



# The Backline

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

## Japan and Canada Open the Season ...

A brand new event helped kick off the 2008/09 curling season at the VCC. The **Vancouver Cup** provided members and guests with an international curling event.

The inaugural Vancouver Cup featured an exciting match up between Team Meguro – the Japanese National team who placed 4th at last year's World Championship and the VCC's own high performance Women's team, Team Mallett, who was the #1 team in the Lower Mainland last season.

The competition was fierce with each team making some very high caliber shots. In the end, Team Mallett triumphed over Team Meguro by a score of 6-2.

It was standing room only in the viewing gallery as members and

friends came to watch this exciting game. We were also honoured to host two very special guests: the Consul General and Vice-Consul from the Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver.

At the end of the evening, a special presentation was made to Fuji Miki. A past member at the VCC (look for his name on the purple hearts on our walls), Fuji has been an inspirational curler and coach and the VCC recognizes all that he has given to the sport. He is currently a major resource to the Japanese curling program.

The victorious Team Mallett (featured above) is Skip Marla Mallett, Third Grace MacInnes, Second Diane McLean and Lead Jacalyn Brown. And the team is coached by the club's General Manager, Ken MacDonald.

The Vancouver Cup was the first of the international events coming to the Hillcrest Park neighbourhood over the next year and a bit. The 2009 World Wheelchair and Junior Curling Championships will be here in February and March 2009. And then Vancouver plays host to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in February and March 2010.

Get ready to welcome the world!

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## Starting our 2008/09 Season ...

The 2008/09 season is underway, and all of us are now settling into our curling season routines. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a couple of updates to you and all of the VCC members.

The VCC board and staff have been working hard to try to provide the best experience for our members, both on and off the ice. There have been a few changes that have been implemented and we would like to thank everyone for their cooperation.

The club's new Online Registration System was launched this season. The Online Registration System will improve our club membership records and will be a huge help to the club, the leagues and most importantly, you. Many members have already signed up, have you? If you have not registered, please visit [www.vancouvercurlingclub.com/user](http://www.vancouvercurlingclub.com/user) and sign up today.

We have all grumbled about a rock picking up debris and having a great shot ruined. To help alleviate this problem, the league representatives voted and the club has introduced a new procedure this season: **Having the winning team of each game run the sheepskin broom up & down the ice.**

We hope to reduce the amount of debris on the ice and create a larger awareness about the types of debris on the ice with this new procedure.

If you are unsure of how to best clean the ice with the sheepskin brooms, please ask the VCC manager or ice staff for assistance – they will be more than happy to help.

The club also launched its new Open Ice Program this fall, and the response from the membership has been very enthusiastic. Open Ice will be available at the VCC whenever it is possible as supported by free ice and staffing to support it.

Open Ice blocks are 30 minutes in length, and you are asked to sign in on the white board when you arrive.

You can [click here](#) to learn more about our open ice.

In addition to planned changes at the club, there have also been a couple of unexpected hiccups to start our season.

As our club manager, Ken MacDonald, has already communicated via email to many of you, the club had an unexpected slow start with our suppliers for The Last Draw lounge. Issues with some of our suppliers prevented a full menu being available and our draft lines being fully operational all the time.

Hard work by the club's staff, though, has brought resolution to these issues and everything in the lounge is back up and running.

Looking ahead to the next couple of months, the Board of Directors invites you to join us for the inaugural **VCC Ladies Totem Cashspiel**. The 16-team event will feature some of the best women's high performance curling teams from across Western Canada. So mark November 28-30 on your calendars and then come watch three days of exciting curling action at the VCC.

The following weekend, December 6-8, the VCC is hosting a Curl BC playdown for the first time in a few years. The **Women's Coastal Playdowns** will feature the top women's high performance teams from Curl BC's Regions 8-11: South Island, Mid-Island, North Island and Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley.

