



# Lanark Rocks

[lanarkcurlingclub.org](http://lanarkcurlingclub.org)

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Riverfield CC—Eastern Canada

***The Magazine of Lanark Curling Club***

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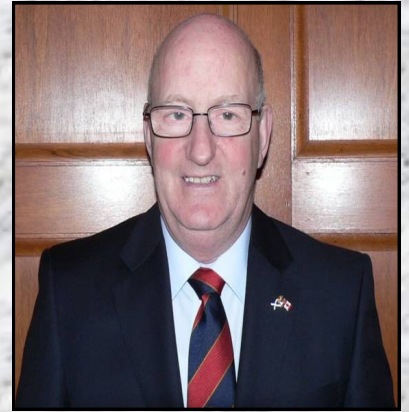


**You look cold Richard! Obviously Richard's group has found the Canadian equivalent to Para Handy in Halifax**



*President: Alistair Mackintosh*

# Presidential Musings



Hi

I think it is just wonderful that we can dedicate another edition of Lanark Rocks to Richard Gray's account of his RCCC tour to Eastern Canada. I hope that you, like myself, enjoy reading about other members' curling experiences. It is certainly keeping our Secretary busy but I know she thoroughly enjoys receiving stories from members so keep them coming!

I noted that Richard stayed in Quebec which is a stop the Rotarians also stayed in. In fact I have received an invitation for Lanark CC to compete in the 2014 Quebec International Bonspiel—101st edition. Now what do you fancy—Stranraer or Quebec? This takes place in January. I await your responses.

It is not the first time Lanark CC has travelled abroad ie we have played in Copenhagen and Prague. I think our name is becoming more internationally known—hi hi.

Over to you Richard.....

Alistair Mackintosh, President



# One Tourist's Tale

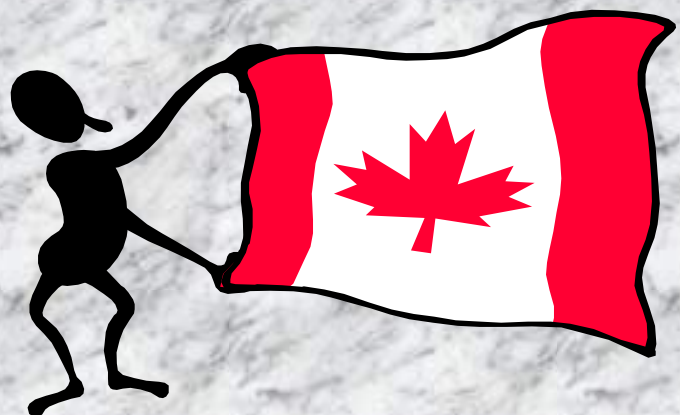
By Richard Gray

I was surprised to learn on reaching Newfoundland that we were actually closer to home in Scotland than we were to our fellow team members on the West Tour, then on Vancouver Island. Canada is a very big country. I knew this, of course, but there is nothing like being on the ground and covering the miles to bring home the fact. Even Central Tour, whom we had left behind in Ottawa, were some 1,700 miles away!

In winter, Canada is also a very cold country. I can now vouch personally that this is so. Whilst we were in the Maritime Provinces we experienced record low temperatures for that part of the world. When the wind blows and it is twenty three below, outside is not where you want to be. Nor is this the best time of year to experience the scenery. Frequent leaden skies and short days ensure that the landscape is rarely seen at its best.

These, I think, are about the only negative thoughts I can summon on the experience of a Royal Club Tour of Eastern Canada. An abiding memory will be the warmth of the welcome we received at every pit stop on our whirlwind itinerary. Our hosts throughout clearly regarded our visit as momentous, such that we were fêted at every turn. Banquet followed formal feast followed lavish reception as we were treated to the culinary delights of the regions through which we travelled.

Highlights are too many to mention but I'll try! Here are some of the memories I'll treasure.





***Always a warm welcome.***

***From bus to ice rink—a  
forest of curling brooms.***



In St John's, Newfoundland, our entire party were "screeched in" and "kissed the cod" (don't ask!) in a hilarious initiation ceremony in City Hall. Afterwards, Brad Gushue (of Olympic Gold fame) was magnanimous in his comments, following defeat on the ice to one of our member earlier in the day.

