



## 2011 TANKARD - Ontario Men's Curling Championship

P.O. Box 261 Grimsby, Ontario L3M 4G5

### PRESS RELEASE

The Ontario Curling Association and the Grimsby Curling Club are pleased to announce that the 2011 Ontario Men's Curling Championship will be held at the Grimsby Peach King Centre February 7 through 13, 2011.

The host committee will be headed up by Dwayne Pyper, who was also chair of the 2007 Tim Hortons Brier held at Copps Coliseum. "We are extremely proud to have been chosen by the Ontario Curling Association to host this prestigious event", commented Dwayne, who just recently spent four days in Napanee at the 2010 provincial finals. "The Napanee committee not only hosted a first rate championship, but they have and will continue to provide invaluable information to our 2011 team to enable us to do the same", added Dwayne.

With his win at the 2010 championships, not only does Team Glenn Howard move on to the 2010 Tim Hortons Brier in Halifax this March, but they are guaranteed to be in the field at the 2011 provincial championship in Grimsby. "This is a huge bonus for our event and for the fans that will have the opportunity to see, not only some of the best curling in the country, but a world class team as well", boasts Pyper. This region has been kind to Team Howard as he won the 2007 Brier in Hamilton and will now have a chance to defend his provincial title here in Grimsby. "In Napanee, you could see the impact of having Team Howard on the ice...", acknowledged Dwayne, "the crowds were bigger and the seats closest to his games were always in high demand."

The 2011 event will feature an eleven team field. Glenn Howard's team of Richard Hart, Brent Laing and Craig Savill have already locked up their spot, but zone and regional play, plus two last chance challenge rounds next year will fill the remaining ten. "Hopefully we can have a local team break through and get to the event as well", added Pyper, as he did with Todd Brandwood and Drew Macklin as a member of the victorious Peter Corner rink in 2000 that went on to compile an impressive 8 and 4 win loss record at the Brier that year in Saskatoon, losing out to former world champion Jeff Stoughton of Manitoba.

Round robin play will commence on Monday February 7, 2011 and continue afternoons and evenings through Friday. Play-offs will take place over the weekend, culminating in the championship game on the afternoon of Sunday February 13, 2011. In addition to the curling will be various events and entertainment. "The great thing about a curling event is that the players are amateur athletes and interact with the fans, both while they are on the ice...and afterward in the lounge over a drink", said Dwayne.

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Much work remains to be done, but their first hiccup was the somewhat late notice that the 2011 committee had to pick up a significant amount of material from the 2010 site and store it over the next year. The community came through with flying colours however, with Wills Chev-Olds donating the use of a cube van, the Town confirming they would provide storage and the club membership providing the manpower to get the material stored away. "I know that with this kind of community support we are going to put on one of the best championships ever", bragged Pyper.

The website should be up and running within the next few weeks and tickets should be available for purchase before the end of this curling season. The Grimsby Peach King Center boasts 526 seats, but the committee plans to augment that with the construction of premium "home and away" end zone seating for sponsors and fans alike. The 2010 event in Napanee averaged approximately 500 spectators per game during the week, ballooning to over 1,000 by the end of the play-offs. Therefore seats could be in short supply and fans are encouraged to get their tickets as soon as possible.

The event requires approximately 200 volunteers and the Grimsby Curling Club membership will be heavily involved in making it a success. The first member's information session is going to be held at 3 pm on Sunday, February 21, 2010 in the club lounge. "I hope the membership packs the room to show support for the event and learn more about how they can get involved", commented Dwayne. "We will have a core executive that will drive most of the work for the next year, but the skills and contacts of all members will play a key role as well. The majority of the membership then gets involved in a big way during the set up week and the actual week of the event," he added.

"This is the premier curling event held annually in the province..." boasted Pyper, "...I am thrilled that it is finally coming to Grimsby and the Niagara Region!"

Supplementary notes:

- 1) Website: [www.grimsbytankard2011.com](http://www.grimsbytankard2011.com)
- 2) Tickets should be available for sale by mid March 2010.

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