

The CURLING CONNECTION

January 2014



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Top curlers battle for their own golden moment at Olympic site

2014 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's Curling Championship Feb. 5-9

IT WAS the site of Olympic glory for Canada at the 2010 Vancouver Games.

And now top curlers are back at the Hillcrest Centre to battle for their own golden moment.

The Hillcrest Centre, which is now home to the Vancouver Curling Club (VCC), will host 16 men's teams for the 2014 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's Curling Championship, presented by Automation One.

Four final spots were determined in a qualifying event in Salmon Arm (Jan. 10-12) to set the field.

The field represents all corners of the province and includes defending champion Team Bilesky as well as Team Morris, the silver medallists at the Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings Olympic Curling Trials held in December 2013 in Winnipeg.

John Morris, who linked up with Jim Cotter and his team for the 2013-14 season, is looking forward to revisiting the site where he won gold with Team Martin

at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Morris said: "I have some amazing memories from the Hillcrest Centre from back in 2010. Even though the venue has no doubt changed somewhat since the Olympics, I'm sure I'll still get a chill when I walk in there again for the first time since we won gold."

The diverse group of competitors includes past junior, national and provincial champions.

The winner in Vancouver will move on to represent B.C. at the 2014 Tim Hortons Brier in Kamloops in March.

"Curl BC is delighted that the 2014 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's Curling Championship will be staged at Vancouver Curling Club this year. We look forward to another exciting event inside this fantastic facility," said Scott Braley, Curl BC CEO.

"The VCC, the beneficiary of the legacy facility from the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games, is thrilled to be host-

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Kesa Van Osch, Stephanie Baier, Jessie Sanderson and Carley Sandwith.

Van Osch wins first BC Scotties

KESA Van Osch has won her first women's provincial title – and it only took her one try.

The 22-year-old toppled the reigning BC champion Kelly Scott in a nail-biting final at the Prince George Golf and Curling Club.

Things didn't go well for the Nanaimo student in the first end of the 2014 Scotties BC Curling Championship, Presented by Best Western, when Scott opened with a deuce. But the game tightened up after that and Van Osch (and her team of third Stephanie Baier [Victoria], second Jessie Sanderson [Coquitlam] and lead Carley Sandwith [Victoria]) managed to prevent Scott from adding to her lead.

The game was tied 4-4 going into the 10th end with Scott with the hammer.

But Van Osch didn't blink and managed set up perfect final end for her team, protecting her stone in the four-foot, preventing Scott from getting an easy single for the win.

Instead, Scott was faced with the impossible task of trying to draw in behind the Van Osch stone, which was sitting just above the button. Scott's shot was short and the young team got the steal to take the game 5-4.

Kesa is the third Van Osch sister to win a

BC title this year. Her younger sisters Kalia and Marika took the BC junior women's title on December 31 and competed at nationals in Nova Scotia later this month.

See page 3 for a round-up of the junior curling at the 2014 M&M Meat Shops Canadian Junior Curling Championships.

The girls had great support from their family, especially their parents Cindy and Ed, throughout the season

"We are incredibly proud of the girls," said Cindy.

Bronze medals were awarded to Team MacInnes, from Abbotsford Curling Club, who played a series of tiebreakers to get to playoffs, and eventually, the semi-finals.

The 2014 Scotties BC Women's Curling Championship, Presented by Best Western, was a huge success.

With two Prince George rinks in the competition, the host club, the Prince George Golf and Curling Club, was full to the rafters all week long. Vonda Hofferd, chair of the host committee, said the event went amazingly well. "Beyond all expectations," she said.

The national Scotties Tournament of Hearts takes place in Montreal February 1-9.

Top curlers battle for golden glory

Continued from page 1

ing a provincial championship and once again being a part of elite curling in Canada. We are thankful of the support of our great sponsors, members and volunteers who have made this event a reality", said Willa Thorpe, Event Chair and Executive Director of the club.

In addition to Team Morris, representing the Kelowna/Vernon clubs, and Team Bilesky, representing the Royal City Curling Club in New Westminster, teams from Kamloops, Maple Ridge, Prince George, Victoria, New Westminster, Kimberley, Castlegar, Kelowna, Vernon/Salmon Arm and Duncan will be taking part.

