

PEMBINA OLDTIMERS RECREATION ASSOCIATION

How It Began:

At the 1970 spring wind-up of the Pembina Curling Club, Leo Dusessoy, Arthur Johnston and Gordon Ackland were seated at the same table. All of these men were charter members of the club when it was established in 1947. Now that they were getting older and retired, they agreed that they disliked coming out for the 9:30 P.M. games, particularly on cold nights. Leo Dusessoy suggested organizing an afternoon draw for retired men who wanted to curl. Art Johnston and Gordon Ackland agreed that this was a great idea. Responsibilities were assigned as follows: Leo Dusessoy was to arrange for ice; Gordon Ackland was to recruit members, and Art Johnston was to serve as secretary.

At the first meeting in the fall of 1970 the following were elected officers:

President Leo Dusessoy
Secretary Art Johnston
Drawmaster & player personnel Gordon Ackland

A bank account was opened at Fort Garry Trust under the name Pembina Retired Men's Curling Club. The initial deposit was \$34.50.

There were eight (8) curlers in the club in 1970-1971. They rented one sheet of ice and curled twice a week. The players were: Gordon Ackland, Fred Albi, Tony Allan, Bill Calthorpe, Andre Desimpelaere, Leo Dusessoy, Russ Gregory and Art Johnston.

For the 1971-1972 season, additional players were recruited bringing the club membership to twenty one (21) curlers. A second sheet of ice was procured to accommodate four (4) teams. The skips were Leo Dusessoy, Art Johnston, Russ Gregory and Stewart Turner.

At the end of the season there was a play-off between the rink skipped by Leo Dusessoy and that skipped by Art Johnston. Leo Dusessoy's rink was the winner and thus the first club champion.

Season play was followed by a wind-up in the club lounge.

By 1972-1973 membership had increased to twenty four (24) teams.

New Horizons Grant

In 1972 the Government of Canada introduced a program for the benefit of older retired Canadians. This program was known as New Horizons.

At an executive meeting held on January 15th, 1973, it was agreed to apply for a New Horizons grant and to recruit enough curlers to use the six sheets of ice available for afternoon curling.

As a retired civil servant, Jack Chesley took leadership in obtaining information about the New Horizons program. The necessary forms were obtained and an application was made. It was signed by ten (10) members designated as directors. The directors so named were: Leo Dusessoy, A.H. Johnston, J.R. Wilkinson, R.G. Ackland, J.A. Chesley, W.A. McKenzie, J.R. Gillespie, August Horn and H.E. Rogers.

The project was designated as sports for health under the official name of Oldtimers Recreation Association, with headquarters at the Pembina Curling Club., 1341 Pembina Highway.

After several meetings with Mr. L.H.Forest, Regional Director for New Horizons in Western Canada, an application and budget were presented. A start-up grant of \$1,780.00 was awarded for an eighteen (18) month period, to be paid in two installments of \$890.00 each.

The 1973-1974 budget for the club provides information as to the disposition of the first installment of the New Horizons grant:

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
Grant from New Horizons	\$890.00	
Membership dues	\$500.00	
Reserved for Golf		\$200.00
Ice rental for curling		\$800.00
Name badges		\$ 50.00
Socials		\$100.00
Prizes		\$ 75.00
Reserve		\$115.00
Totals	\$1,390.00	\$1,390.00

As the roster book lists fifty two (52) members for 1973-1974, presumably members paid a fee of \$10.00. At least part of the grant was used to cover ice rental.

The report to the Government dated February 11th, 1974 lists expenditures of \$1093.66

Growth Of The Club

In 1972 when application was made for a New Horizons grant, Jack Chesley was nominated to arrange the advertising for additional curlers. To this end, advertisements were placed in the St. Vital Lance and the sports section of the Winnipeg Free Press.

As a result, sufficient additional curlers were obtained for twelve (12) teams for the 1973-1974 season. Six sheets of ice were rented on a twice a week basis.



**1982 Stovels Trophy
Lawson Graphics Manitoba Ltd.
(Veterans-Masters Competition)**

**Harry Hollis (skip)
Jack Chesley
Stuart Turner
James Williamson**

The club continued to operate with twelve (12) teams using six sheets of ice twice a week. However, as membership increased there were a large number of associate members and spares who had very little chance to curl. In 1986-1987 and 1987-1988 some provision was made to accommodate these. It was ascertained that there was an additional sheet of ice available some mornings. Rental of these sheets permitted a number of the associate members to curl once a week.

In 1988-1989 the six sheets of ice were rented three afternoons a week. As a result it was possible for eighteen (18) teams to curl twice a week and thus all those who wanted to, could curl on a regular twice a week basis.

From reports it appears that when the club was first formed, the teams established at the beginning of the season played together all year. As the number of players increased, this practice was discontinued. For many years, new teams have been selected for each round, thus, at present, with four rounds, each player curls with four different teams during the course of the season.

Social Activities

Three times each year, members meet together for a meal in the club rooms of the Pembina Curling Club. The first of these is held in the fall before curling commences. It is followed by the Semi-Annual Business Meeting of the club. The second of these is held in December, a few days before Christmas. In addition to the meal, the activities include door prizes and musical entertainment by club members.

A third dinner is held in the spring after the curling season is over. A major feature at this dinner is the awarding of trophies and the cash prizes. There are three trophies. These were presented to the club many years ago by some of our early members. They are the Leo Dusessoy Trophy, the Jack Chesley Trophy and the Jim Williamson Plaque.

Another aspect of the club activities has been a concern for the sick and the shut-ins. In recent years Abe Friesen has served faithfully in this regard by sending get-well cards on behalf of the membership and by visiting members who are in hospital.

Acknowledgements

In preparing this account we have received information from several sources including Gordon Ackland, Jack Chesley and the roster books.

PEMBINA ROCKETTES CURLING LEAGUE

The Pembina Rockettes were founded in 1973. The league was organized to allow women to join teams and to curl once a week during the daytime. Babysitting is available for mothers with young children. The curlers that come every Friday morning meet old and new friends.

Here's a tidbit from the end of the first season (1973). The cost of the prizes which were given to the winners and runners up of each event was less than the cost of the wine served at the wind-up.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Pembina Curling Club on its 50th Anniversary.