90 YEARS STRONG

COSBURN PARK LAWN BOWLING CLUB

1929~2019

Bowling Matters

the Voice of Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club

VOLUME 8/2 MAY 2019

Wild Bill shows off his new heating/cooling device, courtesy of Richard Cripps.

OPENING DAY

Camera man Ron caught the action: we were on CTV evening news.

VP Sandy Johnson presented special Cosburn birthday wine to (L-R) MPP Peter Tabuns, Cllr. Paula Fletcher, MP Julie Dabrusin and Cllr. Brad Bradford.

Cllrs. Paula Fletcher, Ward 14 - Toronto Danforth and Brad Bradford, Ward 19 - Beaches East York presented the club with a plaque:

"Thank you for the dedication and commitment it has taken to build the Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club from its very humble beginnings in 1929 to what it is today. Congratulations on this milestone and best wishes for the future."

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING ON CLEAN UP DAY

Many thanks to Julie Dabrusin MP, one of 15 CPLBC volunteers who rolled up their sleeves on Clean Up Day. Jan & Ken had already squeaky-cleaned the kitchen the night before.

Many thanks also to: Murray Fenner, Laila Hassan, Sandy Johnson, Mike Mogan, Ann Nicholson, Tracy Oganoski, Keith Park, Karen Price, Lynn Price, Tom Trattner, Ian Venables, Peter White, Sandi Wingrove and Maureen Winkie.

Member of Parliament Julie Dabrusin cleaned windows.

Mission almost accomplished by volunteers. The professional carpet cleaners came next.

Then came the fun finishing touches...

Birthday Committee Chair, Sandy Johnson, works on a time line collage.

Keith Park labels CPLBC's signature birthday wine which will be awarded throughout our birthday year.

Richard Cripps works on the "Throne" for Wild Bill Haskins together with a whoopee cushion, hot water bottle (for hot or cold water) and a "Life is Beautiful" cushion cover. Bill expressed a need for an air-conditioned cushion in his last column. This was the best we could do.

Longest standing CPLBC member, Murray Fenner, & Sandy Johnson package the birthday gift towels which were given to members on Opening Day.

Tolerable Temperature for Our First Tourney of the Year

By Ann Nicholson ~ Considering the lingering winter winds we've endured lately, bowlers in our Triple Play tourney were lucky not to have been blown away. But the bowling gods relented and once more the sun shone down on Cosburn's greens. Teams hailed from Agincourt, Balmy Beach, Kew, Cosburn, Oshawa and Willowdale. Some unlikely pairs won the Tim Cards.

Other results

Hi 2-game: Kathi Culley & Helen Culley (Oshawa).
2nd Hi 2-game: Doug Durno & Katherina Brunner (Kew).
Hi last game: Mary Lou Richards & Elaine Macsween (Balmy Beach).

Many thanks to Pat D'Hondt, Vivian Harlow and Karen Price who reigned in Cosburn's kitchen, keeping bowlers happy with snacks all day. Thanks also to Bonnie for the baked goodies. ◆

Tom & Meno were the winners.

Richard with partner Andrea from Balmy Beach were a close second.

After the tourney, many bowlers retired to Sophie's where they helped Richard celebrate his birthday.

Ron & Cathy Larking can drown their sorrows with coffee and perhaps even a few Tim Bits. Other good sports were Nanci Myers & partner, and Bradley Hayward bowling with Irv Gillette.

