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## The Calgary Extravaganza 1980

Don Amos knew what he was doing when he asked fellows like Bruce Vanstone, Jim Taylor and Hugh Christmas to organize the next Canadian Clergy Curling event. So much had been packed into the Winnipeg *Conspiel* that it was the common opinion of the participants that we needed a year's space between it and the next one. Needed in order to fully realize what a tremendous idea it had been, and to evaluate it with a view to deciding the nature of the next one.

With tongue-in-cheek, some of the United Church clergy had applied for Continuing Education grants, not surprised to be told that the study content was not sufficient to justify same. The Calgary clergy decided that it was too tiring to try and add an educational component to an already full diet of watching two national championship games and playing two clergy games per day. Also, since the game of curling is considered a sport, the emphasis should rather be on recreation.

Accordingly, the Calgary Committee got a local artist from the Knox United congregation to come up with a witty logo. Catherine Robbins sketched the famous picture of the rather bald-headed clergy with robes flying and broom in hand, entering the house perched on a curling rock.



Since the emphasis was to be altered by the removal of the element of study to that of curling and the element of fun and good fellowship that can surround that sport, a new name for the event had to be found. A sports writer suggested a take-off on the old name of the national championship playdowns and its sponsor, The Macdonald Brier. The new name for what came to be our yearly clergy curling event was to be **The Friars' Briar**. It took us a while to get the apostrophe in the right place, but, immediately the name was a popular one with friars and the public at large. We were advised by the Canadian Curling Association that,

under no circumstances should we spell our name with an "e", and those of a temperance background readily agreed that we should not refer to our curling event by the terrible name *Labatt*.

It provided a nice change of venue and an added dimension for the clergy to be able to watch a Canadian championship playdown after being present for the World Championships in Winnipeg in 1978. The Brier playdowns were held in the famous Stampede Corral and the *Briar* games were sandwiched in between the national ones in the novel, two-level, Big Four building just one hundred yards away. Transportation to and from the airport, and from games and events to hotels, was provided by persons recruited by the Calgary Committee.

A first in Friars' Briar curling, was the appearance of three brothers, Phil, Dave and Fred Cline.

Twenty-four rinks enrolled in the '80 *Friars' Briar* - seven from Ontario; two from Winnipeg; one each from Saskatchewan, Wetaskiwin and Vancouver; three from Edmonton and nine from Calgary. Each was presented, on registration, with a circular emblem on which was inscribed our logo. Another surprise was the purchase by the Calgary Clergy Curling Club of a lovely trophy which would be presented to the top rink each year. A suitable sturdy carrying case for this trophy was crafted by the Reverend Ted Becker and son, Paul of Calgary.

Jim Taylor had a letterhead printed which has been used in subsequent years. It bears the *Friars' Briar* logo. The inscription at the top in bold letters reads, *CANADIAN CLERGY CURLING*. Below this, in small print, are the words, "Developed under the Board of Directors of the 'Friars' Briar Association' for the recreational enjoyment of ministers, priests, rabbis and full-time church-employed persons". Also, at the top of the letterhead in bold print are the words, *OUR CANADA-WIDE EVENT - THE FRIARS' BRIAR*. Along the side of the stationery is a list of the Directors and Officers.

At the closing banquet with 96 curlers present, the following were appointed Directors and to be trustees of the new trophy, promote and supervise future events, and set out ground rules for competition:

- Don Amos agreed to act as chairman
- Don Amos and Mel Boyd to represent Ontario
- Fraser Muldrew to represent Manitoba and Saskatchewan
- Hugh Christmas to represent Alberta
- Wes Bray to represent British Columbia

Recreation and friendliness were the prevailing notes from the welcoming reception arranged by the local committee in the Pastoral Institute facility and throughout the week to the closing banquet in the Rotary Park Legion Hall. Hugh Christmas was the Master of Ceremonies for the latter event. Good food and great entertainment was enjoyed by all. At the time the trophy and prizes were awarded, Olympic-style medals with colourful neck ribbons were presented to the three top rinks.

