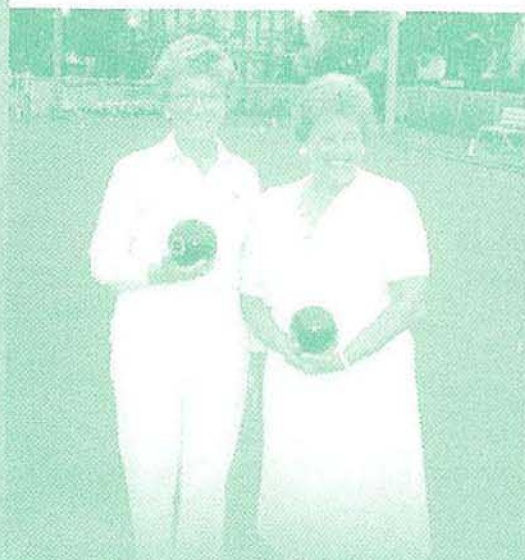




LE CLUB  
BOULINGRIN DE  
BEACONSFIELD

LAWN  
BOWLING  
CLUB



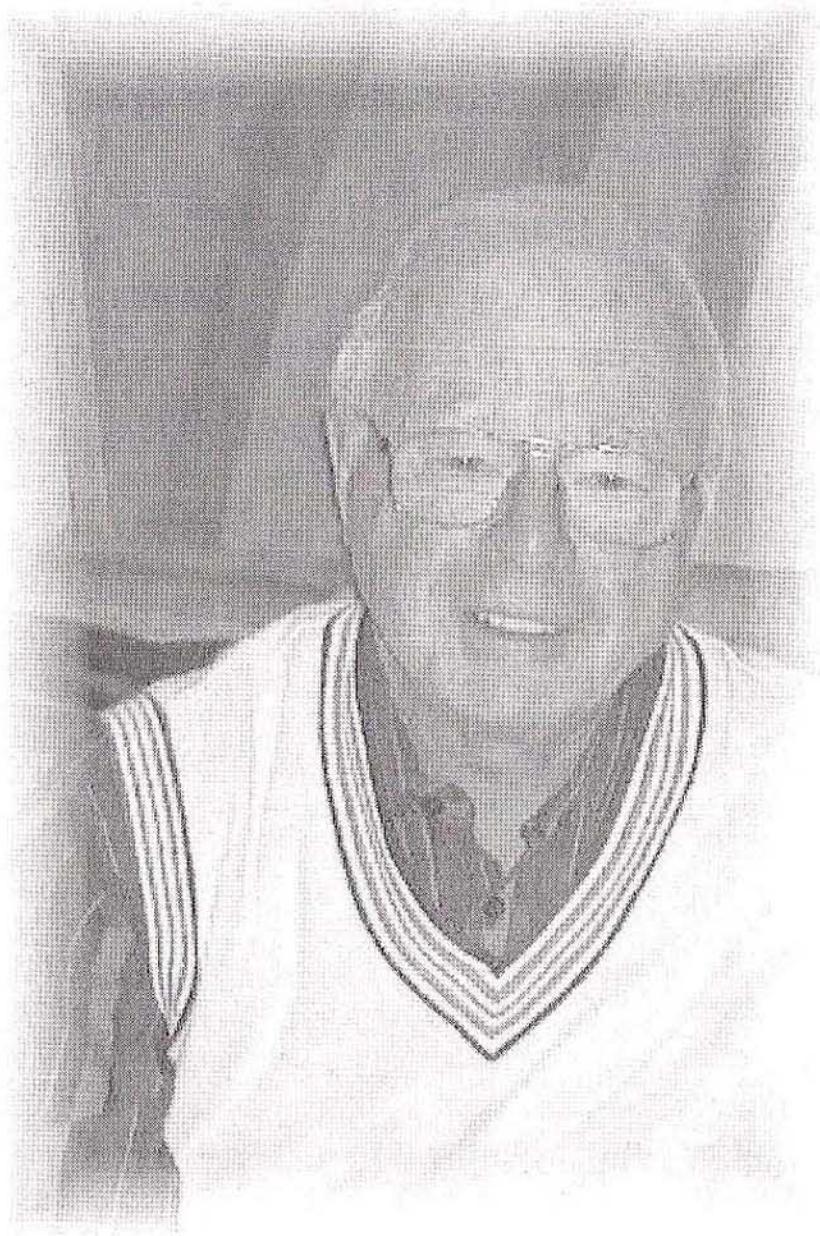
Celebrating

25 *years*

1979 • 2004

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. It is thanks to the early work of Herb Linder of the Beaconsfield Recreation Department, Bob Gandey, an enthusiast for organizing local sports and other activities, and Jack MacKay, the Beaconsfield City Manager in the 1970s that we are able to celebrate this year. The work of these individuals together with the many active participants over the years, who have given of their time and talents, has made the Bowling Club what it is today. Thanks to them and the support of the mayors of Beaconsfield, many of whom were members, we have been able to enjoy the greens and club house facilities and the camaraderie of the members.

This short history has been written to provide you the members with the highlights of the many club activities over the years. We have included a number of photographs to provide a visual history of the club activities – we apologise to any members who do not appear in the pictures, perhaps they were behind the camera.

We thank Shirley Skilling for her work in writing this history together with the writings of Bob Gandey who wrote the first ten years.

We hope you will have an enjoyable read and that this history will help you celebrate this anniversary.

John Wilson

President

## FOREWORD

This history of the Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club has been written in two parts. **Part I** covers the first ten years of the club, beginning in 1979, and was written by one of the founders, its first President, Bob Gandey. I have abbreviated **Part I**, without, I hope, losing its Gandeyesque flavour. In 2001, the history took on another life when President Mari Paterson initiated its completion as a project to help celebrate the club's quarter century. History, and an organization's activities, tend to repeat themselves, so in **Part II**, an overview from 1989 on, I have recorded the highlights, dividing them under subject headings.

My warm thanks to those club members, including my husband, Gord Skilling, who read some of my early drafts and offered suggestions and guidance. Thanks especially to David Garforth who patiently scanned Bob Gandey's manuscript onto a floppy disk, and carried out the production of this anniversary book.

Shirley Skilling



# THE GREEN



Vol. 8, No. 4

September 1979

## QUEBEC

### Opening of The Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club (1979) Re-opens after 100 years

On July 1st the Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club had its grand opening. The Mayor welcomed members from guest clubs on Canada's 112 Birthday. Over two hundred and fifty people attended to view the perfect greens which lie adjacent to the modern municipal building and public library.

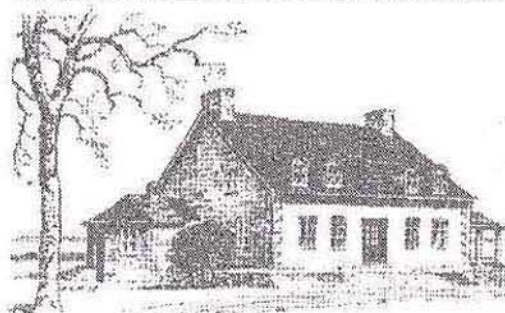


Claude Hoskins, President R. Garday  
Mrs. Hoskins  
Beaconsfield, L.S.C.

One of the speakers of the day was Mr. Claude Hoskins, who appeared in tails, top hat and a large cravat, which he told us, was the lawn bowling costume of the early 19th Century in London. It was originated by one of the Princes of the Royal Household and was quickly adopted by the Court as the proper bowling dress of that period.

Mr. Hoskins went on to tell us that the first lawn bowling in Beaconsfield took place in 1812 on the site known as the "Grove" which was built in 1810 by Paul Urgele Valois, a descendent of Jean-Baptiste de Valois and the reigning king of France. The cornerstone of this large stone home was laid on July 12, 1810, and was built mainly of fieldstone from local quarries. The beams of this mansion were put together with hand

HÔTEL GROVE, NAQUIT EN 1910 — GROVE HOTEL, CIRCA 1810

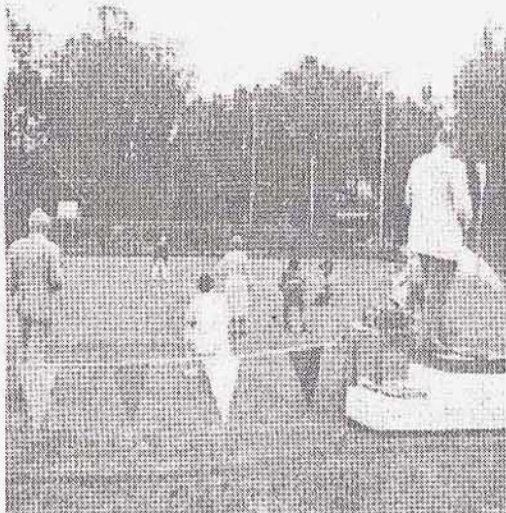


EMPLACEMENT DU PREMIER BOULINGRIN DE BEACONSFIELD 1812  
SITE OF FIRST LAWN BOWLING GREEN BEACONSFIELD 1812

made nails and wooden pegs. The Grove has been kept in excellent repair and stands today as it appeared in the 1800's. Records show that Mums Champagne was used to toast its opening on Aug. 24, 1812, at \$3.00 a bottle. According to Claude Hoskins, there were two bowling greens on the West side and one green by the waters edge for novices. Only friends and relatives were invited to use the lawn bowling facilities; the Church, and the little Repertory theatre on the grounds. People came from Montreal, Quebec City and Ottawa by horse and carriage, and then much later, by train. The concerts, lawn bowling, croquet, boating trips and sailing regattas became the social events of the season. In winter the farmers came in their sleds, or cutters; and races took place from the property on the lake. Some of the ice boats held fifty people at a time. In 1889 the Grove property became a summer resort, then in 1939 the Grove was sold to Claude Hoskins and in 1965 the City of Beaconsfield acquired the property and has named the boating facilities, "The Beaconsfield Municipal Yacht Club."

The organization of boating and social activities on this spot has continued for 167 years. The bowling greens disappeared many years ago, but with the use of the Grove as the logo for the present Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club, the spirit of the 1812 green lives on.

After a brief history of the Grove, Mr. Hoskins rolled the first bowl. This bowl was one of the original wooden bowls donated by the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club of Montreal and will be mounted as a memento of the occasion.



Rolling wooden bowl Beaconsfield L.B.C. by Claude Hoskins

Following this, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Hoskins donated a beautiful watercolour of "The Grove" by Artist F. Roy Wilson to be used as a Senior trophy.

At the conclusion of the opening ceremonies, refreshments were served to the guests from other Montreal Clubs in the nearby Council Chambers.

"The Green" extends its very best wishes for a successful 1979 season to all the enthusiastic new members in their attractive setting. Mr. Paul Urgale Valois, if he but knew, would surely raise his top hat to you and say, "Good bowling, one and all."

Ray Redston  
Club Correspondent







## CLUB PRESIDENTS

R.J. (Bob) Gandey 1979 and 1980

Nora Gunning 1981 and 1982

T.W. (Wally) Doyle 1983

Cathie Manitt 1984 and 1985

R.W. (Reg) Redston 1986 and 1987

W. Scott Livingstone 1988

K. Elaine Chauvin 1989 and 1990

George R. Stacey 1991 and 1992

Elizabeth Wollmann 1993 and 1994

John R. Mabon 1995 and 1996

Pamela S. Durdey 1997 and 1998

André Seguin 1999 and 2000

Mari Paterson 2001 and 2002

John Wilson 2003 and 2004

**PART I**  
**The Early Years**  
**1979 – 1989**

# **THE BEACONSFIELD LAWN BOWLING CLUB**

## **The First Ten Years**

When the nattily dressed gentlemen began lawn bowling at “The Grove” in Beaconsfield in 1812, little could they foresee that in 1979 a fully-fledged club would come into being and within 10 years it would grow to nearly 300 members and have two full-size greens in front of a beautiful club house.

In 1939, Claude Hoskin bought “The Grove” to re-establish it as a hotel. In records found in the building, lawn bowling is mentioned as one of the many sports played there by wealthy Montrealers who frequented the hotel in the early eighteen hundreds. At that time it was a stagecoach stop on the Montreal - Toronto route. Today “The Grove” functions as the Beaconsfield Yacht Club.

In 1967, the City of Beaconsfield initiated a study of its cultural and recreational facilities. The final report included a proposal to develop a lawn bowling green as a pay-as-you-play operation but it did not materialize then.

In November 1969, Herb Linder, a specialist in the field of recreation, joined the Beaconsfield Recreation Department and one of his pet projects was to establish the game of lawn bowling locally. He visualized a green in Centennial Park and a club room in the basement of Centennial Hall. However, the abundance of trees and the inadequacy of

club room facilities made that idea impractical.

In the early 1970s, Herb Linder approached Bob Gandey, an enthusiast for organizing local sports and other activities, and together with Jack MacKay, the City Manager, they explored the physical and financial possibilities. Launching lawn bowling did not promise to be an easy task because with the exception of Patricia Rustad, a councillor at the time, the civic officials were totally unfamiliar with the sport.

