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## Year 2000 Briar — Saskatoon (The City of Bridges)

When the time came in the annual meeting of the Friars' Briar Association at the 1999 Briar to announce the place of next year's event, the Saskatoon Clergy Curling Club were ready with bright yellow leaflets, inviting us to come to Saskatoon. Arrangements had already been made to use the refurbished Hub City Curling Club and to book accommodations at the Park Town Hotel or the Queens House of Retreats. Those of us who had been hosted in Saskatoon at the 1989 Briar, recalled Sask Place and its acres of parking space north of the airport where the Labatt Brier Canadian Championships had been played. Having already had a taste of Saskatchewan hospitality, we knew that we were in for another great time at the 2000 Friars' Briar.

A shadow was cast over both the Labatt Brier and the Friars' Briar by the death of the greatly admired young curler, Sandra Schmirler, in Regina on the Thursday preceding these two curling events. Sandra and her rink, consisting of Jan Bettker, Joan McCusker and Marcia Guderiet, had won three world championships and the first official Olympic Gold Medal. Time was taken out of the Labatt Brier on Monday afternoon (March 6) to participate in the broadcast of her funeral service, and at the beginning of the Monday evening Friars' Briar game for a prayer on her behalf and that of her family. One of our friars, Guy Scholz of Calgary, had finished a book on Sandra entitled, *Gold On Ice*, just prior to her death. Donated copies were among the prizes awarded at the 2000 Briar.

When the registrations were in, David Hunter reported to his committee that twenty rinks were competing — two from Vancouver, three from Edmonton, four from Calgary, five from Saskatoon, one from Regina, three from Winnipeg, one from Guelph and one from St. Catharines. Please note that the cities named sometimes include rink members from as many as four provinces as is the case on the Cline family rink. Also, the Guelph rink who donated a curler to Calgary and had curlers from Toronto and Oakville.

The 2000 Briar got off to a great start following late afternoon registrations on the Monday and a delicious assortment of finger foods prepared by Sandy of the Hub City C.C. coffee shop served with coffee for supper. Les Lazaruk from a local radio station presided over the opening ceremonies. Councillor Donna Birkmaier brought greetings from the City of Saskatoon, and Fraser Muldrew from the Friars' Briar Association. The procession out on to the ice for the opening games was led by a piper, John Pollock. The Brier Bear held the broom for the first rock thrown by Charlie Brown (played by Sean Hoy) of the *Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon* currently playing in the city.

The opening game decided the winner of the coveted Heavenly Host Award given by the Calgary Curling Club for East/West competition yearly. Everyone west of the host city was considered West and the host city and those east were their Eastern rivals. The West won by

a score of 8 to 2. Whoever claimed the privilege of taking home the shield gets the privilege also of seeing that it gets to Kitchener in 2001!

The host committee did a great job in soliciting some useful prizes from a host of local sponsors. This allows more attention to be paid to the travel pool which is available to out-of-province curlers, many of whom find the finances to attend, a real problem, especially if they have a young family back home to support.

In an attempt to have all registrants to the Friars' Brier enjoy some of the atmosphere of the National Curling Championship games of the Labatt Brier, each was given a ticket to watch, in person, one game of the curling action at Sask Place. The cost was part of the \$100 registration fee which covered ice rental, banquet and lunches, and other administration outlays.

Some of the features of the draw were as follows: All teams curled nine games. (This proved quite a challenge for some of the senior curlers.) Ties were broken by a shootout in which each player shot one rock and the rings were valued from one to four points depending on their closeness to the centre. The games were eight ends unless fewer were agreed upon by the two skips as the game progressed. Teams were divided into two groups, each playing a round robin. The top four teams in each group played off to determine the medals and overall standing. The others played for overall standing. Ties were determined by shootouts, previously established.

