

# There Is More To Dentistry Than Drill, Fill And Bill

BY SANDY EVANS

**T**his past winter I was able to participate in two curling bonspiels that were held by two different dental societies. The Toronto Academy of Dentistry hosted a bonspiel on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club. There were 16 participants made up of dentists and dental industry sponsors. The nice thing about this event is that you do not have to be a seasoned curler as beginners are welcome. I was teamed with my associate, Robert MacDonald, and two dentists. I am accustomed to seeing the professional practitioner side of dentistry and this event was a pleasant diversion and provided an insight into the fun-side of many of these dentists. The skill levels varied a fair amount but we did manage to win the first game; but the second game was a different story even with our opposition doing their best to keep us in the game. A nice lunch was served between the games and at the end of the second game, prizes were handed out. Overall it was great time and experience—needless to say, it is easy to get hooked on curling.

The second bonspiel was the Western Canadian Dental Society (WCDS) 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Bonspiel. I heard about this bonspiel a few years ago at a Manitoba convention. I managed to register early enough to become a participant in this well-attended bonspiel. With the aid of Gord Fletcher I was teamed with three great guys (Eli Markovich, Ron Wolk and Richard Wilczek). This year the bonspiel was held in Victoria, a week after the Pacific Dental Conference took place in Vancouver.

The past-president of the Western Canadian Dental Society (WCDS), Cliff Swanlund provided me with some background information about this event.

## History

The WCDS was formed over 100 years ago to provide scientific education opportunities for western Canadian dentists in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Conventions were held every two years in Saskatoon until 1985. In 1968 an annual curling bonspiel was established to replace the convention. British Columbia formally joined the WCDS in 1983. Fellowship, Education and Scholarship are the pillars of the society.

## Fellowship

The WCDS is a unique society that creates camaraderie and lifelong friends in the profession by means of an annual curling bonspiel that rotates through seven western Canadian cities

(Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg).

## Education

The annual curling bonspiel has a CE component at each event.

## Scholarship

It is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization with over \$300,000.00 of existing endowments supporting all four western Canadian provinces at both the graduate and undergraduate

## The TORCENT Bonspiel—Robert MacDonald

WITH JAMES RUDDY

### What was your overall impression and major take-away from the bonspiel you attended with Sandy Evans?

Curling is a sport that anyone of any skill level can play and have a great time! We were paired up with a mix of skill levels and had a blast making and missing shots.

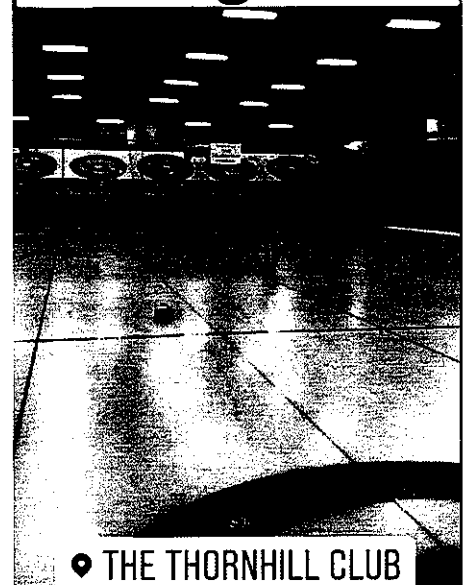
### What did you learn about the dentists who attended?

I was surprised to see some of the dentists who are serious curlers! Again, curling is a sport where you don't know who will be the best until you step onto the ice.

### Why would you recommend this event for other dentists to attend?

It's a great way to meet new people and try a new sport. I always suggest people get outside your comfort zone... curling is a great way to start!

## TORCENT Curling event



◆ THE THORNHILL CLUB

The 'rinks' at the TORCENT Curling event



Sandy Evans' curling Team: From left to right—Sandy Evans, Richard Wilczek, Eli Markovich and Ron Wolk

levels. Some of these endowments are decades old and the WCDS tops up the award amounts to current reasonable levels.

In addition the WCDS awards the Cal Waddell Memorial Scholarship of \$6000.00 annually (\$1500.00 for each of the western dental faculties) to a fourth year student who is likely to be a leader in organized dentistry in the future.

This year the Society announced a second scholarship, The WCDS Student Fellowship Award of \$6000.00 annually (\$1500.00 to each of the western dental faculties) to be awarded to a third year student. The student is selected on the basis of professionalism, friendship, leadership, ability to bring colleagues together, camaraderie, sportsmanship and he/she is expected to make a distinguished contribution to the dental profession and the surrounding community.

The additional revenue for scholarships is possible because of a series of

successful bonspiels and donations by the dental community. In March of 2018 the 50<sup>th</sup> annual bonspiel in Regina was again a success. The last three bonspiels have averaged between 24 and 28 teams raising between \$29,000.00 and \$20,000.00 at each event—over \$30,000.00 was raised in Victoria in March of this year.

All curlers, even beginners, are welcome. It is all about the camaraderie within our profession. Watch the WCDS website in the fall of this year for registration information. Please feel free to register as a single and organizers will find you a team with which you will have a great time.

The 2020 bonspiel will be in Edmonton and the 2021 bonspiel will be in Kelowna instead of Vancouver. See you there.

This year was my first year curling and I was put on a team with three wonderful guys. ROI Corporation, Brokerage will definitely sponsor this event again next year and although I will be on a personal

vacation, I will have another member of our team fill in for me until 2021! I encourage anyone who enjoys curling or would like to try to learn—consider this convention next year.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Dentists and other health care professionals often escape the pressures of running a practice with a hobby or sports past-time. Curling provides an ideal fun activity that is enjoyed by many. This column provides some insights and history of two of the bonspiels that dentists attend.



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