



ST. ALBERT CURLING CLUB

"BETWEEN THE SHEETS"

WWW.STALBERTCURLING.COM

March 2009

News from the President

The Scotties are on TV and the Brier is right around the corner! That can mean only one thing, our curling season is drawing to a close.

It's also time for another update since our Christmas message.

Events:

- January was a very busy month with our annual Merchant and Prospect Mixed Spiel taking place from the 19th – 25th. Entries were down a bit this year which had organizers scratching their heads. The spiel is inexpensive plus a ton of fun with a banquet and dance on Friday night. We are always looking for feedback on how to improve!
- We were scheduled to host the City Senior zone play downs from January 16-18. Due to a scheduling mix-up the event was moved to another venue. This left us scrambling to contact all of our Saturday leagues to let them know that games were back on. A few teams had already made plans for that weekend and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience.
- The annual Ladies Spiel was held at the club on February 7-10. 22 teams took part in the event and a good time was had by all.

The Building:

As most of you know for the past few years we've been contemplating replacing the front end of our curling club. We all realized the life expectancy and utility of the front end

was nearing an end. The project cost is in the neighborhood of \$2.5 million.

We have made strides toward acquiring the funding to complete this project. We have a grant application at the province and we will be applying to the City of St. Albert for additional funding through the Community Capital Program Fund. Should we be successful, we could begin construction as early as spring 2010.

In order to prepare ourselves for that possibility we will start our 09/10 curling season earlier (mid September) to give ourselves every opportunity to begin 10/11 play on schedule.

The Ice:

The addition of a new plant last summer has given the membership exceptional ice conditions this year. Outside of a few minor issues, mostly due to the weather, we have all enjoyed a clean quick surface. Out of club bonspiel participants raved about our facility, it's staff and our hospitality. To everyone involved in these events...well done and Thank You!

Playoffs:

The playoff format will remain unchanged with the exception of the Men's division. With Thursday night viable once again, 12 teams will compete for the Club championship. Two teams from each league (aggregate and section winner) and two wild card teams based on points. If your team is in the running but not planning to participate, please let Jennifer or Ed Mariash know as soon as possible.

Due to the ever uncertain economy, Inland pulled its sponsorship for the City championships this year. Undaunted, the EACC has asked each

club for support to continue with an area finale. There won't be any frills, but our top men's, ladies and mixed teams will be able to compete against the other Edmonton area clubs for 08/09 bragging rights.

Chamber of Commerce:

This year, as many of you know, the Club joined the St. Albert Chamber of Commerce. On March 21 - 22 we will be hosting the first annual Chamber spiel. Teams from the business community, City Hall and service clubs will be participating. It's a great opportunity for the Club to gain more exposure in the community.

AGM:

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Club on Thursday April 2nd at 7 PM. There are a couple of board positions open with the departure of Len Rokosh and Ed Mariash. For several years these individuals have worked tirelessly on behalf of your Club. Take the time to thank them personally for their tenure; I've never known either of them to turn down a free "soda".

At the St Albert Curling Club we continually strive to provide a quality recreational experience for our members. We learn from our shortcomings and build on our positives. To all the teams that competed this year we hope you enjoyed the season and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

There are exciting times ahead for the St Albert Curling Club, don't you dare miss out!

Doug McLennan
President
St. Albert Curling Club