Through 1976 and 1978 several public meetings were held and in an attempt to gain interest and a plan for positive action, Jack MacKay summoned a group of 10 interested residents. From this group a committee was formed. The Executive included: Bob Gandey, chairman; Margaret Clarke, vice-chairman; Harry Lowden, treasurer; Chris Gage, secretary, and Myrtle Armstrong, Howard Baker, Jack Clarke, Art Jewitt, Tommy Oakes and D. Poirier (later replaced by Frank McGoun). It was an act of faith to name a treasurer as the group didn't have a cent and it would be some time before any money became available. City support had been obtained but it was made clear that the development of a concrete plan and leadership must come from the group.

The first meeting of the newly formed committee was held on April 12, 1978 and the first item of business was to name the club The Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club.

The Town Engineer, Emery Keleman, became an enthusiastic ally, and New Horizons representative, Mrs. J. Davies also provided great assistance. In August 1978, New Horizons awarded a grant totalling \$19,132 and specified how it must be allocated: \$2,068 for the sprinkler system; \$3,257 drainage; \$5,050 seeding; \$2,125 cedar ditch; \$2,256 fence; \$200 small tools; \$1,380 mowing machine; \$553 tool shed; and \$2,243 for sports equipment which included 16 sets of bowls and

bags, plus jacks, mats and measures. The decision to supply bowls and some measures was the key to encouraging membership as it was impractical to suggest that potential new members purchase equipment to try a sport they knew little or nothing about.

In the autumn of 1978 the green was constructed and seeded and backboards were built, with Cliff McGowan, greens' chairman of the Riverside Lawn Bowling Club present nearly every day to supervise. In November, it was learned that Mayor Edwin Briggs intended to submit to Council a proposal to budget \$50,000 for a club house. There was opposition from a couple of councillors - few were familiar with lawn bowling - and also it was unusual for the city to spend such a sum of money for a facility to be used by a particular group for only five months of the year. A telephone blitz of prospective members ensued and the council meeting was packed. The \$50,000 was passed unanimously.

At the April 4, 1979, meeting, Tommy Oakes advised that the city's Recreation Department would pay for 16 sets of bowls, together with bags and jacks, bringing the club's total up to 32 sets of bowls. The bad news, about the projected club house, was that in order to have a suitable building, the estimated cost had doubled to \$100,000. In order to have some sort of club house, City Council, contrary to local by-laws, permitted the club to operate for the summer from a 60x12 foot construction trailer. A student was hired as greenskeeper and the city agreed to pay his wages so long as the club did the supervising.

The first bowling fees were set as: single, \$30; single senior, \$20; husband and wife, \$50; senior couple, \$35. For social members: single, \$7.50; senior, \$5.

More than 100 potential members attended the first general meeting, on April 19, 1979. Elected to the new Board of Directors were: president, Bob Gandey; vice-presidents, Margaret Clarke and

Tommy Oakes; treasurer, Harry Lowden; secretary, Cathie Manitt. Committees: ladies' match, Nora Gunning; men's match, Jack Clarke; social and hospitality, Art Jewitt; house, Chris Gage; publicity, Mrs. S. Clint; greens and equipment, Frank McGoun; membership, Margaret Grinstead; directors at large, Myrtle Armstrong, H. Baker, Wally Doyle, Bruce Flexman and D. Morris.

This new executive would head a membership that in one month's time would number 181 yet only 27 had any experience of the game. John Carlin and Charlie Weeks of the Town of Mount Royal Lawn Bowling Club, along with Beaconsfield Club members Jack and Margaret Clarke, were among the 12 bowlers who gave the first instructions, indoors, at the recreation building. The second coaching session was attended by 150 on July 4, 1979, on the real green. At last, Herb Linder's dream was a reality.

At the suggestion of Mayor Briggs, the formal opening of the club took place on July 1 to coincide with Canada Day celebrations. Claude Hoskin, dressed in a bowling costume of 1812, rolled the first bowl. On this occasion, he and his wife Audrey presented the club with the "Claudrey Hoskin Trophy", a painting illustrating the way bowlers dressed in 1812 at "The Grove". This is the club's senior trophy and it is competed for annually, in mixed fours.

The proposed club house was meeting with much resistance from some councillors at City Hall and a strongly-worded letter was sent to City Council pointing out that as the sport had been promoted by city officials they were expected to meet their commitment. The club had a first class green and expected a first class club house. A plan was submitted by the club for a year-round building which would fill the club's requirements and could be useful for other groups in the winter months. The cost was estimated at \$120,000, and kept going up. Mayor Briggs formed a committee comprising two councillors, Patricia Rustad

and Alan Turner, and Bob Gandey representing the club. After several meetings, it was proposed that a year-round facility be constructed as part of the City Hall. City Council supported this idea and Bob Gandey was authorized to work with the architect to plan a facility that would meet bowlers' needs.

In September, three trophies were available for competition. The mixed fours, played for The Claudrey Hoskin Trophy was won by Maryse McDougall, Vince Lyman, Peggy Reid and George Leet; runners up were Jim Brock, Barbara Briggs, Kay Gandey and Lee Paine. The men's triples was played for the Bowl and Jack Trophy, the trophy made from the Jack and the very old wooden bowl, donated by the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club, which were used at the opening ceremony. It was won by Tommy Oakes, Rey Richards and Bruce Reid; runners up were Scott Livingstone, Bruce Flexman and Lee Paine. The ladies' triples were played for The Royal Bank Rose Bowl Trophy, presented by the Royal Bank of Canada. This was won by Esta Brock, Kay Gandey and Lillian Doyle; runners up were Nora Gunning, Caroline Bassett-Speirs and Pauline Cransie.

With a thrill of pride, the fledgling club also won two Province of Quebec competitions: The Swinging Teapot won by Margaret Clarke, Maryse McDougall and Esta Brock; and the Provincial Mixed Triples won by Jack Clarke, Margaret Clarke and Maryse McDougall.

The club's first season ended on Thanksgiving Day, October 8, 1979, and the "first annual dinner" was attended by 96. The "first annual meeting" was held on November 15 with 59 members present. Two reports of special interest were that the club finished the year with a surplus of \$1,813 and membership totalled 177 playing and 17 social. Of the playing members only 30 had bowling experience before joining the club.

The Board of Directors elected to serve the club for its second year of operation consisted of president, Bob Gandey; vice-presidents, Margaret Clarke and Tommy Oakes; treasurer, Harry Lowden; secretary, Cathie Manitt; ladies' match, Nora Gunning; men's match, Wally Doyle; social and hospitality, Derek Morris; house, Sue Clint; publicity, Ada Wiggins; greens and equipment, Frank McGoun; membership, Marge Grinstead; directors at large, Myrtle Armstrong, Claude Dorian, Bruce Flexman, Maryse McDougall and Scott Livingstone.

The Herb Linder Trophy, a gift from the City, was to be selected by Nora Gunning, Wally Doyle and Bob Gandey, and it would be competed for annually by all clubs in Quebec.

A club badge was also approved from a drawing submitted by Roy Wilson, a Beaconsfield resident, architect and artist. The design depicts "The Grove" with the dates 1812 and 1979.

Bob Gandey reported that after many revisions, plans were agreed upon for the proposed permanent club house, however another season would be spent using the construction trailer club house until all formalities and construction could be completed.

## 1980

On May 29, Mayor Briggs formally presented the Herb Linder Trophy to the club. On July 1, Canada Day, the club celebrated its first birthday with 98 members present to bowl.

The first Herb Linder competition was held in August and Mr. Linder's widow was invited to present the trophy which was won by a team from Lachine. It had been determined that it should be a prestigious event and each Quebec club was limited to an entry of two teams. Dinner was served afterward in the Council Chamber with every



participating player as a guest, a unique event in the bowling community. The attendance of the Mayor and the head of the Recreation Department was also the start of a club tradition.

On August 26, club members and city officials witnessed the turning of the sod for the club house by Mayor Briggs and President Gandey.

In September, the first Tri-Cities' Tournament was held, initiated by the Pierrefonds Lawn Bowling Club and restricted to the Pierrefonds, Beaconsfield and Pointe Claire clubs. Pierrefonds won.

Nora Gunning was elected president at the annual meeting on November 27. She became the first woman to be president of the Beaconsfield club and also the first woman to hold such a position in Quebec lawn bowling. At this time other local clubs had separate organizations for women and men, including separate Provincial governing bodies.

## 1981

Nora Gunning and Bob Gandey met with city officials to determine arrangements for use of the club house once it was completed. The club would get exclusive use of the premises from May 15 to October 15 at a monthly rent of \$310. During the balance of the year, the club could book a number of dates for such events as the annual meeting, bridge nights and other functions. Other community groups were able to use the club house in the off season. An ideal solution.

New Horizons approved a request for funds and provided a grant of \$13,591, which was used to outfit the club house. The building was ready for occupancy on May 15 and the green was playable shortly after that date.

In late June the club had 232 members of whom 164 were bowlers. The second annual birthday party, on July 1, saw 130 members enjoying a day of bowling. It was becoming obvious that the growth of the club meant a second green should be considered. Bob Gandey had already informally broached the subject with Mayor Briggs. Nora Gunning formed a committee including Harry Lowden, Stu Steventon, Bob Gandey and Maryse McDougall to review the matter. An additional incentive for a second green was the possibility of co-hosting the Canadian championships in 1985, an idea being discussed by the club executive.

Two firsts came at the end of the year: the club's first annual meeting to be held in the club house, on November 12, attended by some 70 members; and the first Christmas party, attended by 124.

## 1982

With the new premises available, the club became more active on the social side. Ruth Carnell organized Tuesday afternoon "Open House" for bridge, cribbage, Scrabble and a sociable cup of tea which continued through the winter months. The club's first Military Whist, attended by 78, was played on January 15 with the help of Bill Purdy from the Riverside Lawn Bowling Club as no-one at Beaconsfield knew how to run it, nor did the club have the necessary equipment. In February, Cathy and Joe Smith convened a Valentine party for 90 guests, the first of several to come.

Wes Ball, club representative at the Quebec Federation, reported that the federation had offered to hold the 1985 Canadian Lawn Bowling Championships in Montreal. The executive was also pleased to learn that the Beaconsfield City Council had agreed, in principle, to the construction of a second green.

Nora Gunning originated the policy of a Semi-Annual meeting and the first, held on May 19, gave the various chairpersons the opportunity to outline their programs for the playing season and the general membership to air their views. A mixed pairs event was added to the club championship play and St. Jean Baptiste Day would be another fun day on the calendar. It was reported that the 1985 Canadian Championships had been awarded to Quebec.

At the executive meeting in October, Bob Gandey reported that City Council had approved funds for the club's second green.

At the annual meeting, outgoing president Nora Gunning welcomed Wally Doyle as president. It was announced that Nora had been elected vice-president of the Province of Quebec Ladies' Lawn Bowling Association, a tribute to her talent and a sign that Beaconsfield had a voice in the provincial organization.

At the November meeting of the executive, an Honourary Membership in the club was awarded to the newly-elected Mayor, Patricia Rustad, in recognition of her support from the first concept of the club and through its subsequent endeavours.

## 1983

Two new social events were added to the winter program. A Robbie Burns party was arranged by Scott Livingstone, complete with haggis and bridies, and Jenny Oakes provided the traditional scones. Also new on the social scene was a St. Patrick's party convened by Kay and Bob Gandey.

The club's greens' chairman, Harry Lowden, attended a seminar on lawn bowling greens held in Ottawa, in preparation for the Nationals. Ten members were participating in a coaching course in anticipation of an expected influx of new members.

Bias Carpet Bowling was begun, organized by Art and Marg Jewitt. Art also designed and constructed special instructional boards for the Military Whists, and attractive items of decor for the club's theme parties.

By May 30, the green was ready for play and soon the calendar of activities was so full that only Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings were available for casual play. The construction of the second green had started but progress was slow. Members were anxious that it be completed in time to enable Beaconsfield to be a host of the 1985 Nationals. The Town of Mount Royal Lawn Bowling Club would be the co-hosting club. Members named to the National Committee from Beaconsfield were Nora Gunning, co-chairman; Cathie Manitt, secretary; Mari Paterson, accommodations; Maryse McDougall, meals and refreshments; and in other positions, Bob Gandey, Reg Manitt and Reg and Bev Redston.

Labour Day was added to the program of fun days and nearly 100 members bowled and had dinner at the club on that holiday. At the end of the year there was another new event for the club - a New Year's Eve party with a British Pub theme, organized by Bill and Sheila Kidd.

## 1984

With only a year to go before the Nationals, greens' chairman Harry Lowden was concerned that progress on the second green was stalled until a chain link fence could be erected to prevent children and stray dogs from ruining what was to be the new sand green. Seeding of the green and adjacent landscaping awaited installation of the fence. At the semi-annual meeting in April, Harry reported that the fence was up but the city lacked manpower to level the green. He recruited a few stalwart members to place a total of 361 pegs every six feet to determine

the proper level.

At the same meeting, Maryse McDougal announced a new event, the Beaconsfield Invitational Ladies' Triples which would take place in June, having obtained the approval of the PQLLBA. The trophy was (and still is) a framed crewel picture created by Doris Bernard and donated by Louise McDonnell. Other news was that Beaconsfield would host the women's events at the Nationals, and the impressive and colourful Opening Ceremonies would be held at Beaconsfield. Beaconsfield president Cathie Manitt designed the pin and slogan "Montreal vous attend - See You All in Montreal" for these games.

