

World Crokinole ...

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However, other provinces and states in the U.S. are showing great interest in the game. Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Prince Edward Island are all holding championships of their own while in Ontario, along with the many clubs from Exeter to St. Jacobs and Elmira, Gravenhurst also holds a competition in conjunction with their heritage days.

“In California there is a huge interest,” Mr. Kelly said. In San Diego and Bakersfield there are many expatriot Canadians who have introduced the game to their American friends. Pennsylvania lays claim to the first crokinole board manufacturing company, M.B. Ross, in 1883.

A German company has been manufacturing boards since 2001 when the principles came to the tournament here. Finland also has a great following. “Worldwide, I haven’t seen it better,” Mr. Kelly stated. “This game has enormous potential,” he added.

Arena Manager Ken Wettlaufer shared emcee duties with Mayor Don McKay at this year’s event. Mayor McKay introduced players who had come a distance to play including one from Scotland and one from Australia. Seven states were represented including Maine, Michigan, Massachusetts, California, Colorado, New York, and Ohio. As well, six provinces represented were British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec and Ontario. More than a dozen players lay claim to having played in all ten tournaments while about 100 were competing for the first time.

Of course, the game is suitable for all ages with the youngest participants being Tyson Kuepfer, 6, of Brunner and Ainsley Hogg, 7, Toronto. The oldest players were

Harvey Benneweiss, 87, and Margaret Coward, 81, both of Kitchener. Four generations of players noted during the afternoon was the Grasby family including Eileen Graham of Stratford, son Bob Grasby of Stratford, grandson Jeff Grasby of Holland Landing, and great grandson Trevor Grasby.

Stopping by from Edmonton, Alberta were John and Eleanor Gascho. John was originally from the the Milverton area, and was visiting family here. He heard about the competition on an Alberta radio station some years ago while trucking.

Also visiting the championship for the first time was world traveler and writer David Kravetz. From Lexington, Kentucky, he has been working in Woodstock since February 2008 as a Japanese interpreter at the Toyota plant that is being built there. He is making the World Crokinole Championship one of his journals and photographic essays for Southern Ontario and the surrounding region. You can view his website at www.sumoflam.biz

The morning began with doubles play as 70 tables were buzzing with activity. There were 113 teams entered in the fingers doubles while 26 teams competed in the cue doubles. Brothers Ray and Jason Beierling captured the title once again with second place to Bill Freeman and Dan Shantz, Petersburg. Third place was the team of Ray Kappes and Kevin Bechtel, Waterloo and fourth place to Ray Haymes and Ron Haymes, Wainfleet. The cue doubles competition was also won by brothers, Shawn Neal of Guelph and Mike Neal of Arthur. Second place went to Wayne Schultz of Tavistock and Floyd Kipfer of Milverton. The duo of Merv and Marjorie Roth, New Hamburg was third while in fourth place



BILL GLADDING / TAVISTOCK GAZETTE

CROKINOLE FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Four generations of the Grasby family gathered in Tavistock on Saturday to compete in the World Crokinole Championship. At right is Eileen Graham of Stratford with son Bob Grasby, Stratford (left); grandson Jeff Grasby of Holland Landing and great grandson, Trevor Grasby, also of Holland Landing.

were Carl Litt and Paul Sorley, both of Kitchener.

In tournament play during the afternoon, two pools of adult singles competed along with junior (12), intermediate (8), cue (30) and recreational (84) divisions. Nathan Walsh of St. Pauls earned the recreational title over second place Richard Lindekamp of Simcoe. Paul Brubacher was third and Simon Jongsma, Sudbury was fourth. For intermediates, Joel Hartung of Palmerston won the title followed by Travis Kuepfer of Brunner. Joel is the son of 2005 champion Bruce Hartung. Kristine Lindekamp of Simcoe was third and Bobby Pettigrew of Vienna, fourth. The Junior division was won for the second year in a row by 7-year-old Kohl Hedley of Beachburg. Second place went to Tyson Kuepfer of Brunner, third place to Trevor Grasby of Holland Landing, and fourth place to Maxwell Hosken of Brampton. The cue singles competition was won by Tavistock player Wayne Schultz with a win over Carl Litt of Kitchener. Third place went to Dave Brubacher, Listowel and fourth to Lorraine Proud, Kitchener.

