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## Sunny Tsawwassen Briar 1996

At the last meeting of the Friars' Briar Association the decision was made to release the tickets being held for us in Kamloops for the 1996 Labatt Briar games arranged by the President and instead, with the help of Kutch Imayoshi, the B.C. director, and the greater Vancouver clergy curlers, arrange for our 1996 Briar in the Vancouver area where suitable curling and accommodation facilities could be worked out. Costs and the close proximity of one to the other proved to be the determining factors. The decision was to accept the suggestion of the President and to hold the 1996 Briar in Tsawwassen, located just 30 minutes from the heart of Vancouver, 5 minutes from the ferry terminal, and easy daily driving distance for clergy in the Lower Mainland.

Ice at the Tunnel Town Rink in the South Delta Sports Complex was great - especially after the first couple of ends of the early morning draw. The snack bar on the lower level was convenient and the bar and T.V. viewing of the Kamloops games on the upper level provided opportunities for breaks between Friar games.

Accommodations at the Best Western Tsawwasswen Inn just across the street proved to be a real treat for out-of-towners. A hospitality suite was available during the day for T.V. viewing, coffee and conversation. The indoor pool and fine restaurant were much appreciated. Several other restaurants were within walking distance. Spouses appreciated the buses that left for Vancouver every half hour. Several joined Betty McMurtry in a visit to the quaint fishing village and seaport at nearby Steveston and to the floating homes in the Ladner harbour.

For reasons of convenience, most of the organizational work for this Briar was done by a group of Cliff's fellow curlers in the Tunnel Town Senior's Club. The manager, George Goodwin, worked out the draw and put his computer to good use on our behalf. He also saw the price was right for ice with the municipality. The seniors' president, Glenn Tibbatt, looked after the score cards and entered the daily results. Clare McBurney proved to be a fine registrar and looked after much detail. Ted Banks arranged transportation needs to and from the airport. Jack Mooney and Don Parker set up welcoming arrangements. All the smart communication documents came from the computer of Earl Wilson. Moral and financial assistance came from Kutch and members of the Greater Vancouver Clergy Club.

Tuesday morning, March 5 at 8:30 a.m., twenty clergy rinks from Guelph, Ontario to Victoria B.C., gathered at the Tunnel Town Curling Club in Tsawwassen for an *Orientation Breakfast* preceding the first draw of the 1996 Friars' Briar. And what a breakfast, catered to by Tracy from the local Kin Recreation Centre for Seniors - scones, muffins, danish, fruit and cheese,

cereals, omelettes, hash browns, ham, sausages, tea and coffee! Just \$8.00 - part of the registration fee.

All twenty rinks participated in five games of round robin play. At the completion of these games the top eight rinks entered the Championship round and the remaining twelve, the Consolation round. All were eight-end games except the finals on Friday afternoon, March 8 at 3:15 o'clock.

Play throughout this Briar ranged from very keen and competitive to unimpressive and hilarious. Guy Scholz and his Calgary rink including Grant Rodgers and Carla Scholz plus a last minute lay lead from the Tunnel Club, Ken Pemberton, won the gold medallions. Gary Williams and his Saskatchewan rink including Ron Wegner, Wes Long and John Roberts claimed the silver medallions. Fraser Muldrew and his Winnipeg rink including Ken Innes, Roger Coll and Milton Muldrew took the bronze medallions. Dennis Butcher of Edmonton and his rink including George Friedrich, Harold Witte and Henry Lockhart took home the athletic bags for fourth place.

The social highlight of the 1996 Briar was the Thursday night banquet at Tsawwassen Inn. Although a few of the in-province curlers were unable to attend because of previous commitments, we were happy to have seventeen extra guests, including wives and family members. The tables were dressed with white cloths and black napkins and candle. Following a get-acquainted glass of fruit punch all filled their plates (at least once) from a table laden with five kinds of salad, a crudite tray of fresh vegetables, a hip of roast beef, salmon fillets, rice, cooked vegetables. This was followed by another table laden with assorted pastries, squares, chocolate mousse, tea and coffee. The chef later said he never saw as much food leave the kitchen in as short a time! This \$22 meal was also part of the initial \$75 registration for participating curlers.

We were fortunate to have among our curling friars, two members of the Common Cup Musical group who not only favored us with a few of their most recent religious recordings, but also sang some fun verses composed for the occasion. These will appear at the conclusion of this chapter. Also present was United Church friar, John Davidson, from Brentwood Bay on the Island who sang once again for some of us who used to hear him on the radio in the Prairies singing, 'Stop Your Ticklin' Jock'. Tribute was paid by Cliff McMurtry and Bob McNaught to two former Briar participants whose deaths occurred since the last Friars' Briar, namely Jim Taylor and Vic Sangwine.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friars' Briar Association followed the banquet program. Fraser Muldrew was elected Vice President and Arch McCurdy was named Secretary. Hugh Christmas had been chosen by the Alberta friars present to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of long-time director and participant, Gerry Ward, whose term had expired. The offer to host the 1997 Briar by the Calgary Clergy Curling Club was accepted with great satisfaction. It is hoped that the 1998 Briar can be held in Ontario as we haven't been in Eastern Canada since the Briar in Ottawa in 1993. It is hoped that a place can be found where there will be reasonably priced accommodation such as a college or retreat centre which is also near a curling facility.

