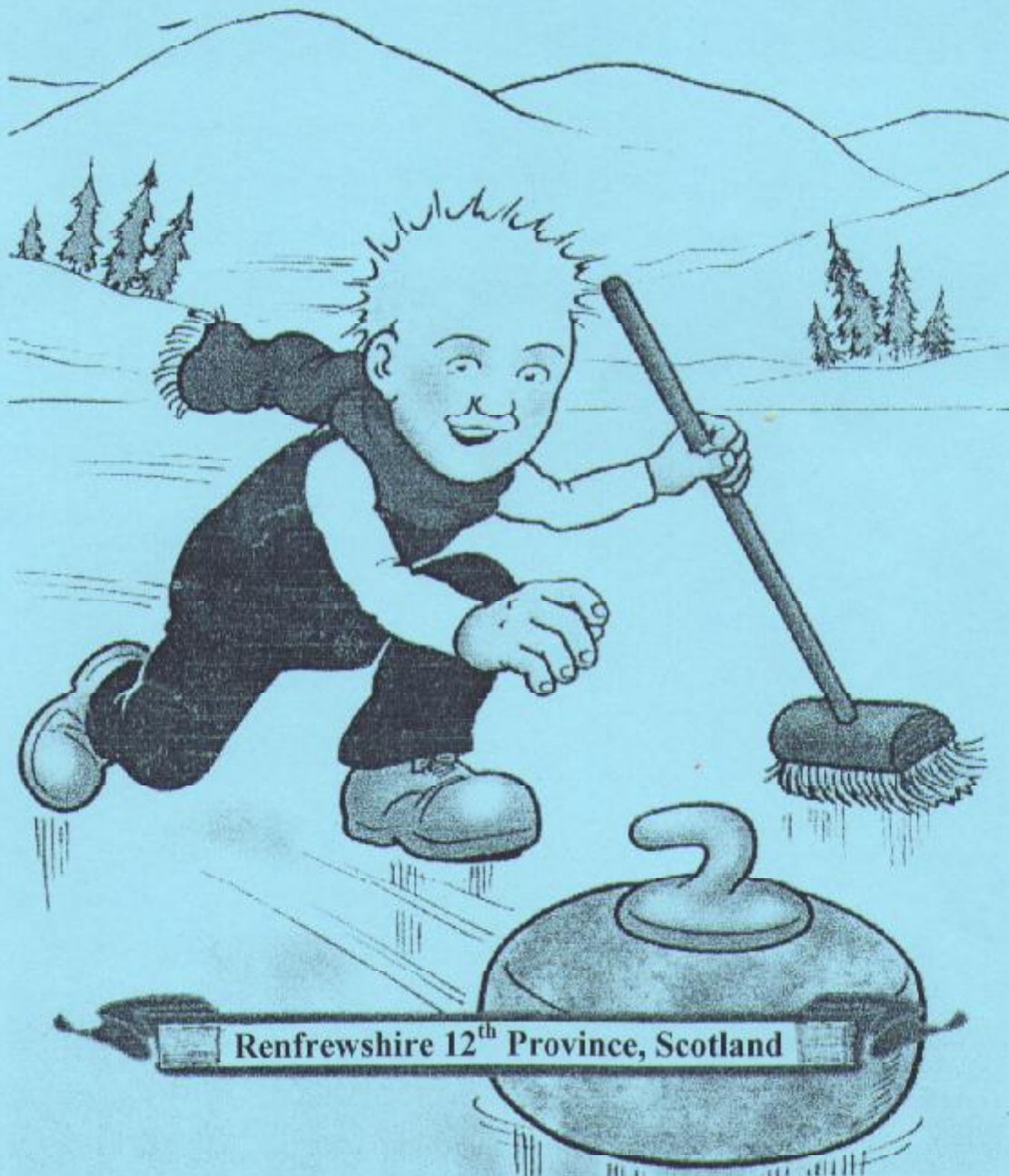


OTTAWA VALLEY

2002



Renfrewshire 12th Province, Scotland



RENFREWSHIRE XIITH PROVINCE

TOUR OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY

8th – 16th NOVEMBER 2002

TOURISTS

Hamish Sutherland	Tour Captain Vice president 12 th Province Old Grammarians Curling Club Reform Curling Club
Ian Gillespie	Tour Secretary Sec/Treasurer 12 th Province Gleniffer Curling Club Reform Curling Club
Graham Biggart	Past President 12 th Province Kilmacolm Curling Club
Rosemary Biggart	Kilmacolm Curling Club Reform Curling Club
Martin Brown	Past President 12 th Province Lochwinnoch Curling Club
Vic Canata	Gourock Curling Club Muirdykes Curling Club
Annette Canata	Gourock Ladies Curling Club Greenacres Ladies Curling Club Muirdykes Curling Club
Betsy Drummond	Uplawmoor Curling Club
Vera Durk	Greenock Ladies Curling Club Ardgowan Curling Club
Dorothy Gillespie	Gleniffer Curling Club Reform Curling Club
Jean Irvine	Brookfield Curling Club Greenacres Ladies Curling Club
Sandra Lapsley	Greenock Ladies Curling Club Kilmacolm Curling Club
John MacDougall	Port Glasgow Curling Club
Margaret MacDougall	Newark Curling Club Gourock Ladies Curling Club
Gary MacFarlane	Reform Curling Club
Fiona MacFarlane	Reform Curling Club

Alastair McIntosh	Gleniffer Curling Club
Ian Morrison	Erskine Curling Club
Ian Parkinson	Bridge of Weir Curling Club
Janey Parkinson	Bridge of Weir Curling Club
Archie Shedden	Ardrossan Castle Curling Club
Margaret Shedden	Ardrossan Castle Curling Club
Kay Thompson	Blythswood Curling Club Greenacres Ladies Curling Club
Marjory Watson	Brookfield Curling Club Greenacres Ladies Curling Club



Canada here we come!

TWENTY FOUR curlers from Renfrewshire Province set off on a tour to Ottawa on the 8th of November. By the time they got home on the 17th of November the group had played in ten different ice rinks in the area.

