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## The Victoria '84 Friar

Friars from Ontario, tired of the winter slush, and friars from the Prairies anxious for a break from the cold and snow, looked forward to the opportunity for those in Lotus Land to show them a more pleasant winter alternative. Applications poured in until the number of entries equalled that of the Calgary extravaganza. Never was there a harder working local arrangements committee, nor more suggestions thrown out for the enjoyment of a curling week away from the pressure of lenten schedules than that of Jim Taylor of Port Moody, Wes Bray of Vancouver and Ron Johnstone and his eager group of volunteers from Victoria. In fact, several months before the Briar, Wes had circulated a questionnaire to several former participants, asking for opinions of what might be expected in Victoria and how the event could be further enhanced. Results were certainly forthcoming!

Although the local committee would not take credit for it, the weather was superb and the claim of the Labatt Brier committee for being, *the best bloomin' Brier* was well merited. As Hugh Christmas said in a subsequent newsletter to participants, *if the poet Wordsworth had been there, he might have exclaimed all over again ... "I saw a crowd, a host, of golden daffodils"*. These welcome yellow blooms were everywhere - at the airport when we landed, surrounding the curling ices at the Labatt Brier in the Memorial Rink, and in the grounds of the legislative buildings. What a sight for prairie eyes at this time of the year!

Most of the visitors in Victoria for the Friars' Briar stayed at the Robin Hood Motel, or Sherwood Park Inn across the street, on Gorge Road. We were met at the ferry or airport by members of the Victoria Committee. A meeting was held at the Robin Hood on the Tuesday morning to familiarize us with arrangements made for the Briar and for our pleasure while in Victoria. The draw which was the brainchild of Jim Taylor was explained. Maps were circulated that told us how to get to the three rinks where Briar games were to be played, namely: Esquimalt, Juan de Fuca and Oak Bay. The registration fee was \$60 per curler, which covered the cost of ice for curling, a \$5 membership fee, the banquet, and cost of some prizes and travel. Rostad Tours made a generous contribution to the travel pool which was of special assistance to those travelling from out-of-province. Free bus passes were made available to us by the City of Victoria, which simplified travel to and from the Labatt Brier games in downtown Memorial Rink. A \$50 contribution from Saanich Municipality was received for the purchase of a perpetual trophy to be awarded yearly to *The Best Sportsman* or a designation chosen by the Friars' Briar Association.

Another pleasant surprise that the local committee had ready for the participating friars in Victoria were some 26 Hospitality Gifts which were drawn out of a hat on the Tuesday

and applied to the spouses as well. These could be given or inter-changed with others, if desired. They were tickets for such things as: a Cruise, to Butchart Gardens, to Miniature World, Ann Hathaway's Cottage, Classic Car Museum, Victoria Attractions, Destroyer Tour, Saanich Historical Artifacts Museum. As well, points of interest in the city and area and where they were located, were placed on the rough map of the city given to each participant.

Locations of church services arranged for the interest of friars were also identified on the map. They were at times that would allow ticket holders also to view the final game of the Labatt Brier national championships.

In response to the suggestion that some consideration be given to the inclusion of some Continuing Education as was attempted in the Winnipeg '78 Conspiel, the committee were able to arrange with Vancouver School of Theology that a course entitled, *Preaching Today* take place the week immediately prior to the curling week. Dr. Art Van Seters of Vancouver and D. Pat Wilson-Kasner of New York were the resource people for that Continuing Education event.

Another addition to the regular diet of Friars' Briar events that boggled the minds of prairie residents was a Saturday morning game of golf. As it turned out the rain fell as only it can in B.C. and many balls were not recovered on landing.

Five games were played in the '84 Friars' Briar, one on each of Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and two on Thursday. From the twenty-four rinks competing, three emerged as big winners. Gold medals went to the rink skipped by Don Johns of Ontario and including Harold Martin, Mary Hinan and Cameron Reid. Silver medals went to a rink skipped by Harold Ziprick of Alberta and including Evan Bottomley, Elmer Koronko and Bob Huether. Bronze medals went to a rink skipped by Hugh Bayne of British Columbia and including Jim Hillson, Mervyn Houle and Wayne Shirton. In runner-up position was a rink of Baptists skipped by Gerry Ward of Alberta and including Cal Malena from Saskatchewan and Tom Oshiro and Kutch Imayoshi from British Columbia. The awards banquet was held at Esquimalt U.C.. Some good competitive curling was reported by the local radio and T.V. stations, but a bundle of good fellowship and humor was the recurring note. One friar from B.C. who shall for the records be nameless apparently got day and night mixed up and appeared on the curling ice in some outlandish night attire!

Interest in the Labatt Brier was keen. The friars were positioned at the end of the Memorial Rink very close to the T.V. cameras and were often seen in the background of shots taken for the evening news and were party to some very interesting interviews conducted by sportscaster Steve Armitage. Over 100 books of tickets were picked up by the friars for these games.

