Welcome Legion curiers

Best of luck on your 1980 Championship Bonspiel



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Four-day tourney features province's 36 best curlers

Georgetown's Branch 120 of the Royal Canadian Legion will be hosting the Legion's Ontario Senior Curling Championships this weekend at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

Ready to accommodate 36 top-rank curiers Thursday through Sunday, the Georgetown branch also hosted the tournament in 1970 as well as 1975, when the tournament was still open to curiers of all ages.

Three years ago, the tourney was divided into categories for Seniors and Juniors in response to the growing number of young rinks from branches that allowed associate members and rinks from the Armed Forces. Senior rinks are not allowed to have members under 50 years of age.

This year's tournament will be doubly interesting for Legion members, as their branch is not only hosting the event but entering a senior team composed of skip Harvey Chappel, Ken Taplin, Pat Chamberlain and Gord Campbell, all competing for the Provincial title.

Last year's rink of Chappel, Chamberlain, Campbell and Trevor Williams won the honor of hosting this year's championships by defeating all comers in last year's Ontario finals in Richmond Hill.

The winners of the tournament hosts the following year's championships, but must still win their district finals in order to participate. This year the local Legion rink was the top rink in the district. There are 63 Legion teams in District 'B' in which the Georgetown Legion competes.

When the Legion hosted the tournament in '70 and '75, it was unable to win the district those years, and thus failed to place a team in the championships.

The Georgetown rink managed a third place finish in the Dominion finals last year, but was only one game away from a first-place finish.

This year's Dominion finals will be held in Hallfax, which would be a somewhat more rewarding trip for the eventual Ontario winners than last year's trip to the "far-away" community of Woodbridge.

Harold Badham, Branch President, says that this year's tournament will be good for the economy of Georgetown, since most of the participants will be staying in the Georgetown Motor Inn and Cedar Springs Motel.

"In '75 when we hosted the Provincials, Georgetown didn't have the facilities to accommodate a large number of people," he said, "so we had to put most of the people up in Brampton and transport them to and from town. This year, everyone will be here, and the town will prosper because of it."

The opening ceremonles will be held Thursday (tomorrow) night and invitations have been sent out to Premier Bill Davis as well as many local dignitaries. After the ceremony, the curiers and those attending the ceremony will retire to the Legion for refreshments.

The closing ceremony Sunday will see the presentation of the Royal Canadian Legion Provincial Curling Cup (senior) which at this time is housed in the Legion display case on Mill Street.



1969 **CHAMPIONS**

The first Georgetown team to win the provincial bonspiel was in 1969, when these four men went all the way in North Bay with an undefeated nine game streak. Left to right, they are, third Doug Ellis, lead Pat Chamberlain, second Doug Moneypenny and skip Harvey Chappel.

Harvey's back at Georgetown rink's helm

Harvey Chappel, something of a hero in the eyes of his former Georgetown branch comrades, returns this weekend from his current home in Florida to again compete with the Georgetown rink in the Legion's Senior Curling Championship Bonspiel.

Mr. Chappel, now enjoying his retirement in the sunny south, skipped both of Georgetown's previous winners in the provincial competitions and resumes the command position on his championship rink this Thursday through Sunday.

Norm Ward, president of Branch 120 between 1970 and 1975 when Georgetown both won the championships and hosted the subsequent bonspiels, recalled Mr. Chappel's accomplishments and those of his rink-mates fondly last week in conversation with The Herald.

"The big meet is quite an event," he said. "The members and participants really take it seriously and put on quite a show."

Mr. Ward noted that Pat Chamberlain of the Georgetown team was a member of the branch's original rink, Gord Campbell, also returning this year with Mr. Chamberlain, is an active member of the North Halton Golf and Country Club, where the bonspiel is being held.

Rounding out the 1980 Georgetown rink is Ken Taplin, a relative newcomer.

Mr. Chamberlain's an avid curler who's been on some outstanding teams, including the 1968 rink that won the Legion's Provincial Championships.

Mr. Chappel skipped that team, as well as this year's, when it won all nine games played in North Bay... Also on the team were Doug Ellis and Dunc Moneypenny.

Mr. Chamberlain calls Mr. Chappel "our commuting member", since he's been living in Florida for the winter months this year. When the Georgetown rink won the district in Brampton this year, it was the last shot of the game against Branch 15 from Brampton that won it for them. Mr. Chappel refers to that loss as a "\$250 shot", because it meant he had to come back up for the provincial finals.

Mr. Chamberlain claims that no matter what kind of complaints you might hear from Mr. Chappel "you can bet he'll be here, even if he has to walk up."

Mr. Chamberlain currently plays at the curling rink in Acton, while Ken Taplin curls in Scarborough.

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