

## Seattle Granite Hosts the 56th International Tankard



We arrived at the Canadian/USA Border Crossing at Sumas on Friday morning. The American Border Guard started with his usual line of questioning: "Where are you headed?", to which I replied "To a curling event held in Seattle called the International Tankard which pits 6 American Teams against 6 Canadian Teams." "Oh", he says, "I didn't know Seattle had a curling rink until there was a news report of a car crashing into the building." This goes to show, even from a small catastrophe, there can be something positive. I wonder how many more people learned of the Curling Rink in Seattle through the news report. "How long is your stay?" was his only other question and waved us through the border. Later that evening, we were at the Friday Night Social at the Seattle Granite where we played a game using a celebrity name pinned to our backs which we had to figure out who we were, by asking other people yes or no questions. Along with determining who your team mates are, this was a very great way to engage 48 people mixing with each other.

The next morning, the American teams had a strong start by winning 3 games, losing one with one tie. The first draw was followed by lunch and the Opening Ceremonies. Curlers were led onto the ice by bagpiper Scott McLean and flag bearers Andrew Bell and Bowen Zheng. Both anthems were sung by Sara Leighton. The Ceremonies were presided over by MC Lori Markham with speeches by Washington State Curling Association President, Jim Pleasants, USA Curling Director, Doug Potter and CurlIBC Region 11, Vice Chair, Ross Johnson. The ceremonial First Rock was thrown by 2017 Cruickshank Award Recipient, Ethan Bradford, with sweepers Alex Couckuyt and Connor Kauffman with the rock placed on the button. There was a toast to the piper and the second draw began. The Canadians evened out the standings by winning 3 of the 4 games. By the third draw, the Americans pushed forward by winning all 4 games and making Sunday's task difficult for the Canadians. The evening's banquet was of exceptional Mediterranean cuisine with chicken, salmon and salads as features. The Sunday morning draw had 5 games with the Canadians winning 3 of them but it was not enough to win the Tankard. Final Standings: USA 10, Canada 7 and one tie.

During the Closing Ceremonies, the Tankard Trophy was presented by Katherine Johnson to WASC President, Jim Pleasants. The banner was presented by Jim & Lori to next year's host Mike Desantes, Chair of the 2019 International Tankard at the Abbotsford Curling Club, Abbotsford, B.C. The participants joined hands in the singing of Auld Lang Syne. Thank you, Seattle Granite and their volunteers for hosting a great event.

Respectfully submitted by Ross and Katherine Johnson, on behalf of the CurlIBC Region 11 International Tankard Committee Members.

## VOLUNTEER IN THE SPOTLIGHT



RICHARD TANGUAY

### 2018 International Tankard in Seattle Washington

Our 56<sup>th</sup> International Tankard Volunteer features Richard Tanguay, semi-retired, Manager, Island Truss Manufacturing Company, curls out of the Comox Valley Curling Centre. According to the 1967 Canadian Census, Richard's Family, is one of the Top 10, oldest, recognized and recorded families in Canada. Not many can attest to grass roots of this nature. He is the son of Emile and Noella (Morin) Tanguay, who moved the family from Quebec and homesteaded in Alberta. It was work which brought Richard and the light of his life, Jayne, to relocate to the Comox Valley. Once nestled into the community, they sought out the recreational sport of curling. Before long they met curling enthusiasts and long time curling volunteers, Peter and Ettie O'Connell who took the Tanguays' under their wings, nurturing along the way, which developed into a lifetime of adoration and friendship.

Richard's desire is to see continued growth of all ages within the community. As a 24 year member of the Comox Valley Curling Centre, the privilege has allowed participation in several capacities; a top coach and a draw co-ordinator. He plays in several leagues, i.e. Tuesday Men's, Wednesday Mixed and the Thursday Men's. He facilitates building membership, provides an ongoing mandate to energize curlers in ways of participation whilst showing volunteering within a curling club, has its benefits. Richard says "nothing is achieved in life without Jayne, as they both are a tag team." Congratulations, Richard on your selection of representing Comox Valley Curling Centre and thank you for all your volunteer work.