

**NORTH NORWICH TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**



NORTH NORWICH Township Council held their first meeting of 1971 recently in the township hall in the village of Norwich. Seated from left are: Darwen Scott, deputy reeve; Leslie Dickson, reeve; and Robert Watkins, clerk-treasurer. Standing from left are: Albert Freeman, road superintendent; Roger Orth, and Mr. Brackenbury are new members of council. Mr. Orth and Cecil Mingle, councillors.

*Jan 1971*



# Curling

with  
**Bev Tyrrell**

*Jan 1971*

If someone ever invents a 25-hour day, Marcel De Witte will still demand more time to keep the keen edge on his ice at the 16-sheet Ivanhoe Curling Club.

For De Witte, the jaunty icemaker with the flair of curly hair, it is a matter of pride, coupled with hard work and common sense. That, in a nutshell, is the reason the Ivanhoe ice is said to be the keenest in Western Ontario.

Often, Marcel works around the clock to make ice, honing it with the skill of a surgeon performing a delicate operation. He is in a battle with the clock at times so he sometimes sleeps at the club.

Today, he is used as a consultant to some curling clubs which are experiencing trouble with their ice. When the Canadian Curling Championship was held at Oshawa in 1969, several members of the host committee, enlisted Marcel's help.

De Witte did such a good job with the ice for the Ontario championship at Ivanhoe a month before, that the Oshawa group felt that they might learn something from Marcel's tactics. The job he did with the Ivanhoe ice went without a hitch because De Witte had three uninterrupted days to work with it.



**MARCEL DE WITTE**  
- - - 24-hour job

It has been a long climb for Marcel, a former Air Force radar expert in his native Belgium, who knew little about icemaking when he accepted his first job with the Simcoe Curling Club.

That was in 1958 and De Witte was working in the tobacco fields. "I remember one of the members of the Simcoe club rode around with me on a tractor all day while I was cultivating trying to persuade me to take the job," Marcel recalls.

He joined a two-man crew at Simcoe. After his stint there, he went to the Sarnia Curling Club. He has been at Ivanhoe for eight years.

De Witte is looking forward to London being the venue for a future Brier, if and when the championship is held in the city. He says the London Gardens has the best ventilation system of any previous Brier site he has seen. "I am confident and if I stay healthy I think I can do something with the ice," he says.

Even if Marcel does not realize his Brier dream, he still has the keenest ice in the West (Western Ontario, that is) to fall back on.

*next door neighbor*