We were entertained to a superb lunch at Ian and Anne MacDonald's house in Halifax. As our group sang "Flower of Scotland" in the front room by way of thanks, some of our Canadian hosts became quite emotional. Our rendition made grown women cry – and it wasn't the poor quality of the singing, honest!

Somewhere in Nova Scotia we and assembled hosts commandeered a restaurant corner. After a wonderful meal of the freshest seafood, washed down by local wines, we were entertained gloriously as story followed song late into the night.



Another ceremony in Cornwall, Prince Edward Island saw our motley crew “shucked in” to become honourable members of the PEI Oyster Society before being entertained to the fine saxophone and guitar playing of young Todd MacLean.



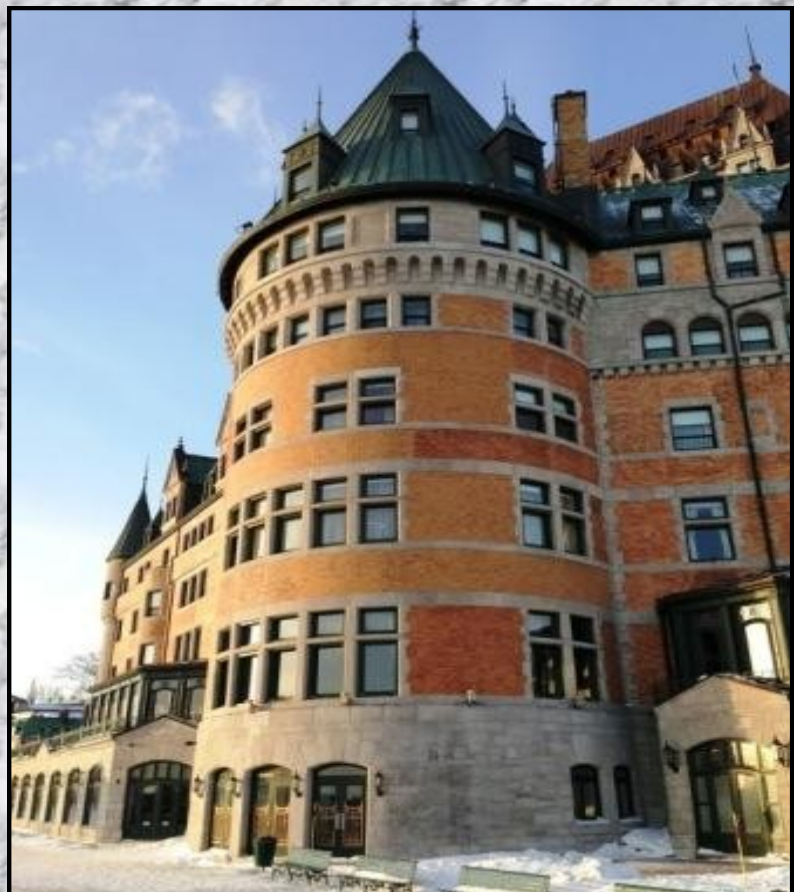
Monkton, New Brunswick saw “my turn” for the official vote of thanks. This I managed to deliver in passable French. Such was the warmth of the reaction to this small effort on my part from our francophone hosts, I was as surprised as I felt gratified.

In Quebec we arrived at the Chateau Frontenac Hotel in time to participate in the closing celebrations of the one hundredth playing of the Quebec International Bonspiel, which had been running all week. This proved a unique way to celebrate my birthday. Music from a local band and room parties galore ensured no one was early to bed that night.

***Chateau Frontenac  
in Quebec City.***

***‘Our humble abode’***

***NICE!***





Of course, there was also the curling. Did I mention that we won the Strathcona Cup? The final winning margin was 255 points. (Modesty forbids my pointing out that the East Tour contributed 176 of those.) We curled in grand curling clubs, where facilities were second to none (and cost of membership frightening). We curled in small town two-sheeter ice rinks, which depended on volunteer support from diminishing memberships for their very survival.

