

CHAPTER 27



REFLECTIONS ON THE 2005 FRIARS' BRIAR

By Paul Eriksson
Edited by David Hunter

THE PREPARATIONS

The City Church Curling Club of Edmonton started preparing for the twenty-seventh Briar in early October. The committee: Don Brown, president; Paul Eriksson, vice president, Al Cosh set up and maintained the web-site; Secretary, Gary Pecknold; Treasurer, Henry Lockhart sought sponsors; Transportation, Arno Bablitz; Hospitality, Neil and Twyla Gibson; Banquet and Entertainment, Registrar, Ed Verdin; Drawmaster, Phil Hink.

THE BRIAR OPENING

Participants in the 2005 Friars' Briar gathered upstairs at the Shamrock Curling Rink at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 8. Don Brown began by asking for a minute of silence in memory of the four RCMP members who had died recently at Mayorthorpe, AB. This was followed by prayer. Curlers were welcomed by Terry Cavanaugh of the Edmonton City Council and by Gary Stevenson, the manager of the Shamrock Curling Rink. Herb Eriksson, poet laureate, read his poem and Don asked the blessing before breakfast was served by caterer, Terry Allen.

After breakfast, with bagpipes skirling the curlers filed out to line the sides of ice sheet #4. After the spirited singing of our national anthem Councilor Terry Cavanaugh threw a curling rock which made its erratic way, assisted by several curlers, to the button at the other end of the ice. Herb Eriksson then threw his stone to remove the stone from the button, and the curling began.

THE TEAMS

Twenty two teams were registered. Three from Ontario, Three from Manitoba, Three from Saskatchewan, Four from British Columbia, Nine from, Alberta (Three from Calgary and Six from Edmonton).

Group	Province	Skip	Third	Second	Lead
MELCHOIR	AB	Patrick Baska	Paul Moret	Martin Carroll	Jim Corrigan
MELCHOIR	AB	Neil Campbell	M Kuhn	L Hautz	Otto Dusterhoff
MELCHOIR	AB	Guy Scholz	George Budd	Stephen Hambidge	Dan Eagle
BALSHAZZAR	AB	Frank Little	David Holmes	Andy James	Bob Holmes
BALSHAZZAR	AB	Ed Oman	Randy Yakimec	Tom Schlamp	
BALSHAZZAR	AB	Karen Gusek	Harold Witte	Vern Wishart	Henry Lockhart
KASPAR	AB	George Friedrich	Phil Hink	Daryll Dewalt	Randy Hirsch
METHUSELAH	AB	Paul Eriksson	Herb Eriksson	Phil Eriksson	Harold Eriksson
METHUSELAH	AB	Don Olsen	Don Sjoberg	Arno Bablitz	Ted Chell
MELCHOIR	BC	Bill Kiesman	Rolf Nosterud	Ross Connal	Don Brown
BALSHAZZAR	B.C.	Arnie Friesen	Jason Friesen	Harry Klassen	Wendell Phillips
METHUSELAH	B.C.	Sid Phillips	Ian Grant	Art Griffin	Kutch Imayoshi
MELCHOIR	MB	Ken Innes	Norm MacDonald	Carole Innes	George Rogers
BALSHAZZAR	MB	Maurice Jeanneau	Leonce Aubin	Martin Bradbury	Rolly Lebrun
KASPAR	MB	Fraser Muldrew	Dennis Butcher	Walter Cowan	Jim Lawrence
METHUSELAH	MB	Sieg Wall	Anne Winter	Dave Winter	Teenie Wall
BALSHAZZAR	ON	David Martin	Maurice Martin	Doug MacKenzie	John Harder
KASPAR	ON	Arch McCurdy	Robert McNaught	Lorne O'Neil	Jack Colclough
METHUSELAH	ON	Phil Cline	Hank Petkau	Fred Cline	Steve Cline
MECHOIR	SK	David Hunter	John Wall	Gary Schenk	Ken Peterson
KASPAR	SK	Garry Williams	Ron Wegner	Allan Grundahl	John Roberts
KASPAR	SK	Harold Hesje	Dan Skaret	Lorne Lissel	Tena Wall

THE BANQUET

The banquet for the 2005 Edmonton Friar's Briar was held at the Idylwylde Community Centre in Edmonton. There were about 110 in attendance. The evening began with music by the C-Jammers group of four musicians from Robertson-Wesley United Church in Edmonton, under the leadership of Graham Cooke. They played many old favorite tunes, and were very well received.

Harold Witte was the MC for the evening. Jack Colclough led the group in grace, and Basil Henderson directed traffic around the buffet tables. The buffet included salads, chicken breast, prime Alberta Beef, potatoes, vegetables and dessert. The tables were laden with wines from Germany and Chile. The caterer was Peter Humeniuk. After dinner, the C-Jammers played a short sing-along. Harold sang: "Take My Rock and Let it Be", and got the group to sing: "Sweep with Me!" We had a presentation to the Herb Eriksson team, a poem by Herb, and a poem by Vern Wishart (with apologies to Robert W. Service). Don Brown, local Host president, spoke to extend thanks to all, and the evening was concluded with the annual general meeting of the national Friar's Briar Association, led by President David Hunter. The atmosphere was joyful and ebullient, and many commented that the warm, friendly informality was deeply appreciated.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Friars' Briar Association, led by President David Hunter, followed the banquet and entertainment. The business included the election the board of representatives for Saskatchewan (Harold Hesje), and Ontario (Harry Klassen). The updated list of Friars' Briar Association board members is printed below. Treasurer Ken Innes gave a report as indicated below.

The current board of the Friars' Briar Association is made up of the following members.

