



Don't Miss BCC'S Giant Indoor Yard Sale!



An amazing array of treasures are being gathered in BCC's ice house by the Fundraising Committee and Yard Sale volunteers in preparation for its Giant Indoor Yard Sale, slated for August 5, 6 & 7. The proceeds from the sale will go toward the cost of the last phase of BCC's flood-related renovation—installing a required fire suppression system.



Members have been donating an incredible range of quality items: a Cannondale mountain bike, sporting and outdoor equipment of all kinds, furniture (including tables, chairs, cupboards, shelves and wicker porch chairs), glassware, dish sets perfect for camp or cottage, pewter and silverplate items, cookware, artwork, a surround sound system and large flat screen TV, baby equipment, décor of all types, and a telescope! There are some nice vintage items, including some milk glass and a set of Steubenville porcelain teacups and saucers, as well as beautifully patterned Japanese tea sets.



There will be curated tables with the themes of "Man Cave Décor", "Gardening & She Shed Décor", and "Candlesticks, Lamps and Vintage Pottery". There will also be a table highlighting BCC member crafted items. Whether refreshing your home, outfitting your camp, or just enjoying the thrill of a treasure hunt, you won't want to miss this one!

The early bird sale will be held (\$10 entry) on August 5 from 5:30-7:00 PM. The hours for the yard sale are 9:00-3:00 on August 6 and 9:00-noon on the 7th (Discount Day!).

We are still accepting donated treasures, and of course still seeking volunteers! If you can help, please contact:

Kathy Cleason at khepondside2@gmail.com

Donna Fancy at dlfancy33@gmail.com or

Ann Kirkpatrick at ack1062@yahoo.com



Yellow Brick Road Benefit Concert

Tickets on Sale NOW!!

If you love a good time and love Elton John, this is a **MUST ATTEND** event! We are very fortunate to have teamed up with Yellow Brick Road, the premier Elton John Tribute Band, and the Snow Pond Center for the Arts in Sidney, Maine, to present this concert to the public as a benefit for BCC's required fire suppression system.

The concert will be October 1, 2022, with doors opening at 6pm for cocktails and grilled food. The concert starts at 7pm. Tickets are \$25, and are limited! To purchase tickets, go to <https://holdmyticket.com/tickets/396376>

One of many glowing reviews describes the band's artistry: "There is no other performer who looks and sounds so much like Elton John, nor any tribute act that provides the experience of being at an actual Elton John concert, the way Gerald Brann and Yellow Brick Road does. Brann not only bears the uncanny resemblance to the international superstar, complete with his mannerisms and gap-toothed smile, but he meticulously recreates Elton John's vocals and playing to the letter. To truly capture the essence of the piano man, Brann dresses in custom-tailored replica costumes and Elton's Trademark sunglasses." This level of professionalism did not happen overnight. The band has been playing together for 20 years, tours nationally, and have worked hard to recreate a live Elton John rock show featuring many of Sir Elton's tunes from the 1970's and 80's.

Yellow Brick Road is made up of 5 members: Gerald Brann, as Elton John; Rich Daigle and Mike Tobias on guitar and vocals; Mark Kavanaugh on bass guitar; and Kevin Ostrowski on drums. How did we get so fortunate that they added us to their "all too booked" schedule? Some of those names may

seem familiar. Both Gerald and Kevin were introduced to curling through participation in the "Crazy Canuck!" (thank you Tim MacMillan) After years of participation, Kevin eventually became a member and you can see (and hear) him dominating the ice on Tuesday evening. Gerald still makes his annual trip to the club to play in the Canuck spiel. Rich, Mike, and Mark are just happy to help out BCC. Many thanks to ALL of them! For more information on the band, go to www.tributetoeltonjohn.com or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52379739673>



Not only are we fortunate to have Yellow Brick Road helping us in our time of need, Snow Pond Center for the Arts has also offered their venue and guidance for our concert. Under the direction of their director, Christa Johnson, we can confidently take on a project that is totally new to us. The venue is amazing. Christa has arranged for bar service as well as a grill to grab a snack before the

show and enjoy their lovely deck overlooking Messalonskee Lake. Dancing? Of course! There will be a small dance floor set up...and it is not unheard of to dress up in Elton John attire to complete the fun!

For those interested in staying in their beautiful setting, Snow Pond Center for the Arts has 42 cabins available for rent. Rent a cabin, and relax for the evening or continue the good times! No worries about driving home! For information on cabin rentals contact Dylan Abbott at 207-465-9648, ext. 207 or email him at dylan.abbott@snowpond.org Read more about Snow Pond and their events at www.snowpond.org

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Yellow Brick Road (cont.)