Mari Paterson won the Quebec Ladies' Provincial Singles title and represented Quebec at the '84 Nationals in Hamilton. Several other Beaconsfield members attended to study how such an event was run.

In September it was announced that the 1985 Nationals co-chairman and finance chairman were not able to continue in their posts. Subsequently, Nora Gunning accepted the full chairmanship and Bob Gandey agreed to be finance chairman. A month later it was also announced that Nora had been elected President of the PQLLBA

## 1985

The co-hosting of the National Championships set the agenda for the entire year. The greens had to be as close to perfect as possible for the championships and at the same time, the requirements of normal play for members had to be met. Greens' chairman Harry Lowden spent nearly every day at the club along with well chosen help.

Planning for meals, including daily lunches and some dinners was organized by Maryse McDougall and Kay Gandey. Elaine Chauvin was responsible for the "in club" requisites such as morning coffee, ice

water on the greens, and refreshments for the spectators. Bob Bracken had a crew of men at the greens, moving pegs and scoreboards and taking care of other contingencies.

Women members raised money from a fashion show organized by Pauline Jackson; a bake and rummage sale with Margo Christo in charge; a framed, crewel picture was made by Doris Bernard for a raffle. In addition, the club assessed each member \$2 and from these efforts \$2,500. was raised. The City of Beaconsfield gave a grant of \$1,000, and thus the club donated \$3,500 to the games.

July 1 saw the official opening of the new sand green. Bob Gandey rolled the jack and Mayor Rustad rolled the first bowl.

On August 18, the players, wearing their colourful provincial tops, were piped in by the Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band at the opening ceremonies for the Nationals. The ceremonial rolling of the jack was done by Nora Gunning, chairman, to Jim Macaulay, president of the Quebec Lawn Bowling Federation, and the first bowl was rolled by Mayor Rustad. The male players then boarded chartered buses to go to the Mount Royal club for their games. The women's games were played at Beaconsfield. Spectators were treated to some outstanding bowling. For many it was their first opportunity to see lawn bowling at its finest in Canada.

The annual meeting in November brought to a close the presidency of Cathie Manitt. It had been a momentous two years in office for her, highlighted by the opening of the second green and the overwhelming success of the nationals.

## 1986

Early in the year club members learned that Mari Paterson had been chosen to be part of the team representing Canada at the

Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh. Mari had previously won several Provincial titles and represented Quebec at Canadian Nationals. Another club member, Joan MacKay was appointed to the National Team, with trials to be held in Arizona.

At the May meeting of the board, Ray Chauvin moved that the club set up a Junior program for young people 18 and under with a modest membership fee of \$10. It was to be the start of a very worthwhile endeavour. The coaching of six juniors began in mid-June under the direction of Joan MacKay.

The new president, Reg Redston, was determined to bring a new approach to Sunday bowling. Games would be organized on a tags down basis and tea would be served afterward. John and Millie Downing took on this project. Sunday prizes were crystal glasses engraved with the club crest. President Redston also initiated the serving of lunch at the retired men's games on Wednesday mornings, with the visiting teams included.

Another of Reg's innovations was replacement of the typewritten membership lists by a member roster in booklet form which also included the slate of officers, various club events, provincial tournament dates, and the previous year's winners of club trophies.

## 1987

By May the membership stood at 267, including seven juniors. Owing to the large membership and the indication it would continue to grow, the City of Beaconsfield was asked to consider enlarging the club room. Bob Gandey presented a sketch of the proposed extension to City Council and all councillors voted in its favour.

A highlight was the visit of noted Australian bowler Bob Middleton and his wife. Local clubs were invited to send representatives

to a luncheon held in their honour at Centennial Hall, convened by Ev and Tony Teoli. Mr. Middleton gave a demonstration of bowling skills and in the CBC TV coverage he was referred to as the Gretzky of lawn bowling.

In July, the club was having trouble with both greens and the board obtained the advice of Brent Swail of the Beaconsfield Golf Club, Lloyd Woods, greens' chairman of Lawn Bowls Canada, and Otto Jangl, a greens' maintenance specialist. Consequently, the greens were reseeded, play on the south green was restricted and the sand green was not used until close to the end of the season. Harry Lowden re-established the watering system on the sand green so that it would get a fine spray as needed, and at the end of the season the greens were in reasonable condition.

## 1988

Early in the year, plans were finalized for the new addition on the club house and a contract was awarded. The project was begun as soon as the ground was workable and the inside work was to be completed in two months. The patio and landscaping would be done later.

In May, Bob Gandey, finance chairman for the 1985 Nationals, turned over to the club its share of the games' surplus amounting to \$3,700. It was agreed that the money would be kept separate from other funds to be used to advance and develop lawn bowls with special emphasis on the young and on highly competitive bowlers, for special trips, instruction, and out-of-town competitions. This purpose was to be observed for a 10-year period and a Bowling Development Fund committee was established to administer it.

In June, steps were taken to establish a Ladies' Senators League, at the suggestion of the Pointe Claire club, and Mari Paterson was



named Beaconsfield representative on the committee. The outcome was The Golden Girls.

Plans were being made for the club's 10th anniversary year in 1989 and a committee was formed with Nora Gunning as chairman, all past presidents, and Ev and Tony Teoli. In 1988 the St. Lambert club was 75 years old and Pointe Claire was celebrating its 10th anniversary.

In the Men's Provincial Singles, Ron Wood won both the 1988 and 1989 titles in 1988. This remarkable state of affairs came about because the Quebec Federation was playing this event a year in advance. Consequently Ron would represent Quebec at the Nationals in Moncton in 1988 and in Edmonton in 1989. This unique result would not occur again as the Quebec Federation reverted to the former system of staging the tournament in the same year the winner would go to the Nationals.

In the autumn, with the extension completed, the club was able to hold its annual banquet in the club house for the first time, with 114 attending.

Elaine Chauvin took over as president from Scott Livingstone and presided at the annual Christmas party. This year, for the first time, club members' donations went to the Victorian Order of Nurses as well as to the Garry Taylor Centre. Each group received \$242.

## 1989

The club was advised that its rent to the City would be increased, with ample justification as the new extension and furniture had cost the City approximately \$90,000.

The kick-off for the club's 10th anniversary was a wine and cheese reception on May 7, for all members, with Mayor Patricia

Rustad and members of City Council as special guests. The event was convened by Ev Teoli, Myrtle Turnau and Vera Hart.

On June 24, the club hosted a special competition of mixed fours with one team from Quebec Federation and one team from each of the local lawn bowling clubs' executives. Other members of Beaconsfield were drawn to play in a separate competition. The Federation team, consisting of Margaret Patterson, Don Dalglish, Ted Franklin and Bob Gandey won the day. Prizes were crystal glasses engraved with "Tenth Anniversary" and the club logo.

On July 1, the official anniversary date, other special bowling events were held. Mayor Rustad presided at the ceremonial cutting of the anniversary cake, and awarded crystals to the winners. First draw winners were Bob Gandey (skip), Mavis Stacey and Ada Manson; second draw winners were Joe Smith (skip), Marguerite Benard and John Bonet.

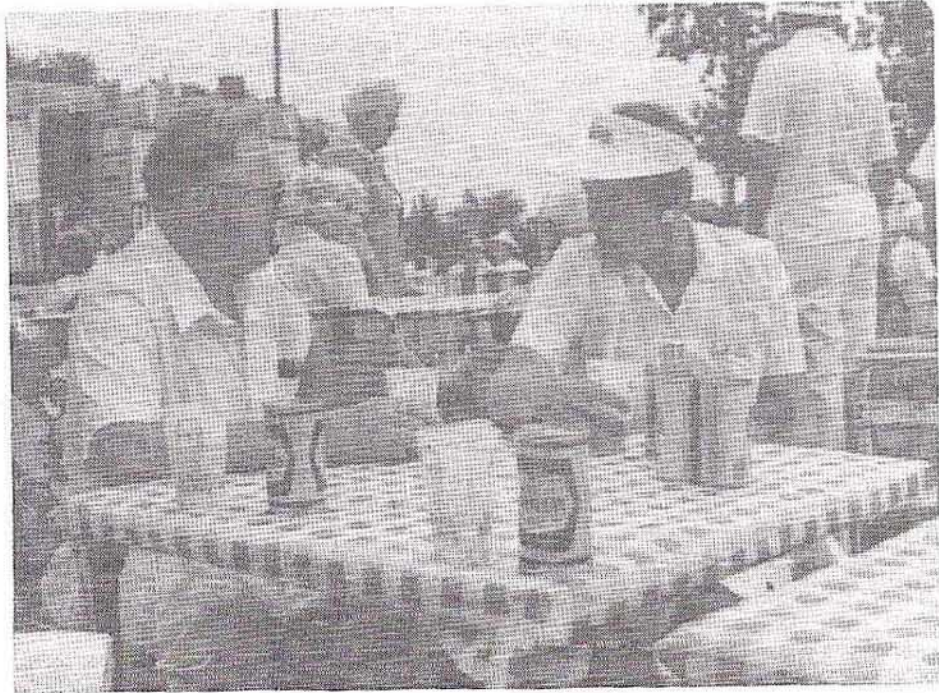
On July 8, the club hosted the first-ever Inter-Provincial Junior Tournament, with 32 boys and girls ranging in age from 11 to 17 participating -- 20 from Ontario and 12 from Quebec. As Beaconsfield was the only club in Quebec to have a junior program, all the Quebec players were from the Beaconsfield club.

The year 1989 was probably the most exciting and full year for the Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club since its inception and it is hoped the next decade will bring new honours on and off the green.

\*Bob Gandey

\* From Bob Gandey's Club History, 1979-89,  
condensed by Shirley Skilling









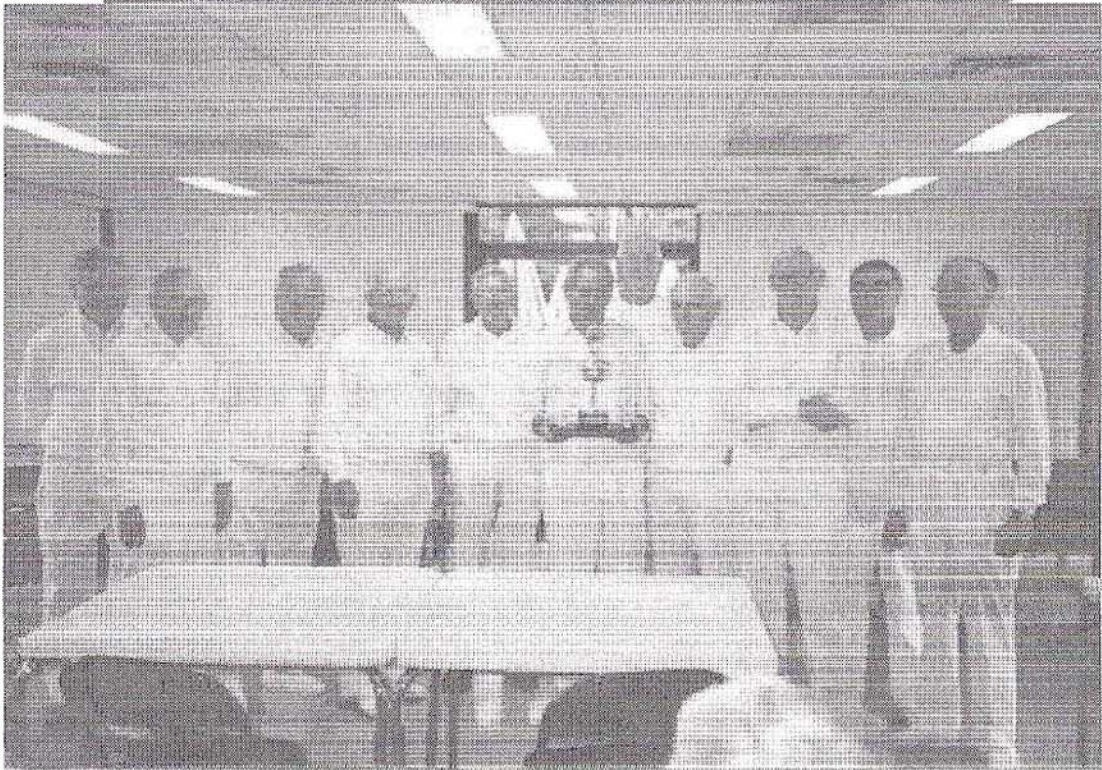










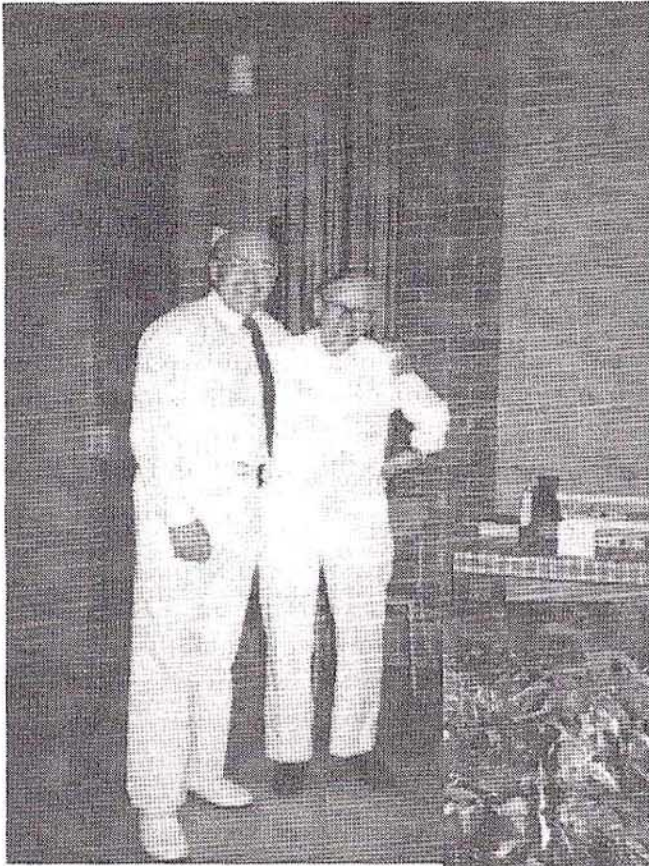














## **PART II**

### **ON TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY !**

#### **Highlights After the First Ten Years**

*By Shirley Skilling*

## T H E H E R B L I N D E R

The Herb Linder Memorial Mixed Fours, begun in 1980, has been a smoothly run annual event for years. Participants from outside clubs remark that it is a fitting conclusion to a season of competitive bowling, and the Beaconsfield greens, ambiance and hospitality are something to look forward to every autumn.