The 2014 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's Curling Championship, Presented by Automation One, will take place at the Vancouver Curling Club from February 5-9, 2014.

The winner will go on to compete in the 2014 Tim Hortons Brier, which takes place in Kamloops from March 1-9, 2014.

Visit <http://cdimens2014curlbc.ca> for team information, or to view the event schedule and draw format.

Single draw tickets for the Vancouver event start at just \$5, with weekend passes selling for \$25 and the full event pass going for just \$35. Visit <http://cdimens2014curlbc.ca/tickets/> to purchase tickets.

The semi-finals on February 8 and the finals on February 9 will be broadcast on Sportsnet. Visit <http://www.curlbc.ca/communications/tv-schedules/>.

See page 8 for details about the Brier in Kamloops.

Silver lining for Van Osch, BC's junior women

IT WAS a close game all the way along, but Kelsey Rocque's Alberta team from Edmonton edged out Kalia Van Osch's B.C. team from Nanaimo/Delta in the final at the 2014 M&M Meat Shops Canadian Junior Curling Championships.

Although Alberta never trailed, opening the scoring with a deuce in the third end, B.C. held their own throughout and were able to tie the game in the sixth with a lovely double takeout. Alberta restored its lead immediately with a deuce in the seventh, and B.C. hit back with their own deuce in the eighth.

But in the end Rocque's team were able to blank the ninth to keep the hammer in the 10th and a great hit by the Alberta skip gave them the single they needed to take the game 7-6 and strike gold at Queens Place Emera Centre in Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

Van Osch — whose team was rounded out by third (and younger sister) Marika Van Osch, second Sarah Daniels,

lead Ashley Sanderson and coach Jim Newlands — were second overall after round-robin play at the competition.

They defeated Nova Scotia's Mary Fay in the semis to earn their spot in the final against Alberta.

With the win Rocque, third Keely Brown, second Taylor McDonald, lead Claire Tully and coach Amanda-Dawn Coderre will wear Canadian colours at the World Junior Curling Championships in Flims, Switzerland.

"So close," said Van Osch. "It was as close as we could make it and she made the last shot for the win, and that's all you ask for as a skip. But it was an amazing experience. The girls performed so well the entire week; they played amazing, and it was just a wonderful time. Nationals is something every junior curler wants to take part in, and we've all had the opportunity to do that this year."

"They'll be a great team at worlds and a great representative for Canada,"

added Van Osch. "We wish them all the best."

Three members of the B.C. team were recognized for their great results throughout the competition.

Third Marika and Second Sarah Daniels were named to the First All-Star Team for having the best percentages in the competition. Marika had 81 percent and Daniels had 80 percent.

Meanwhile Lead Ashley Sanderson was named to the Second All-Star Team for her record of 80 percent.

In junior men's play, Team de Jong overcame a slow start in the competition, winning three in a row to earn a spot in the championship round.

The team from Victoria (third Brook Calibaba, second Ryan Cassidy, lead Alex Horvath and coach Don McMullen) finished the championship with five wins (including an 8-6 win over eventual champions, Team Calvert from Manitoba) and five losses.

Neighbour to head to wheelchair curling nationals

RICHMOND'S Darryl Neighbour is on the hunt for a spot in the national team as he heads to Montreal for the 2014 Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships.

His team of wheelchair curlers — including veteran third Frank LaBounty (Prince George) and veteran second Vince Miele (Richmond) — as well as lead Alison Duddy (Quesnel) triumphed over Team Austgarden and Team MacDonald on the weekend to win the BC title and the chance to play at nationals.

The 2014 BC Wheelchair Curling Championships took place at Coquitlam Curling Centre from Jan. 24-26. Visit http://playdowns.com/curlbc/event.php?id_cmp=542 to see the results of all the draws.

Neighbour is back playing competitive curling after a year away from the sport due to health concerns. He contracted a blood infection while at



Darryl Neighbour and Frank LaBounty.
Photo by Gerry Kripps

the worlds in Korea in February 2012, putting his curling career on hold.