A rink skipped by Fraser Muldrew from Winnipeg and including Ches Morgan, Walter Cowan and Larry Edwards claimed the gold medallions. Second place rink skipped by Pete Addison (Ontario), and including Mel and Muriel Boyd and Tom Mitchell won the silver. Bronze went to a host rink skipped by Hugh Christmas and including Jim Hillson, Joe Rostad and Evan Bottomley.

A final positive feature about the '80 Friars' Briar that warmed the palms, if not the hearts of the participants as they left the banquet proceedings, was a gift of money. The sum determined according to distance travelled, was presented by the Calgary committee from a fund set up for that purpose.

Twenty-four rinks and several spouses made the trip to this not-soon-to-be-forgotten Briar! Attendance at the Calgary event was made more attractive by a good price secured at the Relax Inn; the generous offer of accommodation at St. Mary's Cathedral residence; and the fact that several were invited to be house guests of friends and family members.

Several people took advantage of the opportunity to see the play, *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie McCrimmond* at a local playhouse the week of the Friars' Briar. It was just another chance to be part of a fun-filled extravaganza!

Generous financial support was received from branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Army, Navy and Airforce Assn., the Oil Patch, Eatons, The Bay, Sears and Woodwards department stores.

Rev. Andy Denholm (Toronto)



Whew! It made it.

SECOND ANNUAL ALL-CANADA CLERGY BONSPIEL

THE FRIARS' BRIAR

Calgary, Alberta, March 3 - 7, 1980

HAMILTON, ONT. Walter Allum Basil Adams Dave Nicholson Murray Ford	WINNIPEG, MAN. Cliff McMurtry Larry Koehler Caroline Koehler Murv Kental	CALGARY, ALTA. Ted Smits Len Eichler Alberta Revell Paul Humphry
HAMILTON, ONT. Andy Denholm B. Ennals Les McSpadden Art Hamilton	REDVERS, SASK. Don McIntyre Mary Sutton Ron Sutton Ellen Henbury	CALGARY, ALTA. Hugh Christmas Jim Hillson Joe Rostad Evan Bottomley
BRANTFORD, ONT. D. Amos Phyl McCurdy Arch McCurdy Marj. Amos	CALGARY, ALTA. Bruce Vanstone Norm Radway Ross Baillie Ruth Loschuk	CALGARY, ALTA. Ed Oman Abe Ancelot Dave Sellick Adele Oman
PERTH, ONT. Andrew McKenzie Tom Mitchell Arthur Thornbury Wilda Mitchell	CALGARY, ALTA. E. Shilliday J. Taylor D. Binney K. Howlett	CALGARY, ALTA. Harold Ziprick Val Hennig Irwin Holmes Gerry Graham
KITCHENER/WATERLOO Mel Boyd Pete Addison Vic Wood Muriel Boyd	CALGARY, ALTA. Hugh Bayne Brian Hunter Jack Colclough Harry Steele	ALBERTA & B.C. Phil Cline Dave Cline Fred Cline Curly Doan
TORONTO, ONT. Bill Oliver A. Gross I. McKenzie M. Oliver	EDMONTON, ALTA. Norman MacDonld Val Roos Herb Eriksson Jim McNeill	CALGARY, ALTA. Clive Simpson Al Swinton Lilas Lysne Vince Thormin

SCARBOROUGH, ONT.

Bob McNaught  
Don Graham  
Beulah McNaught  
Doris Graham

WINNIPEG, MAN.

Fraser Muldrew  
Ches Morgan  
Walter Cowan  
Larry Edwards

CALGARY, ALTA.

Gerry Wood  
Jack Reggin  
Ray Price  
John Cunningham

CALGARY, ALTA.

Gord Dickin  
Don Richards  
Ray Blas  
Ernie Halten

WAINWRIGHT, ALTA.

Doug Berry  
Tom Bray  
Helen Mayne  
Wayne Shortt

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Wes Bray  
Ruby Payne  
Cameron Reid  
Gerry Payne

