

## **REMEMBERING RALPH PADGETT**

(Following is a letter received by the Men's Hamilton & District Committee from Bill MacKay, a long time participant in this Bonspiel.)

I want to thank HACA for honoring Ralph Padgett by naming the 1<sup>st</sup> event trophy of the Open Division after Ralph. Sorry Ralph we won the 7<sup>th</sup> Event.

Ralph was a tremendous Ice Maker and good friend. I joined the Hamilton Thistle Club in 1979 and Ralph was the head Ice Maker at the club. He was always tinkering and trying to produce the best ice possible for their members. He was keen to learn and way ahead of his time. He was constantly checking in with the circuit players to see how his ice stacked up against the clubs that we curled in. The Hamilton Thistle Club, during my seven years there, was always Number 1 in my mind and in everyone's mind whoever curled there.

Ralph and I remained good friends for the next thirty years. He joined the Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club soon after Hamilton Thistle's closing in 1987 where he was the head guy until he passed away last summer.

Ralph owned Standard Bred racehorses and so did I. We had lots to talk about over the last four years. Horse and curling stories would always have a funny side when we got together. In 2009 Ralph and some of his buddies invited me to join them to go to the Little Brown Jug horse race in Ohio. It was a very good time and for me a lasting memory.

I want to thank HACA for honoring my good friend Ralph Padgett.

Bill MacKay  
14 January 2011