



Tuesday, February 24, 2009

CBF Bridge by the Bridge Regional

Issue 1

Welcome to Bridge by the Bridge

When a member of our High Level Bridge Centennial Committee asked if I might be able to organize a bridge (the game) event to celebrate the bridge (the structure), I hoped to get a national event sanctioned by the ACBL. However, Jan Anderson of the Canadian Bridge Federation was not particularly encouraging. Bridge Week was already set. The one regional that the CBF had been allocated as a fundraiser for the international fund was slated to be in Toronto. Despite that, I went forward with an "Expression of Interest".

Long story short - Southern Ontario turned out to be REALLY expensive. The event needs to make money so we can support our best players in world class events. So it didn't take long for the CBF Board to turn down the Toronto option and call me. Initially, I could not find an appropriate venue. I was on the verge of telling the CBF that I could not find a site for the dates they had available. Then I saw an ad for the Rocky Mountain Turf Club. When I called and spoke to Rose Rossi, I was blown away. She offered not only a good price for the venue (which you have now seen), but no less than four rooms upstairs (via the elevator) for buffets, a bridge players lounge and, if we need them, extra space to set up a few more tables. She has organized themes and entertainment for every evening buffet, She will also open the door to Bully's lounge for those who crave a little slot machine or off track betting action. She has promised all the chairs and trestle tables we might need as well as a lockable room for the Director in Charge and a full service concession stand.

Any event of this magnitude brings "challenges" along with it (see other articles in this bulletin), but with lots of help from lots of people we are going to give you the best event you have ever attended.

Have a great time and if there is ANYTHING we can do for you, ask me, ask my wife, Carolla (she would be the one with

the Canon camera hanging around her neck), ask the folks at hospitality, ask any of the local group who will be wearing an identifying tag. If you need a ride or information about where to shop, just ask.

Thank you so much for attending Bridge by the Bridge, the 2009 CBF Regional.



Events

Monday, February 23	
Charity Pairs	7 pm
Open Knockouts (Rd. 1)	7 pm
Tuesday, February 24th	
Morning Side Game Pairs 1	8:45 am
Opening Knockouts cont. (Rds. 2, 3 & 4)	8:45 am, 1 pm & 7 pm
Compact Knockouts	1 & 7 pm
Stratified 199er pairs (singles)	1 & 7 pm
Midweek Side Game Pairs 1/2	1 & 7 pm
Wednesday, February 25th	
Morning Bracketed Knockouts - 1st session	8:45 am
Morning Side Game Pairs 2	8:45 am
Stratified Swiss Teams	1 & 7 pm
199er Swiss Teams (single sessions)	1 & 7 pm
Midweek Side Game Pairs 3/4	1 & 7 pm

Food Service

Every day	
Lunch Buffet – 3 rd Floor	\$9.95
Concession – Playing Floor – open at 9 AM	
Dinner Buffet – 5th Floor	\$15.95
Tues. – Italian night	
Wed. – Coal Miners Night	

Tours

Tues.	Remington Carriage Centre
Wed.	Heads-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump

**BOOK EARLY FOR TOURS,
LUNCHESES, AND DINNERS**

The Case of the Disappearing Tables

Three days before the tournament and all the equipment is ready. Tables, chairs, trestle tables, boards, bidding boxes, paper supplies... even small paper bags to tape to the corners on the tables for garbage. We had everything arranged. And then I opened my email: my tables went from 82 to zero. I will not bore you with details but suffice to say that Marlene Lenstra, the President of Unit 390 (Calgary) and Steve Lawrence, also of Calgary, worked together to put their 70 tables into action. That, combined with the local inventory, has given us the number of tables we think we need for the week. I will be forever grateful to Marlene, Steve, and other good folks in bridge for their help and support. This includes not only local people who have been more than willing to step up, but even people like Jim Berglund who sent out a whole raft of emails to encourage folks to come and enjoy.

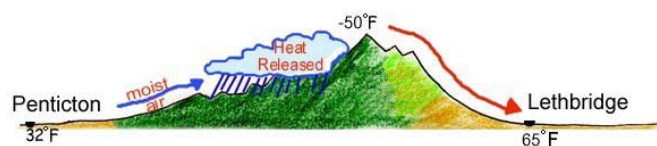


This event has been stressful, but at the same time rewarding. If you have never tried to organize one of these things, do not complain about the organizers. The old expression "It ain't never easy" comes to mind. Just know all of you who have helped to make this event all it can be: I really appreciate it.

The Magic of the Chinook

The Chinook, known by meteorologists as a Fohn Wind, very much defines southwestern Alberta. The Chinook begins on the Pacific Ocean where the winds are warm and moist. Several times each winter these winds blow east. They rise to great heights over the Rockies, dropping their moisture all the time, to actually get down the eastern slopes and into southwestern Alberta. That air mass cools at a rate of approximately 2 degrees Fahrenheit for every 1,000 feet it rises so that air that might have been 32 degrees F on the coast will be near -50 when it reaches its apex well above the mountains. Now it starts down and since it has lost its moisture as rain or snow, it warms - not at 2 degrees/1,000 feet, but at 3 degrees. By the

time the air gets to our country it has warmed often to 65 or 70 degrees.



The Chinook wind is also very dry. When the wind hits, the snow doesn't melt so much as it evaporates. The dry air picks up the moisture almost as soon as it melts and pretty soon the snow just disappears. You probably wouldn't believe it but we had a LOT of snow in the middle of January and then we had a few days of Chinook. Strangely, even Environment Canada cannot predict when a Chinook will arrive so we may be blessed by this phenomenon while you are here... I certainly hope so.