Club members work diligently to make it a prestigious event. From the first entry deadline announcement, until the last dinner plate is washed, club members, by tradition, have worked countless hours to make the Linder a success. The draw is made and the scoreboard set up with its special marking pen and eraser. In the stately Beaconsfield Council Chamber, tables are set up and the special tablecloth made by Kay Gandey is laid on the councillors' table, always freshly laundered. The menu is planned well in advance and club members man the bar, offer snacks between games and serve the hearty dinner. The trophy presentation is made in an atmosphere of warm camaraderie.

It took a hurricane warning to trim the Linder's sails on one occasion. In 1996, 28 teams had entered the Linder which was being played as a triples' competition that year. Success was deemed to be assured but the weatherman had other ideas. A hurricane warning was issued and in alarm, the club cancelled the usual dinner, fearing that the entire day would be a washout. At the conclusion of two rounds of play, finger foods were served amid rumbles of thunder and flashes of lightning. However, with that one unfortunate day over, the Herb Linder has never looked back.

In 1997, the Linder again became a fours' competition and is still considered to be the lawn bowling/social highlight of the season.

By Year 2000, there were 20 teams entered with an entry fee of \$50 per team, prizes totalling \$500, and a robust steak dinner.

In 2001, at the request of the City of Beaconsfield, tangible recognition was made to the memory of the man who was so influential in the formation of the club. On September 8th, the day of the Linder competition, two plaques renaming the club house The Herb Linder Annex were dedicated by Mayor Roy Kemp, himself a former bowler at the club, and by Councillor Jim Hasegawa, a long-time friend of Herb Linder. On that day, 22 teams competed for the trophy and 104 competitors and friends enjoyed an excellent dinner. It was a day of nostalgia.



## HOSTING THE NATIONALS

*The Nationals are coming!* This is a phrase that mobilizes club members to major efforts. In 1985, the first time Beaconsfield was a national host, Bob Gandey noted in his history, "the national championships coming to a club only five years old was indeed a tribute to those who founded and guided the club through its early days."

By 1992, and again in 2000, when Beaconsfield was a major venue for the games, there was experience and understanding of what was required. It was all hands on deck for nearly two years preceding the games, to raise money, organize work committees, and ensure that the greens would be in excellent shape.

In April 1991, with George Almond as convenor, the club held a White Elephant Sale and Craft Fair. A crafts group had met and created busily for months, and "white elephants" were penned in Myrtle Turnau's basement through the winter. From all of these efforts, the club was able to donate \$4,500 toward the Nationals. Results of other fundraising included the purchase of a microwave oven to help prepare snacks for the players and spectators who would be present.

Three local clubs were venues for the 1992 Nationals -- Beaconsfield, Riverside and Lachine. Opening ceremonies were held at Lachine on Sunday, August 16, and the closing ceremonies at Beaconsfield on Thursday, August 20. The closing banquet was held in Lachine. George Almond, a member of the national committee for the '92 championships, co-ordinated the catering arrangements for all three clubs.

Philippa Caluori, with Joan Almond and Ada Manson as her chief assistants, headed the Beaconsfield group to provide meals for the

players. Women from the Westmount, Pierrefonds and Pointe Claire clubs helped the Beaconsfield crew to serve lunch in the Recreation Centre on three days, bringing along with them a supply of cookies and squares for dessert. In the five days, 499 lunches and 225 dinners were served to players and officials.

As an example of the enthusiasm engendered by the Nationals, Joan Almond sewed through several midnights to make *Québec bleu* tablecloths for the players' dining tables, and matching blue aprons for the volunteer waitresses. At night, she toted the tablecloths home to launder them. Hillary Hill arrived each morning with fresh flowers for the Recreation Centre tables.

BLBC members *sait faire!*

Meanwhile, back in the club house, Elaine Chauvin and her workers supplied sandwiches and light snacks to spectators and visitors, and oversaw the sale of mementos and pins. Another committee took charge of finding umpires, scoreboard flippers, markers for the singles, and bar tenders.

George Stacey, in his second term as president, and Rey Richards, as chairman of greens and equipment, spent many hours looking into the condition of the greens and all equipment, including refrigerators (!), and the upgrading of the first aid and umpires' kits. As early as January that year, the board agreed that the greens must be rested for one full week before the beginning of the Nationals.

For one Beaconsfield member, these Nationals offered a major role change. Maryse McDougall, food convenor for the bowlers at the '85 Nationals, was herself one of the competitors in '92, playing third on the women's fours team skipped by Laurie Devlin.

Preparations for the Year 2000 Nationals began three years in

advance, with a variety of fund-raising efforts., including a mammoth garage sale. These were Canada's 55th Nationals! As she did for the previous Nationals, artist Muriel Sutherland donated a painting which brought in \$444 in a raffle, and Elaine Chauvin organized a raffle of bowls, a carpet and other items which netted \$801. The club raised \$4,260, and the city donated \$500 to bring the Beaconsfield total for the Nationals to \$4,760.

The 2000 Nationals took place August 21 to 25 with Pointe Claire and Pierrefonds also venues for play. Both the opening and closing ceremonies were held at Beaconsfield, with all the attendant excitement of the players being led onto the greens by a kilted piper, and competitors from each province wearing their individual teams' coloured shirts.

With André Seguin in his second year as club president, Travers Day as greens' chairman, and Walter Willison in charge of equipment, much sprucing up was undertaken in preparation for the games. Typical of the co-operation between the city and the club was the work done on the flag pole. City workers took it down, club members painted it, then the city hoisted it up again. Benches and backboards were repaired and repainted, rinks were measured and re-sized to conform to Nationals' standards. With two dinners and the opening reception to be held at Beaconsfield, club dishes and cutlery were brought up to service for 110. So many details!

Beaconsfield members who held office on the National Committee were Elaine Chauvin, vice-chairperson, and Pam Durdey, catering chairperson and convenor of the opening reception. As an innovation, Pam also convened Continental breakfasts for the players and managers at the three clubs on games' mornings, to help defray the participants' expenses. Breakfasts were served in the Recreation Centre on Saturday and Monday mornings for all of the players and managers - some 200 meals. Tuesday through Friday, 80 players and officials had

breakfast there. Players' lunches were also served daily.

Shirley Hopkins was responsible for the lunches and dinners served to the players, team managers and officials in the Recreation Centre, with a regimen similar to that of the '92 Nationals. John Wilson undertook arrangements for refreshments, snacks, and sale tables inside the club house. The barbeques were fired-up for lunch time.

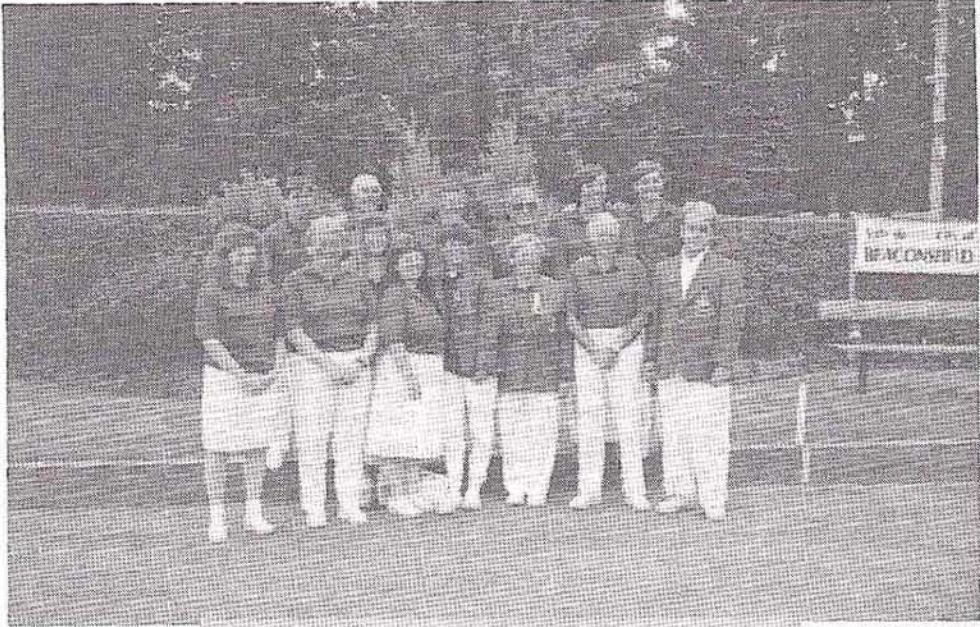
Play began with the Juniors' competition in which Alex Bennett of Beaconsfield represented Quebec. The Juniors played in Westmount starting August 17. Regular games were played August 21 to 26, at Beaconsfield, Pointe Claire and Pierrefonds.

The Beaconsfield Womens' Fours had won the Provincials, and thus represented Quebec at these games. They were Bev Keddy-Elkin, skip; Jackie Nieberg, third, Nicki Bessette, second, and Claire Sargent, lead.

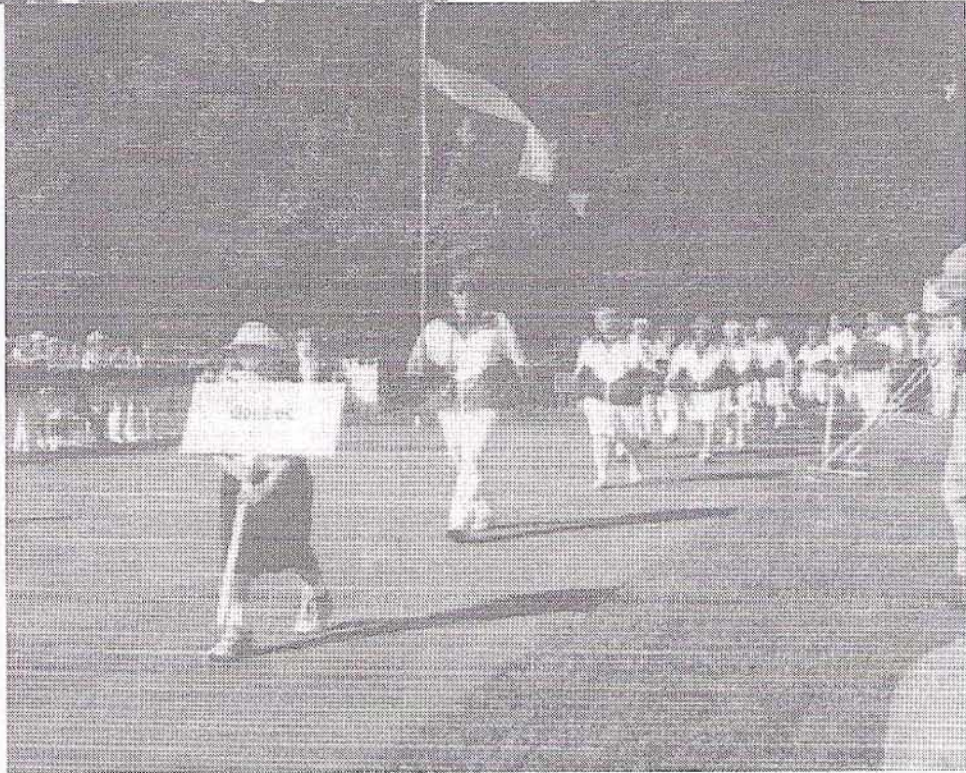
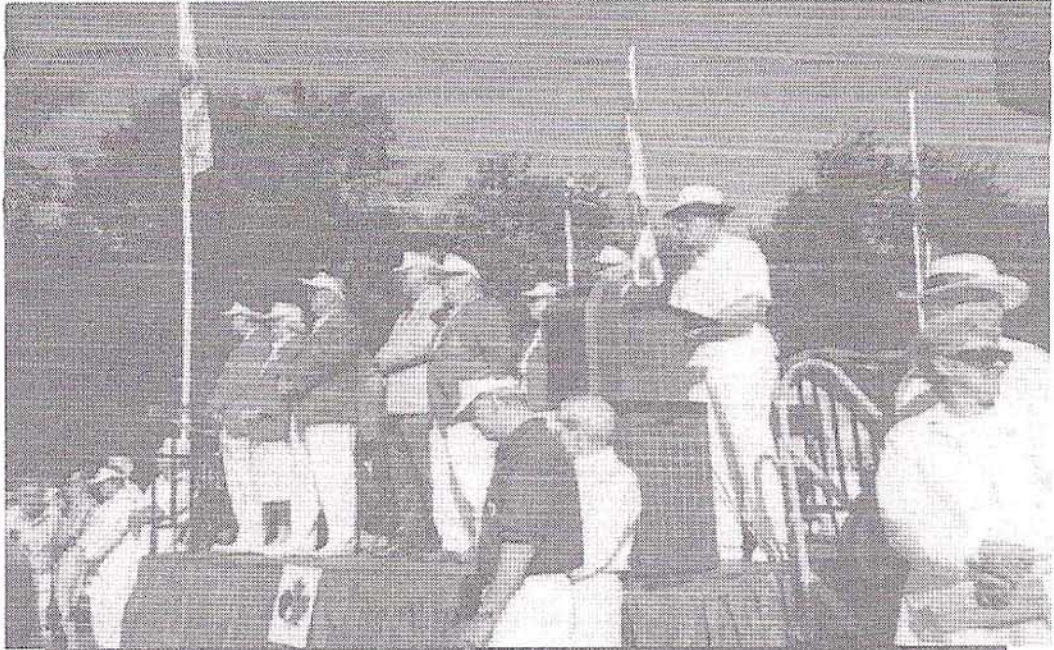
The competitions moved along until a deluge of rain on the Wednesday. Chief Umpire George Almond, in consultation with the other two venues and the Nationals' Committee, had to make a ruling on whether or not to halt play for the day. In deference to the players and the greens the games were ended mid-afternoon.