For scoring purposes, the two Saskatchewan rinks were linked with the eight British Columbia rinks against the rinks from Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta for competition during the first eight round-robin games played, to determine the winner of the *Heavenly Hosts Regional Shield*. The more eastern grouping won hands down in 1996! The *Wesley Leatherhead Amazing Grace* trophy was presented to Bill Fennell for his grace, on and off the ice.

From funds generated by the local committee and a contribution by the Association, travel grants were given to all out-of-province participants, amounts varying with distance travelled. These were received with obvious appreciation.

To justify the *lotus land* description of the site of the 1996 Friars' Briar given in the advance literature, the local committee procured primula plants from a local florist to adorn the breakfast tables to be taken by the out-of-province curlers back to their hotel rooms. The committee also prevailed upon the Municipality of Delta and the Province of B.C. and Chamber of Commerce for the supply of pins and descriptive pamphlets of local places of interest that were given to curlers as they registered. In the interest of National Unity they arranged that at each table both a rink from the East and one from the West would eat breakfast together. At the hotel the Muldrew brothers agreed to look after the Hospitality Suite and be available to answer questions and meet the needs of first-time participants. Cliff and Betty McMurtry made their suite available in the evenings of the Briar for coffee and conversation.

Seems like the 1996 Friars' Briar met with a high level of acceptance by the participants. Some of the comments received in letters following the event were:

*...the icing on the cake was the proximity of the motel and restaurants to the curling ice.*

*...the Best Western accommodation was excellent.*

*...great ice.*

*...what a wonderful time we had at the Friars' Briar in Tsawwassen!*

And now for the words by Ian Macdonald and Bob Wallace entitled,

#### TAKE MY ROCK

Take my rock and let it be  
Consecrated, God, to thee;  
Take my broom, my slider, too  
Smite my foes, for I'm lying two.

Take my skip to be thine own,  
Though he missed his last three stones,  
Forgive him for his weird game shot,  
Place him somewhere nice and hot.

Take the thirds and grant them grace.  
When they fall upon their face;  
Comfort them with ends like heaven, for  
We're coming home and we need eleven.

Leads and seconds, let them cope,  
With shouting skips that kill their hope  
The first are last, the last are first  
The meek have lost, the stones are cursed.

Soon will end this Friars' Briar,  
A 'spiel divine that lifts us higher;  
Calgary beckons, have no fear,  
We'll all curl better this time next year.

The Friars' Briar Curling Banquet began with this grace, offered by Rev. Ronald Johnstone of Victoria:

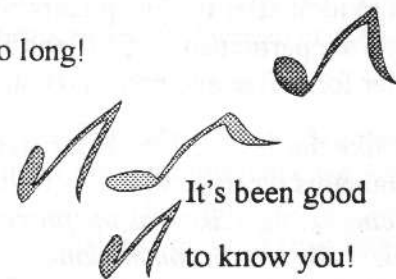
*O God, we know that your big book tells us that sinners stand in slippery places.  
We have been standing in slippery places for three days, and we confess that we  
are enjoying it.*

*We ask, O God, that you will have a lot of curling ice in your celestial arena,  
because we are all coming.*

*But just for tonight we want to say thank you for this food. Amen.*



So long!

