

## **2013 INTERNATIONAL TANKARD**

**Event held March 8, 9, 10 2013**

**Golden Ears Winter Club, Maple Ridge British Columbia**

### **2013 International Tankard hosted by Golden Ears Winter Club**

Red, White & Blue was chosen as this year's theme in keeping with the National colours of each country.

The lounge was adorned by flags, center pieces, flowers & banners.

Washington State Curling Association (WSCA) invited volunteers from as far away as Hollywood, California, joined by clubs from Oregon and Washington.

British Columbia responded with their volunteers from Victoria, and Region 11.

The event began with a social, Friday evening at the Golden Ears Club with participants greeted at the door by Host Committee Co-chairs, Lindsay Shannon & Tracy Hill. The participants picked up their programmes of the weekend's event along with their 2013 International Crests & goodie bags of items to help them identify who their teammates are and then they were escorted by the International Tankard Princess, Ashley Mallet, to the lounge where she assisted in the introductions. The Club's regular Friday Night Mixed League provided a variety of appetizers, and joined everyone once their game was completed.

Saturday morning, the Opening Ceremonies began @ 9:00am with the curling participants piped onto the ice under the watchful eye of the Mayor of Pitt Meadows, Club President, WASCA & CurlIBC Region 11 representatives as well as behind the scenes Club volunteers. The national anthems, welcoming speeches, a Curler's Prayer, ceremonial 1st rock, and a toast to the Piper were followed by a group picture of the participants, host committee & dignitaries.



Each day our teams were treated to homemade muffins & sweets with their morning coffee/tea as well as homemade soups & sandwiches for lunch provided by Club volunteers. The banquet was a variety of hot & cold items to suit any palate.

Throughout the two days of competition, our neighbors struggled with the keen ice provided by the Golden Ears Ice Specialists however the warmth & friendships formed are priceless. The games are eight ends with a traditional fourth end break, broom stacking occur, with the teams moving to the lounge for

libation. During the last game, the Host Committee presented everyone with the group picture taken at the opening ceremonies to add to their memorabilia.

On Sunday, with the final score, 14-2-2 in favour of the Canadians, the International Tankard was presented to B.C.'s (87 year old), Harry Vogel.

The International Tankard Banner will make its way to the 2014 Hosts, Cowichan Rocks Curling Club in Lake Cowichan, Vancouver Island. Presentations continued with the Sportsperson Award, voted upon by the participants, to Marnie Jepson.

The event concluded with the tradition of joining hands, forming a circle and singing of Auld Lang Syne.

The Golden Ears Winter Club has stated they would like to host this event again in the future; they enjoyed the enthusiasm of the participants.