game/post game handshakes. Your Board decided, "the shaking of hands will be optional and that members should not take offence if a handshake is not forthcoming". Hand sanitizer stations are located in each of the washrooms.

### Communications:

We try to keep you informed with the CoffeeBreak, e-mail notifications, and on our website at [www.tamheathervenerables.com](http://www.tamheathervenerables.com). You can help by keeping us informed of member deaths, illnesses and operations, but remember, items of good news about Venerables members are most welcome as well. Finally, please notify the Membership Chairman or the Communications Chairman if you change any of your personal information -i.e. emergency contact, address, phone number and e-mail address.

On behalf of the Board, our best wishes for a great year of curling and camaraderie.

Thank-you,

**Dave Abrams, President, Tam Heather Venerables, 2009/10**

## 144 Venerables played on golf day

Event organizer, incoming president Dave Abrams, spent weeks guiding the efforts of the organizing crew for our annual Golf Day, and then spent the 24 hours prior to tee-off worrying about the threatened rain. All turned out well weather-wise and the day was, as usual, a good outing for the guys.

On the course, closest to the pin winners on the four par 3's was Norm McFarlane on number 9, Barney Trombley on hole 11, Terry Beck put it close on hole 13, and Brian Aubrey got it there on the 15<sup>th</sup>.



*Ron Miki Team*

The Ron Miki team took the trophy as the group posting the best score (68). Ron had help from his playing companions, Don Eto, Sam Koyota and Jim Miyazaki. The runners up with a score of 70 was the group of Jim Weatherup, Ray Moffatt, Gord Chapman, and Frank Ferris. Right behind them was the foursome of Keith  
**(Golf Day: continued on page 4).**

## Appreciation Award nominations needed

Each year at the Presidents Bonspiel in January and important tradition is observed in which Venerables members, whose contributions to our club are deemed to merit recognition, receive The Venerables Appreciation Award.

Please take a few moments to review the contributions of a fellow member and put his name forward for consideration. Your choice, and a brief description of your reasons for the nomination would be much appreciated. You may speak directly to Reg Haney, Past President, or phone him at 416 298-1449 or put it in writing in a sealed envelope addressed to Reg, and pass it to Jennifer in the office. All nominations must be in by Friday December 4, latest. Sitting Board members are not eligible for consideration.

## Venerables Golf Day (continued from Page 3)

Liddle, Ian Daniel, Norm Ferguson and Jim Thomas shooting a respectable 71.

Ticket sales for the cash draw were brisk and the committee allocated \$1000 to be split amongst the three lucky golfers whose tickets were drawn by Jim Frandsen. The first ticket pulled was for \$200, which went to Bob Black. Second ticket out of the drum was owned by Bernie Guyette and he picked up \$300. The third and final one drawn was for the grand prize of \$500 and Joe Benedetto was the very happy recipient.

The buffet meal hit its usual high standard of quality and quantity, and the prize table was loaded with a variety of good stuff.

Helping Dave Abrams to put everything together for the day were his volunteer crew of Bob Abernethy, John Elstone, Jim Frandsen, Ron Gendron, Allan Green, Jack Grieve, Reg Haney, Ken Holmeshaw, Gary Norris, Ron Wood, Glen York, and Jim Young. Long-time golf committee volunteer Bob Pollard had to undergo surgery and Gord Cox stepped in to take his place. Chris Armstrong and Jack Davies were on hand to “babysit” the prize table while the tournament was played and Gord Underdown said grace prior to dinner.

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## Venerables Memorial Bonspiel

(continued from page 2: Fit to be tied)

staff, the office staff, the bar staff and the ice makers. The assembled Venerables applauded them all in turn.

At the Venerables Memorial Bonspiel we remember those members who had died in the previous twelve months. This year’s memorial service consisted of a moment of prayer, and a reading of the names of those who had died during the past year. You may remember that last year the club was presented with a Memorial Bell – a very fine ship’s bell, to be used on this occasion. This year the bell was put into service. A single ring of the bell was sounded by Francis Sharon after each name was read by Reg Haney while soft bagpipe music played in the background and all present stood in silent observance.

This year we remembered:

Alfred Hunter	a member of W Group	died July 6, 2008
Reg McKennitt	a Venerables President	died August 6, 2008
Al Blake	a member of Z Group	died September 9, 2008
Jack Spohn	a member of Y Group	died December 14, 2008
Tom Rutherford	a member of X Group	died December 24, 2008
Stan Johnston	a member of Y Group	died February 10, 2009

At the end of the ceremony Jack Grant rang the formerly used school bell just once in remembrance of any fellow curlers that may have passed without our knowing and then retired it with sincere thanks to Francis Sharon.

The day ended after all the prizes were awarded or drawn with everyone looking forward to the summer and promising to return to curling in the fall.

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## Venerables Seek Changes

Toward the end of last season it was felt that the general membership should have a greater opportunity for input into our club. To this end the Board of Directors made the decision to have discussions with random members from each curling group. These discussions would form the basis of what is now known as the “Focus Group.” The discussions took place at Tam Heather after games and involved several members meeting with either Andrew Lamb or Tom Stephens to discuss their concerns and suggestions.

There appeared to be seven major issues that came out of these informal group discussions.

- To provide better communication around bonspiels
- To improve the introduction process for new members
- To give all members a forum to improve their curling abilities
- Improving the perception of fairness in team selections for bonspiels
- Finding ways to attract new members

- Finding ways to make the Friday draws more attractive to the membership
- Recognizing the runners-up teams at the bonspiel luncheons

During the May 11, 2009 Board meeting a steering committee was put together to address the above issues. On June 9 the committee met and started the process of change. Some of these changes will be immediate and others will involve more work and time. Some may even take on more of an evolutionary process.

The Venerables Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the members that took part in the discussion groups and give special thanks to Andrew Lamb and Tom Stephens for their involvement.

**Submitted by John Davidson**

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## 23rd Avonlea Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament

**Submitted by Jim Young and Andrew Lamb**

A fun day of golf and good fellowship was enjoyed at Whispering Ridge course on Wednesday, September 16. The traditional 9 a.m. shotgun tee-off makes for an early start with the dawn mists still rising off the fields as car after car stops at the bag drop-off.

As each team makes the turn after the eighteenth hole they are diverted into the putting competition before continuing their round. Congratulations to George Harris, Peter Smiley, Bill Kemp and Bob Annis as these years’ champions with a score of seven under par. The team of Dick Arai, Ray Matsunaga, Nao Seko and Harry Kadohama finished second at five under par. The winner of the putting contest was Tom Murray while Ben Petch, Peter Tibando and John Hamilton won closest to the pin prizes. This years longest drive winner was Bruce Baird. A special thanks to all curlers who joined us, particularly the Tam Heather Venerables, in making this a most successful event. This fall event has become a signal that the curling season is nearly upon us and this year we had curlers from seven different clubs enter. Big thanks to Ron Cowper and his committee for a job well done. Next year’s event will take place on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, so mark it on your calendar now.

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**Contribution to the CoffeeBreak can be sent to John Davidson at [jsd20@rogers.com](mailto:jsd20@rogers.com)**