Neighbour, a gold medallist at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympics, said he was looking forward to playing against the other provinces.

"I'm really looking forward to it — hopefully it will be a way back. I'd like to be on the national team again," he said.

Neighbour will need to be selected

by the Canadian Curling Association in order to get back on the national team. The Canadian team is not the winning team from nationals, but is instead selected from among the competitive wheelchair curlers across the nation. This year the Paralympic team is made up of Neighbour's old teammates from Vancouver, Jim Armstrong, Ina Forrest and Sonja Gaudet, as well as first-time Paralympians Dennis Thiessen and Mark Ideson.

At 65 years old, Neighbour believes he still has a contribution to make to the national team.

"One of the players from the Japanese team was 75 when he played at worlds so I have a ways to go yet. I feel good and I have got over this nightmare," he said.

Visit <http://www.curlbc.ca/neighbour-wins-2014-bc-wheelchair-curling-championship/> for the full story.

Event attracts thousands

THOUSANDS of visitors to Vancouver's waterfront area got to experience curling at a free Christmas event.

Just under 50,000 people visited Christmas at Canada Place which featured Curl BC's floor curling equipment.

The event was held at the Canada Place Cruise Ship Terminal and catered to Vancouver families as well as visitors to Vancouver.

In addition to curling, the exhibition featured other Canadian Christmas traditions like skating, a historic Woodward's window display, a holiday train and Santa's workshop.

The event ran from December 1-31, 2013.

Will Sutton joins Curl BC as Program Coordinator

EXPERIENCED curling coach Will Sutton will be joining Curl BC as the Educational Programs Coordinator.

Sutton, who is also a competitive curler, will take over the position currently occupied by Audrey Wong, who will be leaving Curl BC to continue her education.

"I am looking forward to working with Curl BC and continuing to develop the educational programs that Curl BC offers to its members," said Sutton.

Sutton is a former director of both the Victoria Curling Centre and the Victoria Curling Legacy Foundation.

Sutton will be in charge of Curl BC's coaching portfolio and will also be organizing the Rockslide Summer Curling Camp as well as the carrying out some administrative tasks. The position is a short-term contract covering the maternity leave of Educational Programs Manager Elisabeth Walker-Young.

Curl BC CEO Scott Braley said: "We were really impressed with the calibre of candidates who applied for the Educational Programs Coordinator position with Curl BC, but Will's resume stood out. We are very happy that he will be joining us."

"We also would like to thank Audrey for all she has done for Curl BC over the past one and a half years and wish her the best of luck as she embarks on a new chapter in her life."

Sutton will join the team in Burnaby on February 11, 2014.



Kelly Scott, Jeanna Schraeder, Sasha Carter and Sarah Wazney.

Scott, Schraeder, Carter and Wazney go separate ways

KELLY Scott's foursome from Kelowna has disbanded and the women will now be assessing what steps they would like to take in their curling careers.

The team leaves behind an impressive record — six provincial titles (2005, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013), two national titles (2006, 2007) and a world title (2007).

On Thursday January 23, the team of Scott, Jeanna Schraeder, Sasha Carter and Sarah Wazney released a statement on their Facebook page, saying it had been a difficult decision to disband the team.

Curling fans across the country replied with messages of support for the women.

Scott said she truly appreciated the support. She said: "Sasha and Jeanna were two of the best teammates a girl could ever ask for. It is with heavy hearts that we part ways right now but it's time for us all to dedicate our commitment to other areas of our lives. Curling together has been our world for so many years, this will no doubt take a little adjusting for all of us."

"We truly appreciate the outpouring of support that we have received since our announcement

last week. The curling world is filled with such genuine and wonderful people. We have enjoyed reflecting upon each one of their messages and they have been really touching to us. Thank you!"

The messages of support are echoed by Curl BC.

"Curl BC congratulates Team Scott on their impressive record over the past 10 years and thanks them for representing BC so well both nationally and internationally during that time. We hope to see them back soon," said Curl BC CEO Scott Braley.