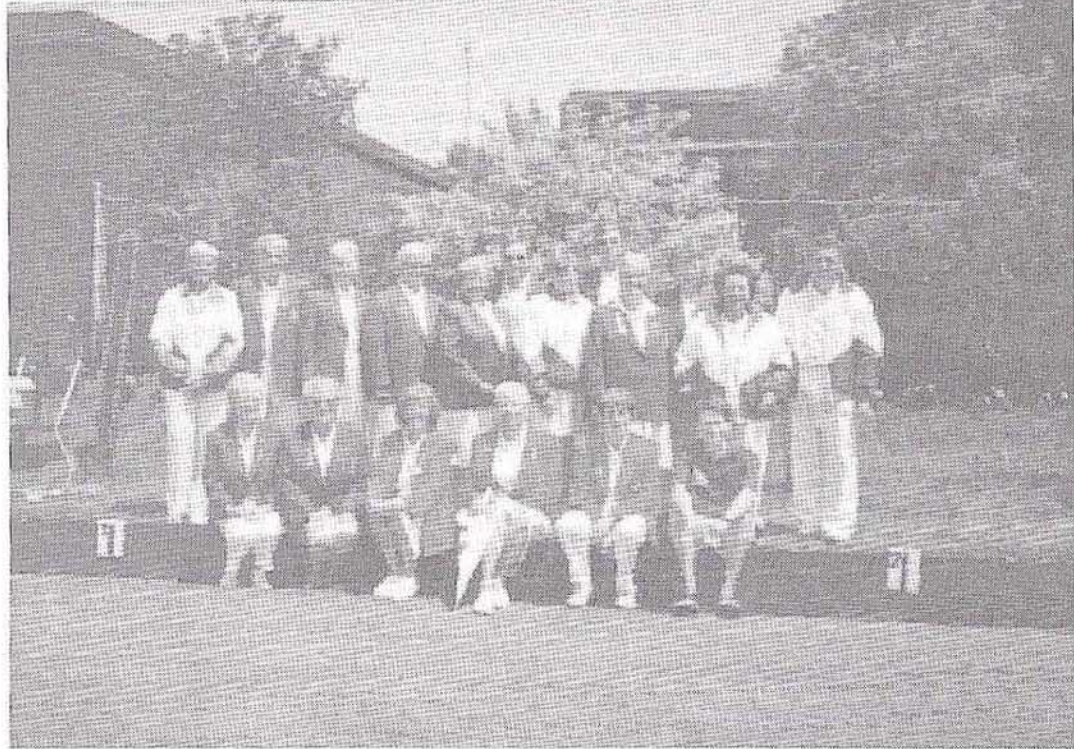
The Closing Banquet was a Québécois evening filled with music, wine and an abundance of traditional food. Some 200 bowlers, the majority here from other provinces, savoured the unique experience in the Sucrerie de la Montagne, on a rain-soaked Rigaud Mountain.

*A la prochain!*









BLBC PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL  
WINNERS

1975 and 1979 Women's Pairs: Mari Paterson, then a member of Riverside, with Dot Randle.

*Won Gold at the 1975 and 1979 Canadian National Championships.*

1987 Mixed Triples: Bob Fox, skip; Joan Saunderson, Pam Durdey.

1988 and 1989 Men's Singles: Ron Wood.

1989 Women's Fours: Elaine Chauvin, skip; Myrtle Turnau, Jean Keep, Sarah Dobbie.

1990 Men's Fours: Ron Wood, skip; Stephen Wood, John Franklin, Graham Warner.

*Won Silver at the 1990 Canadian National Championships.*

1991 Men's Fours: Ron Wood, skip; Iain Smith, Stephen Wood, Graham Smith.

*Won Gold at the 1991 Canadian National Championships.*

1992 Women's Fours: Maryse McDougall, third; on the Laurie Devlin Lachine rink.

1994 Women's Pairs: Maryse McDougall, skip; and Betty Wingfield.

1994 Men's Fours: Ron Wood, skip; Iain Smith, Stephen Wood, and Michel Larue of St. Lambert.

1995 Women's Fours: Molly Turnbull, skip; Faye Hossack, Yvette Chisholm, Claire Sargent.

1995 Women's Pairs: Pam Durdey, skip; and Irene Menear of Westmount.

1995 Men's Singles: Ron Wood.

1996 Women's Singles: Marg Richards.  
*Won Gold at the 1996 Canadian National Championships.*

1996 Women's Pairs: Pam Durdey, skip; and Irene Menear of Westmount.

1996 Men's Pairs: Marvin Richards, and Lucien Gilbert of Verdun, skip.

1996 Mixed Pairs: Marg Richards, skip; and Dave Driediger.

1997 Women's Fours: Joan MacKay, skip; Marg Richards, Pam Durdey, Claire Sargent.  
*Won Bronze at the 1997 Canadian National Championships.*

1997 Men's Pairs: Terry Littlewood, skip; and Ron Turnbull.  
*Won Bronze at the 1997 Canadian National Championships.*

1997 Mixed Triples: Terry Littlewood, skip; Yvette Chisholm, Fred Naylor.

1998 Men's Fours: Marvin Richards, second, and Fred Naylor, lead, with Verdun's Iain Smith, skip, and Lucien Gilbert, third.

- 1998 Men's Singles: Stephen Wood.
- 1998 Women's Pairs: Pam Durdey, skip; and Irene Menear of Westmount.
- 1999 Women's Fours: Mari Paterson, skip; Jean Drummond, Molly Turnbull, Jean Wilson.
- 1999 Women's Pairs: Bev Keddy-Elkin, skip; and Claire Sargent.
- 2000 Women's Fours: Bev Keddy-Elkin, skip; Jackie Nieberg, Nicki Bessette, Claire Sargent.
- 2001 Men's Fours: Jim Fernie, third, on Peter Larbalestier's Pierrefonds' rink.
- 2001 Women's Pairs: Bev Keddy-Elkin, skip; and Claire Sargent.
- 2001 Federation Mixed Pairs: Terry Littlewood, skip; and Janet Littlewood.
- 2002 Men's Fours: Russell McCarten, lead, on Peter Larbalestier's Pierrefonds' rink.
- 2002 Women's Pairs: Bev Keddy-Elkin, skip; and Claire Sargent.
- 2003 Women's Singles: Bev Keddy-Elkin
- 2003 Women's Fours: Jackie Nieberg, skip; Claire Sargent, Nicki Bessette, Nicole Dumas

2003 Men's Fours: Beaconsfield members - John Devlin, and Norm Elkin

2004 Women's Singles: Claire Sargent

2004 Men's Singles: John Devlin

## M A N Y H A N D S . . .

The truth of the old adage, "Many hands make light work," has been borne out through the years as club members have combined their talents and given freely of their time to handle many of the maintenance chores not under the aegis of Beaconsfield city employees. Often the work has been heavy, rather than light, as when a work crew of members has laboriously raked sand into freshly aerated greens, or when patio table umbrellas, bowls-rakes and other paraphernalia have been pulled out of winter storage, cared for all bowling season and then in the fall, cleaned up and stored again.

One would not expect to find much humour in such mundane matters, but in the years that Rey Richards held the greens' and equipment portfolio, he frequently lightened up board meetings with his monthly reports. He was the possessor of dry wit. On one occasion, to point out the dangers of peeling and splintered outdoor benches, he recommended that bowlers use "selective seating" until such time as the benches could be repaired. In due course, a small battalion of men led by Sid Weary, scraped and sanded the 30 benches which were then painted by students hired by the city.

Over the years, maintenance items have been well carried out. The bowling greens themselves and the surrounding lawn are the responsibility of the club which, for the past 11 years or so, has employed a contractor who cuts and maintains the greens and lawns and purchases necessary supplies. Previously, these tasks had been done by the members themselves under a succession of hands-on greens' chairmen -- Frank McGoun, Harry Lowden, Bob Fox and Claude Bernard. Then, for more than a decade, Brent Swail was the contractor. After his death in early 2002, his wife Lynne took

over the work.

The city and its staff keep the club house, and the colourful shrubs and flower gardens surrounding the greens in beautiful shape. Over the years new verticutters, aerators, mowers, and watering systems have been purchased and utilized to keep the greens in top condition. It is a constant battle.

Not only the greens have required on-going attention, but also the adjacent amenities. In 1990, ten new picnic tables and seven new umbrellas, at a cost of nearly \$8,000 were purchased by the city. Over time, the city replaces backboards as required and levels the grass on the perimeter of the greens.

In late 1992, a special Sand Green Committee, headed by Russ Munro was established and voted a budget of \$5,000, to look for ways to improve the North (Sand) Green which has been the more difficult one to maintain. The committee did its research through the winter and spring. Soil tests were made at labs in Stittsville, Ont., and Macdonald College. Extensive work was carried out on this green in the spring of 1993 and it was August 21 before it was declared ready for bowling. Russ wrote guidelines for future maintenance, including major seasonal work to be done, plus regular alternation north to south, and a daily sequence of marker changes.

New mats for the greens were purchased by the club in 1997, at a cost of \$1,000. These arrived in the form of two large sheets which were measured and cut to size, by past president John Mabon and Len Nieberg. Light, porous and non-skid, these mats are much more greens-friendly than the old solid rubber ones. They were bought with the proceeds of a dessert bridge convened by Maryse McDougall and the raffle of a painting created and donated by Muriel Sutherland.



That same year a new watering sequential was installed on the North Green which is partly shaded by trees, to permit watering only as required.

In 1998, 32 new scoreboards were bought by the club at a total cost of \$2,000. These scoreboards were completed with numbers stuck on plastic plates which are held on the boards with rings -- a much more attractive and efficient setup than that used previously. André Séguin and Travers Day, along with several other members completed the task.

In 2,000 the club adopted a new method of indicating greens, imported from Florida by Len Nieberg. It has made marker changes much easier.

Through the '90s Sid Weary had the role of master carpenter, making the containers for mats and jacks and a frame for various clubs' pins. Len Nieberg, with the assistance of Bob Sargent and John Wilson refurbished the bowls' pushers by adding carpeting to the wooden boards to prevent scratching of bowls; Richard Giesler made the cases for members' tags and the boards to facilitate the draws for tags down games; and Art Farrugia built a large bookcase for the on-going sale of books donated to aid the Victorian Order of Nurses. Members also take inventories of bowling, maintainance, and kitchen equipment -- down to the tiniest teaspoon. Just ask Walter Willison who is omnipresent when there is work to be done.

The Juniors also got into the act one year when with a helping hand from Ron Wood, they purchased two large, steel-drum barbecues for the club. And a not-so-junior member, Jim Guffie, for four years, as a personal winter project, cleaned, repainted where necessary, and

polished all of the club bowls. That was 70 sets, or 280 bowls!

In 2002, Travers Day concluded four years as greens' chairman, with the final two having been especially onerous owing to extreme heat and little rainfall.

Also in 2002, new blinds were added to the windows on three sides of the clubhouse, permitting the plateglass skips a better view of the greens, and adding to the club's attractive appearance. Late in the season, new umbrellas were purchased to provide some cooling shade for bowlers, and three propane barbecues were bought to simplify outdoor chefs' duties.

