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## The Winnipeg Experiment for Briar '95

Since the Canadian Championships were to be in far away Halifax and the World Easter week in Brandon in '96, the suggestion was made by our hard-working secretary, Fraser Muldrew, that we consider a plan which had been suggested in an indirect way by votes held at previous annual meetings. It was to make the main emphasis upon playing in the Briar, and watch the Briar on T.V. The plan was to acquire living accommodation at the Roman Catholic Educational Centre called St. Benedict, just north of Winnipeg, and to curl at the West St. Paul rink a couple of kilometers removed. T.V.s would be available at both St. Benedict and the rink for viewing of the Briar games in Halifax at times other than Briar games.

This new format proved very acceptable from many points of view. Never have the Friars had as much time to get to know each other and engage in conversation and feel so much together. The rooms were comfortable and the food was nourishing, healthful and plentiful. There were several places that facilitated T.V. viewing, card games, reading and meditation. Since several had driven their own cars, there was no transportation problem when rides were offered those without cars.

It is interesting to note that since the first Conspiel was played in Winnipeg in 1978, Winnipeg has been the host three times and spearheaded the arrangements two other times when the viewing was in nearby Brandon and Portage la Prairie. There is no doubt but that there is a positive attitude toward the game of curling in Manitoba. This is why Fraser said in the invitations to Winnipeg that they were from 'The Curling Capital of the World'.

There was a brand new winner of the gold medallions this year. Gary Williams and his Saskatchewan team consisting of Wes Long, Ron Wegner and John Roberts won in convincing style. Silver went to Guy Scholz and his Alberta rink consisting of Grant Rogers, Carla (his wife) and Herb (his father). The bronze were claimed by Ian Macdonald's Manitoba rink including Cliff McMillan, Peter Douglas and Don Benoit.

In place of the usual early Tuesday morning breakfast, an orientation event was held on the Monday evening at St. Benedicts. Several local curlers and friends came to welcome the curlers. The banquet was held on the Thursday evening at St. Benedicts also. This means that all participants were still in the city and available to attend. At the head table along with President Cliff McMurtry was the secretary, Fraser Muldrew, the treasurer, Ken Innes and their wives, Betty, Marion and Carol, also what Hugh Christmas called, 'The Old Folks Rink'-himself (76), Bishop Ford (78), Bob McAdam (80) and Gerry Ward (82). Bishop Ford offered prayers prior to the meal.

Hanging on a line on the wall behind the head table were memorial sweaters previously worn at Friars' Briars by our late founding president, Don Amos and B.C.'s former director, Wes Bray. Eulogies, written by Bill Fennell and Cliff McMurtry for previous memorial occasions were pinned to the sweaters. Dr. Bill Fennell offered memorial prayers on behalf of those present.

Elected to the Board of Directors for the first time to represent B.C. was Kutch Imayoshi. Also elected to the Board at this Friars' Briar Annual Meeting was Arch McCurdy as a second Ontario representative. Originally it was intended that this person might keep an eye to the East with a view to having participants from provinces beyond the Ontario border.

Competition for the new *Heavenly Hosts Shield* presented by the Calgary Curling Club last year for Regional competition was by groups of three rinks. Manitoba rinks skipped by Ian Macdonald, Don Lurvey and Bishop Don Sjoberg claimed the shield and were presented as well by the secretary with Order of the Buffalo pins. The Wesley Leatherhead 'Amazing Grace' trophy donated by Wood Lake Books was presented to Saskatchewan's Bill Kiesman by the president along with a Golden Boy pin reminiscent of the statue that crowns the Manitoba Legislature building.

Cliff McMurtry was encouraged to continue his work in writing a journal of the Friars' Briar events since its beginning in 1978 with the Conspiel which was held in conjunction with the Silver Broom World Championship games being played there. Letters of good cheer were to be sent to a couple of pioneer members of the Association, namely Mel Boyd in Cambridge, Ontario and Jim Taylor in Port Moody, B.C. Special guests at the banquet from Winnipeg were the Hamptons. Dora had made the beautiful felt Friars' Briar banner many years before that had been transported from one event to the next. Nels curled on the president's rink as long as health permitted. Ken Innes, the treasurer reported a positive balance in the bank account of the association.

After considerable discussion at executive and annual meeting levels, it was decided to cancel ticket reservations to see the Canadian Championship games at Kamloops next year and to ask the president and Vancouver area clergy to arrange a Friars' Briar wherever suitable accommodations and curling arrangements could be worked out. All left saying that Winnipeg '95 had been a very happy experience.



Winnipeg Experiment 1995

Manitoba		Ontario	
Fraser Muldrew	Winnipeg	Arch McCurdy	Alliston
Ken Innes	Winnipeg	Phyllis McCurdy	Alliston
Roger Coll	Winnipeg	Bill Fennell	Toronto
Milton Muldrew	Winnipeg	Helge Hongisto	Oakville
Don Sjoberg	Winnipeg	Henry Petkau	St. Catharines
Blake Carter	Winnipeg	Ben Harder	St. Catharines
John Kunkel	Winnipeg	Doug Sloan	Guelph
Murray McPherson	Winnipeg	Bill Dick	Kitchener
Tom Lurvey	Winnipeg	Bob McNaught	Oshawa
Mike Mechsner	Winnipeg	Vic Sangwine	Oshawa
Bill Lehman	Winnipeg	Beulah McNaught	Oshawa
Ted Chell	Winnipeg	Patrick Muldrew	Winnipeg
Walter Cowan	Winnipeg		
Rolph Nosterud	Winnipeg	Alberta	
Dick Gillanders	Winnipeg	Hugh Christmas	Calgary
Peter Braun	Winnipeg	Gerry Ward	Lethbridge
		Bob McAdam	Saskatoon
Teresa Moysey	Winnipeg	Doug Ford	Calgary
Carol Innes	Winnipeg		
Carol Fletcher	Winnipeg	Guy Scholz	Calgary
Joan Beveridge	Winnipeg	Grant Rodgers	Calgary
		Carla Scholz	Calgary
Ian Macdonald	Winnipeg	Herb Scholz	Langenburg, Sask.
Cliff McMillan	Winnipeg		
Peter Douglas	Winnipeg	Harold Hesje	Saskatoon
Don Benoit	Winnipeg	Perry Olson	Hepburn, Sask
		Gene Grant	Saskatoon
Hal Graham	Winnipeg	Arno Bablitz	Saskatoon
Art Seaman	Gimli		
Maurice Jeannéau	Lorette	Ron Wegner	Saskatoon
Leonce Aubin	Winnipeg	Wes Long	Saskatoon
		Gary Williams	Dalmeny
British Columbia		John Roberts	Saskatoon
Cliff McMurtry	Delta	Bill Kiesman	Asquith
Cameron Reid	Powell River	Lowell Geubert	Saskatoon
Ross Connal	Vancouver	Murray Crawford	Winnipeg
Jim Barton	Victoria	Norah Crawford	Winnipeg