The record will show that I played 31 games in 22 days across 6 Provinces. It is indeed fortunate that I was reasonably fit on departure! I was blessed with my draw of team members in Jim, Keith and Peter. We seemed to gel quickly and although we had our moments when – surprise! – not everything went according to plan, we did end up with a strongly positive record. Our best day was undoubtedly when we managed to defeat the current New Brunswick Province Senior Champions in the morning and followed that with a win over the four time New Brunswick Province Junior Champions in the afternoon. I think we surprised everyone that day, not least ourselves. I will forever have fond memories of the Capital Winter Club in Fredericton as a result.

Summing up, we departed home shores in early January as a disparate bunch of guys with a common goal – to enjoy the Tour whilst bringing home the Strathcona Cup. In this we succeeded but returned home in February the richer for experiences shared and friendships made both at home in Scotland and back in Canada. The trip was relentless yet rewarding, often frenzied but always fun. In the sense that one is only permitted to avail oneself once of this opportunity, it was indisputably the trip of a lifetime. I'd do it again tomorrow if I could but I can't and anyway, I'm not sure I'd have the puff!

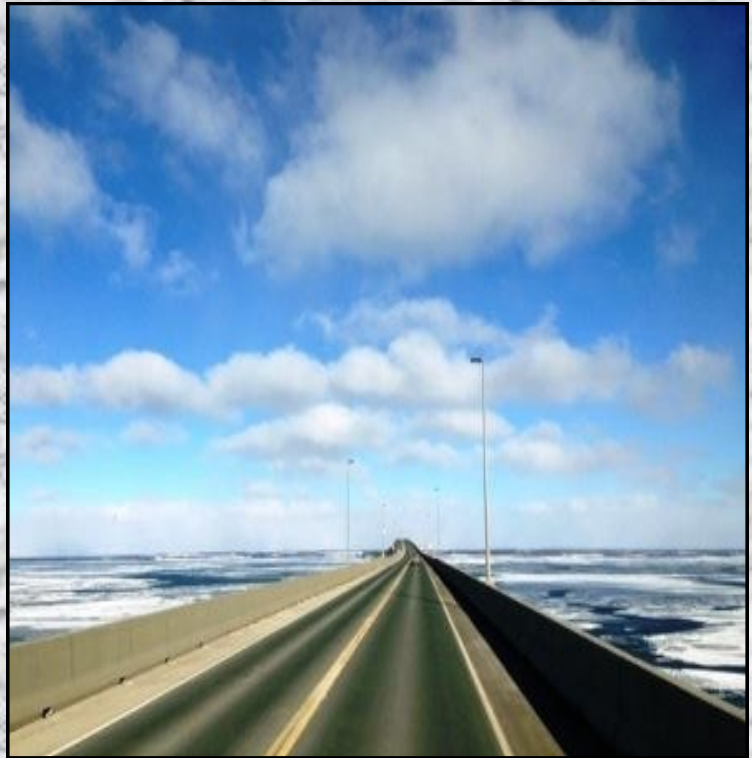
***Editor—Richard did not take his camera with him. All his pictures were taken with his iphone but they still look so good!.Er....except this one as it was taken by me!***

***THAT'S ALL FOLKS.***



# Scrapbook

***Confederation Bridge -  
Links New Brunswick to  
Prince Edward Island (8  
miles long)***



***Cape Spear  
(Newfoundland).***

***Most easterly  
point in North  
America.***





***Curling at Burlington CC—  
quite prestigious***



***NEARLY HOME.***

***I bet everyone who  
has been on tour  
knows what this feels  
like!***



**Lanark Rocks** is the periodical publication of **Lanark Curling Club** [www.lanarkcurlingclub.org](http://www.lanarkcurlingclub.org) and is sent free of charge to members. All articles of interest to members are welcome and will be acknowledged but may be edited for publication. Members adverts are FOC. All trademarks are acknowledged. The deadline for the next issue, will be **whenever—just provide your material to the editor as and when it is ready.**

**I NEED SOME NEWS AND STORIES!!!!**

Anne Hood - 4 Murray Road LAW ML8 5HR