The team's Facebook statement said: "Sarah, Sasha, Jeanna and Kelly have dedicated much of their lives to pursuing the sport they love. They are extremely grateful for all the experiences they've had; to have experienced the losses together, as well as the great victories has made them friends for life. At this point, all the ladies are assessing where curling fits into their busy lives; complete with careers and young families."

The statement continued by thanking their coaches Gerry Richard and Brent Giles, who they said helped make the team the success that it was.

Registration opens for Rockslide Summer Curling Camp 2014

ROCKSLIDE Summer Curling Camp is headed back to Kelowna in July 2014!

Curlers of all abilities are welcome to sign up for three and a half days of sun, sand and curling in the beautiful Okanagan. Visit <http://www.curlbc.ca/development/rockslide-summer-curling-camp/> to sign up.

DETAILS:

When: Wednesday, July 2 to Saturday, July 5, 2014

Where: Kelowna Curling Club

Fee: \$373.00 plus taxes (3.5 days of on-ice, in-class, extracurricular activities, a shirt, camp resources, snacks, lunches and dinners are included in the camp fee). **Registration Deadline:** Sunday, May 4, 2014.

CAMP WILL INCLUDE:

- on-ice and in-class sessions with BC's best coaches
- extra-curricular activities and team building fun
- snacks, lunches and dinners are included
- camp clothing and resources
- days begin at 9 a.m. and end at 8 p.m. (except on that last day where camp ends at approx. 1:30 pm.)
- non-curlers, new curlers and competitive curlers are welcome

JUNIOR BONSPIEL

After the camp, participants can take part in a Junior bonspiel being held at the Kelowna Curling Club.

The bonspiel takes place after the camp and is separate from the camp. Campers and non-campers are welcome! They can register either as a team or as an individual. There's an early bird fee from now until May 4th.

DETAILS:

When: Saturday, July 5 – Monday, July 7, 2014. **Registration Deadline:** Sunday, June 1, 2014.

Team registration fee:

Early Bird Registration fee until May 4: \$130/team

May 5 onwards: \$260/team

Individual registration fee:

Early Bird Registration fee until May 4: \$32.50/player

May 5 onwards: \$65/individual

Curl BC championship events build lasting memories

CURL BC would like to thank all the curling centres that have hosted 2014 championship events.

There have already been so many memorable moments built around these events and the host committees have made that possible.

Thank you!

Curl BC is now looking for curling centres who would like to create memories in 2015.

How would you like to inspire your centre's junior curlers? Or would you like to be entertained by the best curling in the province?

Those aspirations could become a reality.

There are lots of reasons to host a B.C. championship, including:

- Increased community awareness of curling and your facility
- Added revenue brought to centre



- Opportunity for member development – such as officiating and statistician courses
 - Opportunities for members to earn credit for officiating and statistician hours to become eligible to work at national and international events
 - Opportunity to improve facility's ice, with help from Curl BC's ice technicians
 - A stepping stone for the facility to host future/lucrative national and international events (Scotties, Brier, Continental Cup, etc.)
 - Opportunity to build team spirit with your members and volunteers.
- Curl BC is still looking for eight host sites for 2015 events:
- The 2015 Tim Hortons BC Junior Curling Championships (televised)
 - The 2015 Scotties BC Women's Curling Championship, presented by Best Western
 - The 2015 BC Mixed Doubles Curling Championship
 - The 2015 AMJ Campbell Mixed Curling Champion-

ship

- The 2015 Tim Hortons BC Senior Curling Championships
- The 2015 Tim Hortons BC Juvenile Curling Championships
- The 2015 BC Wheelchair Curling Championship
- The 2015 BC Masters Curling Championships

Curl BC would be happy to hear from anyone who is able to host any of the remaining 2015 events. We are also accepting applications to host 2016 events – but the successful applicants won't be decided until after the June 1, 2014, deadline. All nine of our 2016 championship events are still up for grabs.

Visit <http://curlbc.ca/competitions/provincial-hosting-information/> for more information.

Please direct inquiries to Scott Braley (sbraley@curlbc.ca or 604-333-3621).

