

Harold Hesje, Dan Skaret, Gene Grant, Esther Grant
All from Saskatoon

Kutch Imayoshi, Ian Grant, Art Griffin, Emmitt Holmes
Vancouver BC Surrey BC Vancouver Vancouver

Cameron Reid, Dan Eagle, Cliff McMurtry, Ross Connal
Powell R., BC Surrey BC Delta, BC Vancouver, BC

Gary Williams, Wes Long, Ron Wegner, John Roberts
All from Saskatoon

George Budd, Laverne Hautz, Stephen Hambidge, Glenn Gerbrandt
Okotoks, AB Calgary, AB Calgary AB Lashburn, SK

Don Barss, Ward Stewart, Ken Peterson, Tom Kehler
All from Saskatoon

David Martin, Maurice Martin, Mark Winger, John Schultz

Kitchener-Waterloo, ON Hamilton, ON Kitchener-Waterloo ON

Sid Haugen, Guy Scholz, Kathy Haugen, Clarence Hagen
Regina SK Calgary AB Regina SK Birch Hills SK

Stewart Folster, Paul Matheson, Lorne Lissel, Jim Winder
All from Saskatoon

Phil Hink, George Friedrich, Don Brown, Arno Bablitz
Edmonton Edmonton Edmonton St. Albert AB

Arch. McCurdy, John Harder, Gord. Rintoul, Arthur Wiens
Alliston, ON Kitchener ON Alliston, ON Rosetown SK

Paul Eriksson, Herbert Eriksson, Harold Eriksson, George Campsall
Edmonton Edmonton Bentley, AB Edmonton

Ed Hildebrand, Maurice Jeanneau, Leonce Aubin, Rolly Lebrun
Landmark MB Lorette, MB Winnipeg Lorette MB

Fraser Muldrew, Dennis Butcher, Walter Cowan, Jim Lawrence
All from Winnipeg

Don Sjoberg, Reinhold Propp, Ted Chell, John Wall
Winnipeg Saskatoon Winnipeg Saskatoon

Bill Kiesman, Andrew Kiesman, Jonathan Kiesman,
Salmon Arm Saskatoon Saskatoon

Dave Hunter, Jaycen Snider, Murray Halvorson, Mark Dressler
Saskatoon, Watrous, Regina, Saskatoon

Ed Ohman, Frank Littel, Dave Holmes, Geoff Gunter
All from Calgary

Al. Grundahl, Jack Dyck, Jim Osbourne, Elizabeth Cook
All from Saskatoon

THE BIGGEST THRILLS

While every win was certainly a thrill for teams, there were a few outstanding moments, such as:

- The Don Sjoberg rink, coming back from an 0 - 11 score to a spectacular win!
- The Cameron Reid Rink, doing exactly what every rink would like to do - win their last game of the briar with the last rock of the 8th end -- a shot which just ended up right on the button!
- Last, but certainly not least, the Arnie Friesen Rink for winning the 2004 gold medals. Sincere congratulations!!

Members of the rink are : Arnie Friesen, Jason Friesen, Wendell Phillips and Barry Jackson .

THE BANQUET

Held in the Estevan Room of the Quality Hotel, the 96 curlers, plus several family members and friends came together for a great, but unusual evening of good food, entertainment, memorials for those who have passed away, plus a couple of emergencies.

What made it unusual? The sequence of last minute emergencies. The Banquet Committee, consisting of Elaine Hesje, Margaret Hundebly-Hunter and Betty Cook, had prepared a good well organized format. The entertainment this year was to be a brother/sister duo, Lorne Deason and Maureen Kral. All was well. Lorne was in Mexico, but would return in good time. Then, a couple days before the event, Lorne phoned from Mexico to say that his car was giving him trouble, and he would be unable to attend. Ah well, the show must go on. Maureen is quite capable at doing a solo performance. She secured the services of Dale Maurer, and two days before the banquet they spent a long evening selecting music etc. The Committee thought that all was well. However, about 2.30 p.m. of Thursday, March 11/04, the banquet day, Maureen's husband phoned to say that she had become very ill.

They had four hours to find a replacement. and they did! Grabbing the telephone, Elaine pursued a comedian, Arne Berg. He happened to be on his way out to the town of Waldheim. His wife was able to phone him via cell phone. He turned around and came back in time to regale the audience with an incredible impersonation of Red Green. Complete with the appropriate suspenders, plaid shirt, hat and beard, he had everyone laughing throughout a great 20 minute monologue.

