



Pictured: Sharon Thiessen-Woods (Heather CC) & Jim Winfield (Grandview CC)

Jim Winfield Biography:

Even though I had curled some in high school, you could say my curling career really began in the early 80's. My wife and I moved back to the family farm and as we were straight grain farmers at the time I was looking for winter work. Just so happened that the local curling rink was looking for an icemaker. The first winter I started making ice on Oct 22 and had one day off before I closed the doors on the 5th of April. Every weekend was booked solid, and every bonspiel was full. Following a few years of working or helping at the rink, I naturally became involved in the Clubs operations. I have since held or helped with virtually every position on the board. My most memorable job was chairing our Clubs 100th Anniversary Bonspiel celebrations.

We hosted a regional MCA meeting some twelve or fourteen years ago and I challenged Rick Mutton at the time to rename the MCA to the WCA (Winnipeg Curling Association). I was thrilled to receive an invitation to sit on the MCA Board as a Parkland Director shortly thereafter and accepted the nomination with open arms. And it wasn't long before I had to eat my words! I soon discovered just how much the MCA did and how hard they worked at promoting and building the sport of curling across the entire province, not just in the city of Winnipeg. I ended up being on the board for 8 years and loved every minute of it. I was part of the transition from 44 board members to 12, and the change from the operational board model to the governance board model. I'm not sure how much help I was, but I like to think I influenced the Boards direction on a few occasions. My greatest regret was not being able to serve as the Associations President. Because of distance and work I felt I could not accept the position. My greatest achievement is being awarded an Honorary Life Membership. Having someone else say thank you for your effort and that indeed you did make a difference is very special. I like to tell people being a curler is not what I do, it's who I am. The hand shake before and after. The lack of referee. Taking part in the "gentleman's" game. It reflects on your entire outlook on life. I have a few curling trophies in my cabinet, but the most treasured reward from my 40 years of curling is the people I have met and the friendships I have made.