## . . . AND OFF THE GREEN

Not all of the club's regular activities have taken place on the bowling green. Inside the club house, hundreds of other competitive/happy hours have been spent off-season as well as on.

Every week, from October into May, there is bias carpet bowling on Monday afternoons and bridge on Tuesday afternoons. Bridge is also played on Monday afternoons during the bowling season while work is being done on the greens. Once a month, from October into May, Military Whist is enjoyed on Friday nights and Cribbage on Monday nights. All of the above traditionally conclude with tea and sweets.

Gone are the New Year's Eve galas with member-talent floor shows and midnight suppers; Valentine's parties, Robbie Burns' Nights, and the Bingos of yesteryear but programs evolve with changing membership and changing times

One of the most pleasant constants is the President's Christmas Party held on a Sunday afternoon early in December. Many members assist the president in preparing lavish platters of fingerfoods and punch for this event. On these occasions, members contributed to the Garry Taylor Fund for many years and in 1988 the Victorian Order of Nurses was added as a recipient. In 1996 the donations became earmarked for the VON and the Montreal Association for the Blind. Members drop their monetary contributions into a Yule-decorated box at the door. In the past few years, these donations have garnered between \$800-1,000 annually, with the lion's share going to the VON.





## BLBC's AMBASSADORS

Through the years, some members of the club have served at provincial, national and international levels, helping to further the goals and accomplishments of lawn bowling. A brief synopsis of some exceptional and long-standing achievements is written below.

### George Almond

George joined the club in 1989 and was elected to the board in 1990 and 1991. For 10 years, until 2000, he published the club YearBook and Directory, was administrator for the upkeep of the club trophies, and compiled the monthly club calendars. In 1992, he became a Coach Level One and a Provincial Umpire, and was elected honorary secretary of the Quebec Lawn Bowling Federation, serving in that position until November 1995. He was appointed to the Officiating Committee of the QLBF in November 1993. He became a National Umpire in 1995. He was appointed Chairman of the Officiating Committee, QLBF, in 1996 and still serves in that position. He was elected Chief Umpire (Officiating Director) of the QLBF in 1997 and also that year was appointed to the National Officiating Committee of Bowls Canada Boulingrin. In 2001, he was appointed Chairman of the National Officiating Committee of BCB.

### Elaine Chauvin

Elaine joined the club in 1979, was club secretary for two years and then President for two years -- 1989 and 1990. In 1989 Elaine and her team of Myrtle Turnau, Jean Keep and Sarah Dobbie won the Women's Provincial Fours' competition. She has been head

coach at Beaconsfield since the early '90s and has been a coach/director of the Quebec Blind Lawn Bowling Association since its inception in 1990. She was President of the Quebec Lawn Bowling Federation for 1991/92 - 1992/93. From 1994 to 1997 she was QLBF director of Bowls Canada Boulingrin and Quebec Team Manager. She was an executive member of the Board of Directors of Bowls Canada 1997/98 - 1998/99; vice-president 1999/00-2000/01, and President of Bowls Canada Boulingrin 2001/02- 2002/ 03.

### Pam Durley

Pam was club President in 1997 and 1998. Through the years she has directed lively entertainment at many a club event. As skip, with Irene Menear of Westmount, Pam won Provincial Pairs' titles three times -- in 1995, 1996 and 1998. She was on the fours' team with Joan MacKay, Marg Richards and Claire Sargent which won the Provincial Women's Fours and went on to win a Bronze Medal at the Nationals in Nova Scotia in 1997. She substituted for a player who was ill on Sharon Shaw's Verdun fours' team which won a Silver Medal at the 2001 Nationals. She has been a BLBC coach since the late '80s. She was Canadian Women's Team Manager from 1997 to 2000 involving two trips to Australia, two to Malaysia, one to South Africa and one to Wales. These were the Pacific Rim Games and the Women's World Bowls, both in Australia; the Commonwealth Games and the Pacific Rim Games in Kuala Lumpur; and Atlantic Rim Tournaments in South Africa and in Wales.

### Nora Gunning

Nora was a founding member of the club. She was its second President, in office for two years -- 1981 and 1982 -- and the

first woman president of a Quebec lawn bowling club. She has been chairman of club match and coaching committees. Through the years she worked on many of the club's formative committees, including nominating, tournament, Constitution, sand green, New Horizons, the club house extension, and Junior bowlers' programs. She was Chairman of the club's 10th Anniversary program. She has been President of the Province of Quebec Ladies' Lawn Bowling Federation, (elected in 1984), and was its match chairperson. She served on the merger committee of the men's and women's Quebec Federation executives; and as a Provincial Umpire and a second level National Umpire. At the National level she served as a Quebec Director for four years; she has been a National Umpire with duties at national championships, and a member of the national coaching committee, first appointed in 1983. For many years, she was club photographer, photo album-keeper and statistician.

#### Mari Paterson

Mari was BLBC President in 2001 and 2002. In the 1970's, then as a member of Riverside Lawn Bowling Club, with Dot Randle, she won the Ladies' Provincial Pairs and went on to win Gold at the Nationals in both 1975 and 1979. In 1977, Mari became secretary of the Province of Quebec Ladies' Lawn Bowling Association and in 1978-79 was a director for Quebec on the Canadian Ladies' Lawn Bowling Council and became secretary and vice-president of the Canadian organization. In 1980 she was on the winning Provincial Triples' team and played at the Nationals in Nova Scotia; in 1982 she won the Provincial Ladies' Singles; and in 1999 skipped the winning Provincial Women's Fours' team with Jean Drummond, Molly Turnbull and Jean Wilson, which represented Quebec at the Nationals in Toronto. She is an accredited National Coach and a Provincial Umpire. In 1981 she was first vice-president of Canadian Women's World Bowls when the women held World Bowls' games at Willowdale, Ontario. In 1985



Mari was a player on the Women's Team Canada, attending trials in Arizona and Edmonton. She was invited to represent Canada and played at the Commonwealth Games in Scotland in 1986. She has been coaching the Quebec blind bowlers for several years.



## JUNIORS

Through the years, those lawn bowlers designated as Juniors have made their presence and their prowess evident at the Beaconsfield club mostly through their Sunday morning play, their annual inter-provincial competitions, and their achievements away from home base.

As reported by Bob Gandey, the club's 10th anniversary year, 1989, also saw the first interprovincial Juniors' tournament, with 32 young people playing doubles' games. The participants were ages 11 to 16 -- 20 from Ontario and 12 from Beaconsfield (then the only Quebec club with a Juniors' program). This program was started by Joan MacKay who was then Juniors' coordinator for Quebec Federation, and with the help of Bob Gandey and Ron, Heather and Stephen Wood, it continued through the 90's, alternating its venues between Quebec and Ontario.

By 1993, this competition, coordinated with a great deal of effort by Stephen Wood, was expanded for the first time beyond Ontario and Quebec and included mixed pairs from Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia. Prior to the competition, the Juniors held a garage sale at the club to help with their expenses. During the weekend of play, 56 young bowlers participated, divided into two categories: from 18 years of age and under; and from 19 to 25. Again the Wood family had a major role, lining up club members to bake lasagna, make squares and get the barbeques going. And as before, the young people made good use of the Recreation Centre swimming pool, and watched videos, snacked and slept in the club house. Again, bowling parents kept an eye on the action.

Club president Betsy Wollmann stated at the 1993 annual general meeting that this tournament was the "highlight of the year". Not too strong a phrase, considering that that board was anxious to promote Junior bowling at the club.

On another front, in 1992, Lawn Bowls Canada developed a School of Excellence/Training Program for bowlers under 25 years of age. First participants from Quebec -- nominated by Quebec Federation -- were Beaconsfield's Stephen Wood, and St. Lambert's Michel Larue, in Victoria from November 13 to 15. Beaconsfield's Graham Smith, and Verdun's Kerry O'Reilly were chosen by Quebec Federation to attend the School in the Spring of 1994, in Newmarket, Ontario; and R.J. Brack of Beaconsfield was selected from Quebec to attend the School in Newmarket, in April, 1997.

In 1994, Stephen Wood won second prize in the World Open Pairs in Las Vegas with a 5 and 1 record. Beaconsfield Juniors who took part in the Ontario-Quebec tourney in Toronto in '94 were Stephen and Laura Wood and R.J. Brack. And in '95 when the competition returned to Beaconsfield, some 60 Juniors came, including some from B.C. In 1996, six Juniors from Beaconsfield and Pointe Claire went to Collingwood for the Ontario-Quebec Challenge and R.J. Brack and Graham Smith won their event.

In 1996, Lawn Bowls Canada began a National Junior Singles' Competition, held in Regina in August, and Jeff Dungen of Beaconsfield, represented Quebec. That same year, R.J. Brack, still a Junior, won the Beaconsfield Club Novice Singles competition.

Through the mid-90's, the Juniors held Open Houses, barbeques and garage sales in order to promote the sport. And they participated in Beaconsfield Recreation Department Information Days

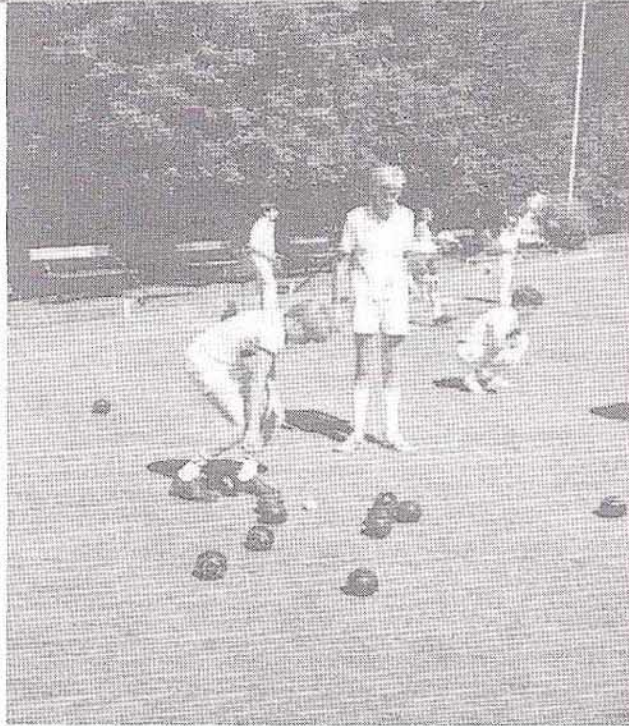
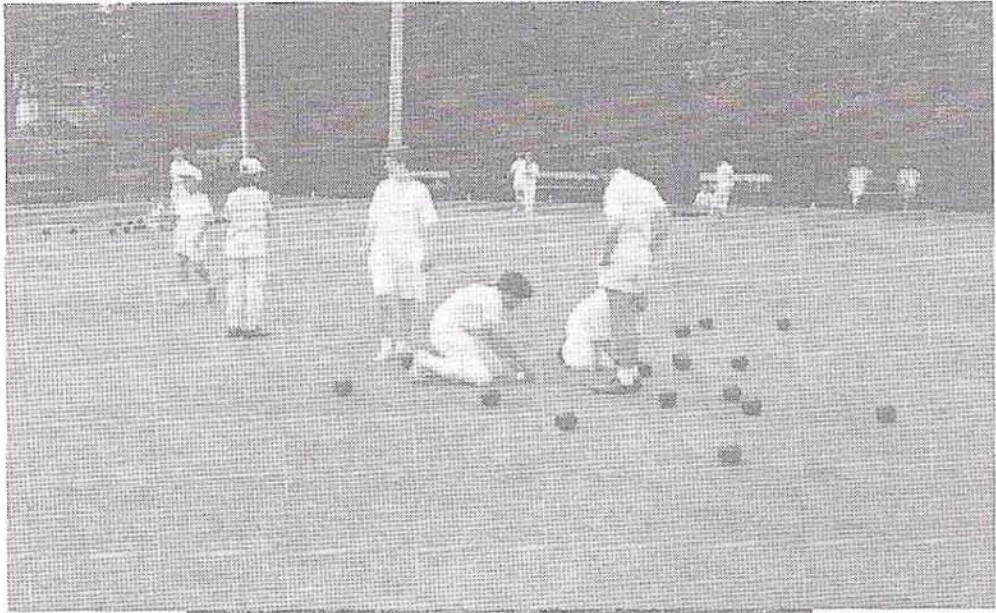
in the spring, visited schools and generally tried to recruit more young people. For their part, the club board relaxed "white-clothing-only" rules, looked the other way when Juniors' fees were not forthcoming, and tried recruiting through schools, Scouts and Pathfinders groups. Working in a broader scope, Stephen Wood also served on the National Junior Committee from 1995 to 2001.

Betsy Wollmann, her two years as club president concluded, took over the Sunday morning coaching duties in 1995 and continued for four years. In 1997, she and Pat Franklin created and distributed posters to schools, depanneurs and the Recreation Centre, and Stephen Wood and Graham Smith organized a recruiting season-opener barbeque for Juniors; and later, the Quebec-Ontario Junior Challenge with some 50 young people taking part. The next year, four Quebec Juniors played in the Ontario-Quebec Challenge held in Kitchener.

In 1999, the Ontario Juniors were undecided about continuing the two-province Junior tradition, and some of the Beaconsfield Juniors were becoming involved in summer jobs, family holidays and new careers. Things were winding down . . .