REMEMBERING CLAYTON WILSON

1934-2019

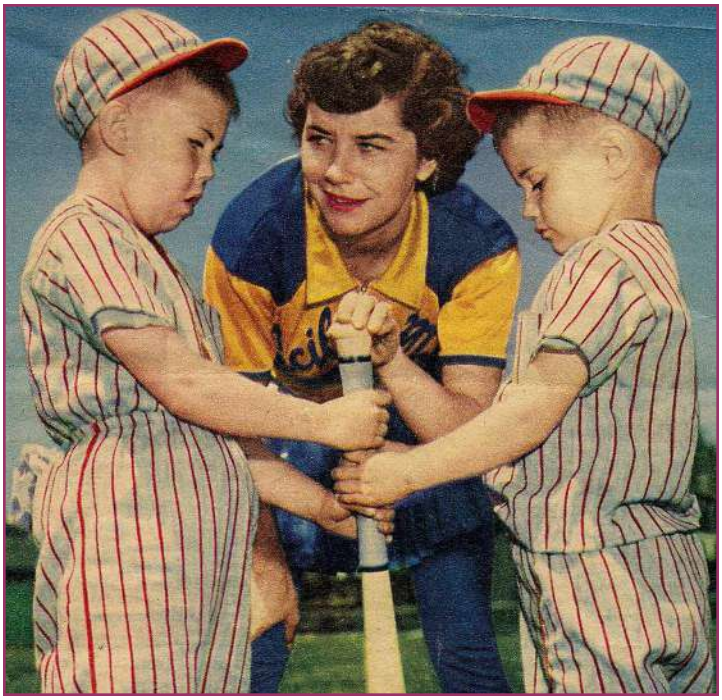
Sadly, we report the death of Clayton Wilson, a long time sponsor and social member of CPLBC.

Clayton will be greatly missed by his life partner, Don Middleton (since 1956) and his special friend, Meno Jose. The three of them regularly played Euchre on Friday nights at the Club.

Our sincere sympathy and condolences to Clayton's family and friends. ◆

LEGEND OF THE MONTH

Growing Up in a Lawn Bowling Family



Above, Lorry with sons Don (left) and Bob (right).

By Bob Bates ~ I was invited to write about my mother, Lorry Bates, & growing up with a lawn bowling mother & grandmother (Lela Fisher), both of whom you can see listed in Cosburn's 1965 Roster. Not sure where to start, so first, I'll tell you a little about our family.

My earliest memories of growing up in the Bates household (my parents – Lorry and Don – with me and my brother, Don) are that most activities outside of school revolved around sports. That may be normal for families with two boys. The unusual part was that our mother, Lorry, was without a doubt, the athlete of the family, not us boys. And, boy, was she good!

Softball Champ – Lorry's first claim to fame was playing in Ladies' Softball. Not only was she a speedy centre fielder (à la Kevin Pilar) but was regularly one of the top three high average hitters in the city's best leagues. She twice played at the Ladies' Softball World Championships. At the same time, at the tender age of 19, she was already 5 pin bowling in the Toronto Ladies' Major Leagues. Lorry's teams played in 10 Canadian Championships over the years, winning four times (and this was during an era when 5 pin bowling's popularity was at its peak). One of her proudest achievements in 5 pin was bowling an 1132 triple in league play in 1967. If you are a 5 pin bowler you know how good that is. At that time it was the highest 3-game total ever recorded. Having done it all in softball & 5 pin bowling, Lorry quit 5 pin cold turkey in her prime in 1980.

Avid Lawn Bowlers – My grandmother & grandfather were avid lawn bowlers who played at the West Toronto club before moving to the east end of the city. I was in my early teens (1960s) when I first recall being left on my own during summer days as Mom & Grandma were "off to the green" lawn bowling again. I went a couple times with them but that involved taking a streetcar & two buses just to get there (No one in our family had a driver's licence). During this time Lorry was mainly a club bowler, playing mostly so she could spend time with Grandma Lela who really enjoyed her bowling. Once they even took the bus to Oshawa to play. They would also go to local tournaments (winning many of them), and that would be all they could talk about at dinner. Although she did well in local tournaments, Mom didn't really start more competitive bowling until the late 1980s after she finally convinced my Dad to join.

Lorry Believed in Volunteering – Lorry was always involved in the running of Cosburn. At one time or another, she held every position on the board except Greens' Chair. When she was Treasurer, I recall her regularly spreading out her

~ *continued on page 5*

20-column worksheets at the dining room table and working on the books (before computers). Dad would harp at her about it and she would lecture him about the club being run by volunteers and she was doing her part. I couldn't believe it when she somehow convinced (i.e., nagged) him to join the board for a couple of years and he actually enjoyed being involved more.