The supper hour was enjoyed by many in the adjoining curling rink as about 250 people were fed a barbecued chicken dinner courtesy of the Tavistock Firefighters.

Soaring temperatures during the day brought a large number of visitors to the village for the coordinating Saturday garage sales.

More results and photos at:
worldcrokinole.com



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Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE COUNTY WEED AND BRUSH CONTROL ANNUAL SPRAY PROGRAM

The County roadsides in the Townships of Blandford-Blenheim, East Zorra-Tavistock, Norwich, South-West Oxford and Zorra will be sprayed with the pesticide Estaprop Plus Registration No. 27968 under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada) to control weed and brush growth.

Weedspraying is scheduled to begin on May 22, 2008 and will continue for approximately six weeks. That commencement date is approximate and dependent on weather conditions. If you need to know how the weed control program is progressing in your area contact the County of Oxford Public Works Department, 21 Reeve Street, Woodstock, Ontario (519) 539-9800 or Toll Free 1-866-537-7778 (Scott Boughner, C.Tech., Roads Operations Supervisor Extension 3106).

Ontario's Tobacco Display Ban

As of May 31, 2008, tobacco products cannot be displayed wherever tobacco products are sold or offered for sale.

What does this mean? Tobacco products must be out of view until purchased by the consumer. For more information on the Tobacco Display Ban, contact your Public Health Unit or call the INFOnline toll-free at 1-866-396-1760. TTY: 1-800-387-5559. Or visit www.ontario.ca/smoketree



DON MCKAY FOR THE TAVISTOCK GAZETTE

ORIGINAL WCC COMMITTEE HONOURED

Members of the original World Crokinole Championship committee from 1999 were honoured at the 10th anniversary of the tournament held on Saturday, June 7, 2008. Left to right are, seated: Mary Alice Roth, Dorothy Reibling (for husband the late Laverne Reibling), Doris Gladding chair, Mary Nicklas secretary-treasurer, and Betty Yeoman; back row: Bob Rudy, Wayne Kelly, Mr. Crokinole; Carl Nicklas, Bruce Halliday, Dayle Reibling, Ken Wettlaufer, Bill Gladding, and Barry Tate, former principal at Tavistock Public School.

Senior Stars to compete

Chartwell Seniors Housing REIT announced April 30 that in celebration of Chartwell's National Appreciation of Seniors initiative on June 17, 18, and 19, 2008, it is encouraging seniors to participate in the second annual "Senior Star" singing and musical instrument competition.

In 2007, Canadian seniors embraced this competition and 600 seniors sang and played for over 10,000 appreciative fans.

The contest is held across Canada in Chartwell residences, Seniors Centres and theatres. It is open to anyone, 65 and over and a Canadian resident. Contestants do not have to be living in a Chartwell residence.

Those who wish to become contestants may pick up a registration form at Anne Hathaway Residence, 480 Downie Street, Stratford. The local competition is Tuesday, June 17 at 2 p.m. at Stratford City Hall Auditorium. June is Seniors month.

Contestants will be given a maximum of five minutes to sing a song, play an instrument, or do both, and their performance will be videotaped. Musical accompaniment will be provided to singing contestants, if required. A panel of three judges will choose the top three local contestants, each of whom will be presented with an award. Ten finalists will be chosen to compete in the National Final, held at the Royal York Hotel, September 15, 2008.

ANNUAL SENIORS' PICNIC

Tavistock Memorial Hall - 2:00 pm

Wednesday, June 18th, 2008

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