Field is set for Senior curling event

THE field is set for the 2014 Tim Hortons BC Senior Curling Championships – and competition to travel to the first national curling event to be staged in the Northwest Territories is set to be fierce.

Eight senior men's and eight senior women's teams from across the province will meet at the Comox Valley Curling Club in Courtenay to decide who will go to Yellowknife.

With qualification events now

over, the full line-up for the 2014 Tim Hortons BC Senior Curling Championships, taking place from Feb. 17-23, has been released.

Teams from Kelowna, Elkford, Smithers, Vancouver, Langley, White Rock, Victoria, Campbell River, Castlegar, Tsawwassen, Langley, New Westminster, Chilliwack, Parksville, Nanaimo and Summerland will compete in the championships.

[FOR FULL STORY CLICK HERE](#)

STICK CURLING - CORRECTION

IN THE December issue of the Curling Connection, we printed the wrong contact information for Brian Maurer. The text should have read:

For more information about stick curling, contact Tim Smith (Armstrong) at 250-546-3993, Brian Maurer (Salmon Arm) at maurerb@telus.net; telephone- 250-517-9789 or Peter Lui (Castlegar) at petemagg.lui@gmail.com.

Visit <http://www.stickcurling.ca>.

It was also pointed out that Two Person Stick Curling is not the same as Stirling, which is a two-person game where people can use the slide delivery as well as the stick delivery.

Hot Shots return

THE country's top curlers will once again show off their shot-making skills in the Ford Hot Shots skills competition at the Tim Hortons Brier in Kamloops.

Hot Shots will feature six different shots: Hit and Stay, Draw the Button, Draw the Port, The Raise, Hit and Roll and Double Takeout.

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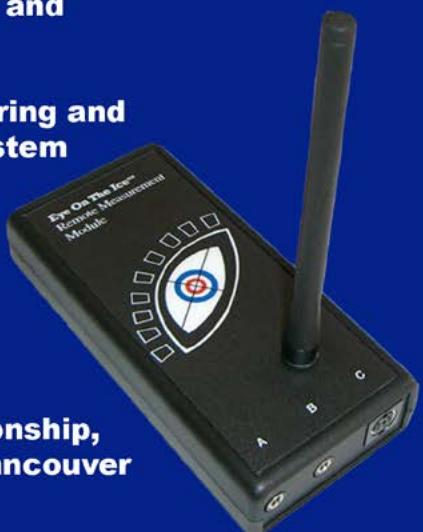
Now, there is a "smart" way to install and operate a monitoring and alarm system that was designed specifically for curling clubs.

EYE ON THE ICE is an all-in-one wireless environmental monitoring and alarm system that provides live updates of all important ice system conditions, and warns you if parameters have been exceeded, wherever you are.

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EYE ON THE ICE has now been used at over 100 World Championship, National, and Provincial curling events. In addition, to every Vancouver 2010 Olympic ice event!

For information about how to get an **EYE ON THE ICE** system for your curling club please email sales@eyeontheice.com or visit our website at www.eyeontheice.com



Junior curlers invited to Kevin Martin bonspiel in Edmonton

THE 16th Annual Kevin Martin Junior Bonspiel is taking place in April 2014.

Over the last 15 years, hundreds of teams have enjoyed the bonspiel which has had up to 78 teams participating.

The format has changed for 2014.

In the past, two separate events were held. There was a recreational event that

was meant for beginner to intermediate level players/teams and a competitive event meant for the top players/teams in Canada.

For 2014, there will be U14, U18 and U21 categories in the junior spiel.

All ages will get together on the Saturday evening for a banquet. This is

followed by a short program including words from our sponsors as well as the Awarding of the Hec Gervais Scholarships for the Province of Alberta.

A party with a DJ and dancing is held afterwards.

Visit <http://www.kevinmartincurling.com/pages/junior-bonspiel>.

Curlers invited to compete for BC Senior Games spots

SENIOR curlers age 55 and over from Zone 3 are being invited to compete for the chance to curl in the 2014 BC Seniors Games in Langley.

Playdowns in six classes (categories) will be held March 14-16, 2014, at Langley Curling Club.