Competitive Lawn Bowling Bug – Once she got the competitive bug again, as she did in softball & 5 pin, Lorry quickly rose to the top, winning three Ontario Championships from 1989-1996, despite not playing in the playdowns every year. She never played Singles. Again as with 5 pin, although she was in her prime, she got a 'been there done that' attitude towards championship play and stopped playing in many playdowns except with my wife Pat or me (which is probably why she never won again!).

Best Female Bowler of Her Era – Last year the OLBA initiated a Lawn Bowling Hall of Fame. During the process, the selectors asked Balmy Beach legendary bowler Doreen Creaney (who was one of the four female bowlers inducted into the Hall of Fame) who she thought was the best female bowler in her era. Without any doubt or hesitation, Doreen told me at the ceremony: "I told them, it was Lorry Bates." ◆

Editor's Note: During our 90th year, Bowling Matters will run a feature "Legend(s) of the Month" – stories written by longtime members who remember those listed in the 1965 roster. We will also post a copy of the roster in the clubhouse for people to browse.

If you have a story or photo to share, please contact me at ann.nicholson@rogers.com

(L-R) Helen Brands, Marg Anderson, Lorry Bates, Pat Gemmell – 1995 Ontario Fours Champions.

In 2016, after 28 years in CPLBC, Bob Bates moved to Cobourg with his wife, Pat. While they now call Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club home, Bob still plays – and frequently wins – Men's 4s with Cosburn's Eric Brands, Ken Uyesugi & Dave Carruthers.

Bob is a Cosburn legend himself, winning many trophies, including Gold Provincial Novice (1991), Provincial Silver Singles, Provincial Men's Pairs (with Ken Uyesugi), Bronze Triples (with Ken Uyesugi & Keith Park). Bob still competes in 40-50 tournaments across Ontario each year, winning many of them.

While a member of CPLBC, Bob served 2 years as VP; 2 years as Secretary; and 2 years as President. He also spent 7 or 8 years – who remembers such things? – as Treasurer and the same period as District Chair.

Life is Good.
"Wild Bill" Haskins

What a Great Club Cosburn Is!

On opening day, I arrived at the club to find a WONDERFUL CHAIR waiting for me on the verandah. All decked out in gold, pillows, hot water bottle that could also be filled with ice water.

One of the pillows was a "WHOOPIE" cushion, but it didn't work when I sat on it. I heard it work a little later, but maybe it was caused by me??

I want to thank the members for the great chair; it was wonderful. I sure am spoiled by all the attention I get. ◆

President Frank addresses our Spring AGM.

Laila chats with Promotion Chair, Martin Zibauer.

Great Spring AGM Turnout

By Rachel Jones ~ What an AGM it was! 45 members turned up, including our local MP Julie Dabrusin, who sat front and centre at the meeting.

Our new Coaching Chair, National Champion, Laila, shared her plans and praised the strong team of 11 coaches who will support her.

Vice President Sandy Johnson shared her excitement at the 90th Anniversary celebrations – to include a signature CPLBC wine, a float in the East York Canada Day Parade, and ongoing celebrations throughout the season. Sandy is looking for volunteers for these happenings, so feel free to contact her if you are interested.

Ron Sellen will be introducing Australian Pairs as an option for the evening jitneys this season, together with the choice of playing regular pairs or triples.

Mike Mogan of "Hi, Mike" fame is returning as the Competition Chair. I think he has done this before?? Joking aside, Mike said he doesn't plan to be the Competition chair for another 11-year run, so he is looking for volunteers to train and learn the ropes. Apparently, it is the coolest position on the board (I disagree).

President Frank updated us with some good news about new shelters and front doors. Because of the new doors, the current keys in circulation won't work anymore, so it will be lockbox only access from now on. Contact a member of the board if you need access to the clubhouse.