Daily news sheets were available called, *Friars' Brier Perspectives*, giving the standings in the games, comments on events taking place around the curling and helpful information, also the names of our sponsors. This is how David Hunter and Ken Peterson spent their spare time after the rest of us had gone to bed! Other members of the hard-working local committee were: Gene Grant (chair), Don Barss, Joe Krystyniak, Wendell Stevens and Harold Hesje. A van was made available by one of the local automobile companies. Bill Brown was the congenial driver who picked up curlers at the Queens House of Retreats and at the Park town Hotel when that van was not available. Other local laymen assisting with transportation were, Abe Zacharias and Wally Boymook. Another initiative of the Local Committee was the design and ordering of several sweatshirts for sale. They were an elegant blue/turquoise color with the Friars' logo superimposed over the year 2000 on the front. They proved to be very popular with the buyers.

One of the real highlights of this time together prior to the celebration of Easter for faith-bearers of many denominations from across Canada has been the Thursday night banquet. Saskatoon's event was no exception. It was held in the large banquet hall of the Parktown Hotel. The food was great and a spirit of comradeship contagious. The Emcee was Darrell Utley, who writes a daily column in the local Star Phoenix under the caption, *aka Barney from the bowling alley*. His introduction included a piece he had written that week in the newspaper called, *Clergy Compete with Brier Patch*. You will find its contents as an appendage to this chapter. Also in the program was a humorous monologue by Elmer Lundback, a retired school principal, presently very active in church and choir at St. Martins United in Saskatoon. You will enjoy reading his put-down on the game of curling! There was some lively music by our Committee Chair, Gene Grant and his cohorts, Nancy Guebert and Herb Essenburg. They referred to themselves simply as *Sunshine*. Not to be outdone in the musical (?) world was our Registrar, David Hunter and his musical apparatus composed of Japanese plastic plumbing fittings. He came on as *The Goose and David Kaiser*.

The banquet program was followed by the Annual Meeting of the Friars' Briar Association presided over by the retiring president, Fraser Muldrew. Jan Huntjens, secretary, summarized the minutes of last year's meeting and of a meeting of the Executive Board held prior to this meeting. Ken Innes, treasurer, reported on the current state of the finances. Fraser presented the names of those nominated to the Executive of the Board of Directors: President: Kutch Imayoshi; Vice President: Doug Sloan; Treasurer: Ken Innes; Secretary: Jan Huntjens; Past President: Fraser Muldrew. The slate was accepted for the year 2000-2001. Cameron Reid was added to the Board of Directors to represent B.C., replacing Kutch Imayoshi who was now President. Cliff McMurtry (Archivist) and Kutch Imayoshi agreed to bring suggestions for updating the Constitution of the Association to next year's meeting.

A committee named by the Board Executive consisting of Fraser Muldrew, Doug Sloan, Andy Denholm and Jan Huntjens agreed to look into the matter of obtaining a national sponsor for the Friars' Briar events. A period of silence was observed for Duncan White and Basil Adams and any other clergy curlers who had passed away during the past year. The meeting adjourned and all agreed it had been a good evening together! Spouses and special guests are always welcome to our banquets!

The final event of the 2000 Friars' Briar was a luncheon served by Sandy of the Hub City Curling club and the Awards ceremony. Cliff McMurtry presented the now famous award given by Ralph Milton of Wood Lake Press for the person showing good sportsmanship. It has been referred to by Ralph as the *Wesley Leatherhead* or *Amazing Grace* trophy. The hard-working chair of the Local Committee and musician at the banquet, Gene Grant, was this year's recipient. Dave Hunter then presented the Friars' Briar trophy and gold medals to the George Budd rink from Alberta (with the exception of a third from B.C.) Budd's buddies were Arnie Friesen, Stephen Hambidge and Ori Oldfield. Receiving the silver medals was the Guy Scholz rink from Calgary (with the exception of his father from Saskatchewan). The guys with Guy were Grant Rodgers, Dan Eagle and Herb Scholz. Bronze medals went to the Phil Hink rink from Edmonton. Other members of the rink were George Friedrich, Darryl Dewalt and Lorne Lissel (another Lutheran, but from Saskatoon). Following the presentations to the top three rinks, each rink was called, in order of their standing, to select a prize from among the table of generous donations from various local sponsors. The newly elected president of the Association, Kutch Imayoshi prayed for a safe trip home for all competitors and friends of the 2000 Briar in Saskatoon and asked them to watch the mail for announcement of the 2001 Briar in eastern Canada, in the region of Ottawa where the next Canadian Briar is to be played.