Position	Name	Year that term expires
President:	David Hunter	2008
Past President:	Kutch Imayoshi	2006
Vice President:	Guy Scholz	2006
Secretary:	Arch McCurdy	2007
Representative for:		
British Columbia	Cameron Reid	2009
Alberta	Guy Scholz	2006
Saskatchewan	Harold Hesje	2010
Manitoba	Siegfried Wall	2007
Ontario	Harry Klassen	2010

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE:

Memberships '04	485.00
Sale of Pins	20.00
Interest	72.53
History books	50.00
Return of Advance Briar	500.00
From Saskatoon Briar	<u>478.53</u>
TOTAL	1,606.06

EXPENDITURES:

Medal engraving + ribbons	45.88
Printing Membership cards	43.32
Bank service charge	0.60
Travel grant '04	<u>600.00</u>
	689.80

Revenue less Expenditures	916.26
Balance Jan 31/04	3,490.11
TOTAL	<u>4,406.37</u>

BANK STATEMENT JANUARY 31/2005

In Chequing Acc.	2,401.37
In Share Acc.	5.00
G.I.C.	<u>2,000.00</u>
TOTAL	4,406.37

Submitted by
Ken Innes (Treasurer)

IN MEMORIAM

Thankfully, none of the Friars Briar curlers passed away since the 2004 Briar. We pray God's continued blessing for all our people.

THE COMPLETE STANDINGS by RINK:

<u>The "Angel"</u> <u>Event</u>	<u>The "Limbo"</u> <u>Event</u>	<u>The "Merely Mortal"</u> <u>Event</u>
1st Scholz	1st Muldrew	1st McCurdy
2nd Oman	2nd Hesje	2nd Gusek
3rd Friedrich	3rd Phillips	3rd Kiesman
4th Williams	4th Campbell	4th Eriksson
5th Friesen	5th Littel	5th Jeanneau
6th S. Wall	6th Martin	6th Innes
7th Olsen	7th Baska	
8th D. Hunter	8th Cline	

OUR OLDEST CURLER

Herb Eriksson, at 93, is our oldest curler. This year he was accompanied by his brothers Paul and Harold, and Harold's son Phillip.

Here is Herb's poem:

Friars' Briar 2005, Edmonton by Herbert Eriksson

"The City of Champions"

*From B.C. to Ontario the Pastors came
To trundle rocks on Shamrock's lanes.
Twenty-two rinks by any name,
They sweep and glide from end to end
To only use the "besom an' stane".*

*The Annual Friars' Briar, so named,
A-curling by the Pastors and lay;
(Both men and women may play the game.)
One lay person may play the lead.
Three on a rink must be Pastors indeed.*

*The Friars' Briar is meant to be fun,
With fellowship and friendship at play.*

*As the heavy rocks turn and slide
Whether narrow or yet wide,
Win or lose, we will enjoy the day.*

*On one day a Banquet is served,
A short program and prizes beside.
When the rocks are all thrown
And the winners are known,
God be praised for all friends we have met.*

H.F.D. Eriksson

THE FELLOWSHIP

The Friars' Briar is a time of renewing old friendships and making new friends. It is a time when people meet to play together with a sense of oneness though they come from many different denominations They enjoy the sport of curling and recognize that all are far from perfect so there is little criticism and genuine applause for a shot well made.

MEDIA COVERAGE

"The Examiner" a community paper had an article by Carrie McFadzean entitled "Clergymen from across Canada rock at Friars' Briar" Carrie interviewed the Eriksson team on the Monday before the Briar began and included a large picture of Paul's team and Jenkins team, their opposition that day.

The March 12 edition of the "Edmonton Journal" carried a feature article by Don Retson entitled, "Clergy keeps on rockin'" It had a large picture of Herb delivering a rock. And a caption "Age no object as curling pastors compete in annual Friars' Briar". There was also a picture of the Eriksson team.

THANKS TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE BRIAR

THE BRIAR WAS A BLAST
THE TIME WENT BY TOO FAST
THE ICE HAD PERFECT CURL
THE ROCKS HAD PERFECT TWIRL
WE LOST MORE GAMES THAN WON
BUT WHO CARES, WE HAD FUN!

TO THOSE WHO ORGANIZED THIS TIME
THANKS FOR MAKING IT MIGHTY FINE
THANKS FOR ALL THE FOOD . YUM! YUM!
THANKS FOR ALL THE LAUGHS . FUN! FUN!
THANKS FOR SHOWING ALL YOU CARED
WHETHER WIN OR LOOSE - PASSION SHARED.

I KNOW THERE WERE MANY TIMES OF DISTRESS
MANY HOURS WORKED AND LACK OF REST
BUT YOU NEVER COMPLAINED, YOU DID YOUR JOB
ALWAYS WITH A SMILE - NEVER A SOB.
BUT WHAT I REALLY WANT TO SAY
IS THANK YOU TO ALL, FOR SUCH A GREAT DAY.

My appreciation for making my first Briar so Special.

PICTURES: (taken by Neil Gibson and posted on the web site)



First Place Angel Event - Guy Scholz Rink
 Guy Scholz, George Budd, Stephen Hambidge, Dan Eagle,
 with Don Brown and Arch McCurdy



Second Place in Angel Event – Ed Oman



Third Place in Angels Event – George Friedrich



First Place in Limbo – Fraser Muldrew

Second Place in Limbo – Harold Hesje



Third Place in Limbo – Sid Phillips

Our Elder Statesman and Poet Laureate – Herb Eriksson



First Place Merely Mortal – Arch McCurdy



Second Place Merely Mortal – Karen Gusek



Third Place Merely Mortal – Bill Kiesman



Rolf Nosterud, Don Brown, Henry Lockhart



Kutch in the hack

