



### **2000 International Tankard – Abbotsford B.C.**

Each year the Pacific Coast Curling Association and the Washington State Curling Association alternate host a friendly competition involving six teams from each association. The participating teams are comprised of the executives, directors and other volunteers from each association. This event has become a tradition with the two associations and consists of a series of 5 games, and social events focused on the Spirit of Curling, not on the winning of the games (although even these games are spirited in several ways and scores are indeed recorded).

The purpose of the International Tankard is to help maintain goodwill and feeling of community between the two Associations. In addition, it has become a forum to exchange ideas to the general betterment of curling and serves as a reminder that curling is indeed an international sport. It is an event, which enables directors and other volunteers to co-mingle and share good "spirit" and information.

All participants are presented with a crest to commemorate their participation in the International Tankard. The Pacific Coast Curling Association hosts the Tankard for three consecutive years, alternating in each of the three zones within the association. Each fourth year the Washington State Curling Association hosts the event.

In April of 2000, the Abbotsford Curling Club, decked out in Canadian and American Flags was the venue for this year's "brooms across the border". Host committee chair Don Fisher, along with his staff and volunteers, set the stage by providing a facility for this year's activities, which was second to none. From the beginning of the weekend, Friday night's "Wine and Cheese", Saturday night banquet and dance, to the Sunday afternoon Cup presentation and farewell song, Abbotsford put on a great show!

The actual curling in this event took place over two draws on Saturday and one on Sunday. When the smoke cleared around noon Sunday, the Canadian contingent had successfully defended the cup, rescued from the American squad at last year's tournament in Mill Bay.

Next Year's International Tankard will be hosted by the Pacific Coast Curling Association and Zone 3, at the Gibson's Winter Club, March 23 – 25, 2001.