P.S. May the writer be excused if he adds this note to draw attention to the fact that while the clergy curlers were all wrapped up in the Briar games, curlers from the provinces and the Territories were contending for the Briar. It just happened that when the fog was lifted, the B.C. team skipped by Greg McAulay of B.C. appeared as the clear winner. He joined Kelley Law of the Women's team and Brad Kuhn of the Junior Men's team in setting a Canadian record. All were teams from B.C. and all went on to win World championships in the same year! It was high time for poor old B.C. to receive a morale boost! Thanks for your applause.

## THEY JUST GO NUTS FOR CURLING

Oh they just go nuts for curling when winter time is here.  
They lose their sleep like silly creeps, it's the same thing every year.  
Oh they just go nuts for curling and they have for fifty years,  
And young or old when it's warm or cold give out with cheers and jeers.  
The women work like busy bees at serving soup and pie.  
They sure fill up an empty spot in lots of hungry guys.  
Oh they all go nuts for curling; everyone picks up a broom.  
Mom, Dad and kids all flip their lids and it's over all too soon.  
Now I don't know about curling; so last night I slipped out to the rink.  
There is so much noise and confusion that I hardly could think.  
Everybody is talking together and something is queer;  
No one hardly ever mentions the weather.  
Some Grandpa named Wendell Stevens is talking about curling 50 years ago.  
So I stick around to see if I could hear something I wanted to know.  
I hear about hog and button, and about putting something in the house.  
And about the man who missed his broom being some sort of louse.  
Then I hear that someone was shot, and they had to put on a guard.  
Then they said they got Gene Grant to sweep; they wanted to keep things clean.  
I move on a little further and I hear a man talking who is Cam Reid.  
He says He, Cliff McMurtry, Fraser Muldrew and Hugh Christmas are going to make a rink.  
Then someone else hollers, *You can't plug a rink!*  
I think that man must have been crazy  
Because they don't want to plug the rink, they just wanted to make one.  
If four men are nice enough to want to make a new rink they should let them.  
By now I figure I know all about curling so I go home and tell my wife how to play.  
I tell her about the hog that is so big some can't get over it.  
And everybody brags about how well they can draw buttons.  
Then there is the lousy guy who missed his broom.  
He must have been awful forgetful; He was still carrying it.  
And some of them must have been murderers because someone was shot  
and they had to put on a guard.  
Whenever they got something in the house they called on Gene Grant to sweep it out.  
I think this all over and as I crawl into bed I say,  
*Mama, I think I'll just play checkers instead.*  
Oh they all go nuts for curling when winter time is here,  
So pull up your socks and throw your rocks; come back again next year.