Three teams from this event will qualify to represent the Coastal Region at the 2009 BC Scotties - the Women's Provincial Curling Championships - in Parksville. Spectators are invited to visit the club to enjoy some very competitive and exciting curling action.

At any time of the season, all members are welcome to bring forward your suggestions, comments and kudos to Ken MacDonald, our club manager, or to me (at [president@vancouvercurlingclub.com](mailto:president@vancouvercurlingclub.com)).

Yours in Curling,  
Scott Allen  
President, VCC Board of Directors

## One Week to Purchase 2010 Tickets ...

The window to purchase tickets for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games is coming to a close. If you are interested in watching the world's best winter sport athletes, then you have until November 7, 2008 to submit your ticket request.

It may seem early to be thinking about what events you want to watch in 2010, but the ticketing

process is a multi-step process. So now is the best opportunity to try and ensure you get the tickets that you want.

Complete details are available on the Vancouver 2010 website at [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).

- with files from Vancouver2010.com

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## What Do You Want in the New Club ...

As we announced at the beginning of the season, the Board of Directors is in the midst of building a business plan for the new home of the Vancouver Curling Club.

After the Board of Directors created the first draft of the Business Plan this summer, meetings were recently held with Leagues Representatives from the club's leagues. These planning sessions are crucial in building the principles and guidelines for the Vancouver Curling Club as we prepare to relocate from our current facility into the Legacy Facility from the 2010 Winter Games.

The next step in the process is to incorporate all of

the feedback from the League Representatives and prepare a draft of the Business Plan that will be circulated to the VCC membership. All club members will then have a chance to provide feedback during a Town Hall meeting that will be held in February or March of 2009 (the final date will be confirmed soon).

Following the feedback received during the membership meeting, a final Business Plan will be presented to the VCC membership at our Annual General Meeting to seek your approval to move forward.

It will be your new curling club - have your say on what the VCC will look like.

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## *Winter Weather at the VCC*

The rainy season is upon us so that the means leaves, needles, mud and more will come in on your shoes when you enter the club. Therefore, the club's team of ice techs would like to ask everyone to:

- Please try to clean your shoes as best as you can when you come in the door.
- Always have a pair of curling shoes or shoes used only for on-ice activity.
- Always use the Boot Boys when you enter the ice shed – there is one at each entrance to the shed. If you come out of the playing area for any reason, please give your shoes a quick buff on the Boot Boys again before going back out to the ice area. You can easily pick up dirt that has been brought into the club by a visitor or another curler, and there is no need to carry that dirt out into the ice shed.

## Clinics Help VCC Members Improve ...

New and experienced curlers got their season started off on a very positive note at the Basic Skills and Intermediate Skills Clinics.

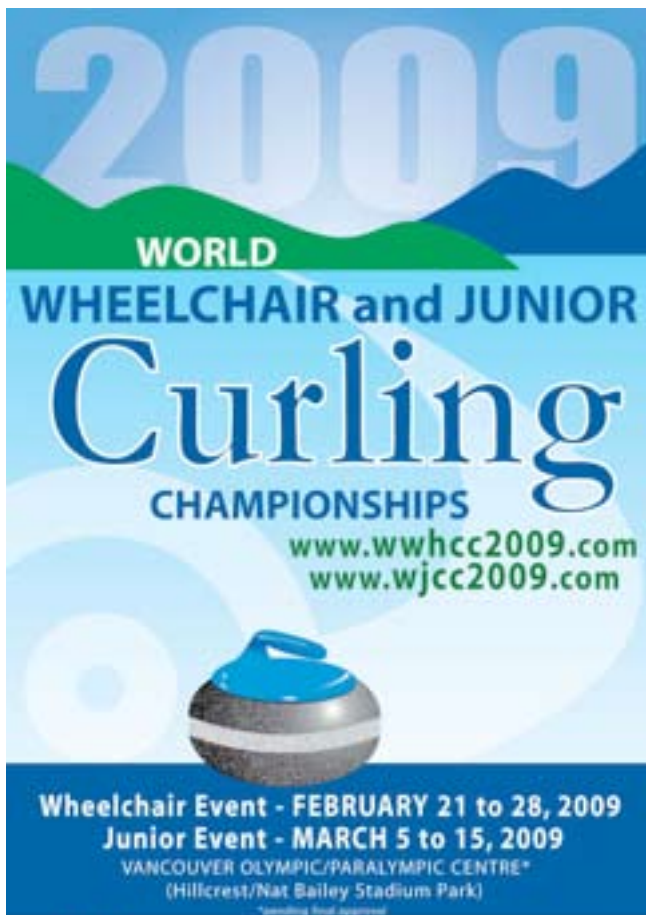
The **Basic Skills Clinics** took place on Sept 15-18, and both two-night sessions were full. A good time was had by all participants and instructors.