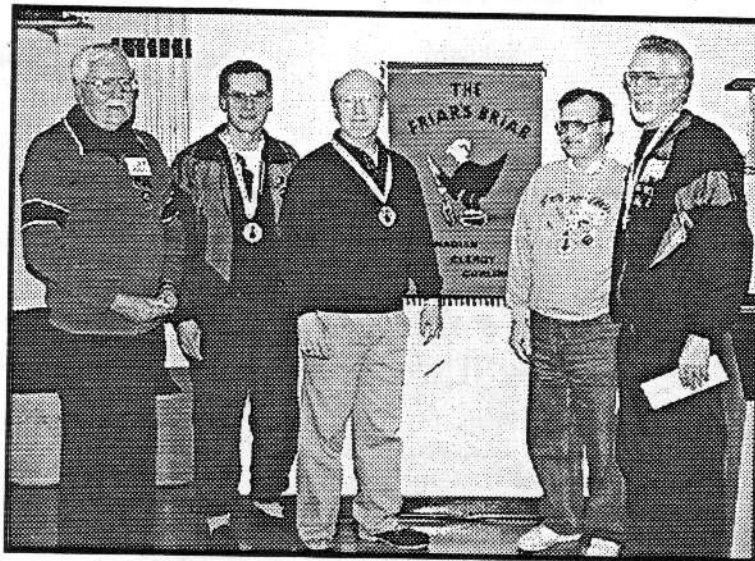


Sunny  
Tsawwassen





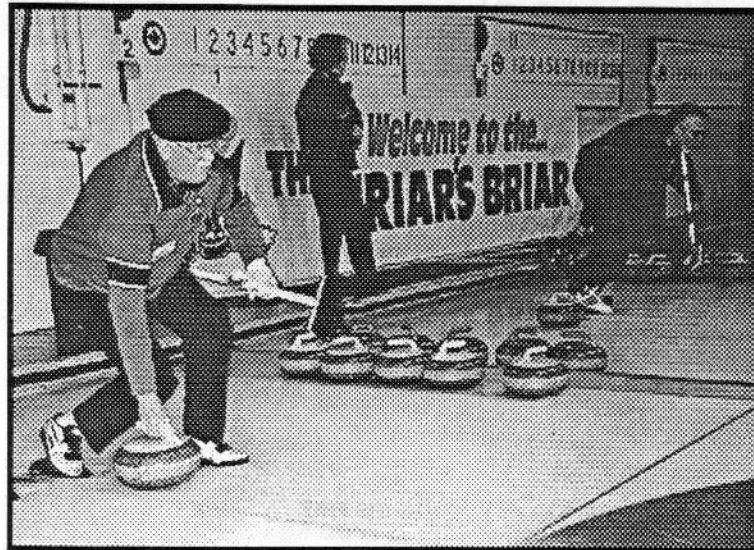
Guy's Gang Gets Gold - Tsawwassen 1996



Silver to Gary Williams rink



Bronze to the Fraser Muldrew rink



Host, Cliff McMurtry casts first stone(?)

Tsawwassen Briar 1996

British Columbia		Alberta	
Bob Burrows	Vancouver	George Budd	Okotoks
Fred Cline	White Rock	Gary Hellard	Osler, Sask.
Rick Taylor	Vancouver	Hugh Christmas	Calgary
Frances Newsome	Vancouver	Dave Budd	Calgary
Art Griffin	Vancouver	Dennis Butcher	Sherwood Park
Kutch Imayoshi	Vancouver	George Friedrich	Edmonton
Ian Grant	Langley	Harold Witte	Edmonton
Emmitt Holmes	Vancouver	Henry Lockhart	Edmonton
Ron Johnstone	Victoria	Don Brown	Edmonton
Bill Howie	Victoria	Jack Colclough	Edmonton
Chauncey MacKay	Victoria	Vern Wishart	Edmonton
Jack Westaway	Victoria	Bob Schimmel	Edmonton
Lawrence Koehler	Surrey	Ed Oman	Calgary
C. Ed White	Gibsons	Harold Ziprick	Calgary
Caroline Koehler	Surrey	George Graffunder	Calgary
Bonnie Stroup	Tsawwassen	Bob Stanich	Calgary
Ian MacDonald	Coquitlam	Guy Scholz	Calgary
Curly Doan	Chilliwack	Grant Rodgers	Calgary
Murray Thompson	Burnaby	Carla Scholz	Calgary
Bob Wallace	Sardis	Ken Pemberton	Delta
Bob Miller	Richmond	Manitoba	
Cameron Reid	Powell River	Fraser Muldrew	Winnipeg
Cliff McMurtry	Delta	Ken Innes	St. Andrews
Ross Connal	Vancouver	Roger Coll	Winnipeg
Harry Steele	Surrey	Milt Muldrew	Winnipeg
Jim Hillson	Vancouver	Ewing Rae	Brechin, Ont
Kris Jensen	Langley	Dick Gillanders	Winnipeg
Neil Peterson	Surrey	Laurie Wilmot	Winnipeg
Saskatchewan		Noreen Gillanders	Winnipeg
Harold Hesje	Saskatoon	Ontario	
John Davidson	Brentwood	Andy Denholm	Willowdale
Jim Barton	Victoria	Stan Yokota	Scarborough
Fran Barton	Victoria	Bob McNaught	Oshawa
Gary Williams	Dalmeny	Lloyd Tilley	Toronto
Ron Wegner	Saskatoon	Arch McCurdy	Alliston
Wes Long	Saskatoon	Murray Rounding	Paisley
John Roberts	Saskatoon	Bill Fennell	Etobicoke
		Phyl McCurdy	Alliston
		Doug Sloan	Guelph
		Helge Hongisto	Oakville
		Bill Dick	Kitchener
		Lloyd Kruschenske	Guelph