The mixed tour goes back to 1979 and has now settled to a 8 year cycle. The Canadians were in Renfrewshire in 1998.

Greenacres, Waterfront

and Harvies Ice rinks were all represented on the tour.

For one member of the party the trip to Ottawa was nostalgic. Marjorie Watson lived in the area for many years. She lived opposite a curling rink but never threw a stone.

Marjorie took up curling when she came to live in Scotland. And in Canada last month she played in that curling rink just across the road from her old home!



Renfrewshire curlers ready for the off. Photo by Hugh Stewart

The 12th Province Tour Group wish to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed in any way to make our visit to the Ottawa Valley such a successful and enjoyable experience.

We are particularly grateful to the members of the host committee.

Don and Enid Bond, Maxville Curling Club

Erika Bekolay, Huntley Curling Club

Dan Hudson, Huntley Curling Club

Brian and Wendy Kelly, Granite Curling Club

Bob and Beverley McAskin, Granite Curling Club

Graham and Lois Mowat, Smith's Falls Curling Club

Ken and Jacqueline Peskett, Huntley Curling Club

Vic and Helen Ridding, Ottawa Hunt Club

Mike and Anne Swift, Ottawa Curling Club

Lacksley and Dixie Trenholm, Huntley Curling Club

Bill and Marian White, Manotick Curling Club

Harold and Fern Whyte, Carleton Place Curling Club

Gord and Lorraine Wright, Huntley Curling Club

In addition we wish to acknowledge the generosity of the members of the following clubs.-

Smith's Falls, Arnprior, Renfrew, Granite, Manotick, Maxville, Alexandria, Carleton Place, Almonte, Huntley, Ottawa Hunt Club

Captain's Comments

Dear Fellow Tourist,

I was told by those who had been on a tour before that the hospitality from our Canadian hosts is unbelievable. This turned out not to be true – it was actually totally mind blowing as far as I was concerned. The effort that they put into everything was unbelievable (I have used that word again!)

During our final preparations before departure, I looked at the tour party make up and thought that it was a mix of people who probably did not know each other all that well, and I wondered how it would gel together. I need not have worried – from day 1 on the flight out, it was evident that we were all going to get on.

The tour was a roller coaster of events, with many different types of activities, venues, hospitality etc throughout our period in Ottawa Valley. We were fortunate with the weather which was apparently very mild for the time of year and allowed us to see the countryside. I understand that the day after we left, there was heavy snow which covered everything.

There were many highlights in the week, and if I had to pick out two only, the first would be a very personnel one relating to the first day where I skipped the only team to win out of the eight games played that day (thanks must go to my team members). That did wonders for my self esteem – it was a pity that the form did not continue through the week, but I will put that down to the stress of organising through the week !!

The second would be the final dinner hosted by ourselves, which I thought was an excellent evening, embodying the spirit of conviviality which had built up between the two parties over the week . It was pity that we could not have finished the night in possession of The Friendship Cup, but there is always the next time.

The only low point would be that I succeeded to the position of Tour Captain in sad circumstances, with Lynda not being able to participate through illness. I know that she had been looking forward to it during the preparations when she was fit, and would have done an excellent job in the role, as she had the knack of getting on with people and being able to organise them.

I would finally like to thank the many people who assisted me during the time, whither with advice, information, or just helping where required, either unasked in the background, or in some formal way. I will not mention names as everybody played their part in some way in a very successful tour.

We do however have to look towards the return of the Canadians in 2006, and get ourselves organised in plenty of time as regards a programme of curling and hospitality. Perhaps we should take a leaf out of their tactics and look for wily octogenarians to fill our teams as the Canadian version certainly did a lot of damage to some of our teams during the week.

I myself would participate in another tour if I can be guaranteed not to be playing on the day that we visit Smiths Falls so that I can get back to the Hershey factory shop !!

Finally, can anyone remember all the jokes that were told throughout the week?

Hamish Sutherland
2002 Tour Captain

Diary for Friday 8th November

Sandra and Vera

On a wet November morning all of the twenty four 2002 Renfrewshire Province tourists to the Ottawa Valley gathered at Glasgow airport for a 09.20 am check-in for the flight to Amsterdam. Also there to wish us bon voyage were Lynda and Marshall MacKenzie, Malcolm and Joyce Richardson, Carolyn Hibberd, and Hugh Stewart complete with camera. What a send-off. It was great to see them, especially Lynda who would be very much in our thoughts throughout the tour.

In spite of everyone being early Ian and Janey Parkinson received a final and last call to board our Foker100 for the flight to Amsterdam. Was this the start of things to come? Fortunately this leg of our journey passed uneventfully. Then with our first time change, plus a two hour wait we were all set to board our Boeing 747/300 for the flight to Montreal. Martin put his time in Amsterdam to good use by arranging with Rosemary to sew on his province blazer badge. Has the man no pride!

It certainly seemed very strange that 8 hours after leaving Glasgow we were flying over the west coast of Scotland and the islands. It was quite spectacular. We were well looked after during the flight by very pleasant and attentive staff. Vera and Sandra were asked to change seats – something to do with weight distribution! Perhaps that is why we arrived earlier than scheduled at Dorval airport, Montreal and had to wait 35 minutes for the coach taking us to Ottawa to arrive. Definitely not Sandra's day as her luggage was very badly damaged in transit. Two hours later the coach delivered us safely to Ottawa rail station where we were warmly greeted by our host committee, who were waiting to take us to the Days Inn which would be our headquarters for the duration of the tour.

Within 15 minutes of checking in we attended a reception lasting approximately 1 hour organised by the host committee to induct and confer the title of honorary curling Canadian upon each of us. In addition to this we each received a 'goody bag'. Soon after our travel weary tourists adjourned for the night having been on the move for at least 21 hours.

Quotes

Hamish	We haven't got a list for that.
Marjory	Where is my boarding pass?
John	It is in her wallet – she hasn't opened it yet.
John	I am one of these 'odd' people.
Kay	Can you remember where I am sitting?

The Esteemed Members of the Ottawa Valley Goodwill Curling Tour
Proclaim

to be an Honourary Curling Canadian
November 8 - November 16, 2002

Having been inducted into
The Secret Society of
MM & BT

With all the rights and privileges
associated therewith, eh!



