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The 1982 Brandon Experience

Another first for the Friars' Briar was to go to a city that had no local clergy curling association, as was the case in Brandon, Manitoba. Otherwise, it seemed a good choice since the Labatt's Brier was to be there. It was also very central for the rinks attending from Ontario on the east to B.C. on the west. Those taking part in the London event in 1981, had confidence in the leadership of Fraser Muldrew. He had agreed to set up the local arrangements and work with the other members of the Canadian Clergy Curling Association to insure that this now yearly event take place.

No sooner had the London '81 Briar finished when Fraser got busy meeting with the Brandon '82 Labatt's Brier Committee arranging necessary details. Mr Lyall Campbell was particularly helpful. He assured the Friars of ice at the Brandon Curling Club for their games, and accommodations at the Recreation and Curling Centre or in private homes for our participants. Money for prizes was offered by a local funeral establishment.

Twelve rinks in all entered the Friars' Briar. Three from Ontario, four from Winnipeg, two from Saskatchewan, two from Alberta and one from British Columbia.

The opening breakfast was served at the Rob Roy Restaurant in the Recreational Centre as was the closing banquet. A meal was served by the A.O.T.S. men of Knox United Church on the Wednesday evening.

Winnipeg Clergy Curling Club donated \$500 to assist with expenses and \$480 was donated by Winnipeg funeral homes to establish a travel pool for all who travelled from without the province of Manitoba. A profit of \$124.43 was turned back to the Association for future promotion.

There was an all-time high in attendance at the Labatt Brier '82 National Curling championship games in Brandon held in the Keystone Agricultural Centre from March 7th to 14th. In subsequent national playdowns a large contingent of urban and rural folk from an area surrounding Brandon travelled to see them. There was disappointment in '82 that the local rink did not win the tankard in this their centennial year, but were satisfied that the Thunder Bay rink would be a good contender in the world finals.

The gold medals in the Friars' Briar went to a rink skipped by Dave Iverson of Regina including Tom Powell, Ken Powers and Ray Anderson. Second place and silver medals went to a Calgary rink skipped by Hugh Christmas and including Gordon Dixon, John Cunningham and Jack Elvis.

Bronze medals were won by a Winnipeg rink skipped by Fraser Muldrew including his wife Marion, Walter Cowan and Don McIntyre.

In each of the Canadian Clergy Curling events held thus far something special about each one seems to have stood out. In Brandon it seemed to be the warmth of the hospitality. When hotel/motel space was at a premium, the people of that city responded by opening their homes to the visitors. In a letter of appreciation to the Mayor of Brandon, Hugh Christmas, on behalf of the Friars, wrote this...*It seemed to us that the proverbial open-door hospitality of the pioneer West was alive and evident in Brandon in this its centennial year.*

Don's dream of a closer bond of friendship and goodwill between east and west was surely evident among the curling clergy!

To our great satisfaction, C.B.C.-T.V. crews took time off from their coverage of the Brier championship games to give a few minutes coverage to our Briars games. The results appeared on national news that evening across Canada. Another step toward the stabilization of our Canadian Clergy Curling Association, was the decision in Brandon to sell yearly memberships to participants in the Friars' Briar events at \$5 and club Affiliations at 50 cents per member per year. Before the Brandon event was over, 25 individual memberships and 1 club affiliation were sold.

Friar's Briar - Brandon, 1982

Come, for all is now ready - A Great Curling Banquet.

Twelve complete rinks registered (Non-curling spouses italicized)

Gray & <i>Marjorie</i> Rivers	Dundas	David Iverson	Regina
Mel Boyd	Cambridge	Tom Powell	Regina
Wayne Myhre	Brantford	Ken Powers	Regina
Muriel Boyd	Cambridge	Ray Anderson	Regina
Andy McKenzie	Perth	Mel Murray	Saskatoon
Don Amos	Brampton	Jack Reggin	Saskatoon
Dave Nicholson	Millgrove	Bob McAdam	Saskatoon
Cam Reid	Peterborough	Anna Reggin	Saskatoon
Jack Thompson	London	Gerry Ward	Lethbridge
John & <i>Roberta</i> Vardy	Rodney	Cal Malena	Lethbridge
Gordon Smyth	Balderson	Ken Morris	Lethbridge
Isabel McKenzie	Perth	Keith Churchill	Lethbridge
Fraser Muldrew	Dugald	Hugh Christmas	Calgary
Walter & <i>June</i> Cowan	Winnipeg	Gordon Dixon	Calgary
Don & <i>Helen</i> McIntyre	Souris	Jack Elvis	
Marion Muldrew	Dugald	John Cunningham	Calgary
Grant Smith	Winnipeg	Wes Bray	Clearbrook
Leon Lindquist	Winnipeg	Peter Dumphy	Winnipeg
O. Tudor Hughes	Winnipeg	Bill Bell	New Westminster
Enid Smith	Winnipeg	Mr. Ewing Rae	Winnipeg
Bob Burton	Selkirk	Wilf & <i>Edith</i> Rath	Winnipeg
Harold Ritchie	Winnipeg	Cliff McMurtry	Winnipeg
Gerhardt Pera	Winkler	Bill Morgan	Winnipeg
Ruth Pera	Winkler	Nelson and <i>Dora</i>	Hampton Winnipeg