

## Abbotsford Curling Club Hosts the 57th International Tankard



24 curlers from Comox Valley, Mission Granite, Abbotsford, Langley, Peace Arch, Chilliwack, Nanaimo, Marpole, Howe Sound, Qualicum Beach, Juan de Fuca, Richmond, Delta Thistle, Royal City and Port Moody met with 24 curlers from Seattle Granite, Silicon Valley (California), Evergreen (Oregon), Ogden (Utah) and Wine Country (California) in a friendly competition of the 57th International Tankard. All attended the Friday Night Meet and Greet with snacks provided by the Abbotsford's regular Friday Night League.

The Opening Ceremonies were held Saturday morning with Kevin Gillies as Master of Ceremonies. The JoyVox Community Choir sang both National Anthems and the curlers were piped onto the ice by Abbotsford Police Officer, Colin Thompson along with two fellow officers and flag bearers Jaxx Keeler and Ben Brown. Opening speeches were from the Abbotsford Mayor, Henry Braun, MLA, Mike DeJong, Abbotsford Club President, Art Heppner followed by Lucinda Tutterow of Ogden representing the Washington State Curling Association and Wayne Braun representing CurlBC's Region 11. Next was the toast to the piper then first rock thrown by BC Ladies' Champion, Sarah Wark with the broom held by Sean Geal and swept by junior curlers, Nicole Patton and Sam Dyck.

The first draw saw the Americans take the early lead in the standings, winning 4 games to 2. The afternoon draw had both sides split their games 3 to 3 and the Americans maintained their lead 7 games to 5. The banquet meal enjoyed by all was catered by Culinary Touch Catering. Entertainment followed the banquet with a dice game called "Race to the Border", all done on a large scale.

Sunday morning, competition continued with the third draw. It looked for a while the Canadians would catch the Americans in the standings but it was not to be as the Americans won 3 games to 2 with one tie. The final standings were 10 to 7 with one tie.

During the Closing Ceremonies, Katherine Johnson presented the International Tankard to Seattle's Tim Eng who represented the American Curlers. The Tankard Banner was passed to Maria and Roma Mailloux of the Chilliwack CC who will be hosting next year's Tankard. Everyone joined hands during the singing of Auld Lang Syne, which brought to an end of the 57th International Tankard. Many thanks to Kent Bird, club manager and host Mike DeSantes and his crew of volunteers for a job well done.

Respectfully submitted by Ross and Katherine Johnson, International Tankard Committee Members

## Volunteer Spotlight on Carl Gung



Our 57th International Tankard Volunteer, features Carl Gung, retired from BC Hydro, and hails from the Delta Thistle Curling Club. Carl has curled for 31 years dedicating much of his time not only to curling but also to volunteering. Carl is the outgoing President of the Fraser Valley Masters Association, standing as President of the Seniors Masters. Much of Carl's time is also spent as a Club Coach to Novice Adults as well as the Juniors. His passion of the sport as gleaned growth within the club seeing an increase of especially the Senior membership over 10% in the last 2 years. The vehicle of growth is often attributed to "word of mouth" through the community providing opportunities for individuals to learn a "new to them" sport.

Carl has accorded the club manager, Patrick Praude of Delta Thistle to its many successes in growth by attesting to over 600 members including Seniors as well as hosting not only bonspiels but also playdowns. Carl has support from his wife, Wendy, and his family including his grandchildren. It is his desire to continue to work with the curling community of Delta Thistle for the growth of the game we all have come to know & love. Congratulations Carl, on your selection of representing the Delta Thistle Curling Club and thank you for all your volunteer work.