



GRANITE GRIPPER



Chatham Granite Club
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Message From The President

Hoping everyone had a good holiday season. Now we must face reality and return to our daily routine. We start the new year with some exciting functions such as our Jan. 3rd & 4th two day mixed and Jan. 10th the DeKoning Memorial Sr. mixed both of which were very successful thanks to the hard work of the organizers.

We hope that you have had a chance check out the web site (chathamgraniteclub.com) so you can be aware of all the activities that take place at the club. The scores for the leagues are being posted regularly and if there is anything else anyone would like to see on there please let us know. Your comments would be greatly appreciated and would help us to know what the membership would like to see on the site.

A reminder that we have a brunch on January 25 and March 8th which is an opportunity to get out and enjoy a wonderful meal put on by our great volunteers. On March 6th we have a tier 55 bonspiel that should prove to be a very exciting time for the middle age group of participants. January 30th at 7:00 PM will be another clinic, so if you know of anyone who is interested in coming out to learn more about curling, bring them to the club and enjoy the game and have some pizza afterwards, for only \$ 10.00.

If you have not yet picked up a copy of the membership booklet they are now available at the club. Also you can look forward to an open house in March, (More details later).

See you on the ice.

John Fantin



Just a couple of pictures of our school curling program in action !

Elementary School Curling Program

Kudos to John Dumoulin, Gord Wells and their many helpers who have made this program such a success. Over 500 kids have participated so far this season and there are more to come before the season closes. Not only does this raise money for our club, but also is most appreciated by those participating. The following are a few of the kids' comments about our school program :

"I had tons of fun. I appreciated the patience everyone had"

"I liked how fun it was because it looks really boring (no offence)"

"I appreciated (you) giving up your free time to teach us"

"What I appreciated was how all the instructors did this... they didn't even get paid...(and) didn't get mad or lose their cool"

"When I started I said I would do this all day but when we played the games it was harder and tiring. P.S. You guys aren't as grumpy as my grandpa☺"

"I appreciated ... having a lot of people telling me that I can do it."

"...I found out how much fun it really was. I think today won't be the last time I go curling."

"...can't wait until I'm playing again."

Tuesday Morning Ladies

Our ladies league had an excellent turnout for the first draw with 12 teams. The prizes for the first draw were given out at the Christmas Luncheon on December 16 with many former curlers in attendance. The winner of the Eva Grainger Trophy was the Nora Snelgrove team. Lise Duguay played vice, Mary Lou Wood second and Theresa Dorion lead. Thank you to Ginny O'Neill and Tracy Hay for organizing the luncheon.

We hosted the Annual Holly and Mistletoe Bonspiel on December 1. The Sharon Philpott team from Sarnia won the first event and the Mary Robertson and Joan Pickering teams tied for first in the second event. Thank you to Brenda Hoyles and her committee for an excellent day. Thank you also to Theresa Dorion and her decorating committee for making the club so festive.

Our second draw will end on February 10. Prizes for this draw will be given out at the Potluck Luncheon on February 17.

Mary Thompson

Wednesday Business Ladies

Hello from Jennifer Lyons and Christine Elliott

We hope the New Year is treating everyone well so far. Our league has been slow. We are playing Jitney style for the month of January to accommodate all the busy people.

I would like everyone to thank Charlotte Sparks and Mary Robertson for the new white linens. Charlotte and Mary purchased the material using the Business Ladies funds, and Mary, using her craftiness, cut and hemmed them all. She did a wonderful job.

We will be having a 2 month schedule starting Feb. 4, 2009. If you know of anyone wishing to get out for an evening of fun, please invite them and have them contact us.

Good Curling!

Bonspiels

The two-day mixed bonspiel was held on January 3 and 4 with 16 rinks attending. Home entertainment was at the homes of Ken and Bonnie Chittim and Phil and Lori Snider. The first event winner was a rink composed of Jim Brackett and Gina Ferster of the Chatham club together with Rob and Tamara Fick from the Kingsville club. The second event was won by the Allan Klinck rink, the third event by the Dave Chinnick team and the fourth event by the Ken Chittim foursome.

The Senior Mixed Dekoning Memorial bonspiel took place on January 11 with 18 rinks attending. The first draw winner and trophy recipient was the Blenheim team of Frank Hoyles, Brenda Hoyles, Mike Gallant and Janet Gallant. The second draw winner was a Roseland team composed of Richard Lawrence, Marg Reed, Henry Lister and Delores O'Sullivan.

Thanks are extended to all members who contributed their assistance to making these bonspiels successful.

Upcoming bonspiels are the Senior Men's Tier 55 event on March 6 organized by Mike Hastings and the Elementary Schools bonspiel on March 21 chaired by John Dumoulin.

Ron Robertson

Fundraising / Special Events

. Please mark **Sunday January 25th** on your calendar for the next **Club Brunch** – remember adults are only \$8, children 4-12 are \$4 and free for anyone under 4. The third and final brunch will be on Sunday March 8th.

For only \$100 you can still have your team, an 8-ender, an individual, a group, etc, etc remembered forever by purchasing a **Brick** on the wall in the club entrance. For more information, see John Young Jr. in the Club office.

You can also donate your **bond** to the Club in exchange for a Lifetime Social Membership and your name will also be engraved on the plaque in the stairwell. Again, see John Young Jr. in the Club office for more info.

Special Events

On Friday January 30th we are planning to run another **curling clinic** from 7:15-9:15 pm for new and experienced curlers. The cost is only \$10 and includes pizza afterwards. Please have anyone interested in attending phone John Young Jr. in the club office.

On Saturday March 7th we are planning to hold our **2nd annual elementary schools bonspiel** for curlers who have participated in our “learn to curl” program this year. It will consist of 2, 6-end games with lunch and prizes for everyone. We are hoping to make this a “Super Fun Day” for all the participants.

Reg and Bob

Membership and Publicity

We believe that our newspaper ads promoting our Sunday Brunches have been effective, particularly in regard to our most recent Brunch Jan 25th. We will continue this for our upcoming Brunch March 8th.

Our Club was pleased to have a group from the Chatham Lawn Bowling Club join us on Friday night Pay-as-you-play. They enjoyed the experience and we expect to see some of them out again. Thanks to Rand McIntosh, John Dumoulin and Brad Blonde for their assistance in demonstrating the game and Club hospitality to the group.

We will be promoting our upcoming Clinic Jan 30th 7:00 pm .

Thanks to Darren Park for his assistance in producing this and previous editions of the Granite Gripper.

Bill Park
Brad Blonde

Daytime Mixed Curling

Congratulations and Good Luck to Mike Gallant, Brenda Taylor, Bob Telfer and Edwinna Rawlings who won the playoff game in Chatham –Kent and will represent our municipality at the Ontario Senior Games in Brockville, February 11-13, 2009!

Frank and Brenda Hoyles

Curling – A sport for all ages, A sport for life !!!