Locks Trenholm
Locks Trenholm
Canadian Tour Captain

Diary for Saturday 9th November

Archie/Donnie and Margaret

Order of appearance for breakfast:

Dorothy and Ian, (Dorothy claims she made McSweep)

Alastair and Ian

Margaret and Donnie

Martin

Rosemary and Graham (Rosemary managed to get her pyjamas wet in the shower!!!
The diary wonders why she was wearing them in the shower)

Hamish

Kay and Betsy (Kay left her sweater behind when she left dining room)

Sandra and Vera

Gary and Fiona

Annette and Vic

Jean and Marjory

Ian and Janey

Margaret and John

Our drivers arrived at 07.45am to take us to Smith's Falls. The car which Donnie and I travelled in was driven by Bill White accompanied by Marian. During the journey Bill asked Marian what Brian's second name was, to which she replied "Brian who?" The diary recalls that Bill and Marian were on the same tour to Scotland in 1998 as Brian and Wendy!

We arrived at Smith's Falls at 09.00am and started our first game of curling at 09.30am. Whilst there we were able to see live on television some well kent Scottish curlers playing in the Continental Cup which was being played in Regina. Amongst them was Rhona Martin and Martin's daughter Fiona MacDonald.

The scores for the morning were Canada 35, 12th Province 18

A delicious lunch of spinach and ham salad followed by carrot cake was served. During lunch we were officially welcomed by our hosts and also local mayor.

After lunch we were taken by our drivers to Arnprior Curling Club for our afternoon game of curling. The outside temperature was 18 degrees Celsius. At this point John MacDougall discovered he had left his jacket behind at Smith's Falls and the curling rink was closed for the weekend.

The afternoon scores were marginally better – Canada 34, 12th Province 26

Dinner was hosted by the Arnprior Curling Club and consisted of quiche and salad followed by ice cream.

We departed from Arnprior at 08.00pm with our drivers taking us back to the Days Inn. The day concluded with a few drinks before going off to bed.

Quotes

Please skip, don't bugger up the head

We nearly won – that's like saying someone is almost pregnant.

SPORTS

Scottish curlers renew local friendships during 2002 tour

Leave it to the Scots to show how to perform an under-the-table Swiss Salute.

That social activity pretty much sums up the camaraderie shared among two dozen curlers from Renfrewshire, Scotland and the same number of their local hosts. The Scots kicked off an eight-day curling tour around Ottawa and the Valley last Saturday at the Smiths Falls Curling Club.

Sixteen curlers took to the ice Saturday morning, despite being jetlagged. Eight other team members toured the town with all winding down back at the curling club around noon. After a social time followed up by a lunch hosted by mayor Dennis Staples, the Scottish visitors were off to play against Arnprior that afternoon.

The trip is part of a decades-old exchange between the Scottish province of Renfrewshire and nine local clubs stretching from Smiths Falls in the south to Renfrew and Alexandria in the north and east respectively.

According to Scottish team member Ian Gillespie, the exchange between the host clubs is based more on friendship than on competitive spirit. "This has been great fun and the program is very much a social thing. We've been doing this for about 25 years and we get together every four years. This year we're here and in 2006, your clubs will be coming to Scotland."

"We represent 16 country clubs across the province of Renfrewshire. Six of our party were here eight years ago and the rest are new. We try to get as many new faces out each time as possible," he said.

Janie Parkinson says she was thrilled to come to Canada and even brought a little politics, with her. She showed off what is known as the Lion's Rampant, or second Scottish flag. It's a red and yellow flag with a heraldic lion in the centre.

"It can only be displayed when our monarchy is on display. Our monarchy is our blue and white flag (St. Andrew's Cross) that you would know makes up part of the British flag," she said.

When asked if the flags were making a statement in favour of a free Scotland, Parkinson said yes.

"Everyone there wants autonomy for Scotland. We want to be able to run our own affairs. I think it is similar to what Quebec wants from Canada," she said.

Back on the ice, Canadian team captain Locksley Trenholm says the

main thing about the curling exchange is to have an enjoyable time.

"Every four years we have this exchange and we are looking forward to going back in 2006. When we go over there, they are our friends and they treat us. They provide great camaraderie for us and we try to do the same for them here," Trenholm said.

"For us, the major expenses are the travel and accommodations. Everything else is covered included tournaments and banquets. Each club visited puts on a banquet after the curling ends," he added.

Here as well, the Scottish curlers can expect to be well nourished. They have rented hotel rooms in Ottawa for the duration, but will be treated to meals hosted by the local clubs they visit.



Scottish invasion

Dressed in blue, it wasn't hard to distinguish the Scottish curlers from members of the host Smiths Falls Curling Club on Saturday. A group of 24 curlers from Renfrewshire are currently in the region and taking on representatives from 10 Ottawa and Valley curling organizations as part of a four-year exchange program. Before action got underway Saturday morning, it was time to salute the flags, above. At right, the Scots were able to use the blue rocks and had last rock advantage during the friendly competition.

*-Record News photo
by BRUCE PEEVER*



Memorable week at Curling & Squash Club

By HIT 'N ROLL

SWEEPERS CORNER

World/Olympic champions make several fantastic shots in the North America/World curling competition on TSN.

The kitchen crew did a great job — the Scots ladies were asking for recipes. The mayor brought greetings and the captains — Martin Brown of Scotland and Locksley Trenholm of Canada enlightened the gathering. Various pins and memorabilia were exchanged.

A most successful and enjoyable outing.

This exchange of Ottawa Valley (including Ottawa) and Renfrewshire XIIIth Province curlers takes place every four years. The tour began in 1978.

Our curlers (participants from Smiths Falls, Manotick, Maxville, Huntley, Ottawa Granite & Hunt and Carleton Place) visited Scotland in 1998. The next visit will be in 2006.

In order to ensure turnover, players can only participate in two of these events. The Renfrewshire XIIIth is southwest of Glasgow. They play at three rinks and are the home of current Olympic champions.