## FRIARS' BRIAR 2000

### ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CURLERS

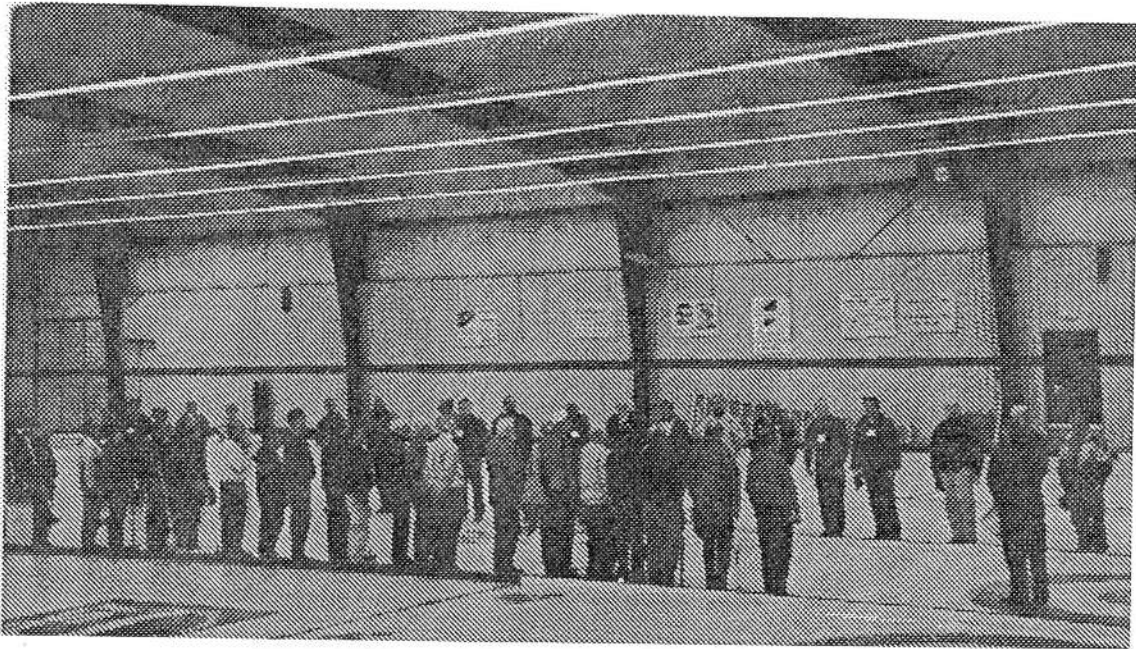
Arno Bablitz	Wynyard, SK	Andy Jones	Calgary, AB
Don Barss	Saskatoon, SK	David Kaiser	Regina, SK
Bill Brown	Saskatoon, SK	Tom Kahlet	Dalmeny, SK
Don Brown	Edmonton, AB	Alf Kiesman	Kamloops, BC
George Budd	Okatokes, AB	Andrew Kiesman	Saskatoon, SK
Amy Butcher	Winnipeg, MB	Bill Kiesman	Salmon Arm, BC
Dennis Butcher	Winnipeg, MB	Aaron Klassen	Kitchener, ON
Mavor Eagle	Calgary, AB	Lorne Lissel	Saskatoon, SK
Hugh Christmas	Calgary, AB	Frank Littel	Calgary, AB
Ellis Cline	Saskatoon, SK	Henry Lockhart	Edmonton, AB
Fred Cline	White Rock, BC	Wes Long	Saskatoon, SK
Phil Cline	St. Catherines, ON	Chauncey MacKay	Victoria, BC
Steve Cline	Airdrie, AB	Cal Malena	Saskatoon, SK
Jack Colcough	Edmonton, AB	Bob McAdam	Tisdale, SK
Roger Coll	Winnipeg, MB	Betty McMurtry	Delta, BC
Ross Connal	Vancouver, BC	Cliff McMurtry	Delta, BC
Phil Costain	Calgary, AB	Ken Morris	Edmonton, AB
Andy Denholm	North York, ON	Fraser Muldrew	Winnipeg, MB
Darryl Dewalt	Edmonton, AB	Orie Oldfield	Calgary, AB
William Dick	Kitchener, ON	Ed Oman	Calgary, AB
Dan Eagle	Calgary, AB	Jim Osborne	Saskatoon, SK
Stewart Folster	Saskatoon, SK	Ken Peterson	Saskatoon, SK
George Friedrich	Edmonton, AB	Cameron Reid	Powell River, BC
Arnie Friesen	Abbotsford, BC	John Roberts	Saskatoon, SK
Dick Gillanders	Winnipeg, BC	Marlene Roberts	Saskatoon, SK
Noreen Gillanders	Winnipeg, MB	Grant Rogers	Calgary, AB
Gene Grant	Saskatoon, SK	Guy Scholz	Calgary, AB
Ian Grant	Vancouver, BC	Herb Scholz	Yorkton, SK
Allan Grundahl	Saskatoon, SK	Wayne Shirton	Edmonton, AB
Clarence Hagen	Birch Hills, SK	Dan Skaret	Saskatoon, SK
Murray Halvorson	Kyle, SK	Doug Sloan	Guelph, ON
Stephen Hambridge	Calgary, AB	Joy Sloan	Guelph, ON
Kathy Haugen	Regina, SK	Harry Steele	Surrey, BC
Sid Haugen	Regina, SK	Thelma Stevens	Saskatoon, SK
Harold Hesje	Saskatoon, SK	Wendell Stevens	Saskatoon, SK
Phil Hink	Edmonton, AB	Ward Stewart	Saskatoon, SK
Irene Hohm	Invermere, BC	Jack Toth	Calgary, AB
Irvin Hohm	Invermere, BC	Dexter Van Dyke	Saskatoon, SK
Emmitt Holmes	Vancouver, BC	Siegfried Wall	Winnipeg, MB
Heige Hongisto	Oakville, ON	Teenie Wall	Winnipeg, MB
David Hunter	Saskatoon, SK	Ron Wegner	Saskatoon, SK
Jan Huntjens	Etobicoke, ON	Gary Williams	Delmany, SK
Katsumi Imayoshi	Vancouver, BC	Anna Winter	Winnipeg, MB
Carole Innes	St. Andrew's, MB	Dave Winter	Winnipeg, MB
Ken Innes	St. Andrew's, MB	Harold Witte	Edmonton, AB