Sometimes imminent disasters have wonderful conclusions.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

After the banquet and entertainment, the group, under the leadership of President Kutch Imayoshi entered into the annual meeting of the Association.

Naturally, after approval of minutes, the Financial Report was distributed and accepted. Highlights of the 2003 Report are:

EXCECUTIVE

The newly elected executive for 2005 are: President: David Hunter, Saskatoon; Vice-President Guy Scholz; Secretary: Arch McCurdy, (completing the term of Jan Huntjens); Treasurer: Ken Innes; District Representatives: B.C. Cameron Reid; Alberta, Guy Scholz; Sask.: David Hunter; Manitoba, Siegfried Wall; Ontario, Arch McCurdy.

REVENUE

Memberships '03	\$480.00
Sale of Pins	55.00
Interest	76.83
For '03 Briar Resistrations less memberships + donations + travel grant from Friar's Briar Association)	<u>10,698.00</u>
TOTAL	11,308.83

EXPENDITURES

Medal Engraving + ribbons	39.44
Expenses, '03 Briar	13,269.14
Travel Grant to Briar '03	500.00
Advance for '04 Briar	<u>500.00</u>
TOTAL	14,308.58

Revenue less Expenditures	(2,999.75)
Revenue Jan 31/03	<u>4,484.86</u>
TOTAL	1,485.11

BANK STATEMENT JANUARY 31/04

In chequing Acc't.	1,485.11
In Shares Acc't	5.00
G.I.C.	<u>2, 000.00</u>
TOTAL	3,491.11

IN MEMORIAM

The following persons were remembered at a very special moment in the annual meeting: Irvin Hohm, Laurence Wilmot, Ruby Payne, Howard Guccy and Bob McAdam.

Irvin Hohm, who lived in Invermere, B.C., had been a participant at the Friars' Briar for three years. He has great love for curling, and for the Briar. Irvin's death occurred just two week before the 2004 Briar.

The following are excerpts from the spoken tributes:

Laurence Willmot, Calgary, began curling in the Briar at the age of 80 years, and continued until his 92nd year. He was a staff person at St. John's College, Calgary. He also served as a chaplain in the Canadaian Army in WW2. At one point in his life, Lawrence wrote a book on the subject of chaplaincy.

Ruby Payne from Vancouver, B.C. passed away just two months prior to the Friars' Briar. She played lead on a B.C. team which included her husband Gerry, Wes Bray, Cameron Reid. In 1978 She played in her first Friars' Briar. Her team won the bronze medals that year.

Howard Guccy was originally from the Waterloo area. He enjoyed the strong rivalry that existed between Waterloo and Windsor. In 1982 Howard moved to Edmonton. He was one of those instrumental in bringing the Friars' Briar to Edmonton in 1987

Bob McAddam, was an Anglican Priest, who served many parishes in Saskatchewan. Bob, who passed away at the age of 90, just a few days before the 2004 Briar, was an avid curler and golfer. His last participation in the Friars' Briar was four years ago - in Saskatoon.

This time of memorial was concluded with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

THE COMPLETE STANDINGS by Rink:

There was a good deal of theological study and pondering in the selection of the names of the four events:

The "Paradise" Event

1	Arnie Friesen	2	Wm Kiesman
3	David Hunter	4	David Martin
5	Sid Haugen	6	Gary Williams
7	Sieg Wall	8	Philip Cline

The "Purgatory" Event

1	George Budd	2	Fraser Muldrew
3	Allan Grundahl	4	Don Sjoberg
5	Cameron Reid	6	Harry Steele
7	Ken Innes	8	Arch Mccurdy

The "Pit" Event

1	Ed Ohman	2	Ed Hildebrandt
3	Don Barrs	4	Phil Hink
5	Harold Hesje	6	Stewart Folster
7	Kutch Imayoshi	8	Paul Eriksson

Congratulation to each rink and to every curler. The 96 curlers acted more like a family than fierce competitors- until they shook hands and flipped the coin.

OUR OLDEST CURLER

Once again it was a joy to welcome Herb Eriksson to the Friars' Briar. This time he was accompanied by Paul Eriksson, Harold Eriksson and George Campsall. As usual Herb had written a poem, which he presented at the banquet. Here it is:

Friars' Briar 2004, Saskatoon by Herbert Eriksson

"The Volunteer Capital of Canada",
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan is named.
The seat of the Nokia Brier
in 2004 is framed.

But the Friars' Briar is famous
for the many years that we've played.
Twenty-four teams have assembled
to compete with the rocks as arrayed.