Martin Zibauer let us know that the new website not only allows online registration and signup for tournaments, but also has a members-only site, where you can access the club roster, as well as a buy and sell site and club documents. After you sign up for the members-only site, it will be a super-quick process to sign up for membership renewal and tournaments next season.

Kyle reported good member retention to date for the Rainbowlers, who are now in their 9th year. Doesn't time fly? They had 50 members last year.

And last but not least, our tireless money-man Brian Tagg gave us the accounting lowdown. Financially, we're doing fine. Thanks to Cathy Larking and Ken Uyesugi who have offered to be the auditors this year.

Sophie's was closed for Greek Orthodox Easter! So members scattered to different bars and restaurants to celebrate a great meeting and the start of the new bowling season. Afterwards, a certain married couple was seen testing the greens out. When I asked, "What's it like?" nursing his shoulder, RL replied, "It's really heavy." ◆

Victoria Day Chili Supper

By Karen Bell ~ A sizeable crowd came out for the annual Victoria Day Jitney. Cloudy, windy weather made it a bit chilly, but the mood was upbeat.

Bowlers were warmed up by a choice of chili recipes, accompanied by nice, chunky bread, salad and pizza.

Thanks to the splendid six who made the chili: Bonnie Hibbs, Freda Trattner, Mary Hainey, Vivian Harlow, Jan Luke and Sandy Johnson. And let's not forget all those fellows who cleaned up afterwards, including Mike Vince who washed dishes (in hot water again, Mike). Richard Cripps was our host with the most. ◆

Service with a smile – L-R, Vivian Harlow, Mary Hainey and Freda Trattner served up the chili.

Rainbowlers Spring Start

By Edgar van der Meer ~ Cherry blossoms have graced High Park, road crews are working overtime on pothole repair (supposedly), and the Toronto Maple Leafs are playing golf after yet another first-round game 7 loss. It's spring! Though it hasn't quite felt much like it, winter has come and gone, and Torontonians are starting to migrate outdoors once more.

Now that temperatures are slowly rising, and the grass is growing again, another season of lawn bowling is upon us. Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club once again played host to the Toronto Rainbowlers' season-opening jitney on Wednesday, May 15th. The title of the most popular Toronto sporting event of the evening, of course, must go to game one of the Raptors' playoff series against the Milwaukee Bucks, but we'd like to think Rainbowlers came in a close second, at least among those present at the club.

With a great turnout despite some ominous distant clouds and a nippy windchill, six threesomes took to the greens in a friendly warm-up for what is sure to be an excellent season ahead. Though some (author included) may need a few more games to get back up to scratch, for others it was as if they'd only played yesterday.

Jordan Stewart (L) gets a 90th anniversary towel from Kyle Knoeck.

Evan Noodin Smith

Scores were kept but quickly forgotten after the matches, owing to the freshness of the season. Though that didn't seem to bother some, judging by the amount of raking that was done by the same people end after end. As 9 pm came, a successful opening Wednesday night of Rainbowlers lawn bowling was capped off at Sophie's.

It's shaping up to be an excellent season of lawn bowling! ◆

Following the Winners' Trail

Congratulations, early birds on the tournament circuit – Cosburn team of Meno Jose, Peter Stuart-Sheppard and Mary Lou Richards – won the Joe Davis Mixed Triples at Leaside on May 19. The trophy was presented by Pauline Lyons of Assisted Living Services.

More congratulations to Mary Lou Richards on becoming an OLBA "Master Coach Developer" which includes "Coach Evaluator."

Left, Laila Hassan and Chrystal Shephard won the OP tournament at Monora on May 18.

Cosburn at Cobourg, May 20: Top: runners up Cathy Larking (Cosburn), Elaine MacSween (Balmy), Lori Brendel (Leaside), Mary Lou Richards (Cosburn). Bottom: third place, Dave Carruthers, Raji Carruthers, Pat Bylok & Bob Bates (Cobourg).

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COSBURN PARK LAWN BOWLING CLUB

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