The Scots have a full week of curling, sightseeing and entertainment ahead of them before returning to Scotland next Saturday. They were a fine bunch and it was a pleasure to welcome them in Smiths Falls.

Within 15 hours of their arrival in Montreal, the jet-lagged Scots stepped onto our ice. Our teams, skipped by Bev Lee (9-6), Ed St. James (8-5), Keith Ritskes (9-4), and Cecil Thompson (5-3) were all victorious.

The eight Scots who did not play in the morning received the town tour and the usual chocolate fix. They then swapped tales with Ruby (Needles) Voyce, mayor Dennis Staples and other curling club members. Their captain entertained us with groans and cheers as he watched his daughter Fiona Brown of the

SUNDAY, 10th NOVEMBER 2002.

X11 PROVINCE TOUR TO OTTAWA

BETSY DRUMMOND AND KAY THOMSON.

KAY THOMSON HERE. REPORTED LAST DOWN FOR BREAKFAST!!!!!!

Our drivers today are Vic and Helen. Their car is the best on the tour yet. Immediately on entering their "Space Wagon" we were offered sweets, music, D.V.D. films and even beer... Now on our way to Renfrew. Helen complained that on her last trip to Scotland we had very cold toilet seats, we must try to rectify that for the next trip. OOPS, we have just lost our way to Renfrew - switch on the G.P.S.!!!!

Our players were piped on to the ice Wonderful hospitality I shall just sit here and view this morning, and have another cup of coffee (Mit Baileys) I told you it was great hospitality!!!!

Ian Morrison was quoted as saying his curling skills were affected due to him sleeping with Alistair!!!

Three Scottish teams lost (were slaughtered actually!!) and the saving grace was John McDougall's team with a 'peel'..

A hearty lunch was eaten by all.

BETSY DRUMMOND HERE. There is a pause in the diary, Betsy has gone shopping.....

Afternoon session of curling a little better with three teams losing, but one Scottish team winning..

A group of 'Barber Shop Singers' entertained us before dinner, and the Lady Mayoress presented us all with Pins.

Everyone sat down to a scrumptious meal, and after dinner Vic did the vote of Thanks - very well received ...

Megan and Blair then came on and entertained us with their Irish dancing. What a treat for all of us... They were just delightful

The Tour Party then sang a few ditties from the song book,- crap singing,- but seemed to amuse the Canadians.

Returned to the 'Days Inn' to party in Martin's room. Fun was had by all, and we all received a stiff reprimand from our esteemed captain that we must listen to arrangements for tomorrow. This was received by the due reveree it deserved. The party descended into a rabble, the main culprits being Rosemary and Martin....

Jean Irvine was found to be forgetful, leaving her make-up (which is really necessary) in the ladies, and Kay and I being very conscientious informed her, and it was duly returned..

The party continued in Martin's room, one incident being the removal of ice from Martin's trousers which was then placed in Kay's sherry to add some body...

John McDougall is also being reported for obscene teeth. What a pity we do not have a dentist in our tour party....Also this is the day of Martin's come-uppence...Yes Claudette...Say no more.....

Party drawing to a close now, and when calling 'Goodnight' to Vic, a comment was heard that they thought that was something that you put up your nose. - "NO" was the reply. "It gets up your nose"...

Since coming back to the Hotel the Diarists comments have deteriorated, so we shall bring todays column to a close.....

Diary for Monday 11 November - Rosemary & Graham

A long lie today - we were to be collected at 9.30 am. This was a considerable relief to many, especially Rosemary by whom anything before noon is regarded as early!

The plan was that we should spend the morning in downtown Ottawa, attending the Remembrance Day Service at Confederation Square. Tourists began to assemble in the lobby as early as 9.10. It never ceases to amaze big Biggart that some can leave the dining room three minutes before pick-up time, return to their rooms and then give the impression that they have been waiting for ages.

First off the mark this morning was Martin who, being fit as well as good looking, had opted for an early walk. Imagine his distress on returning to the hotel to be solicited by two naked women plying their trade from one of the windows. Still white and shaking, Martin told the Diary that this was a most terrible sight to confront any shy young lad - but that he himself had quite enjoyed it.

Betty & Kay assured the Diary that they were only being friendly and were discretely covered at all times, but Martin thinks that flashing from a window is taking friendliness altogether too far. Kay claimed that she didn't really know what she was doing as Betty had miss-set the alarm and had wakened her before seven - denying her a long lie. Betty felt that she was doing the decent thing by giving Kay time to recover from her hangover.

Last evening Dorothy had been up and down in the elevator with McBroom more times than most could count and in the morning our bear seemed but a pale shadow of his usual self, shaking and with dark rings under bloodshot eyes. Rosemary was very worried about his moral wellbeing. Dorothy, on the other hand, although looking slightly flushed, was smiling more than ever - was this thanks to our friendly bear the Diary wondered, or had it more to do with the two lads sharing these vertical journeyings?

When our drivers arrived it was overcast and raining and unfortunately the weather forecast for the morning was dreadful. In light of this it was decided to abandon the Remembrance Service and instead for the drivers to take us around the area, hopefully arriving together at the Granite Curling Club at 12.30 PM for lunch.

Our first visit was to the curling shop where some of the holiday cash was spent. The Diary was informed that Marjory did particularly well, though the tone of the informant suggested that this meant that she had spent a lot, rather than scooping up all the bargains.

Gord Wright took the Gillespies and the Biggarts to the other side of the river from Confederation Square and we were able to drive down to the quayside, where we got out to watch for the fly-past. In low cloud conditions we saw the aircraft make their positioning pass downriver.

Although it was only spitting when we arrived it was with immaculate timing, just before eleven o'clock, that the heavens opened and we were hit by really **torrential** rain. We had umbrellas and we were only twenty-five feet from our vehicle, but even in that short distance we managed to get quite wet.

Water was coming off the edge of the brollies in a continuous sheet that was quite hard to see through and we wondered how those on parade would suffer. Fortunately the heavy rain didn't last long and although Gord assured us several times that he hadn't arranged it all, it was noted that he had provided brollies for everyone - hardly the action of an innocent!

