



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Seattle Washington ~ March 23-25 2012

Each year Region 11 Curl BC and Washington State Curling Association alternate hosting a friendly competition involving six teams from each organization. The participating teams are comprised of volunteers each recognized by their own curling clubs. This event has become a tradition and consists of games and social events focused on the Spirit of Curling, not on the winning of the games (although even the games are spirited in several ways and scores are indeed recorded.) At the end of the fourth end there is the stacking of the brooms with the teams socializing in the lounge prior to the second half of the game.

2012 is a year of celebrations; 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Tankard, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Seattle Host Club as well as the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Host Washington State Curling Association. The celebration of this event was captured by a commemorative poster of a blended picture of the old & new Seattle Granite Curling Club.

Founding members of the Seattle Granite Curling Club were in attendance at this event, Jimmie Stephenson, and Betty Kozai.



Betty Kozai & Jimmie Stephenson

Jimmie attended the first International Tankard in Victoria (1962) and Betty has continued to support the International Tankard recognition either by attending or behind the scenes. We are delighted to have both these members share in the history of our celebrations as well as sharing the stories of yesteryear.

The event began Friday night with a social evening fared by delectable cuisine of appetizers and the registration of participants by WASCA welcoming their guests... along with the membership of the Seattle Granite Curling Club who are not shy on hospitality as they continued to provide both the participants & their guests with culinary cuisine & spirits specialalities to the delight of all.

Saturday morning ceremonies consist of opening remarks, welcoming speeches from both organizations, the Canadian Culsulant to Washington State, presentation from the City of Seattle declaring March 24th as Curling International Day as well as the throwing of the first rock by Jimmie Stephanson, Skipped by Betty Kozai & swept by Karen Host & Dave Rittenhouse MOPAC, who also said grace at dinner. The evening rounded out wiith the learning to Celtic dance, as our entertainment, another first for many, clearly enjoyed by the participants.

WASCA led the scoring most of the way until the last games and BC caught up in points to end the event with a 9-9 tie. There are two trophies for display, the original which Seattle will keep on display until next year when the International Tankard returns to British Columbia. The International Tankard Banner was presented to Golden Ears Representatives, Tracy Hill and Lindsay Shannon, by April Gale- Seixeiro.



Please keep your clubs open to sending volunteers to this auspicious event. Many friendships developed or renewed over the course of this weekend, garnering the spirit in the sport of curling. Thank you to the WASCA & Seattle Granite Curling Club & its memberships, the juniors assisting Chef Ethan, for their efforts in making this year's event & celebrations a memory of finery in its grandest form.

Respectfully submitted

Katherine Johnson, International Tankard Committe Member