Local Shopping

Our local merchants are some of the most accommodating businesses you will ever find. We have a full range of merchants from gas stations to gift shops and their prices are fully competitive with any other stores in the Province. For those of you who are used to paying a provincial sales tax, relax. Alberta is the only province in Canada that has no PST. Of course, we still pay the 5% GST, but if you are from the United States, you can get that back when you cross the border (just stop at the Canadian side and pick up a form).



Discounts!!!!

We have been able to attract a number merchants who are offering a little extra incentive:

- Over 40 merchants in the Park Place Mall have provided coupon books – check your registration kit (available to every player who registers at the hospitality desk).
- Show your card retail discounts (available by showing your convention card February 23—March 2nd).
 - Domestic Art (120-2037 Mayor Magrath Drive) offers 15% off any listed price for anything in the store.
 - Josee's Hand Made Imports (412 1st. Ave. South – across from Park Place

Mall) offers 10% off listed price for anything in the store.

- Ten Thousand Villages (321A 5th St. South – downtown not far from Park Place Mall) offers 10% off the listed price for anything in the store.

More discounts are pending - read future editions of your Newsletter.

What Bridge?

That bridge... the one over there – the BIG one. The Lethbridge Viaduct (or High Level Bridge) has been the BIG bridge in Lethbridge for 100 years. Spanning the Oldman River, the bridge remains the longest, highest bridge of its type in the world. It is more than 1600 metres long and 95 metres high (actually, 1 mile, 47 feet long and 307 feet high).

The bridge was built by the Canadian Pacific Railway to increase the capacity of its Crowsnest Pass Route. Construction was started in 1907 and finished in 1909. The display panels at the playing site show the actual construction of the bridge.

All of the awards for the tournament are based on the bridge. Session winners can choose framed photographs from a selection of 60 different views. The two masterpoint prizes also feature the bridge. The Masterpoint prize, “Mid-summer on the Oldman River”, is a framed painting of the Oldman River and the bridge. The Novice/Intermediate prize is a carving of the bridge, “Lethbridge Viaduct”.



The Lore of the Chinook

There are many stories about the incredible power of the Chinook, but my favorite bears retelling. By all accounts this occurred some 20 years before I was born when my grandfather was a practicing large animal veterinarian working out of Cardston (80 km to the south).

The story goes that my grandfather was called out to treat a sick animal at a farm some distance southwest of Cardston in a little hamlet called Mountainview. After several hours in the barn he came out and, looking west, saw the Chinook Arch. He was potentially in trouble since he had come out using a horse and cutter (sleigh). He harnessed the horse as quickly as he could and headed back to Cardston a full gallop—and he almost made it. All the way home, the story goes, the horse ran in the snow, the front runners ran in mud, and the rear runners kicked up dust.

Now I cannot certify that this story is true, but my grandfather told it to me. I don't think a grandfather would EVER lie to a grandson...would he? ☺

Park Place Mall

Park Place Mall is Lethbridge's largest mall, covers four city blocks and has over 100 stores. It is anchored by Sears and has theatres, retail stores, and a large food court.



Some of the stores appearing in your discount book are:

- Chapters (10% off one regular priced book)
- Alia (10% off new merchandise)
- Aussie Western Wear (10% off regular priced merchandise)
- Ben Moss Jewellers (12% off regular priced merchandise)
- Bingham's Sports Cards (10% everything)
- Claire's (20% selected merchandise)
- Culture Craze (10% off everything)
- European Charm (15% off selected merchandise)
- Fantaztic Learning (10% off regular priced merchandise)
- Payless Shoes (15% off regular priced merchandise)
- Phillips Jewellers (10% off regular priced merchandise)
- Quilts Etc. (10% selected merchandise)
- Rickis (15% off regular priced merchandise)
- Shoppers Drug Mart (20% selected merchandise)

Summer Visiting

We hope to show you a number of the great sites in and around Lethbridge, but some are really better seen in the summer. And there are many more that are summer-only destinations. One of those is the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. This park spans the Canada-US border. It is called Waterton in Canada and Glacier in the US.

The park is one of the least developed of our national park system. In Banff or Jasper you can scarcely walk ten feet without running into another tourist. In Waterton, the open spaces are almost palpable. You have to walk or even hike into some of the pristine lakes. Some of the trails are marked by crude arrows painted on sheer rock faces and, at times, you need to hold tight to a rope to avoid a fall of several hundred feet.

A three mile hike from the top of Red Rock Canyon gets you to Goat Lake which is glacier fed - you can see the glacier some 20 feet below the water. That lake is COLD. I can testify to that fact because as kids we used to go up to Goat Lake, put on our bathing suits and slide down the glacier into the water. And we could see the trout. Thousands of them, but they were so well fed we could not entice even one.

The big lake actually goes south into the United States and you can take the International boat all the way down. When you get off the International for a walk about at the site called Goat Haunt, you will see a US Park Ranger Cabin. The Ranger goes in every spring on one of the first trips of the International and come out on one of the last trips. The boat itself winters in a boat house just on the US side of the lake. It would take the Ranger a three day pack trip in to stay in the US, so he comes via Canada.

The Waterton Lakes townsite is a quaint village but there are fine accommodations and little shops to distract even the most dedicated non-shopper. Waterton will be completely snow and ice bound at this time of year. The Chinooks mostly go OVER Waterton and even in late May some roads are impassible because of the 20-30 feet of snow they get most winters. So come back in summer and enjoy a really great national park.