Installing a fire suppression system is the final step in our flood-related renovation and is required to keep BCC open, so we may continue to curl and to host others in our ever-improving club! People have been amazingly supportive of our fundraising efforts to repair our flood damage, and this benefit concert is a perfect opportunity for us to cut loose, celebrate everyone's efforts, and keep moving forward to meet our goals.

If you would like to support this effort but you cannot make it to the concert, please become a sponsor rather than buy tickets. We want to show our appreciation to the band and the venue by having all seats filled! Sponsorships begin at \$25, and we are still looking for sponsors, both corporate and individual. If you would like to help sponsor this event please contact

Kathy Cleason at khepondside2@gmail.com

or Donna Fancy at dlfancy33@gmail.com.

by Kathy Cleason



Fire Suppression System Update

Last summer, BCC learned that the State Fire Marshal would require the addition of a fire suppression system in order to grant the construction permit for the flood-related renovations. Due to the scale of renovations and hardship of accompanying cost, we were given an extension until October 1, 2023, for having it in place.

The Renovation Committee received two quotes for a NFPA 13 code compliant system from Eastern Fire and Maine Fire Protection. In concept, NFPA 13 is an "umbrella" code that can be used for any structure regardless of the purpose or type of usage of the facility. Eastern Fire had the more favorable pricing, AND they also advised they had the engineering capability to do a performance-based design that would do egress modeling. The modeling looks at the specific structure, use and purpose of a facility. The fire protection system is then designed to address that particular facility, usually resulting in a lower project cost with no reduction in the quality of the fire protection. Eastern Fire completed the modeling in late June and has begun the process of working with the State Fire Marshal for approval of the facility-specific design.

Because BCC is not on town water, it is necessary to install holding tanks for the water needed for fire suppression. Originally, it was thought they would be buried underground but it was determined that would not be feasible. Instead, there will be an addition to the existing building that houses the Munters dehumidifier. It will match the existing building in profile and extend about 18' along the ice house wall towards the chiller. Three 850-gallon tanks will be placed inside the building along with the fire pumps. The building will be kept at about 45 degrees with electric heat. Sprinkler piping will run into the ice house in three parallel lines. Other piping will run into the warm room and banquet room. The performance-based modeling demonstrates there is not a need for sprinklers in the various attics. Instead, the attics will be covered with heat alarm instrumentation. This substantially reduces the project cost compared to NFPA 13 code.

On July 13, representatives from Eastern Fire, BCC, and the needed contractors conducted a site visit, reviewed the proposed plan, and discussed a general schedule. The earthwork and construction of the building would occur from the end of August into early September. The installation of sprinkler piping and alarm systems is planned for before October 1. The final installation of the fire pumps is based upon delivery which may be 4 months or more. These preliminary schedules are all based upon approval by the State Fire Marshal, issuing of permits, and approval of the total budget by the BCC BOD. However, we now have a team in place and a proposed schedule.

The cost of the system including the new building addition is still being finalized. If things go well with the approval, a preliminary estimate for the project is around \$225,000. *by Ken Gordon*

BCC Curlers Storm Pittsburgh

Skip Dan Marra, Vice Mijin Nelson, Second Barbara Leonard, and Lead Owen Nelson stormed the Pittsburgh Curling Club for the Too Early for Tropicurl 'Spiel, held June 2 - 5. And we mean it when we say stormed—Owen and Mijin rode their touring motorcycle (with trailer) all the way from Belfast for the event, encountering thunderstorms and drenching rains on the way. They made it safely to Pennsylvania's second largest city in time for dinner with Barbara and Dan and some of Owen's friends from when he lived in Pittsburgh for nearly 20 years.

As a traveling team, we were given a first draw early Friday morning. The ice was FAST! No names will be mentioned, but three of the four intrepid Belfast curlers slid out, delivered a stone, and landed on their sides in the first game. It was, perhaps, an omen, as we lost that game to a strong team from Buck's County, PA.

Other teams from all over the midwest, northeast, and mid-Atlantic provided solid competition throughout the event. Everything was well-organized, on time, and the ice was great throughout. We won our second game, competing against a rink featuring now-BCC curler Courtney Lee Beauregard (vicing with some of her former Philadelphia gang). Unfortunately, we lost our third game after a back-

and-forth with a team from Triangle, ending our dreams of playing on Sunday. That team eventually lost in the finals.