The Clergy Curlers render a rousing *O Canada* to highlight the opening of the 21st Friars' Briar in Saskatoon, March 6, 2000.



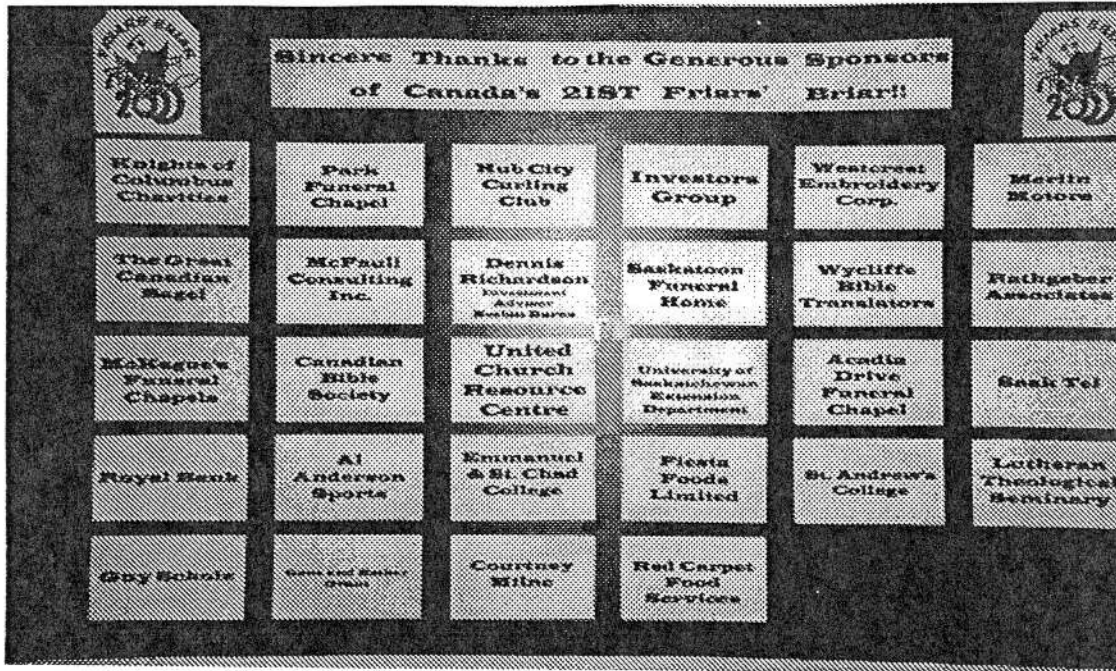
Maleable Charlie Brown (Sean Hoy) "casts the first stone" at the Friars' Briar while piper John Pollock and Dave Hunter stand by.

