



2008 INTERNATIONAL TANKARD

Event held March 28 29 & 30 2008

**Mission Granite Club, Mission British Columbia
in the Heart of the Fraser Valley**

Co-chairs Bob Bryan and Katherine Johnson

In keeping with our local agricultural community as well as our entertainers who are in the Country and Western Music industry, we chose a Country and Western theme. Curlers were invited to come to a hoe down and to bring their cowboy hats and boots along with the spirit all curlers share...an opportunity to compete across borders and build new relationships and strengthen old ones.

Washington State Curling Association sent their volunteers from as far away as Portland, Oregon, joined with the clubs from Wenatchee, Evergreen Curling Club and Seattle totaling 24 members.

British Columbia responded from Region 11 with volunteers from Gibsons, Tunnel Town, Marpole, Chilliwack, Langley, Maple Ridge, New Westminster, Valley and Mission.

The event began with a social gathering on Friday in the Mission Granite Club Lounge. Volunteers provided a variety of hot and cold appetizers, friendly conversation and an opportunity of assignment of the BC Teams. The draws were reviewed for the early Saturday morning start.

The Opening Ceremonies were held @ 11:00 am with the curling participants piped onto the ice with the Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard along with dignitaries including His Worship Mayor James Atebe, Councilor Heather Stewart, Recreation Director Ray Herman, our Anthem Singers Amber Nicholson and Rob Hess. The Mayor who is also a Mission Granite Club Member, threw the Ceremonial 1st Rock, which was swept by Brady Clarke, President of the Washington State Curling Association with Stephan St Germain, President of the Mission Granite Club holding the broom. A group photo was taken and the local newspaper carried the event. The next draw



followed shortly afterward. By the final draw on Saturday, the Canadians took an early lead.

The evening began with a cocktail hour, with our Master of Ceremonies and Club Member, Lorne (Rocky) Rockwell saying an ole Scottish Grace. Brady Clarke presented a toast to Rocky and participants with an acceptance of continued friendship. A BBQ banquet provided by the volunteers of the Mission Granite Club, followed. We were entertained by our local talent in the music industry. Sharing the spot light with Rob Hess (younger brother to the International Country & Western Singer Kenny Hess), is a rising star also from Mission, Amber Nicholson. Both Amber & Rob delighted the crowd who were in awe of their performances.

Sunday's challenge proved to see quite the competition between the USA and Canada. The Final Standings were a Tie of 9-9.

Presentation of the Tankard was made by His Worship, Mayor James Atebe to Washington Representative, Michael Calcagno and Canadian Representative, Craig Lightbody. Closing remarks and invitation by Mike Calcagno to advise Washington State will be hosting the International Tankard in 2009. In conclusion to the event we performed the traditional joining of hands, formed a circle and sang Auld Lang Syne.

The spirits in which these games and social activities are intended are exciting and rewarding to all who participate. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and that our community spirit has provided many lasting memories.

PS. Long after the games are over, we are still receiving emails of how much everyone enjoyed themselves.

Respectively submitted by
Katherine Johnson
Co-Chair
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