The good news is that we had a great time in Pittsburgh! The club, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, recently opened a new, four-sheet dedicated ice facility. When we weren't at the club, Owen was a fabulous tour guide and navigator around Pittsburgh, a beautiful city where three rivers converge (the Ohio, the Allegheny, and the Monongahela). In our short visit, we walked all over the city, checked out one of the "Inclines," caught the last inning of a Pirates game (they almost came back to win, and then there was an amazing drone show!), and enjoyed the annual Three Rivers Arts Festival and the simultaneous kick-off events for Pittsburgh's Pride month.



We can all recommend that other BCC curlers check out this 'spiel in the future!
by Barbara Leonard and Dan Marra

Calling All 5 & Under Curlers!

The Grand National Curling Club (GNCC) sponsors three bonspiels each season specifically for curlers with 5 or fewer years of curling experience: The Frances Dykes Memorial for men, the Elizabeth Childs Challenge for women, and the Raymond Kayser Memorial for mixed teams of two men and two women, alternating in positions. They were established so that newer curlers have the opportunity play against others of similar ability. They are a great way for new curlers to start to experience bonspieling which is a whole other world than league play, building confidence, skills and, best of all, new friendships.

To be eligible, curlers must be at least 21 and members of the GNCC, which is part of your BCC membership. Curlers must not have curled in more than five seasons. Ten (10) games per season anywhere constitutes a season, with the season starting May 1 and ending April 30. Go to <https://www.gncc.org/index.php> for more information and eligibility forms.

Following are the dates and locations for this season's bonspiels:

- The Kayer mixed bonspiel will be hosted by Nashua CC, Feb. 10-13.
- The Childs Challenge women's bonspiel will be hosted by Cape Cod CC, Feb. 23-26.
- The Dykes men's bonspiel will be hosted by Utica CC, Feb. 23-26.

There are two other 5 & Under bonspiels in the coming season that don't yet have dates. The USWCA sponsors an East Region Open 5 & Under which will be held at Albany CC, and The Country Club (TCC) in Brookline, MA hosts the Worcester Cup 5 & Under each year, in early March.

This past season, two Belfast teams traveled to 5 & Under events and were featured in last April's newsletter available on BCC's website. Reach out to any of those who went, or any of the many who have "aged out" of the events, and it is highly likely you will get nothing but positive reviews!

Belfast Curlers Hit the Cape for Summer Competition

Two pairs of Belfast curlers teamed up with friends from other clubs to play in two of Cape Cod's infamous Summerspiels. Each summer the Cape Cod Curling Club puts its ice back in for several weeks in order to host four bonspiels: mixed, women's, men's, and wheelchair events. They are highly popular, drawing curlers from across the US and Canada (including Olympians and Paralympians), as it is a peak time to recreate (outside the ice house!) on the beautiful Cape.



The Dewees Mixed Summerspiel was held July 14-17th, featuring 36 teams. Rachel Petersen and Garrett Gustafson teamed up with new friends Ben and Jenny Levy from Detroit Curling Club who they met at the inaugural Belfast Open Doubles (which the Levys won). All four took the opportunity to promote the upcoming Belfast Open Doubles every chance they had! Rachel and Garrett report:

We had a great time at our first Summerspiel! We walked into the club and were surrounded by familiar faces and the glimmer of meticulously prepared curling ice in the middle of summer. Our awe over the ice was furthered when we spotted Shawn Oleson, USA Curling Head Ice Technician, who came from North Dakota to prepare the Summerspiel ice.

On the ice, in pool play, we first matched up against a team from Plainfield/New Brunswick. It took four ends for us to get up to speed playing with each other, but after shaking off the rust, we brought it back to tie 6-6. Friday, we played an incredibly friendly Cape Cod team and came out on top 8-3. Our last pool play game was against a team from Four Seasons Curling Club in Blaine, MN, which we won 11-1. These first three games ranked us high enough to get into the third event finals, playing a team from Denver on Sunday. We kept the game close initially, stealing one point after another until the fourth end when a series of errors and a pair of doubles led to a 7-ender. We shook after 6 and lost 9-4, landing us solidly in 6th place.

It was a great weekend full of good curling on top notch ice, delectable food, and friends old and new. Every local restaurant we tried was delicious. The Cape Cod Curling Club's hospitality was outstanding and punctuated by the lobster and steak dinner on Saturday night. But the clear highlight of the trip was taking Cape Cod curler Wendy Scholes up on her gracious invitation to visit her house with a private beach on an absolutely perfect Saturday afternoon. We can't wait for next year's Summerspiel!