Classes are Men's 55-64; Men's 65 plus; Women's 55-64; Women's 65 plus, Mixed 55-64 and Mixed 65 plus.

Only those who live in Zone 3 (Fraser Valley) will be able to compete in this

playdown. The zone includes Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Coquitlam, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, Langley, Maple Ridge, Mission, Pitt Meadows, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Surrey, White Rock.

Information about playdowns in other zones is available at <http://www.bcseniorsgames.org/bcsgs/Zones/tabid/56/Default.aspx>.

The deadline for Zone 3 registration is February 28, 2014, and the membership fee (required for taking part) is \$15. Win-

ners are required to pay an additional \$50. A \$25 team deposit must be made with entries.

Event registration opens at 8:30 a.m. on March 14 and play begins at 9 a.m.

For further information about the Senior Games playdown for Zone 3, contact Ernie Sawatsky at 604-858-4081 or email esawatsky@shaw.ca.

Those who qualify will go on to compete at the 2014 BC Seniors Games in Langley from Sept. 9-13.

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Champions

The Tim Hortons Brier is a property of the Canadian Curling Association - Season of Champions.



Brendan Cliff has won the Gordon Hooey Memorial Scholarship.

Brendan is recipient of memorial scholarship

A JUNIOR competitive curler has won the Gordon Hooey Memorial Scholarship Fund for 2013-14.

Seventeen-year-old Brendan Cliff has won \$500 to go towards his tuition at university.

Brendan will be entering his first year of a Bachelor of Business Administration program.

Brendan has curled for 10 years at both Armstrong and Vernon Curling Clubs and has qualified for five provincial championships.

In addition to helping coach curling, Brendan is an accomplished skip.

He was a bronze medalist at the 2013 Tim Hortons BC Juvenile Curling Championships and has won the Gordon Hooey Sportsmanship Award.

Kedziora and Hannah win Mixed Doubles curling crown

BRYAN Kedziora and Colleen Hannah have won their first BC Mixed Doubles title – and they did it on home ice.

The pair from Golden Ears Winter Club (GEWC) in Maple Ridge lost only once during regular play and blazed through the playoffs, taking a 6-3 win in the quarter-finals, a 12-6 win in the semis and a decisive 8-1 win in the final against Team Miller (Victor and Kerri Miller, Delta Curling Club).

Kedziora, 25, is a two-time BC Junior Men's champion (2007, 2009), while Hannah won a BC junior title in 1988 – the year Kedziora was born. Both have long-standing connections to the Golden Ears club – their families have been members since it first started up.

Hannah, 45, who works in education, said: "We stayed with our game plan, which included sharing the last rock responsibility by changing our line-up every end and kept it up throughout the event. The competition and ice were fantastic and we were excited to win in our home club."

"We would like to thank GEWC for putting on a great event, for all of the volunteers on and off the ice, and to our friends and families for their support."

Fifteen teams representing clubs in Vancouver, Maple Ridge, North Vancouver, Richmond, New Westminster, Delta, Kelowna, Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Prince George took part.

Kedziora and Hannah will now travel to nationals in Ottawa and, if successful there, to the worlds in Dumfries, Scotland.

The event in Maple Ridge held from January 17-19 was only the second BC Mixed Doubles Championship ever held.



Bryan Kedziora and Colleen Hannah with their gold medals.

The Mixed Doubles game format is becoming more popular and could even become an Olympic event in 2018.

There is one male and one female curler and the game is played over eight ends (instead of the usual 10). Each team has only six stones and one of those stones from each team is prepositioned on the centre line before every end of play. One player delivers the first and last stones of the end while the other player throws the second, third and fourth stones. If they choose to, the two players may swap positions from one end to the next. Both team members are also allowed to sweep.

There are no age restrictions on who can play so participants can be anywhere from juvenile (16 and under) up to masters level (60 plus).

At the national level, a total of 32 teams (one man, one woman) will compete, with the teams divided into four round-robin pools of eight, with the top two from each pool and the next four best round-robin records moving onto the 12-team single-knockout playoff round.