For the second year our own Poet Laureate from Edmonton, Herb Ericksson, was heard to declaim on behalf of the visitors to Victoria, these words:

*The Roarin' game  
With 'besom an' stane  
has invaded Victoria this year.  
With twenty-four rinks  
'Tis fitting methinks,  
The Friars have brought all their gear.*

*They pull up their socks  
And trundle the rocks  
At Juan de Fuca one day:  
At a varying pace  
They continue the race  
At Esquimault, perchance at Oak Bay.*

*Our hosts are most kind  
As the visitors find;  
They have planned and prepared for us all  
The flowers of spring  
And the birdies that sing,  
"Need some help? Just give us a call".*

*We're grateful to you,  
Whether many or few,  
At Victoria, for all you have done  
We'd like to come back  
With a foot in the hack,  
And our faces and hands in the sun.*

Just a closing little anecdote that illustrates the vigor and productivity of some of the founders and subsequent participants of Briar events. On arriving at Victoria, the writer called the Robin Hood Motel to make contact with the hard working Local Committee chair, three score years and ten, Jim Taylor. A happy and exuberant female voice answered the phone call with the words, *Oh, Jim is in the bathtub with the baby.*

Not having been in communication with Jim for several years, the writer was not aware that, he had subsequently remarried and was now the proud father of another son. Baby Robbie received great care from many of the curlers' spouses while his mother Mary Jane, kept things lively on the ice for the rink skipped by Jim. Robbie was the centre of attraction at the Esquimault United Church awards banquet on the Friday evening as well.



The Don Johns rink receiving the trophy from Wes Bray,  
Co-Chairman of the Canadian Clergy Curling Championship  
Committee

1984

Victoria Briar - '84

Don Johns	Don Mills	Hugh Christmas	Calgary
Harold Martin	Ottawa	Irvin Hohm	Calgary
Mary Hinan	Peterborough	Don MacMahon	Calgary
Cam Reid	Peterborough	Vince Thormin	Calgary
Harold Ziprick	Calgary	Ernie Eldridge	Vancouver
Evan Bottomley	Calgary	Jerry Payne	Vancouver
Elmer Koronko	Calgary	Ray Tingley	Vancouver
Bob Huether	Calgary	Ruby Payne	Vancouver
Fraser Muldrew	Dugald	Bill Bell	New Westminster
Walter Cowan	Winnipeg	Wes Bray	Clearbrook
Bill Morgan	Winnipeg	Adriana vanDuyvendyk	Burnaby
Marion Muldrew	Dugald	Lynne Jarry	Delta
Andy McKenzie	Perth	Wes Warren	Richmond
John Vardy	Kirkton	Caroline Koehler	Surrey
John Dexter	Victoria	Larry Koehler	Surrey
Ted Adams	Victoria	Gordon Hyde	Vancouver
Andy Denholm	Willowdale	Jim Taylor	Port Moody
Vic Sangwine	Oshawa	Gerald McMechan	Victoria
Bernard Ennals	Islington	Mary Jane Taylor	Port Moody
Janet Denholm	Willowdale	Lilas Lysne	Calgary
Gray Rivers	Dundas	Wendell Phillips	Vancouver
Alfred Gross	Williamsville	Ken Wheaton	Vancouver
Bob McNaught	Scarborough	Bill Taylor	Vancouver
Beulah McNaught	Scarborough	Govin Kilgour	Vancouver
Grant Smith	Winnipeg	Mel Boyd	Cambridge
Ed White	Winnipeg	Earl McIntyre	Morden
Bob Thompson	Winnipeg	Dixon Moor	Brantford
Enid Smith	Winnipeg	Muriel Boyd	Cambridge
Wilf Raths	Winnipeg	Hugh Bayne	Trail
Cliff McMurtry	Winnipeg	Jim Hillson	Trail
Don McIntyre	Souris	Mervyn Houle	Creston
Nelson Hampton	Winnipeg	Wayne Shirton	Winfield
Ed Oman	Calgary	Ron Johnstone	Victoria
Ron Jeffrey	Calgary	Bill Howie	Victoria
Tom Bray	Calgary	S. MacLean	Victoria
Paul Humphrey	Calgary	H. Esau	Victoria

Gerry Ward  
Tom Oshiro  
Cal Malena  
Kutch Imayoshi

Joe Rostad  
Henry Popoff  
Janet Popoff  
Doris Rostad

Don Olson  
Curly Doan  
Herb Eriksson  
Val Roos

Lethbridge  
New Westminster  
Saskatoon  
Vancouver

Calgary  
Calgary  
Calgary  
Calgary

Edmonton  
Edmonton  
Edmonton  
Edmonton

Stephen Swift  
Syd Bell  
Murray James-Groom  
Mel Adams

Harry Kerley  
George Tuttle  
Joe Price  
Ron Johnson

Gordon Dickin  
John Dyer  
Gordon Walker  
Roy Thomson

Brentwood Bay  
Victoria  
Victoria  
Victoria

Victoria  
Sidney  
Victoria  
Kindersley

Pender Island  
Victoria  
Victoria  
Victoria