



***BIG COUNTRY SENIOR SPORTS  
SOCIETY – ALBERTA 55+ ZONE 2  
SPRING NEWSLETTER***

**BIG COUNTRY SENIOR SPORTS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 9:30 AM  
CARSTAIRS HALF CENTURY CLUB  
1139 OSLER STREET, CARSTAIRS**

We hope you will be able to join us for our AGM next week. There are director positions open on the board for areas 3, 5, 6, and 7 and the secretarial position, so please think about who might be best to fill these spots. The Alberta 55 Plus Provincial AGM will be in Red Deer on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. We encourage people to attend, and you should be getting an email soon as to location and time.

Zone 2 has been busy hosting Provincial Winter Games in Stirling, Ice Curling and Badminton. Stirling was held in Strathmore February 17 – 18 and the only local team to medal was Joss Binns and Jim Adair from Strathmore, who won Silver in 55 Plus.

The Provincial Ice Curling championships were held in Cochrane February 22-25. Forty teams from all over Alberta came to Cochrane to compete in age groups from 55+ all the way to 75+. (We had 2 curlers aged 85). Foothills County had four teams competing; from the Oilfields Curling Club in Diamond Valley, the Men's 55+ team from High River of Dean Schielke, Kevin Muir, Lloyd Copithorne (Cochrane), and Tim Paziuk captured the bronze medal. In Open 75+, a silver medal went to Louis Peterson, Okotoks, Rose Dayment, Longview, Jim Nicolson, Diamond Valley and Barb Larson, Foothills. Also competing from the Oilfields Club in the 65+ Women's category was the team of Cathie Dallas, Tammy Conacher, Linda Nelson and Cheryl Fredell; and in 55+ Women we had from Foothills, Glenys Bakker, with Adele Williamson & Lynn Hartsburg from Springbank, and Heather Craig from Cochrane.

Rocky View County fielded 6 teams, with players from Bearspaw, Cochrane, Springbank, Elbow Valley, and Bragg Creek. Gary Hawkes, Phil Smith, Jim Anderson and Bob Jennings won Gold in Men's 65+. Silver medals were earned by Mike Buxton, Ken Weisner, Herb Smith and Rod Rutherford in Men's 55+, and Doug Campbell, Bob Bleaney, Wayne MacDonald, Colin Gilbert and Doug Sherriffs in Men's 70+. Bronzes were earned in Women's 55+ by Bev Buckley, Janet Biagioni, Laurie Coopersmith and Cheryl Fricker; in Mixed 55+ by Dan Ferguson, Cheryl Whittal, Bill Brock and Jean Prince; and in 65+ Mixed by Shaun McGrath, Peggy Schlosser, Barry Nameth and Linda Bint. Finishing fifth in 55+ Women were Marnie

Shiple, Cindy Mintenko-Blackman, Alicia Brooks and Valerie Murray. From Cremona the team of Darrin Taylor, Wendy Nelson, Robin Boyd and Marg Bergsma finished in fifth place in 55+ Mixed. The Silver medal in 65+ Mixed went to Canmore's Riichard Davis, Norma Columbus, Vic Lemecha and Janice Egger. Winning teams in each category qualify to go to the Canada 55 Plus Games in Quebec City in August, 2024.



Bagpiper Don Hepburn leading 160 curlers around the Cochrane rink.



Stirling Provincial 55+ Silver Medalists – Jim Adair and Joss Binns



Core organizing team for Provincial Curling – Dave Fleming, Shaun McGrath, Nancy Gibbie, Tracy Hindle, Mavis Hermansen, Joan Gunn-Allard, Don Hepburn (bagpiper), Norma Dawson, Doug Campbell, Ken Weisner, Jean Prince, Bill Brock and Dan Ferguson.



65+ Men Provincial Curling Gold Medalists – Jim Anderson, Phil Smith, Bob Jennings, Gary Hawkes

Badminton Provincials were held in Okotoks on March 28th at the Edison Badminton Centre, and seven players from Zone 2 all came away with medals. All are from Okotoks or the Foothills area except for Bob Fast who is from Airdrie. In Women's 55+ Lara Wiebe and Annette Gregory captured the Gold, and Mark LeBere and Jay Kennedy also won Gold in 55+ Men. Lara and Mark then teamed up to win Gold in 55+ Mixed. In 60+ Women Cheryl Griep and Toni Kerr won Silver, and Cheryl and Bob Fast got Silver in 65+ Mixed.



Annette Gregory, Lara Wiebe Toni Kerr, Cheryl Griep Mark LeBere, Jay Kennedy Bob Fast

The last two Zone 2 qualifiers took place in January in Team Bowling and Scratch Bowling. Representing us in Provincial Team Bowling in St. Albert later this month in 55+ will be Tracy Hindle, Karen Stiles, Shirley Fillingner, Therese Reist and Sharon Barndon from Cochrane; and in 65+ the team of Dennis Thompson, Les Markham, Earl Markham, Helen Jorgensen and John Tarapaski from the Olds – Carstairs area. Our Scratch Bowlers going to St. Albert are in 55+ Keith Lee – Drumheller; 65+ - Don Ware – Didsbury and Linda Traquair – Drumheller; and in 75+ Norman Preston – Hanna, and Sandra Irwin –

Drumheller, and Jim Milman – Drumheller (going as a fill). Margaret Nielsen from Drumheller captured Gold in 75+ but is not going to Provincials.