The clergy from B.C. to Ontario
have gathered to trundle the rocks,
and have Christian fellowship freely--
but on the ice there may be some shocks.

At Queen's House, where some are staying,
good breakfasts are served every day,
to give energy for the battle
when the rinks put the rocks into play.

The Banquet concludes celebrations;
though Friday still more rocks thrown.
So God bless you all Friars' Briars
for He is by all Christians known.

THE FELLOWSHIP

The Friars' briar is not just a bonspiel, it is a time of renewing old friendships, and making new friends. Whenever people of faith get together, there is a sense of oneness, even among people of many denominations. We were all there for the joy of competition, and vying for prizes, but more than that we were there to affirm one another as people of God, as God's beloved, as believers in the Triune God,

MEDIA COVERAGE

It was much appreciated that both CBC and CTV spent a good deal of time gathering information about the Briar and shooting visual coverage. They both gave good coverage to the 2004 event on the 6.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m. newscasts.

In addition, Dave Deibert of The StarPhoenix gave the following comment:

Friars' Briar is out of this world

Any one of the teams competing at the Nokia Brier will want to avoid relying on a miracle shot. A group at the Hub City Curling Club has first dibs on divine intervention in Saskatoon this week.

The National Clergy Curling Bonspiel--casually referred to as the Friars' Briar, now in its 26th year of existence -- has brought together 24 teams made up of clergy from Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, British Columbia and Ontario. The event kicked off Monday and continues through Friday.

The competitors are mindful of the religious aspects of the event -- round-robin pools are all Biblical references: Melchizedek, Jehoshaphat, Zerubbabel, Methusaleh; they opened the week with a prayer; they say grace at meals - but the primary purpose of the tournament, says Saskatoon's David Hunter, is recreation.

"We have in common the faith background, but this is more of a get-together to have fun," says Hunter, the two-time defending champion of the event.

"There are the denomination and regional differences, but they don't mean anything on the ice. That's all about curling."

Some of the participants have competitive experience. Others do not. Some of the curlers are young, only in their twenties. Others are not; the oldest competitors are in their nineties. "Put it together and it makes for a fun week," said Hunter.

Tuesday night, nearly 100 of them made the trek to SaskPlace, filling up Section 2 in the upper level, handing out Friars' Briar buttons and enjoying the late draw.

At the Friars' Briar opening ceremonies, bagpipers led the curlers out onto the ice, and Mayor Don Achison threw out the first rock.

"We're always mindful of the one without sin throwing the first stone," Hunter said with a smile.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Friars' Briar is truly a great event. Thanks is due to many people over its 26 year history. They have been faithful and very constant in support and in participation.

Though there are too many to mention by name, it is appropriate to express special thanks to Cliff McMurtry, who for so many years has been the official historian, and whose efforts have resulted in the history book and the annual updates.

Unfortunately, Cliff had to miss the 2004 Briar, due to illness. His presence was certainly missed. May God richly bless him, and grant healing and renewed strength.

The Briar is more than a bonspiel, more than a week-long festival. It is an annual coming together of people who have a common faith in our great Lord and Redeemer. There are many prayers offered, but there aren't any sermons given, no Bible studies or thundering admonitions. But there is that sense of oneness and fellowship which is sponsored by the very Spirit of God. It is the prime reason why people are attracted to come together year after year.

The last Word; God be with you. See you in 2005!!



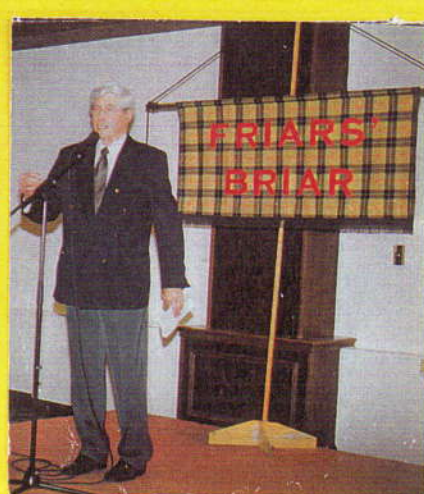
Opening of Friars' Briar ^



Mayor Atchison ^



Our Draw Master Mark Dressler ^



Banquet Emcee Don Barss ^



Wall Rink "Heavenly Host" winners ^



The Eriksson Brothers ^



Banquet Guest "Red Green" (Arne Berg) >



The Kiesman Rink ^
The David Hunter Rink v



Cam Reid Rink: "Amazing Grace" winners ^
The Banquet v Poet Herb Eriksson >



Nokia Brier Mascot