

# The Backline



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

## New Year, New Manager ...

This newsletter marks both the beginning of a new year and the start of our new club manager's tenure.

**The Vancouver Curling Club Board of Directors is pleased to introduce Ken MacDonald as the new Club Manager.**

Many of you will already know of Ken - featured on the right in the photo above - from his active involvement with the VCC over the past few years. His past roles included VCC President (2005-2007), VCC Junior Program Coordinator (2000-2007), and many other roles at the regional and provincial levels.

Ken was hired in December following a job search that included applicants from across the country, and the Board of

Directors is very pleased that Ken accepted the club's offer. He was the candidate who most completely fulfilled the broad skill set and experience that the Board of Directors was looking for.

In addition to his wide-ranging curling experiences as a volunteer, coach and player, Ken has extensive experience and knowledge of not-for-profit societies, book-keeping practices and staff supervision from his past work as the Executive Director for Wings Society. Meanwhile, Ken's strong public relations and client service orientation has been honed in many different roles, including his time as head varsity volleyball coach at Sheridan and George Brown Colleges.

Ken is excited to start his new role at the VCC on a full-time basis in the second week of January, and the Board looks forward to

working with Ken. Together with the other key staff members at the VCC (three of whom are pictured above - left to right: Grant Cross, Marilyn McKenzie and Don Swann), Ken will help lead the club through an exciting second half of the 2007/08 season and beyond.

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## You Choose the Charity ...

Each March, the Vancouver Curling Club hosts the Barry Naimark Charity Skins Event. Barry was a member of our club who became a world curling champion in 1964. All monies raised by the event are donated to a charity pre-approved by our Board of Directors.

All members of the Vancouver Curling Club are invited to submit the name of local registered charities with whom you have a personal connection and for whom a donation of approx. \$3,000 can make an impact.

The charity chosen remains the recipient of the funds raised by the event for two consecutive years. The members of the charity are invited by the Skins organizing committee to attend the event.

The current recipient is the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre which provides for basic needs of and works toward positive change for women and children in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.

**Please deliver your applications to the VCC Office - attn: Special Events Committee - by January 31 st.**

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## *League Reps Meeting Reminder*

A reminder to all league representatives that the VCC mid-season meeting takes place on Thursday, January 10th at 7pm in "The Last Draw" lounge.

Any questions or additional agenda items should be [emailed to Scott Allen](#) of the Membership and Communications Committee.

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## VCC Mixed Doubles Championship ...

The first-ever **VCC Mixed Doubles Championship** will take place on Saturday February 9th.

You might remember this event under another name... the Scotch Doubles Bonspiel.

The name has been changed, not to protect the innocent but, to reflect some recent innovations on the world curling stage.

The World Curling Federation (WCF) announced in December 2003 that the first World Mixed Doubles Championship would be played in March 2008 in Vierumaki, Finland.

Seeing as we like to be progressive, we have chosen to adopt the same format as our peers around the world.

Games will consist of six ends and follow the rules established by the WCF. [Please click here to learn more.](#)

As in the past, all proceeds of this event are donated to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation.

So guys – get your gal... or gals – get your guy, and lets have some fun!

Be sure to sign up now by emailing your registration to [manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com](mailto:manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com).

## 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](mailto:newsletter@vancouvercurlingclub.com).

### SYLVIA ISAKSON

Long-time Club Member

*A likeable member of the VCC since 1959 and honorary life member of the Vancouver Business Women's Curling League, Sylvia was a member of a team who scored an eight-ender 40 years ago in 1967.*



#### How did you become interested in curling?

Sylvia was introduced to curling in grade 9 by her teachers and principal at her high school in Camrose, Alberta (where she was born and raised), and then recruited to play at the local club in grade 10. She continued curling at the University of Alberta and the early stages of her career in Alberta.

Sylvia moved to Vancouver in 1958 to take a course at Vancouver General Hospital and, through her contacts at the hospital, Sylvia was able to secure a spot in the Vancouver Business Women's League. At the time Sylvia joined the VCC, the Business Women's League was an extremely popular league... in fact, there were over 70 women listed as spares for the league so a friendly face was key to joining the league.