We just saw the fly-past and the smoke from the guns through steamed-up windows and then Gord took us up the Quebec riverside along the Parkway where we saw a variety of trees and then we had a camera stop at the Rockcliffe look-out point, built in 1924.

The Diary was told that Janey had lost her glasses yesterday and couldn't find them in spite of diligent searching, causing great concern both to herself and Ian. This morning they were discovered in the pocket of her fleece. How could they have found their way to such an unlikely place, one wonders.

Later, the Diary heard from an informant close to the action that Locks had taken John and Margaret MacDougall together with Ian Morrison to the Body Shop to buy lipstick - for Margaret, we hoped - after which they were given Body Butter, which they all liked. No information was forthcoming as to whether this was after internal or external application - but you have been warned!

We arrived at Granite as planned and were treated to an excellent lunch of a delicious mince pie made to a traditional Quebec recipe, which was accompanied by beans and followed by a super apple tart. We were then entertained by a traditional barbershop quartet who had only recently come together again after ten years.

Not only was their singing quite exceptional - they had in the past won many competitions - but their ability to clown as they sang was as hilarious as it was clever. We sang two of our songs in return, but the Diary has to admit that our efforts fell slightly short of the standard set by our hosts.

Although three of our rinks lost, Annette did us proud by winning her game quite comfortably. Tour leader Harnish was heard to tell her - graciously, the Diary thought - that she had only just equalled his score!

Garry gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the tourists and said that the reason for his defeat was his inability to lay on a guard which had to be delivered at 4.2 seconds. The leads were given the Canadian and Scottish flags which had decorated the tables

That evening Betty, Kay, Rosemary and Graham were home hosted for dinner at the McAskin's lovely home where Graham and Lois Mowat joined Bev and Bob in providing a most excellent meal. Graham had prepared a superb venison casserole - obviously the man has hidden talents. This was a thoroughly convivial and enjoyable evening and we are most grateful to our hosts for all their efforts.

We arrived back at the hotel at about ten and from the reports that we heard later it was clear that all of our hosts had done us proud. What a wonderful memory to bring home.

OVERHEARD.

Deer, deer, deer - Kay when she heard that Graham Mowat had cooked venison for us.

That was a real retcher - a Canadian lady curler after some particularly hard sweeping.

Mention was also heard of Ian G's ability to play the famous Saskatchewan Draw - that euphemism for an incredibly heavy take-out!

Diary for Tuesday 12th November

Jean and Marjory

05.30am Wake up- far too early, have another 5 minutes. 06.30am alarm radio blares – oh dear. Should be in foyer at 07.15am – no breakfast for us! Lots of stragglers after us. Donnie missed breakfast too – said he had too much to EAT the night before.

Annette had her first good night's sleep, and Kay and Betsy looked decidedly bleary eyed. MacSweep also causing a little concern – appeared in a terrible rumple- bed not slept in. Too much too soon, quite sure he's going to need counselling! Martin still in yesterday's jacket, was he AWOL and is there a connection?

07.15am departure for an 08.30 am start at Manotick Curling Club. Thought our prayers were answered when Dan (the man) Hudson got lost on the way.

"Unfortunately" he recovered the route pdq and we were not even late! During first three games (which we didn't curl) Vic nodded off whilst talking to Jean. Obviously did not have as good a sleep as Annette! Big triumph, ladies team won 9 – 2 what more can we say. Great morning's curling – lots of new friendships, another wonderful lunch. A lovely personal touch in the after lunch address. We (the touring team) were all introduced by name with a humorous anecdote. Rosemary's vote of thanks was very 'Rosemary' and original.

Touring party then split. 3 teams left for Alexandria and 3 to Maxville. The diarists were not present at Alexandria but there seems to have been a raging case of amnesia. Dr Gary was seen nipping about in a state of undress quite agitated looking for misplaced clothes. Vic misplaced his wife – was sure she had travelled to Alexandria with him, when in fact it was Sandra in the car. Martin misplaced his wallet – again! Can our boys stand the pace? Donnie too had a whole new experience in the locker room – someone else's carefully chosen coordinates graced his splendid frame. Fiona was telling us she struggled in the morning, but was on the game in the afternoon – busy girl, what did she mean?

They never did get round to telling us the results of the afternoon – sorry!

At Maxville it was just too bad for our hosts that all three teams were on a roll and won because it was another super day. Before the game Alastair was reprimanded by his skip who caught him drinking – his excuse was that he felt he was caught "between a rock and a hard place" curling with Jean and Rosemary.

Party time at Don and Enid Bond's was beckoning and everyone rushed off to change. On arrival at Don and Enid's a very chastened Marjory discovered another case of amnesia. Poor Annette had been left at the ice rink. What can I say! Brian quickly departed to get her, but Marjory (last person to see her at the rink) is in the dog house.

What a wonderful evening. Curling may be a bit dodgy at times, but our group would certainly win the cup for partying. A great evening was had by all- far too many memorables to list, I would be terrified of leaving anyone out. Have to mention Kay though, you just can't hold that girl down. Once again our hosts, drivers etc were outstanding – oh I know that payback time will come and hopefully we can show our appreciation. A very weary group arrived back at the Days Inn after "The longest Day".

Diary for Wednesday 13th November

Ian M and Alastair alias ????

Today was scheduled a "free day". Much appreciated by all the tourists, giving us a chance to catch our breath from the rigorous programme our hosts have put together for us. However it wasn't a "free day" for our drivers who were on hand to carry out our every wish. Their suggestions included a visit to the downtown area of Ottawa with its shopping, museums, parliament buildings etc; shopping in one of the suburban centres; or a trip to the Gatineau hills across the river in Quebec. So much to choose from!