Changing of the Guard

The Women's Summerspiel, comprised of 24 teams, took to the ice less than two hours after Garrett and Rachel's team got off, and Belfast curlers Ann Kirkpatrick and Donna Fancy, together with friends Cathy Offinger from Cape Cod and Naida Leslie from Nutmeg, were in that first draw.

With Ann at skip and Donna at lead, the team lost a tight match against Utica and moved to the B event. In the second game, against South Shore Curling Club, Belfast and friends staged an impressive comeback, taking two in the sixth, stealing two in the seventh to tie things up, and then stealing one in the eighth for the win. In their third game against a Nashua team skipped by Nancy Dinsdale, they outdid their previous nail-biting performance by winning with a tiebreaker skip's draw to the button. Ann covered the pin with her shot! That brought them to the B semifinal game, which they played valiantly against Schenectady but unfortunately lost.

Staying with teammate Cathy Offinger, just a mile from the curling club, the team took advantage of local knowledge and proximity to make the most of the Falmouth area when not curling. Like Garrett and Rachel, Ann and Donna noted the outstanding Cape hospitality and look forward to returning.



A Tribute to Mary Weaver Dutch

The Belfast Curling Club lost a beloved member of its family last month: Mary Dutch passed from this world after a short battle with liver cancer. Born in Gardiner, she moved to Belfast as a young girl, and after attending UMO, spent her life in Belfast with her husband Jeff. Throughout her life, she gave tirelessly to her community and family. She was a leader professionally, very active in her church, as well as the Belfast Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce.

In 1979, Mary had a positive diagnosis of progressive Multiple Sclerosis, but that did not prevent her from following her pursuits with signature passion, intellect, and indomitable spirit. Prior to her diagnosis, Mary started to play golf and curl with her husband Jeff. But as MS progressed, the disability sidelined her for years from athletic competition.

In 2000, BCC initiated a wheelchair curling program, and Mary was able to return to the ice. The Belfast wheelchair curlers, coached by Jeff, became the United States' first competitive team to represent our country in the 2002 World Wheelchair Curling Championships in

Sursee, Switzerland. Mary delivered the first stone ever in world competition for the USA.

Mary's longtime friends, Shelley Dropkin, Cheryl Pieske, and Brenda Boulier, felt it was important to honor their dear friend, and have pursued installing a bench on the Belfast waterfront, inscribed with her name and the tribute: "An inspiration to all who knew and loved her".

Cheryl explains how the idea for the bench got started: "Mary enjoyed taking her Amigo (motorized chair) from her house, through the neighborhood, and by the Boathouse to the park or town. A bench in her honor near the Boathouse seemed perfect. We contacted Parks and Rec and were told there was an available bench spot in that area, and we got city approval for the project. Mary was aware of the bench and was deeply moved by the thought of it." Brenda has been working with Parks and Rec since spring, the order is ready to go, and they expect it to be installed this Fall.

Cheryl first met Mary and Jeff at BCC in 1980. She says of her friend: "For those who did not know Mary, she was an avid traditional curler, one of the very first wheelchair players, and thereafter, one of curling's biggest fans and supporters. Curlers meeting her for the first time always remembered Mary and her big laugh and great big smile. She wouldn't just let life go by. She would join right in on any activity taking place. She loved people and everyone loved her. Her zest for life and positivity truly was an inspiration to everyone, including me."

Brenda goes way back with Mary and Jeff as they attended Belfast High School together, Jeff one year ahead and Mary one year behind. Brenda says of her friend, "Mary loved her family, her faith, and the

people who cared for her and about her. She was a sweet soul."

Shelley and her husband Keith curl out of Broomstones CC, and their friendship with Mary and Jeff goes back to the eighties. They met Jeff and Bill Pieske during playdowns, and the following summer aborted a rainy camping trip in the Maritimes to



come to Belfast to look them up. They indeed found them, had dinner all together with their spouses, spent the night with the Dutches, and the rest is history. BCC became the Dropkin's curling home away from home.

Shelley says of her friend, "Very simply - I had no idea how Mary was able to be so positive and upbeat through all the challenges she had to face with her MS for over 40 years! What she shared was that after finding out about her diagnosis many years ago, someone told her that people don't want to be around a grouch - and she decided that she certainly wasn't going to be one! That was her inspiration to remain positive. While our conversations are still very much with me, along with her wonderful smile, the truth is that her spirit will always be with us, and especially during our walks down to her bench."

To read Mary's obituary, go to <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/mary-dutch-obituary?id=35531248>