#### Who was on your team that scored the 8-ender in 1967? and what are your memories of the event?

The team was composed of Gwen Sheekey (skip), Sylvia (third), Marg Shugg (second), and Morreen Allan (lead), and the special feat was accomplished on sheet one in December 1967. Gwen has sadly passed away but Marg is the treasurer for the VCC Ladies League and Morreen is still curling in the Fraser Valley.

And, when you scored an eight-ender in 1967, the team received a bundle of special gifts. Sylvia cannot remember everything the team received but she does recall free Canada Dry for a year, a set of quality pots & pans (which she still has and uses), a silver butter dish from Birks and cigars - which Sylvia fondly remembers were politely declined.

#### What are your interests outside of curling?

Over the years, Sylvia has curled at least three times per week at the Vancouver, Pacific (then Marpole) and Richmond Curling Clubs and sometimes as many as five games per week when she spared. Nowadays, though, Sylvia curls twice a week at the VCC.

Beyond curling, Caribbean dancing keeps Sylvia active, healthy and having fun. Sylvia first caught the Caribbean dancing craze at the PNE in 1968, visited the Caribbean islands in 1969 and has returned to the sunny climes 11 more times. Barbados, though, is Sylvia's favorite island (and it may help that her husband is from Barbados).

#### What's your favorite thing about the VCC?

"It's the people you meet. If it wasn't for curling, we [the Vancouver Business Women's Curling Club] would never have met. People who were in the ladies league were all good friends. And, from the \$2.50 banquets and great parties to decorating the club at Halloween and Christmas and bonspiels with the ladies, I've made long-time associations and great friends."



## Divas on Ice ...

The Silver Anniversary - 25th Edition - of the **Pac Rim Cup Bonspiel** will be held on the weekend of February 1 - 3, 2008 at the Vancouver Curling Club.

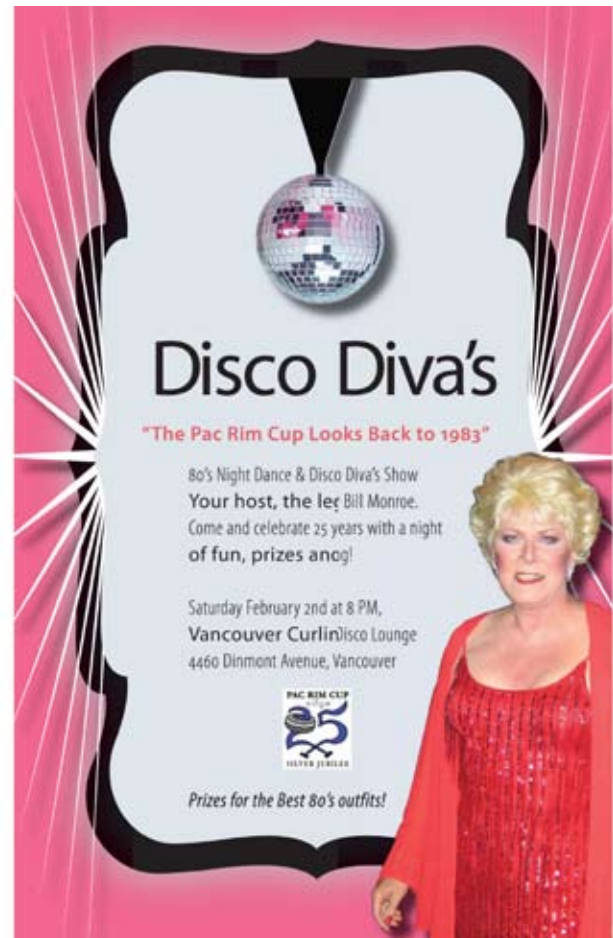
The Bonspiel has already attracted entries from across Canada and the United States, and is open to GLBT-friendly teams and individuals.

The Pac Rim Cup features:

- 3 games guaranteed,
- "Old Fart's Cup" draw to the button competition,
- a great time throughout the weekend.

The cost to play is \$400 per four-person team.

You can register online at the Pacific Rim Curling League website: [www.prcl.ca](http://www.prcl.ca).



## Blind Championships

The VCC is hosting the **BC Blind Curling Provincial Championships** on Friday, January 11th and Saturday, January 12th.

A round-robin tournament format, the game schedule for the Championships are 9:30 am and 1:30 pm on Friday and 9:30 am on Saturday.

Competing teams include Prince George, Kelowna and two from the Vancouver Blind Curling League, including Team Conway from the VCC (the 2006 and 2007 provincial and 2007 Western Canadian champions).