In 2000, Alex Bennett of Beaconsfield represented Quebec in the Junior Nationals, and again in 2001 when he succeeded to the Bronze competition but lost it by one point.

Whither the Juniors now? At present, Ann Dittmar of Pointe Claire, is the Quebec Federation representative in charge of Junior programs and in the early 2000s there is talk of forming a separate Junior Club or Section. Additionally, the Quebec Federation passed a motion that Juniors should be permitted to bowl in club competitions, and the Beaconsfield board concurred with this. Hopefully, a keen new generation of young lawn bowlers will come along and embrace the sport!.



## QBLBA @ BLBC

A new dimension was added to lawn bowling at Beaconsfield when in July 1990 a group from the Low Vision Self-Help Association took up the game, wishing to be active and competitive in a sport they could master.

A program had already been started at Westmount, enthusiastically spearheaded by Joan MacKay of Beaconsfield and John Carlin of Verdun. Thus was born the Quebec Blind Lawn Bowling Association (QBLBA), with Irene Lambert as its first president. Bob Gandey was instrumental in securing a grant for bowls and equipment.

Coaches were recruited and trained to guide the blind bowlers. Each bowler was matched with a director to guide the bowler's position, aim, and appreciation of distance. "Aim at one o'clock" is one of the guidelines frequently heard. And "good shot" almost as often! Play was begun on Wednesday afternoons, followed by a sociable cup of tea. The program blossomed so that in the following year the club provided six provincial trophies, designed by Joan MacKay, to be won by the blind bowlers. In due course, Monday nights were added to the bowlers' weekly agenda. And, down the road, other trophies were added.

In 1993, for four days in August, members of the QBLBA entered their first national competition, in Halifax, winning silver in pairs and bronze in the women's singles. Since then, members of the QBLBA have taken part in national competitions almost every year, and for many of those years, Bob Gandey was a key fund raiser, coach, and assistant team manager, with Joan MacKay as manager and guiding force.

In 1995, the national competition came to the Beaconsfield and Pointe Claire clubs, with some 50 bowlers competing in singles and pairs. A Beaconsfield bowler, Ron Pelletier, as one of the medal winners, went on to the international competition in England. Subsequently, the blind bowlers made a surprise contribution of \$500 to the Beaconsfield club as thanks for the use of the greens and club facilities, and they have continued to make similar contributions through the years.

Lawn bowling for the vision-impaired was begun in Scotland 30-odd years ago. In July, 1998, a group of 20 Scottish bowlers came to compete for a week against a team from the QBLBA. Beaconsfield was one of the venues and hosted the opening ceremony, and the opening luncheon and dinner.

That same summer, Ron Pelletier won the silver medal in the International Blind Bowlers' Tournament in South Africa, accompanied by his coach, Shirley Ahern. Joan MacKay also travelled to South Africa, as Canadian Team Manager, and it was while she was en route home that she died in New York City. In memory of Joan, the group again made a generous donation to the Beaconsfield club.

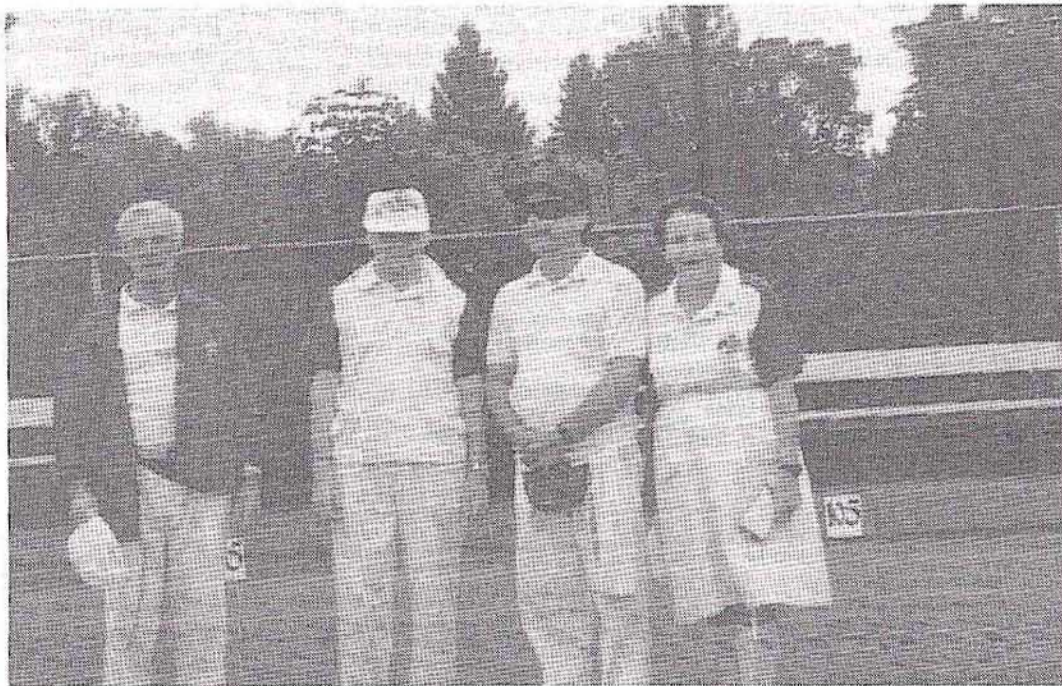
The blind bowlers have done well at all levels of competition - provincial, national, international, and world, including the 2000 nationals in Vancouver, when Ron Pelletier won gold, and Louis Van Volsen, also a Beaconsfield bowler, won silver.

Norma Lunan joined the QBLBA as a coach in 1994, was later elected treasurer, and has been team manager since the death of Joan MacKay.

Among the awards available now is a Canadian trophy named in honour of Joan MacKay, and club trophies honouring Bob Gandey and former QBLBA president, Dayle Miller, both of whom died in 2000. Joan, Bob, and Herb Linder are commemorated in a rose garden at the club. The garden was created by the city in 2001, and dedicated by Mayor Roy Kemp in a special ceremony on Canada Day.

Former vice-president, Heather Green, has been association president since the death of Dayle Miller.

At present there are 14 players and their directors in the QBLBA, with nine playing in Beaconsfield and four in Westmount.





## BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

### *Some Special Members*

**Phil Aldred:** Almost-perennial- treasurer, Phil Aldred held the position for 12 years, until 1996. At the club's annual general meeting in 1995, Bob Gandey paid tribute to Phil noting that he had served on the Board of Directors in one capacity or another since the club's inception. At the AGM, Phil was granted Honourary Membership in the club. The Citation: "*To recognize his participation and diligence in his duties with such unfailing good humour for so many years.*" In 1999, Phil donated a trophy for the winner of the Men's Monday Night Triples. Travers Day was the first recipient.

**Bruce Flexman:** Bruce Flexman, a charter member, has audited the books of the Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club ever since the club's inception, as a volunteer and a member.

**Dorothy Labelle:** From her beautiful garden on Gouin boulevard in Pierrefonds, Dorothy Labelle provided flowers for Sunday teas and all special events for many years until she moved to Pointe Claire in 2002.

**Tommy and Jenny Oakes:** Tommy Oakes and his wife Jenny were a Scottish couple who enlivened the club with their keenness to bowl, and to have fun. Predeceased by Jenny, Tommy willed a significant bequest to the club, upon his death in 2002. In their memory, the Board of Directors established The Tommy and Jenny Oakes Memorial Trophy to be played for annually on the third Sunday in August.

Open to all club members, the afternoon's activities include prizes for bowling and military whist, and a traditional Scottish Tea. A plaque in the Oakes's honour will be placed in the Memorial Rose Garden.

**Stu Steventon:** In 1990, Stu Steventon designed the pins that continue to be used for the winners of club trophy competitions. When he was no longer able to bowl, he did the Wednesday Night tags down draws and endeared himself by making hot tea for cold bowlers on chilly September nights.

## EMILY POST WAS HERE

Matters sartorial and departmental occasionally come to the fore in lawn bowling circles. A few examples may clarify - or - confuse.

In 1989, Nora Gunning returned from a Lawn Bowls Canada meeting in Ottawa and reported that henceforth the *ladies'* events would be referred to as *women's* events. Hopefully, not a reflection of their manners on the green.

In the BLBC board minutes of December 1989, it was announced that Quebec Federation had reiterated its policy that whites were mandatory, with the exception of shoes and belts, at all federation events.

In Spring 1991, both Lawn Bowls Canada and the Quebec Federation ruled that men no longer had to wear knee socks when wearing shorts. But shorts, men's or women's had to be no more than three inches above the knee, and must be measured with the bowler in a kneeling position.

In November that same year, Quebec Federation polled the member clubs asking for preferences re: dress. "Whites" won in Beaconsfield.

In 1992, club members were asked to vote on whether zippered jackets or traditional blazers should be *de rigueur* when playing in future nationals. It was noted that zippered jackets were less expensive and more easily fitted. Economy and ease won out -- at Beaconsfield, and also at the national level.

At a May board meeting in 1997, it was agreed that casual dress, meaning coloured top or bottom, worn with white bottom or top would be allowed for tags down on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night play, so long as no federation or club trophy event was being held at the same time. No halter tops or jeans were to be allowed.

It was also agreed that bowlers were not expected to play in thunderstorms, bad weather or hot days “which will be posted on the board.”

In 1998, Maryse McDougall, reporting for Quebec Federation, advised the BLBC board that from now on *coloured bowls* would be acceptable! They continue to be notable by their absence. Perhaps too conspicuous on an imperfect shot . . .

Hunter Green made its debut in Beaconsfield in September 1999, when the board decreed it to be the BLBC official colour. Also, at *Intra* club events, players may wear the green. At *Inter* club events, green may be worn subject to the dictates of the host club, and all of a team’s members must be uniformly attired.

In 2002, Quebec Federation approved a ban on smoking by competitors during play in any federation-sponsored event.

At the BLBC annual general meeting in 2002, the membership approved revisions to the By Laws which were needed primarily to reflect the club’s position in the new Borough in the City of Montreal. That winter, rules of club championship play were revised by a special committee, to take effect in 2003.

## THE WAY WE ARE

2004

Under the sun or under the lights, Beaconsfield lawn bowlers enjoy a wide variety of games throughout the season. Once new members have passed the obligatory coaching period, they are able to bowl at Beaconsfield or in events at other clubs in the area. The most competitive bowlers may advance to annual Quebec Provincial competitions and when successful in that milieu, may go on to the Nationals.

### *In-Club Play*

In-club play is organized by two match committees -- men's and women's. Traditionally, the men have competitive team play on Monday nights and on Wednesday mornings -- the latter group naming themselves the Senators and enjoying a convivial snack afterward. The Wednesday morning games also involve other clubs.

Women's match takes care of women's competitive team play on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and, in addition, organizes more casual tags down games on those mornings. Friday mornings include interclub play among Beaconsfield, Pointe Claire and Pierrefonds in the Golden Girls' competition which moves from club to club. Mari Paterson was the Beaconsfield founding member when this competition was begun in 1988. The local clubs not previously included in the Golden Girls are showing an interest and are looking into the feasibility of expanding this circuit which is designed to give members a friendly opportunity to bowl on greens other than their own.

Toward the end of the bowling season, and just for fun, the annual match between the Senators and the Golden Girls takes place, with the losing gender of the previous year providing the lunch.

Wednesday and Friday nights and Sunday afternoons feature casual mixed -- men and women -- tags down games. At the conclusion of the Sunday afternoon games, tea is served in the club house, another long-standing tradition. Monetary prizes took over from crystals on Sundays in the early '90s and silver dollars are given as prizes on Wednesday and Friday nights.

Starting in 1994, attempts were made to encourage a Thursday evening competition for business women, similar to events in some local curling clubs, and a modest success was seen by 1996. In the past few years, Thursday evenings have been devoted to cut-throat, mixed, games, with every player putting \$1 into the pot at each game.

Friday morning play originated as pick-up sessions for skips and thirds honing their skills but have since expanded to accommodate other members.

Other in-club competitions include fun days -- usually on Saturdays, with members playing tags down triples, sometimes fours, and more often, cut-throat (also known as cloverleaf). The club's barbeques are frequently brought into use at these popular events, or members bring their own picnic food.

Holidays are celebrated with special events: Victoria Day; St. Jean Baptiste Day; Canada Day (also the club's anniversary); and Labour Day.

For the first few years of the '90s the club held special bowling events in support of the War Amputees' Fund, and from 1993 to 1996 games were held to promote membership, under the aegis of Tetley Tea which until 1997 was sponsoring the Nationals.

### *Club Trophy Play*

Most of Beaconsfield's own trophy competitions take place late in the season and include fours, triples, pairs, and singles in both men's and women's categories. There are also singles' competitions for men and for women in the novice category. Mixed fours and mixed pairs are also played for club trophies. Play for the Clover-Leaf Trophy has become a Labour Day fixture -- two games of mixed clover-leaf are played for the trophy which was donated by Bill Gray, a former head coach, and the person who initiated this game at the club. Scott Livingstone was the first to win the trophy, in 1988, when he was club president. In 2002, following the death of another much-loved member, Tommy Oakes, the Tommy and Jenny Oakes Memorial Trophy was established to be competed for annually on the third Sunday in August, followed by a traditional Scottish Tea. First to win the trophy was the team of Yvette Chisholm, skip, André Bessette and Jim Pearmain. Winners also were presented individual plaques.

