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Sports

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On Deck

Skater takes gold

Pitt Meadows resident Hannah Lam won a gold medal at the Jingle Blade competition this weekend.

Lam skated to a first-place finish and was top of the podium for the preliminary ladies age 10 and under, group three.

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Photo contributed

Midfielder Riley Glemnitz played against teams in Maryland.

Sophomore plays Eastern seaboard

Pitt Meadows Secondary's Riley Glemnitz was part of the Ultimate Performance Lacrosse Fall Shootout I and II in Maryland.

Glemnitz is the only local lacrosse player on the Burnaby Mountain Selects (BMS) Sophomore team and his team was one of more than 100 teams across two divisions that competed in Maryland in mid-November.

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Racers show speed

Local skaters finished well at the recent PoCo Interclub speed-skating event.

Tessai Soudarack placed first, second and third in division four action in Port Coquitlam the weekend of Nov. 20 and 21.

Tristan Kelsey also racked up a personal best in the 100m to grab first place and she edged out teammate Jane Green for third in the 300m race.

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Bill Gardner releases his first rock of the last end during the championship game of Saturday's 80+ Bonspiel tournament at the Golden Ears Winter Club. Gardner and his three teammates took first place in the competition after winning their final game 9-5 in eight ends.



Mitch Thompson / TIMES

Curling

Bonspiel a big deal on Albion ice

About 50 seniors, all over the age of 80, showed off their curling skills Friday and Saturday at the only bonspiel of its kind in the world.

by Amy Judd

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The over-80s world champions are four curlers from the Haney Masters Club and that made the 80+ Bonspiel held at the Golden Ears Winter Club this weekend even more special, said Bob MacKay, president of the club.

"It was the icing on the cake when our boys won," said MacKay and called the whole event "fantastic."

"It was inspiring to watch the teams play," said MacKay. "If you keep in shape it just shows you what you can do."

The event kicked off on Friday morning, and the atmosphere was electric as seniors from all over the Lower Mainland spread out on the ice for the opening ceremony.

That was the beginning of two days of curling for those over the age of 80.

After the first rock was thrown by lifetime member Bill Leech and swept down the ice by ice technician Don Hebert and Diane Dezura, president of the Golden Ears Curling Club and Olympic bronze medalist, the curlers were ready to play their two six-end games.

Despite all being over the age

of 80 the action was still fast and furious, and although some members needed a push stick to throw their rock, every senior was agile and working hard for their team.

Dezura said the fact that everyone can play is part of what makes the sport of curling so fabulous.

"You can start so young and play until you want," said Dezura. "This sport has such an accessibility factor. It's a sport that everyone can enjoy."

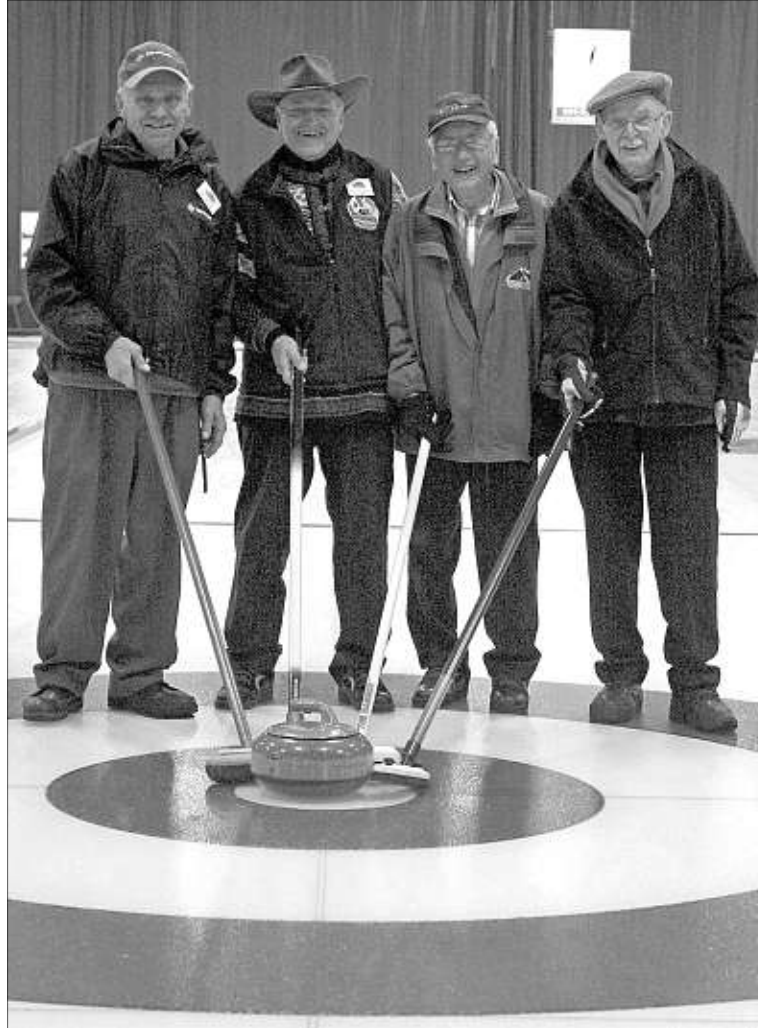
This was evident on Friday morning as the over 80s curlers gathered excitedly at the beginning of the competition for photos, but were all anxious to start their games.

MacKay said that this bonspiel is the only one in the world for curlers over the age of 80 years. He and the club have researched curling events all over the world and can find nothing like this one anywhere.

All the participants seemed really happy to have the chance to play together with people in their age group. "I'm sure there are many more curlers over the age of 80," laughed curler Wilma Major. "They just don't want to admit it."

This tournament is also a little different from others in the fact that women and men were competing together on the same team. "It keeps the men on their toes," said MacKay, "because the women are very good curlers."

Luckily for participants and spectators the weather gods smiled down on the Bonspiel.



Mitch Thompson / TIMES

The over 80s world champions from left to right: Bill Hanula, Bill Gardner, Mas Kosaka and Al Herd.

"We're just thankful for the weather," said MacKay. "If the weather was like [Thursday] then we would have had to cancel."

With participants coming from as far as Chiliwack and Delta that would have been the case as snow blanketed the Fraser Valley

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