Special thanks to Education, Youth and Skills Development Chair, Dianne Petrant, for leading the Basic Skills Clinics. And additional thanks to the clinic instructors: Gary Lubin, Bruce Davy, Croft Bains, Jan Boss and Art Hawkins.

The club's **Intermediate Skills Clinics** were also a great success. Club members took part in two two-night sessions from Sept 8-11. Led by our Club Manager, Ken MacDonald, participants received technical and tactical instruction for both short-term and long-term improvement.

The club appreciates the positive feedback we have received from participants in both clinics.

Be sure to check out the next edition of the newsletter and the website for details about the mid-season intermediate clinic planned for early January.



## The World is Coming ...

The world is coming to Vancouver for the **2009 World Wheelchair and Junior Curling Championships**. As a training event for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, these two world championships will feature the world's best wheelchair and junior curlers, respectively.

Event schedules and ticket details are available on the respective websites:

World Wheelchair - [www.wwhcc2009.com](http://www.wwhcc2009.com)

World Junior - [www.wjcc2009.com](http://www.wjcc2009.com)

### SPECIAL NOTICE ...

There is a unique opportunity for Metro Vancouver school students to get involved with the 2009 World Curling Championships. For a chance to receive free tickets, a chance to compete in a "Draw to the Button" contest at the events and much more, please contact VCC member Jim Hall at [jim\\_hall@shaw.ca](mailto:jim_hall@shaw.ca) or 604.261.8796.

## 2008 - 2009 Season Calendar

### 2008

**Saturday, Nov. 22**

Pink Broom Bonspiel

**Friday, Nov. 28 to Sunday, Nov. 30**

VCC Ladies Cashspiel

**Saturday, Dec. 6 to Monday, Dec. 9**

Women's Coastal Playdowns

**Tuesday, Dec. 23**

Last day of league curling - 1st half

**Wednesday, Dec. 24 to Thursday, Jan. 1**

VCC closed - Happy Holidays!

### 2009

**Friday, Jan. 2**

League curling resumes - 2nd half

**Saturday, Jan. 3 - TBC**

Mid-Season On-Ice Clinic

**Thursday, Jan. 8**

League Reps meeting: 7:00 pm

**Friday, Jan. 30 to Sunday, Feb. 1**

Pacific Rim Cup Bonspiel

### 2009 (continued)

**Saturday, Feb. 14**

Sandra Schmirler Day

- Open House

- VCC Playdowns begin for the BC Club Challenge

**Saturday, Feb. 21**

Mixed Doubles Championships (VCC Members only)

**Thursday, Mar. 12 to Sunday, Mar. 15**

Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel

**Sunday, Mar. 29**

Last day of league curling - 2nd half

**Monday, Mar. 30 to Thursday, Apr. 2**

Club Championship (VCC Members only)

**Thursday, Apr. 2**

Past Presidents' and Honourary Life Members' Dinner

**Thursday, Apr. 23**

Volunteers' Barbecue, League Reps Meeting & Annual General Meeting



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Providing printing support for our monthly newsletter, VanPrint has multiple locations to help you with any of your printing needs. Visit them online at [www.vanprint.com](http://www.vanprint.com).

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).



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