The top two teams will move on to compete at the Western Canadian Blind Curling Championships, being held in Parksville in March.

## Sandra Schmirler Day

The annual **Sandra Schmirler Open House** will be held on Saturday, February 16.

Entry to the club on the day is by donation, and all funds raised go towards the **Sandra Schmirler Foundation** - whose mission is "caring for babies in crisis through direct giving to neonatal care across Canada."

The Open House is a chance for members to bring friends and family to try curling. There will be ice time, demo games and coaches and equipment available.

More details will be available soon but be sure to mark your calendar now for February 16!

## 2010 Volunter Update ...

Mark your calendars for February 12, 2008. Next month – the two-year countdown to the start of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games – the organizing committee for the Games will begin their official call for volunteers.

In addition to the volunteer opportunities that will be part of the 2010 Winter Games, there are several events that will be held across the Lower Mainland and at the Vancouver 2010 competition venues – including the soon-to-be completed Olympic & Paralympic curling venue. According to VANOC, “sport events provide an excellent opportunity to gain valuable volunteer experience which will be beneficial when applying for a volunteer position for the 2010 Winter Games.”

These pre-Games events provide the organizing committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games an opportunity to test the facilities, themselves, as well as

event operations from technology to support services to ensure that Vancouver will be ready to welcome the world’s greatest winter athletes in 2010.

So, whether you are interested in donating your time and efforts towards the 2009 World Junior Curling Championships (one of the pre-Games events that will be held in the 2010 facility) or towards the VCC with some of our upcoming special events, volunteering is a direct route to developing new skills. Volunteering is also a chance to broaden your networks, have an enjoyable time while contributing to the growth and success of your sport (and community) and a chance to have fun!

Complete details for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games volunteer roles are available online at: [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).

-- with files from Vancouver2010.com

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## From the Iceman ...

Don Swann

As you all should be aware, there are large posters on the walls beside sheets #1 and #5 detailing the Club’s Etiquette List. These are the common sense things that all curlers, both experienced and novice, should be aware of when you are in the ice shed.

In regards to the “house” area of the sheets, this section of the sheet is not a gathering place for team players. With the exception of a team meeting to discuss an upcoming shot, nobody other than the skip and third may be at the back of the house when the opposing team is playing their rock. And the skip and third should remain still so as not to distract the throwing player.

There is nothing more distracting to a curler in the hack than an opposition player moving around behind your skip when you are about to throw a rock. Please stay still when the other team is throwing, and

hopefully they will do the same when your team is throwing.

Before you get on the ice to throw your stones, I want to remind everyone to *please use the boot boys and use dedicated curling shoes - not street shoes !*

In addition, our great game is played on ice so please stay on it with your feet during the game – and do not walk back and forth on the walkways or step on and off the ice surface. Any dirt that has been brought into the rink areas by curlers (and then picked up by your shoes when step on and off the ice surface) will likely end up under a rock causing it to “pick”. Or the dirt will get frozen into the ice and make the ice look dirty as it cannot be shaved out. Frozen dirt can only be burned out, and that is a major job to complete.

Help me out, everyone. It’s your ice so let’s keep it clean. Rock on! -- Don Swann, Head Ice Technician

## New WiFi Password ...

As we announced in December's newsletter, the VCC has introduced a WiFi connection at the club and you are welcome to surf the 'net or check your email the next time you are at the club.

When you bring your laptop to the Club and establish your WiFi connection, please note that the new password is 1223334444. And please note that the club is not able to assist with any access or technical difficulties.

### Did you know that the VCC was featured on CBC with 2006 Olympic Gold Medallist Russ Howard?

You can view the television clip by visiting

<http://www.cbc.ca/livingvancouver/?page=segment&sid=3995>

## Upcoming Events ...

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

### Thursday, Jan. 3

League curling resumes - 2nd half

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

Pacific Rim Cup Bonspiel

### Saturday, Feb. 9

VCC Mixed Doubles Championships

### Saturday, Feb. 16

Sandra Schmirler Day / Open House

### 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, 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](mailto:manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com).



### Vancouver Curling Club

4460 Dinmont Ave • Vancouver, BC • V5Y 2M2

604-874-0122 • 604-874-2865 (fax) • [manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com](mailto:manager@vancouvercurlingclub.com)

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