

## ED O'REILLY FILES KINGSTON BRIDGE

It is no secret to area bridge players that Paul Thurston and his wife Jo-Anne have selflessly assisted in promoting and working to help area bridge raise over \$260,000 for the University Kingston Hospitals Foundation. The Wellington resident also enthusiastically promotes through praise in his national daily column; Canadian Bridge; Kingston Bridge; Kingston accommodation and food establishments; players across the country; and even purchased an automobile here, because Jim Thompson Chrysler supports bridge! Paul's talks before Kingston tournament sessions are well received while serving to enhance attendance.

A recent column mentioned that the four-person team bearing Team Canada colors at the imminent Philadelphia World Bridge Championships has asked Paul and his partner, David T. Willis, to join them. Six players is the norm per team for such long, drawn-out, grueling contests. The Bridge Centre's Frank Pataky has suggested support because of all the Thurstons have done for bridge.

Please set aside Sunday, September 26 for a pairs game. The entire \$15 per entrant will support the Canadian representatives. Thurston will present a 25 minute talk - subject to be confirmed - from 11:45 till 12:10. A silent auction will be conducted during the week prior to the event. Any bridge player may bid for the pleasure of playing that day with their choice of a number of area bridge personalities, including Paul Thurston. Successful players are invited to let me know if they are willing to be auctioned, and readers will be advised in a future column who will be available for auction.

There are many significant events for those on the tournament trail, as well as for those who merely want to experience a twist on a fun vacation. Summer North American Bridge Championships in ever-exciting New Orleans are in progress and continue through August 1.

There is nothing in North American Bridge to match an NABC! You may wish to set aside some time between July 21 and 31, 2011 for the Toronto NABC, which occurs about each seven years only, and is expected to draw over 8,000 players from around the world.

During the return trip from the Big Easy, one may find the always-hospitable Syracuse Regional, August 2 through August 8, followed by the Montreal Regional from August 9-16. It is puzzling that promoters from adjacent American Contract Bridge League Districts schedule major tournaments so close to those in nearby communities. Can this be good for tournament attendance and players who like to play in as many nearby events as possible?

Playing and education schedules, and hospitality details may be found at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org) under *Tournaments*. If you do not get to New Orleans, free Internet viewing on Bridge Base Online [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com) begins this Saturday for the finishing rounds of the Grand National Teams and next Tuesday through Sunday for the Spingold Teams - the most prestigious competition on the ACBL's annual schedule.

Here's hoping those on a waiting list for daytime lessons, all of whom I have been unable to reach in time for today's deadline, will not be too disappointed to hear that the intended course I had been approached to present at a local retirement residence has been cancelled. Let's attribute it to communications difficulties. Perhaps, another home will welcome the opportunity for a prolonged, perhaps frequent, look at their facilities by non-residents, while providing their residents a chance to enjoy, along with a few community members, the world's most popular card game.

Ed O'Reilly may be contacted at [www.bridgekingston.com](http://www.bridgekingston.com) or through The Bridge Centre