

Ladies and gentlemen our piper Donald Sanderson and the Colour Party, members of the Canadian Forces from CFB Borden, the Eagle Staff carried by Wasauksing First Nation Chief Wally Tabobondung. They are accompanied by members of the local Air Cadet Squadron, sponsor representatives, and other guests in our opening ceremony.

I ask bonspiel organizers Ray Pavlove and Tom Traversy to offer a Toast to the Piper.

We gather with pride here today beneath this beautiful, powerful, and enduring symbol. We are forever thankful to the late Ernie Watthey for the use of this flag. It has seen our country from atop the Peace Tower, representing all of our nation's greatest qualities.

Please remove your hats and remain at attention as Comrade Traversy sings O Canada.

Please remain with your hats removed for a prayer given by my friend and colleague, Padre Larry Freeman.

Our welcome to the second Curlers Care Bonspiel must begin with a gracious and heartfelt thank you to our very special guests - the Veterans, active service and reservist members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are here with us. We also offer our thanks to those who serve our safety in the OPP, EMS, and Fire Services.

Thank you for your service. Thank you for being here this morning.

My name is Jim Hanna and I grateful to have this opportunity. Most of us will never be asked, or expected, to match the level of service that others have provided to our country. I believe it is a duty of citizenship to share in the sacrifice and to support military families in any way we can. As curlers, sponsors, organizers we are all here for the same purpose. Foremost to say thank you - but also to build common purpose around a cause that deserves our national attention.

Here to add their special voice to our opening celebration, they very recently received a Heritage Youth Achievement Award from the Lt Governor of Ontario, I introduce the Wasauksing First Nation Little Spirit Singers. They will sing an Honours Song, pronounced Ogitchda, meaning big hearted. Appropriately, this song acknowledges and honours people and their families who have big hearts and generous spirits - those special people who give of themselves in service to others.

Here to add his welcome and support, I introduce the Mayor of Parry Sound Jamie McGarvey.

I ask today that you all consider the privilege of play. It is a rare or impossible experience for people in our world whose daily lives are consumed by the search for safety, shelter, nutrition, and peace. Play is a child of freedom and security. Today the Parry Sound Curling Club is honoured to accept gifts from players who rise up from big-hearted families.

Sheena Gilman (now Moore), is two-time Nova Scotia Scotties Champion and mixed doubles champion. Her father Bob Gilman is a member here, and a very active volunteer. Sheena's grandfather was a member of our Armed Services and a Veteran of WWII.

Terry Ideson has served as a member of Grey and Simcoe Foresters Reserve. His son Mark is a World Wheelchair Curling Champion and Olympic curling gold medalist.

Today, our club is honoured to accept these commemorative jerseys.

I now call upon Ray Pavlove to make a presentation to our lead sponsor.

Just a few housekeeping notes before we close. I want to thank the Parry Sound Curling Club for hosting us. I am sure that club members will support our ice tech with any cleaning or sweeping that's needed. There is dinner and entertainment here tonight starting at 5:30. The bonspiel will conclude tomorrow afternoon with award presentations at 2. After our ceremonial first rock is thrown we will gather for a group photograph. After the photograph, please return to your current place and allow our Colour Party to officially exit from the ice.

And now, to officially begin this bonspiel, the ceremonial first rock will be thrown by Karen Pegamagabow, Granddaughter of Francis Pegamagabow, who lives in our national history as one of Canada's most highly decorated veterans.