THE  
FRIAR'S BRIAR

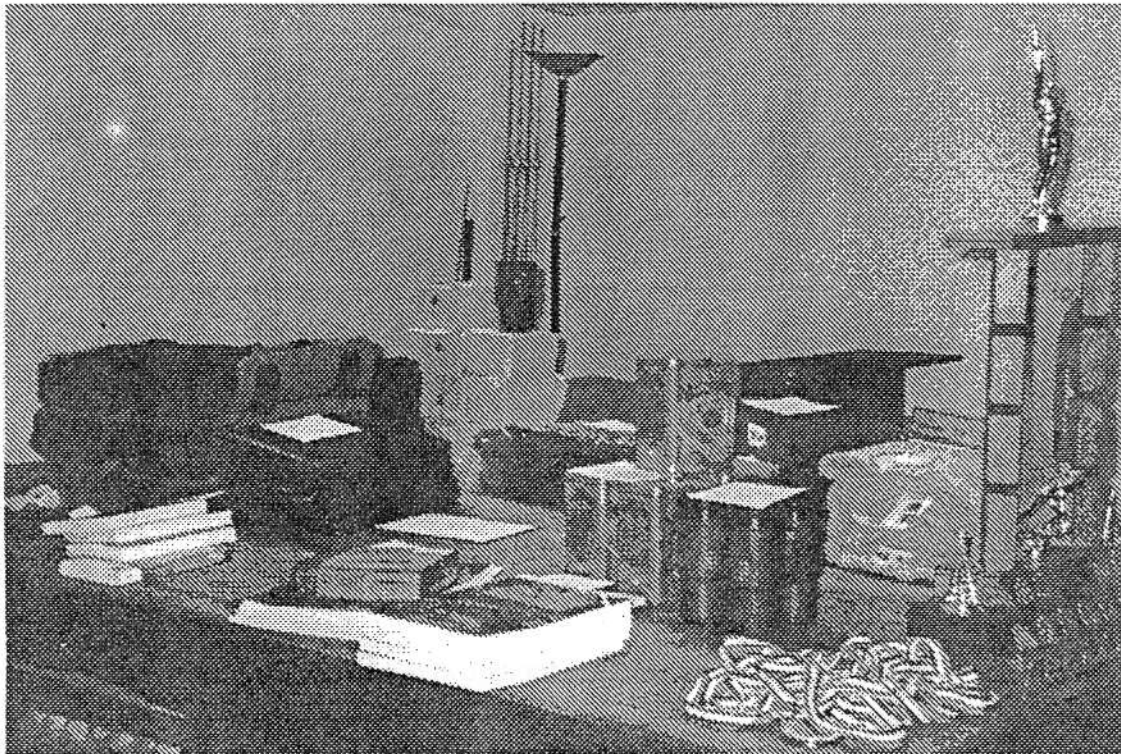


CANADIAN  
CLERGY  
CURLING

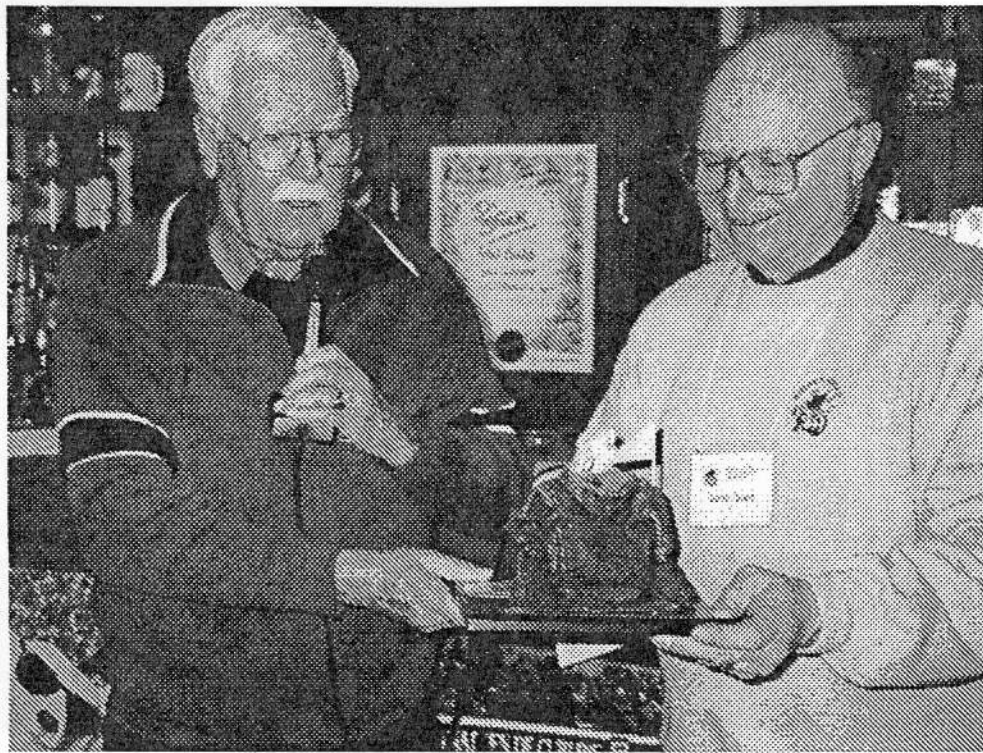




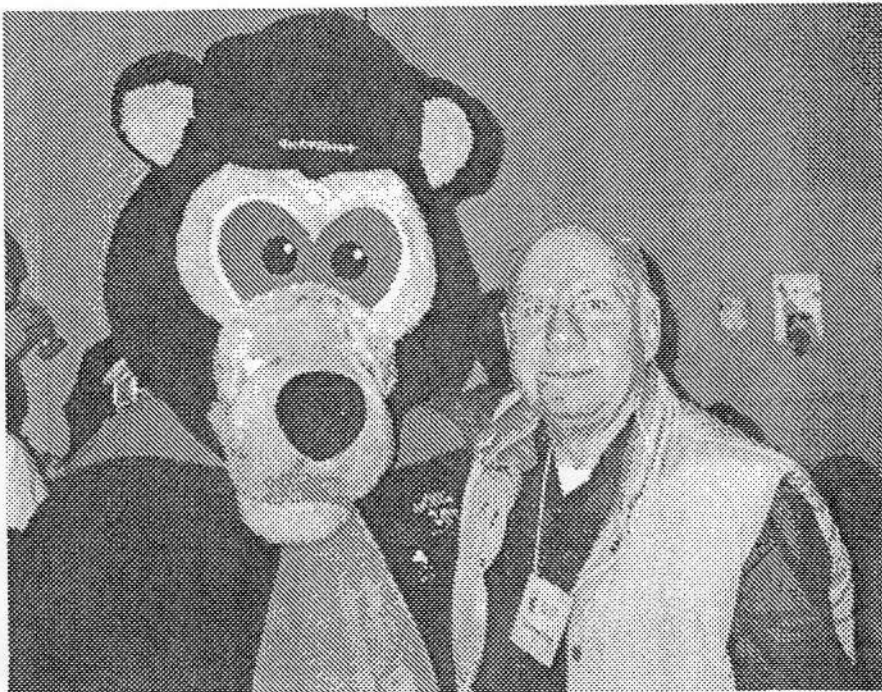
The Friars' Briar were proud of their many great sponsors.



The table of medals and prizes.



Gene Grant, hardworking *Local Arrangements Chair* presented with the *Amazing Grace Trophy*.



Cam Reid with the Brier Bear.

## Calgary Rinks take the Gold & Silver



President Fraser Muldrew presents first place trophy and gold medals to (r-l) Skip George Budd, Arnie Friesen, Stephen Hambidge and Orie Oldfield.



Silver Medals to another Calgary rink (r-l) Skip Guy Scholz, Grant Rodgers, Dan Eagle and Herb Scholz.