For most of us the day started with a leisurely breakfast taken at a later time than we so far had been in the habit of – what bliss! From mid morning onwards we all departed from the Days Inn in various groups to enjoy a few hours in the company of our drivers. Vera, Sandra, Ian and Janey were the guests of Mike and Anne Swift. We travelled along the Ottawa River Parkway, with its superb scenery, before reaching downtown Ottawa via the Central Experimental Farm and the Parliament Buildings (much security in evidence, but the diary doesn't think it had anything to do with us!) We passed the Lord Elgin Hotel where the 1994 tourists stayed, and made our way across the city to the Rideau Falls. We had a "Kodak" stop here and looked across the river to Gatineau in Quebec our next port of call. Those of us on the last tour will remember this place as Hull. In January 2002 the 3 cities of Hull, Aymler, and Gatineau amalgamated, and the new city is known as Gatineau. Mike and Anne then treated us to lunch in the opulent Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel beside the casino and concert hall. Very luxurious and very grand! We had a delicious lunch and then wandered around this splendid facility soaking up the "ambience". We had a wonderful time in their company. All too soon it was time to make our way back to the Days Inn to prepare for the official tour dinner hosted by the Canadians.

Our drivers collected us at 17.30 pm to take us to the Algonquin College International Restaurant for a champagne reception at 18.00pm. What an emotional evening! There to greet us were many friends from previous tours. The college students had prepared and served us with a fantastic meal, complemented by Ontario wines. Dixie and Locksley's daughter Debbie, a sommelier, introduced us to a different wine for each course.

Speeches followed, firstly by Locksley the Canadian tour captain and then followed by Hamish our tour captain. Each Scottish tourist received the gift of a painting of the Rideau Canal in its various seasons. We were treated to very moving speeches by John Doty, who spoke about the 1980 and 1990 tours to Scotland, and Don Bond who spoke about the 1998 tour.

An altogether wonderful evening with memories to last for all of us. We left the college restaurant at 22.00pm and returned to the Days Inn for a few nightcaps to finish off a superb day.



Ottawa Valley Goodwill Curlers

Welcome the Curlers of

the Renfrewshire KDD th Province

to a

Canadian Dinner

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

*Algouquin College
International Restaurant*



PROGRAM

Welcome	Locks Trenholm
Grace and Toast to the Queen	Mike Swift
Wine Tasting Outline	Debbie Trenholm
Dinner	
Remarks by the Canadian Tour Captain Presentation of Gifts	Locks Trenholm
Remarks by Scottish Tour Captain	Hamish Sutherland
Memories:	
1980 and 1990	John Doty
1998	Don Bond
Introduction of Algonquin College Students, School of Hospitality	
Entertainment	

A SPECIAL DINNER FEATURING CANADIAN CUISINE MATCHED WITH ONTARIO WINES.
Debbie Trenholm, a Sommelier, has chosen wines to match this evening's dinner. She will lead us through a wine tasting, explaining different aspects of the selected wines for your enjoyment. At each course you will be introduced to an Ontario wine, which you are encouraged to try with the food and comment on the matchings with Debbie and those at your table.

Champagne Reception
Freixenet, Cordon Negro

Marinated Norwegian Salmon with Toast
Riesling, Cave Spring Cellars, Ontario, VQA

Salad with Cucumber Wrap

Cornish Game Hen
Canadian Wild Rice Seasonal Vegetables
Chardonnay, Henry of Pelham
Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc-Pinot Noir, Joseph's Festival

Maple Syrup Delight
Colio Late Harvest Vidal, VQA

Coffee Tea

Diary for Thursday 14th November

John and Margaret MacDougall

06.00am – Yes that's it. 6 days and 1 night.

Here I am ironing J MacD's face to make him presentable for the day!

I am glad we go home Saturday – the air is making my clothes shrink. They keep feeding us and filling us with booze to put us off our curling.

At Carleton Curling Club :

Sandra looks in the mirror and says " Who is that old woman?"

Vic and Annette have just left all their evening attire hanging in the reception hall at the Days Inn. Annette has had her best night's sleep of the tour, but doesn't look any better for it.

New Canadian rule by Tom Moore – Help yourself to the numbers in the scoreboard. (He put his own score up twice)

At Almonte Curling Club.

Canata catastrophe. The fair one has left her curling shoes at Carleton. These Canatas are becoming a pain today. She should have been sent off for changing equipment during the game! Vic said her equipment was in good working order this morning.

Kay was presented with the skunk. The prize for the losing skip.

Donnie was looking for buttons in the loo???

Martin left his wallet in the changing room.

Ian Morrison cannot tell the difference between a beaver and a badger.

Al sold all the miniatures before the reception!!!

Back at Days Inn

Since the hotel is not licensed outwith the bar area we decided to have evening party in the MacDougall/Brown suite. A good night was had by all, but not such a good idea to have a party the night prior to the BIG GAME for the Friendship Cup.

Diary for Friday 15th November Gary and Fiona Macfarlane.

Last full day in Canada – where has the week gone? After breakfast we are coming along the corridor from our room to the lift and meet Vic and Annette. Annette says to Vic – “Have you got your tartan trousers?” Vic – “Yes I’ve got them here”. Annette – “No you haven’t, they are hanging on the back of the door”. Vic – “I’m sure I’ve got them here”. Annette – “I’ll go and get them”. Comes back 2 minutes later empty handed – surprisingly and says “They were mine”

We are being driven by Bill today who drove us on the very first day we arrived. He had borrowed his daughter’s car for the week and on the first day had great difficulty operating the doors. First we were all locked out at the station and when we arrived at the hotel we were all locked in! It took quite some time before we could escape. Well one week later and things hadn’t changed much – he was still opening doors that should be closed and closing doors that should be open just as I am about to get out, causing near amputation of my right leg!! Anything to win this afternoon – who said it was called the Friendship Cup?

This morning we are playing at Huntly Curling Club where we were greeted with coffee and Baileys and cinnamon muffins. There’s definitely a conspiracy to sink the Scots!!

J.C. from Almonte Curling Club where we had played the previous day turned up to photograph all the ladies – he definitely had taken a shine to Annette!!

While we were playing we could see the Canadians sitting working out tactics for this afternoon, and Hamish and Ian locked in concentration deciding the teams.

We just managed to pip the Canadians overall by 25 – 24 tho’ we only had 1 win, 1 draw, and 2 losses.

