

1970



LEO DUSOSSOY



ART JOHNSTON



GORDON ACKLAND.

PRESIDENT &
TRESURER

LEO DUSOSSOY

SECRETARY

ARTHUR JOHNSTON

DRAW MASTER &
PLAYER PERSONAL

GORDON ACKLAND

-1979-



PEMBINA OLDTIMERS RECREATION ASSOCIATION

How it began

At the spring wind-up of the Pembina Curling Club in 1970 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 were retired they agreed they disliked coming out for the 9:30 p.m. draw, 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 to serve as secretary.

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

President: Leo Dusessoy

Secretary: Art Johnston

Draw master and 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 curlers in the club in 1970-71. 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 1971-72 season additional players were recruited bringing the club membership to 21. A second sheet of ice was procured to accommodate four 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 1972-73 membership had increased to 24.

New Horizons grant

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

At an executive meeting held January 15, 1973 it was agreed to apply for 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 members designated as directors. The directors so-named were as follows: Leon Dusessoy, A. H. Johnston, J. R. Wilkinson, R. G. Ackland, J. A. Chesley, W. A. McKenzie, J. R. Gillespie, August Horn, 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 was presented. A start-up grant of \$1780 was awarded for an 18-month period, to be paid in two instalments of \$890 each.

The 1973-74 budget for the club provides information as to the disposition of the first instalment of the New Horizons grant:

	<i>Income:</i>	<i>Expenditure:</i>
Grant from New Horizons	\$890	
Membership dues	\$500	
Reserved for golf		\$200
Ice rental for curling		\$800
Name badges		\$50
Brooms (new)		\$50
Socials		\$100
Prizes		\$75
Reserve		\$115
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Totals:	\$1390	\$1390

As the roster book lists 52 members for 1973-74, presumably members paid a fee of \$10. At least part of the grant was used to cover ice rental.

The report to the government dated February 11, 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 for 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 12 teams for the 1973-74 season. Six sheets of ice were rented on a twice-a-week basis.

The club continued to operate with 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 1986-87 and 1987-88 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 1988-89 the six sheets of ice were rented three afternoons a week. As a result it was possible for 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.

In each of the last three years [1993, 1994, 1995] there has been a bonspiel at the end of the season.

Social activities

Three times each year members meet together for a meal in the clubrooms 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. Winners of these trophies are listed in tabular form. A second table lists the officers of the club each year since its establishment.

Another aspect of the club activities has been a concern for the sick and shut-in. 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 I have relied on several sources. The information I received included an account of the establishment and activities of the club in its early years by Gordon Ackland. Jack Chesley prepared an account of the application for the New Horizons grant. Information was also obtained from the roster books and I have included some of my own recollections.

--Bob Hedlin

May, 1995

Fred Buchan

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