### *Interclub*

Among the Quebec clubs there are Tuesday night Interclub matches rotating from club to club, with fours, pairs and singles -- with the men and women playing separately; and the Governor General's competition for men and the Rose Bowl for women in which the two winning Quebec teams in both competitions go to Ottawa to play against Ottawa teams.

Other clubs are invited annually to compete in Beaconsfield invitational competitions. The women's is played as a triples event; the men's was changed from triples to pairs in 1996. And of course, there is the prestigious Herb Linder Memorial Trophy competition, reviewed in another chapter.

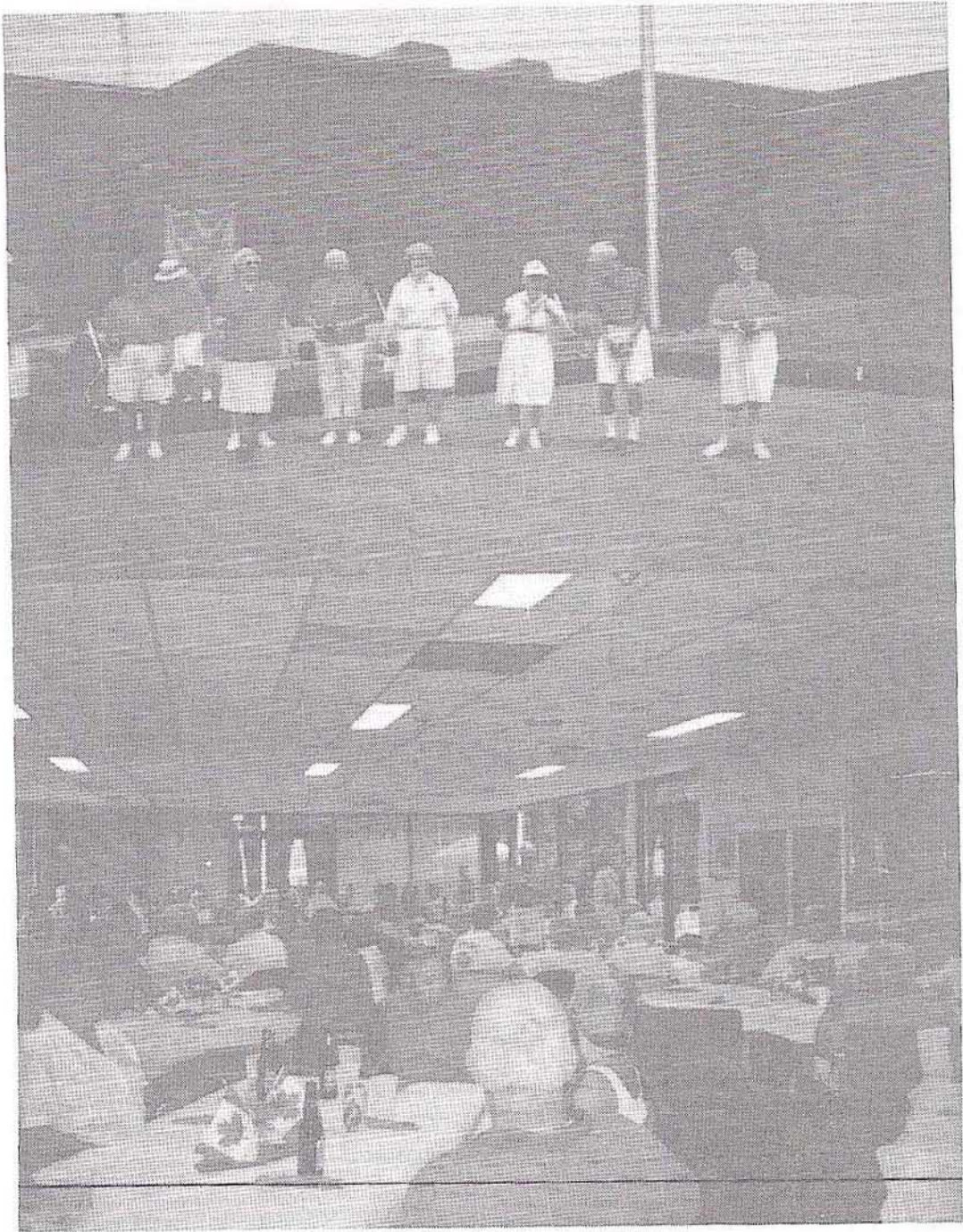
Most area clubs have invitational, or open, competitions (for men, women, and mixed) on weekends throughout the season and Beaconsfield teams actively participate, frequently bringing home the highly coveted trophies.

Club members also continue to take part in the Beaconsfield, Pointe Claire, Pierrefonds Tri-City event founded in 1981 to offer a sociable environment in which newer members have an opportunity to bowl against members of other clubs.

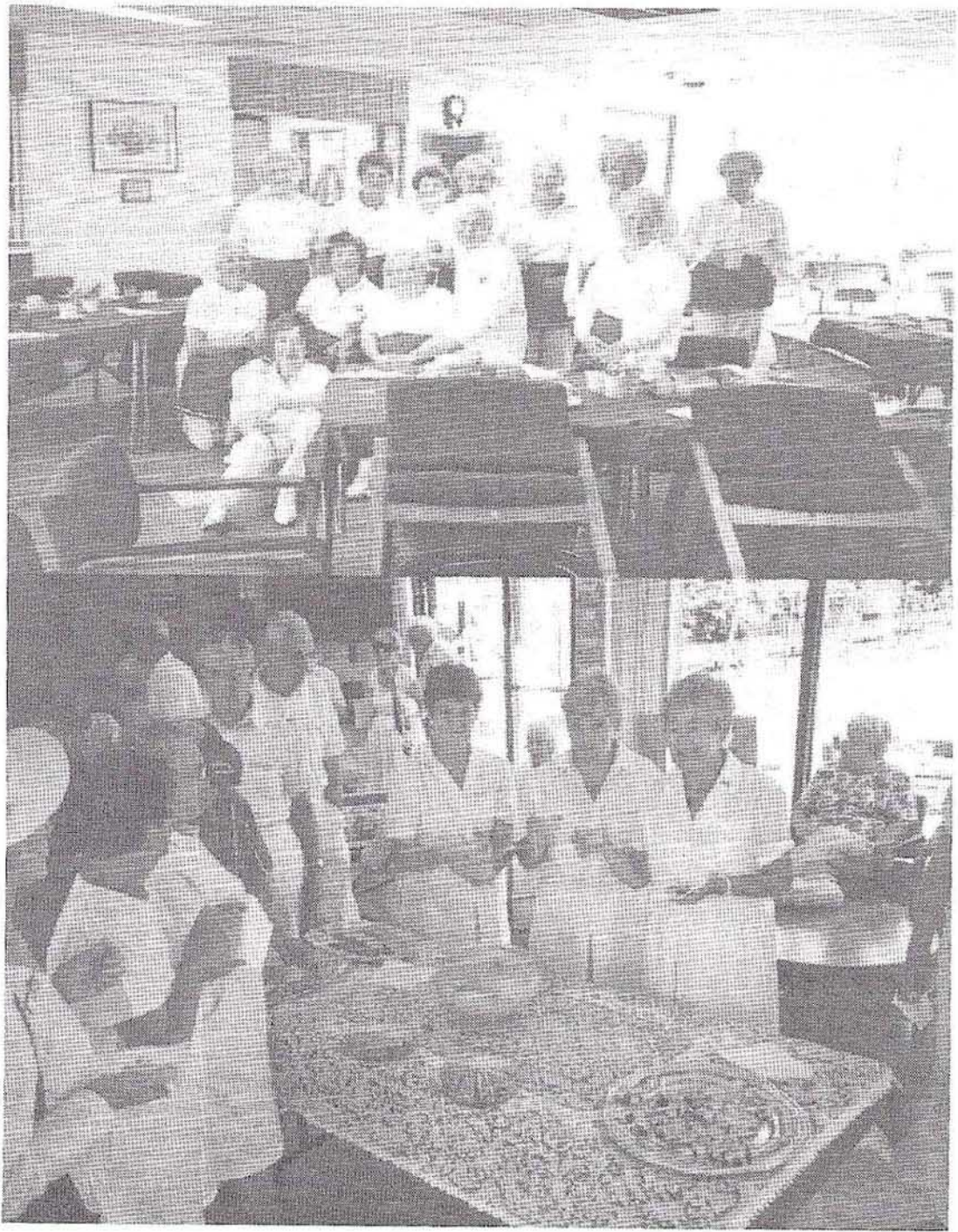
In 2002, several BLBC board and general members took part in the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club's 100th Anniversary celebrations. Another example of inter-club activities.

In 2003 Pointe Claire Bowling Club celebrated its 25th Anniversary. John Wilson, as President of the BLBC, and his wife Jean participated in their anniversary celebrations.

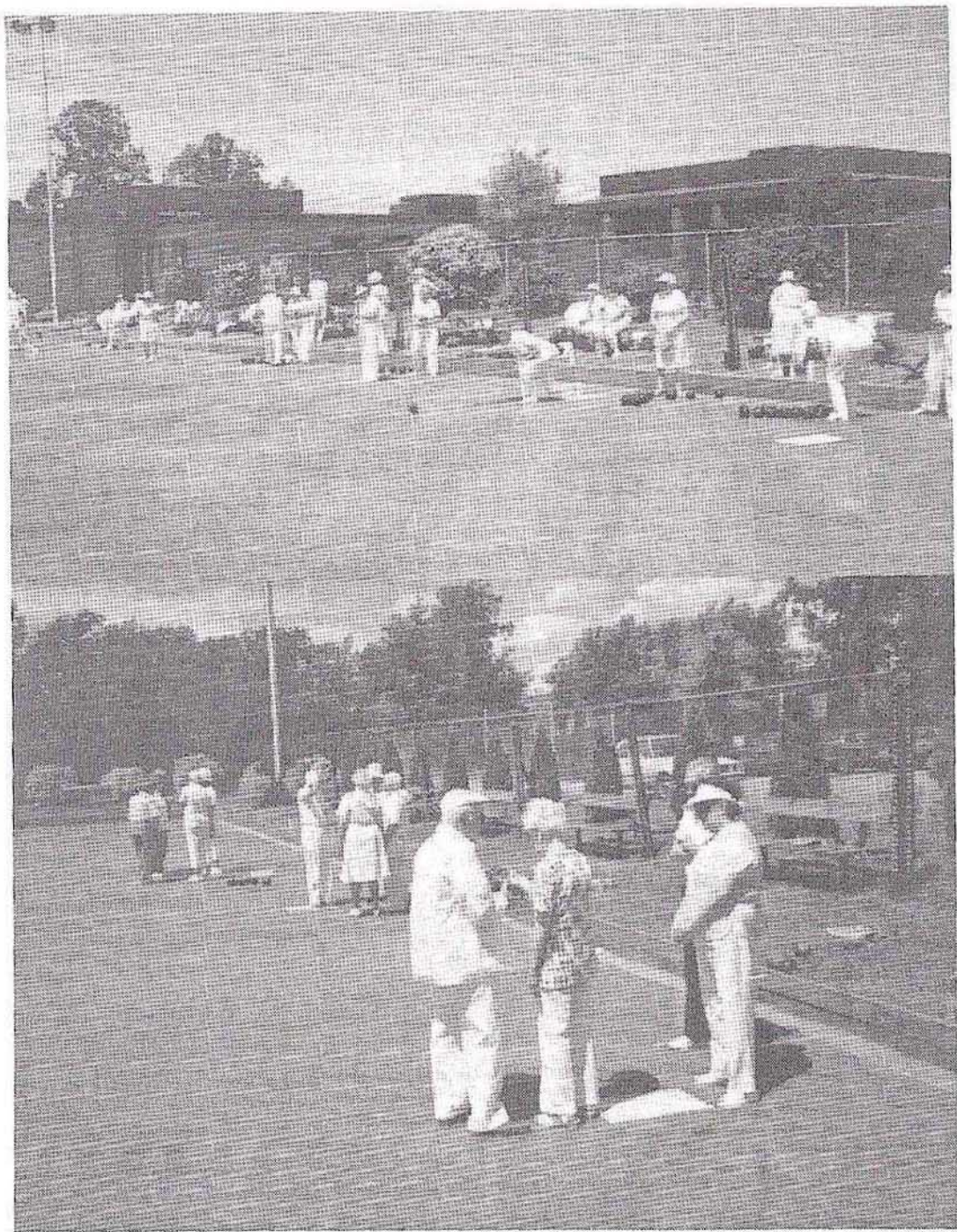












### About Your Author, by Her Husband

Your author, Shirley Skilling, is a journalism graduate of Carleton University and was a reporter and women's editor at The Ottawa Journal until 1961; and information officer of Carleton University until 1967, at which time we were married. She has referred to me as her Centennial Project ever since. She was a member of the board of the BLBC for five years, and has spent a great deal of her spare time over the past two years working on this history.

Gord