Gary, Ian P, Marjory, Vic – won 10 – 3

Martin, Kay, Fiona, Margaret MacD – drew 4 – 4

Annette, Jean, Vera, Alastair lost 7 – 8

Donnie, Betsy, Ian M, Janey lost 4 – 9

We were then treated to lunch which was a continuation of the conspiracy! Individual chicken pies with the most enormous sort of pastry/doughball topping and then either maple sugar pie or fruit pie. We were then addressed by Judith, the club president, who left most of us bewildered as she encouraged us to vote for Barbie as leader of the world, and then went on to describe all her assets. She (Barbie) and her friend Lulu are going to conquer the world apparently by baking love cookies. Judith then demonstrated how to make them – the more whoopee you want – the more chocolate chips you add, and Martin spiced it up by adding a little of the water of life from his own supply.

From Huntly Gary had to go to Dixie and Locksley’s house as he had been trying to send an e mail and some photos to Lynda but couldn’t connect his PC at the hotel and Dixie had offered them the use of theirs.

Bill and Marian therefore took us up to the Trenholm’s lovely house in the woods in Carp where another attempt was made to use this wonderful technology.

Next morning we discovered we had failed again due to either the omission or addition of a rogue dot!!

We then headed back to Ottawa to the Hunt Club for the final showdown – and what a

stage for it. The Hunt Club was lovely – a beautiful golf course set in beautiful grounds which I could see Gary eyeing up wistfully and wondering if he could come back in the summer! The club itself was luxurious and had the largest rink (I think) that we had played at with 6 sheets. And so the match commenced and suddenly it all became very serious. I was playing lead to Betsy at 2, Gary at 3, and John as skip. We were up against Erika, Brian, Lois, with Bill as skip. It was a great game which we led for the most part, then were hauled back to all square going in to the last end, and it all came down to the last stone and we lost by 2 shots. A great time was had by all and the Canadians won overall by 2 shots (oh, if only).

The dinner was a lavish affair in the Hunt Club's luxurious dining room. The Scots were hosting this dinner and the tables were named after old curling stones, and as usual we ate and drank well without having to worry about the effect on our play the next day. After dinner thanks were given and presentations made to Ian and Dorothy, and Hamish for all their hard work. Sandra was presented with an extra large pair of knickers – unfortunately I have completely forgotten the significance of this! (The diary thinks it was something to do with damaged and lost luggage in transit) Thanks and presentations were also made to all our Canadian friends and appreciation shown for all their friendship and hospitality.

We were then entertained by Donnie making “an address to a haggis” using a meat loaf from Helen's freezer.

Graham recited the tale of “Tam's last stane”, and Canadian Vic had us all singing along to the tune of “On top of old smokey”.


Don, the scorekeeper for the week, then announced the scores for the Friendship Cup which was duly presented and the overall score for the week which the Canadians also won by 16 points. Total scores Canada – 271, Scotland – 258.

Don then announced the 4 players he had picked for honourable mention, and the 4 he had picked as an All Stars rink. They were Hamish, Martin, Annette, Vera, John, Ian G, Kay, and Fiona.

We left the Hunt Club with a donation of quite a number of our belongings! The Canadians were worse than the Scots though. Bill left his curling shoes, having turned up there without his shirt for dinner which was a jacket and tie affair. Luckily John MacD's tour polo shirt looked quite good on him with a tie. Dan left nearly all his curling stuff, and I believe Gord left something, and of course Annette left her curling brush!

We also said goodbye to Rosemary who was staying the night with Vic and Helen as she had an early morning flight to Iowa to visit her son and grandson.

On return to the hotel we assembled in Graham and Lois Mowat's bedroom, who were staying overnight in the hotel. Yet another party took place with the usual prolific alcohol, dirty jokes, and hilarity. Marjory, Kay, Betty, Fiona, and Alastair entertained by occasional tantalising glimpses of their curiously placed Canadian flag tattoos. Tho' Marjory said I couldn't write this as she didn't show hers until after midnight when I wasn't doing the diary anymore. But Vic 'phoned to say they couldn't remember what happened on Saturday when they were doing the diary, so could we chip in with anything we could remember – sorry, Marjory!!!”



R.C.C.C. Renfrewshire 12th Province

Ottawa Dinner
Friday 15th November 2002

2002 Tour Group

Alistair Mackintosh Annette Canata

Betsy Drummond Donnie Shedden Dorothy Gillespie

Fiona Macfarlane Gary Macfarlane Graham Biggart Hamish Sutherland

Ian Gillespie Ian Morrison Ian Parkinson Janie Parkinson Jean Irvine

John Macdougall Kay Thomson Marjory Watson Martin Brown

Margaret Macdougall Margaret Shedden Rosemary Biggart

Sandra Lapsley Vera Durk Vic Canata

*Sae hame tae bed we gang tae dream,
We've had the best of sport,
But even in oor dreams we find,
Ooor gairds are fallin' short*

Welcome: Hamish Sutherland

Curlers' Grace

O Lord whose love surrounds us a' and brings us a' th'gither
Who write his laws upon oor he'rts and bid us love each other
We thank Thee for Your bounty great, for hame, for meat, for gear
We thank Thee Lord, for snaw and ice although we ask for mair
Gi'e us the he'rt to dae whit's richt as Curlers true and keen
To be guid freens along lifes road and soop oor slides aye clean.

Menu

Tomato Basil Soup
A guid lead

Chicken Kiev, Duchesse Potatoes, Broccoli with Cheese Sauce,
Buttered Baby Carrots.
Don't be short

Saher Torte
Mair ice

Coffee
Whaur's the tee

Diary for Saturday 16th November

Vic and Annette Canata / alias????

It is suspected that the Canata contribution to this diary was either left behind in Canada or went missing somewhere over the Atlantic!!

Well, all good things must come to an end. It is hard to believe this long awaited tour is virtually ended. Breakfast over and the foyer of the Days Inn became quite congested, firstly with everyone trying to pay their hotel bills, and then all our luggage appearing bit by bit. The brooms were packed into the broom bags and all our many gifts and souvenirs squeezed into our suitcases. Judging from the comments during the week about the various shopping trips that were embarked upon, the diary suspects that everyone's luggage will weigh considerably heavier going home.

Our coach with a flight number was scheduled to leave Ottawa rail station at 15.30pm to take us to Dorval airport in Montreal. As we had a few hours to spare it was suggested that each of us would take our drivers out for an extra "thank you" lunch, eventually meeting up at the rail station. This also resulted in more sightseeing and, of course, more shopping!