The darts qualifier was held in the Fall and going to St. Albert for Provincials will be Blossom and Greg Braganza from Cochrane, Betty Ann Fountain and Dave Formstone from Sundre, and going as fills will be Jim Storch, Drumheller and Lee Edwards, Bragg Creek.

Camrose will be the site for Duplicate Bridge, Culture, Euchre, Floor Curling and Snooker. Jon Hansen from Olds will represent Zone 2 in 70+ Snooker and our Floor Curling 55+ team consists of Gayle Mennear, Betty Wilford, Gerry Leussink and Bobby Douglas from Sundre; and the 70+ team will be represented by Tom and Pat Bartholow, Olds, Nettie Neustaeter, Didsbury, and Karl Gibbie, Cochrane.

The Pickleball Provincial 3.0 and under will take place in Vermillion and we just have one entry in the 70+ category – Darlene Williamson and Norm Vienneau, Airdrie.

The Culture event for the 2024 Winter Games is included in the Camrose Games to be held April 20th to 21st and includes Creative Writing and Arts - Painting. The Zone 2 playoffs were held in March/April and a total of 12 entries submitted to the Provincial Games. Each participant is limited to four items advancing to the Provincial Games so some individuals had to make decisions about which they would prefer to advance. There are a total of 5 categories in Creative Writing and 14 categories in Art. For the first time this year, individuals in the Art competition had a wrap up session with the judge and got to hear her feedback on what worked well with each picture as well as how they might be improved.

Unfortunately, there were only two entries in Creative Writing. This competition is run entirely by computer. We had one entry in each of Poetry and Non-Fiction Serious – each receiving a first-place ribbon. James Roberts from High River submitted his poem “From Winter to Spring” to the provincial competition. Carolyn Alway chose not to advance her story “Reflections on Life” and to focus on her art submissions.

The Painting competition includes Mixed Media, Miscellaneous, Water Colors, Oil Painting, Acrylic Painting and Drawing. Each has a number of categories – for example Landscape, Still Life, Floral, Animal etc. A total of 15 entries were judged and 11 advanced to the Provincial Games. Zone ribbons were presented at the competition. Carolyn Alway from Airdrie received 4 first place ribbons for her submissions in Mixed Media and Water Color. Phyllis Pitz from Airdrie received a first-place score in the Miscellaneous Art for her Acrylic Pour submission.

The hotly contested category was Acrylic Painting – Landscape, where 6 of the 11 entries were received. First place with a score of 90 out of 100 was awarded to Sandra Schroeder from Airdrie and second place to Wanda Marsh, also from Airdrie. Wanda also placed first in Still Life with a vibrant picture of birdhouses and Sandra a second in Acrylic – Animal. Catherine Dallas from Turner Valley had two first place pictures advance to the Provincial Games in Acrylics – Animals/Birds and Drawing – Graphics.

We look forward to hearing the results of the Provincial Games.

The next Provincial Summer Games in Leduc in 2025, will feature Crafts and Photography. Time for all the crafters and photographers to get started on their projects.



Once all the Provincial Winter Games are completed in April, we are going to focus on Fun Games from May to September. There are fun golf tournaments being planned in various areas, and having a picnic or barbeque and combining activities such as Horseshoes, Bocce and Cornhole in one location has been proposed. These will be open to members and non-members alike to try to promote 55 Plus. If you can think of something that would work in your area, please contact your area director and we will see what we can do to make it happen.

Big Country Senior Sports Society lost two very valuable members earlier this year. Both Adeline and Dave were very dedicated members and will be missed by those who knew them. Our sincere condolences go out to their families at this difficult time.

In memoriam:



Adeline Louise Fedyk – March 5, 1935 – January 11, 2024

Adeline was a long-standing member of Alberta 55 Plus. She and her husband Bill joined Alberta 55 Plus in 2000 and they were involved in many activities and were quite successful in winning medals. These 55+ games took them to different locations across Canada where they competed in bocce in the Canada Games winning gold and silver medals. Adeline also competed in cycling at the Provincial level where she won silver and gold medals in the Canada Senior Games. She was on the Board of Directors of Big Country Senior Sports Society as an Area Director, Publicity Director and as the zone secretary until she retired in 2015.



Dave Neustaeter – July 21, 1945 – January 24, 2024

When Dave retired in 2006, it marked the beginning of a new chapter, where he immersed himself in the realm of sports, dedicating valuable years to serving on the Zone 2 Alberta 55 plus board as Membership Director, Activity Director, President, Past President, and interim Treasurer. Dave and his wife Nettie competed in many activities over the years, including Floor Curling, Floor Shuffleboard, Bocce, Table Shuffleboard and Bowling. He won gold medals at the Provincial level in Floor Curling, Table Shuffleboard and silver and bronze in Bocce.