

## HARRY CLARK AWARD

Nominator: Mike Smith

Secunder: Brian Monaghan

### ***Derek Vachon***

#### Description of Contributions

Derek has been with the Burlington Curling Club for years (35?) and has become part of the furniture, like many of us who started in the CCIW Friday night rental league.

Derek has coached at the bantam/junior level in season's past at our club.

He has been, and is, an active member of the Men's Day Section, both playing and volunteering at the executive level, including returning as vice president for the 2021 season and president for the 2022 season. He has coordinated interchanges between various clubs in the Hamilton/Burlington area. He has been active in the current player committee involving team creation, promotions, and special events.

Derek was part of the executive that developed the successful competitive league for Men's Day called The Wednesday League as well as contributing to other Men's Day events like the skills challenge.

Derek and his children (Stephan and Karen) annually present a trophy for co-operative team spirit and sportsmanship to a deserving junior on behalf of his late wife, Eleanor.

Derek's signature contribution to BCC has been the development and implementation of the "Learn to Curl" (LTC) program over the last three years. He developed the program from scratch including preparing a user manual and co-ordinating the week-to-week instruction on ice. He manages a team of volunteers who help new curlers learn all aspects of the game – sweeping, throwing rocks, rules, strategy, and etiquette.

The economic benefits of LTC to the club are substantial, from the course fees and the fact that new curlers are ready, willing, and able to join various sections of the club. The wait lists are long to get into the program due to its popularity.

In conjunction with LTC, Derek has been the driving force of a Development League (D League). New curlers, who have been through the LTC component, are promoted into the "D" League and get to perform all aspects of the game with reduced instruction. This program gets the players closer to their goal of being able to join club sections and be "good-to-go."

Derek's involvement has required a huge investment in time, energy, and creativity. He has done it all selflessly and with class.