By the time we arrived at Ottawa rail station the outside temperature was -4 degrees. Snow was on its way. Martin was missing, and we were informed that he had gone directly to Dorval with Enid and Don Bond.

This was it - we were finally on our way home. Lots of handshakes, hugs, kisses, and tears and finally we boarded our coach with the flight number outside the rail station to travel to Dorval airport.

On arrival at Dorval it quickly became apparent that Martin had a problem. He had lost his passport!!! That beat all Annette's forgetfulness during the tour hands down! He had stayed overnight with Enid and Don and when doing his final packing this dreadful predicament came to light. Neighbours of the Bond's have a fax machine, so copies of his birth certificate and old passport winged their way over the air-waves from Scotland. It was decided that Enid and Don would drive Martin to the airport to give him plenty of time to sort out his problem. Incidentally, the British Consulate were of no help. They close for the weekend at 15.30pm on a Friday and do not reopen until 10.00am on a Monday. All they could suggest was that Martin called them on Monday!!! His chat up lines with the airport staff were not proving fruitful either, but just when he thought that all was lost, an airport supervisor on hearing his pleas to be allowed to board our aircraft appeared with Martin's passport! It transpired that he had left it on the coach with the flight number that took us to the rail station in Ottawa the day we arrived. The coach driver had found it and returned it to security/lost property at Dorval airport. They, in turn, were able to find out the date of Martin's departure from Canada, so were assuming that he would come looking for it. What a relief for Martin (and Enid and Don also!!).

After a short delay we finally boarded our KLM flight to Amsterdam. We were a somewhat more subdued group of people going home than on the outward flight. The curling, eating, drinking, partying, shopping, and sightseeing of the previous 8 days was starting to catch up with us. After dinner the cabin lights were dimmed to induce

sleep – it worked for some of us – especially the diary who awoke in time for the first breakfast of the day prior to landing at Schipol airport.

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Diary for Sunday 17th November Ian and Jancy Parkinson

The day started at 00.01am Ottawa time or 05.01am GMT and whichever way you want to look at it we were all tired wee bunnies. Flying all night after our schedule isn't good for the bright eyed and bushy tailed mode. Jean, on landing at Schipol, looked for her passport and when told it was not necessary for transit arrivals said "and I used to work for an airline!" Apparently she spent most of the flight talking to Alastair, so perhaps there's some excuse.

Our flight time of just over 5 hours was fine, and the KLM cabin staff was as good as we have come to expect.

During our first coffee break in transit time we were in the company of several sparrows who seemed quite happy to occupy the upper floor of the terminal and scavenge. Any health and safety employees on tour?

Sandra then told us that she had safely delivered all her Canadian Christmas cards whilst on tour – organised or what? Is postage really greater than the air fare? Does she have that many Canadian friends?

Gary was seen lying on the floor in Montreal airport reading a paper, and then at Schipol repeated the exercise only this time to sleep, and quite successfully too it would seem. Do they have a bed at home? If not are our tour funds in a position to help? Meanwhile Fiona went into her pocket and pulled out her hotel room card – just a souvenir or was it the most comfortable experience for a long time in view of Gary's fondness for the floor?

The 5 hour wait in Amsterdam was easier than expected, and it wasn't too long before we were at the departure gate for Glasgow. Kay took the opportunity to read out the quiz answers and in the space of 8 days our memories convinced us all that we were bound to have won.

After an uneventful flight to Glasgow we landed on time at about 14.15pm local time in pleasant sunny conditions. Brooms distributed and farewells said we were all driven off into the sunset.

Quote of the day – at Glasgow airport.

Alastair was seen to be sporting a new baseball cap and when asked about it said "My ping was beginning to pong!"

Postscript.

On arrival at Quarriers we discovered that as well as being sleepless we were breadless and milkless. To rectify the last two we went into Kilmacolm where we met previous tourist Tommy Lavery and spent a pleasant hour or so in Tommy's kitchen reliving our tour. A fitting end to a wonderful experience.



CHALLENGE

For as much as you are deserving men and women, it has to be demonstrated that your curling ability has undergone a trial by public bonspiel to prove your prowess. Know ye by the presence of our Tour Captain, aided and abetted by his Goodwill Curlers from the

RENFREWSHIRE PROVINCE IN THE COUNTRY OF SCOTLAND

that we do hereby challenge each and every one of the Ottawa Valley Goodwill Curlers to uphold the ancient traditions of curling, in a grand bonspiel to be completed in its entirety before the end on November 2006, on sheets of ice to be prepared, managed, and humbly offered within the boundaries and jurisdiction of the Renfrewshire Province of Scotland.

The challenge shall be exercised on pebbled ice in accordance with established international rules and regulations, and in accordance with the conduct of the game, namely,

- ~ Accepted commands for aim and sweeping protocols
- ~ Deliverance of the rocks with appropriate in and out turns
- ~ Guards, draws, raises, take outs, wicks, hit and rolls
- ~ Weights ranging from guard to strike
- ~ Fouled stones to be declared and removed from play, with guilt and shame applying without discretion or discrimination

Whereby, members of the Renfrewshire Province have travelled across the Great Pond, and delivered their presence onto the shores of Canada

Be it resolved, that the above mentioned Scottish Curlers, adherents of the Roaring Game, do hereby challenge the Canadian curlers of the host town, and country folk alike, subject to temperate use of food, drink, song and merriment, to a civilised, friendly series of games that will establish a new holder as champion to retain all rights privileges associated with the

FRIENDSHIP CUP

until such time and place as shall a reciprocal challenge be issued, and players of the two great countries are once again engaged in competition, and a new winner is declared.

In proof whereof, this certificate of challenge is given at Ottawa, this month of November, Two Thousand and Two, and is issued as a direct challenge by Tour Captain Hamish Sutherland on behalf of his fellow touring players, and all other worthy members of Renfrewshire Province.

It is to be accepted by the Chairperson of the Canadian Host Committee on behalf of the valiant curlers, and supporters, of the Ottawa Valley Goodwill Curlers

