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MAIN STREET

A Quick Look at our Town!

■ THIS 'N' THAT

Sunny, hot, humid weather this past weekend for the 10th Annual World Crokinole Championship and Chamber sponsored town garage sale ... plenty of rain and thunderstorms ended off the weekend ... an excellent Fish Fry put on by the Men's Club and Chicken BBQ by the Tavistock Firefighters last week ... Father's Day is this Sunday, June 15th ... coming up the Canada Day long weekend is the Southwestern Ontario Fiddle and Stepdance Competition held in Tavistock ... a community fundraiser for Jesse Yantzi is being held at the Queen's Park on Sunday, June 22nd - lots to do and good food to eat - see ad page 5 for details!

■ BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Roy and Bessie Longmire celebrate their 3rd wedding anniversary today, June 11 ... on June 12, Nicholas Danen is 9; Shawn Schultz, 12; Sophia Bailey, 10; and a 15th wedding anniversary for Tim and Jayne Whetstone ... Shelby Zehr is one year old on June 13; Janis Marriott, 8; Jennifer Snider, 17; Derek McKay, 18 ... on June 14, Rianna Forthuber is 3; Payge Schlosser, 6; Julia Harmer, 6; Kristen Lupton, 13 ... Mackenzie Kalbfleisch is 16 on June 15 ... on June 16, Jessalyn Munro is 20; Leighton Suderman, 8; Anne Troyer, 16; Daniel Kalbfleisch, 19 ... on June 17, Taylor Yungblut is 16; Leah Winhold, 20; and a 2nd wedding anniversary for Lisa and Jedediah Zehr.

Congratulations to all!

Maples employees ratify new agreement

The almost 70 employees at The Maples Home for Seniors have a new collective agreement. Workers at both the nursing and retirement homes ratified a new three-year contract that provides wage increases of 8.25 percent for the nursing home employees and 8.75 percent for retirement home employees. The registered practical nurses at both homes will receive wage increases of more than 12 percent.

In addition to wage improvements, the contract includes increases in vacation entitlement and shift premiums.

"It's a good settlement that recognizes the value these employees bring to their workplace," says Betty Westrik, Ontario representative with CLAC's Chatham office.

"We're also pleased that a new agreement was settled prior to conciliation."



BILL GLADDING / TAVISTOCK GAZETTE

BRIAN COOK pumps the air after his final shot to win his second consecutive World Crokinole Championship in Tavistock on Saturday, June 7, 2008.

Cook repeats as WCC champ

10th Annual World Crokinole Championship reaches player capacity

Brian Cook has done it again. The Toronto Public Health researcher won the 2008 World Crokinole Championship (WCC) in Tavistock, Ontario on Saturday, June 7 by topping a field of 136 crokinole enthusiasts.

On a day that celebrated the 10th anniversary of the tournament, Brian defeated 2005 Recreational division champion Ab Leitch of Goderich in the final to take home the trophy and \$1,000 cash. Robert Mader Jr. of Kitchener defeated Ray Beierling of Varna for 3rd place.

Brian said he was having trouble sinking 20's at the end of the tournament, but his strategy and personal focus on each game gave him the advantage. Brian is now poised to tie the three-time win record of nemesis Joe Fulop (2001, 2002, 2004).

Unwilling to blame his health problems, Joe said he just didn't have it Saturday. "These are the last days of glory," he relented. Joe finished 31st in this year's tournament. However, the bright spot in the day for Joe was when he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the WCC Committee. This not only recognizes Joe's three championship titles, but his overall contribution to the game. He has organized his own tournament in Exeter and just published a book on the intricacies and strategies of the game. The book entitled "It's only crokinole, but I like it," is available by contacting Joe at 519-235-1022 or e-mail: jfulop@cabletv.on.ca

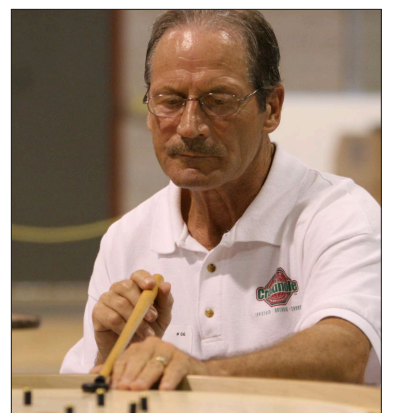
Many new players made their way into the top sixteen finalists this year. In the preliminary round, former champions Bruce Hartung (2005) placed 2nd, Jason



Kohl Hedley, Jr. Champion



Nathan Walsh, Rec. Champion



Wayne Schultz, Cues Champion

Beierling (2006) placed 15th, and Ray Kappes (2003) was 47th. Former junior and intermediate champion Cecchi MacNaughton placed 64th in the adult group. Locally, Scott Houle, a former Tavistock Public School champ placed 45th and perennial competitor Bruce Halliday was 77th.

The first time in 10 years, there was a tie for the 20's champion. Ray Beierling of Staffa and Merv Wice of Innisfil both sunk ninety-seven 20's during the preliminary round robin competition.

Tournament chairman Barry Raymer was overwhelmed with the positive response from this year's tournament. "We've reached the maximum number of tables," he said. "We have to cap it somewhere." "It was great," he said. "It took 10 years to get it full, but everything ran smoothly."

The Tavistock and District Recreation Centre was near capacity with a registration of 548

people playing throughout the day. Seventy tables were set up in the morning session for doubles players in both the cues and fingers categories. The arena was alive with the "clacking" sound of wooden buttons bouncing off the board rims as players greeted each other in friendly competition.

"The help we had was excellent," Mr. Raymer continued. "But how do we get some more good volunteers?" he asked.

"There has to be more interest from the community!"

The day was highlighted with the display of the earliest known crokinole board, referred to as "the holy grail of crokinole." The Eckhardt Wettlaufer board was made in Sebastopol in 1876 as a fifth birthday present for his son, Adam. The board was generously loaned for the day by the Joseph Schneider Haus in Kitchener.

Crokinole: "This game has enormous potential..."

- Wayne Kelly, Mr. Crokinole

The original committee that started the World Championship in 1999 was also introduced. Mr. Crokinole, Wayne Kelly of Stratford and Dr. Bruce Halliday of Tavistock proposed the idea and East Zorra-Tavistock council, volunteers and service club representatives met to form the committee. Honoured with recognition and a 10th anniversary key chain were councillors and first tournament chair Doris Gladding, Betty Yeoman and Bob Rudy, secretary-treasurer Mary Nicklas, Wayne Kelly, Ken Wettlaufer, TPS principal Barry Tate, Mary Alice Roth, Myron Gascho, Carl Nicklas, Bruce Halliday (Rotary Club), Dayle Reibling (Optimist Club), Linda Ruby (Opti-Mrs Club), Bill Gladding, and the late Laverne Reibling. Mrs. Dorothy Reibling attended on her husband's behalf.

Commenting on the longevity of the championship in Tavistock, Wayne Kelly said "nothing else has had the enduring quality" of the Tavistock event.

(See "World Crokinole ..." page 4)