Scholarships available

FOR the second year in a row, the Sandra Schmirler Foundation is offering six \$5,000 scholarships for junior curlers pursuing their competitive curling careers while maintaining their post-secondary studies.

The Scholars will be mentored again this year by world champion curlers Jon Mead and Cathy Overton-Clapham.

Through their partnership with the CCA, the Foundation holds crowd sweeps at three Season of Champions events each curling season. Curlers and volunteers good-naturedly pass buckets to fans that enthusiastically reach in their pockets and donate as they pass the buckets. These monies are dedicated to funding the six \$5,000 "Spirit of Sandra" junior scholarships.

The Sandra Schmirler Foundation is indebted to the curling community for its support of its mission to raise funds to purchase equipment for neonatal units in hospitals across Canada, to help save the lives babies.

"We are very grateful to the entire curling community for their on-going support as we continue to partner with the Canadian Curling Association to ensure that Sandra's legacy lives on," said Theresa Breen, Chair of the Sandra Schmirler Foundation.

All of the details about the scholarships are available at www.sandraschmirler.org.

Your dates to remember

SATURDAY, Feb 8, 2014

THE airing of the 2014 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's Curling Championship, presented by Automation One. The Semifinals air at 7pm Pacific Time.

SUNDAY, Feb 9, 2014

THE airing of the 2014 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's Curling Championship, presented by Automation One. The Finals air at 4pm Pacific Time.

SUNDAY, Mar 2, 2014

THE last day to register for the Canada Winter Games Qualifier in Vernon. Visit <http://www.curlbc.ca/competitions/canada-winter-games/> to register.

Fifteen juvenile curling teams head to BC Winter Games

FIFTEEN juvenile curling teams have qualified for the BC Winter Games.

Eight boys' teams and seven girls' teams have triumphed in their respective zones to earn the chance to compete at the Games in Mission from February 20-23. Curling will take place at the Mission Granite Curling Club.

Team Bartlett from Grand Forks and Team Walgren from Nelson qualified in Zone 1 (Kootenays). Team Bartlett is made up of Skip Zane Bartlett, Third Evan Turgeon, Second Jordan Field, Lead Colin Anderson and Fifth Devin Anderson. Team Walgren is made up of Skip Lauren Walgren, Third Christine Cutler, Second Robyn Flynn and Lead Noelle Wang.

Team Love and Team Huitema, both from Vernon, qualified in Zone 2 (Thompson Okanagan). Team Love is made up of Skip Thomas Love, Third Erik Colwell, Second Brendan Chapple

and Lead Johnathan Schwartz. Team Huitema is made up of Erin Huitema, skip, Third Winter Harvey, Second Sarah Huitema and Lead Megan McGillcray.

Team Tardi from Langley, Team Hawes from Royal City and Team Drexel from Coquitlam qualified in Zone 3 (Fraser Valley).

Team Tardi is made up of Tyler Tardi, skip, Third Nicholas Umbach, Second Scottie Kryski and Lead Joshua Desrosiers. Team Hawes is made up of Dezary Hawes, skip, Third Cailin Cooke, Second Jaymee Lynn and Lead Everly Royea. Team Drexel is made up of Heather Drexel, skip, Third Sarah Loken, Second Janice Pang and Lead Angelique Miller.

Team Carpenter from Royal City qualified in Zone 4 (Fraser River-Delta). The team is made up of Skip Brayden Carpenter, Third Tyler Proctor, Second Breyden Chong and Lead Horace Mak.

Team Ueda from the North Shore Winter Club qualified in Zone 5 (Vancouver-Squamish). The team is made up of Skip Jay Ueda, Third Cullen Quek, Second Arthur Lee, Lead Keegan Lennie and Fifth Matthew Chan.

Team Cassidy and Team Tinkler from the Juan de Fuca Curling Club qualified in Zone 6 (Vancouver Island-Central Coast). Team Cassidy is made up of Ryan Cassidy, skip, Alex Horvath, third, Derek Chandler, second, and Scott Gray, lead. Team Tinkler is made up of Bailey Tinkler, skip, Jordan Koster, third, Sydney Brilz, second, and Julia Kresse, lead.

Team Chmelyk from Fraser Lake and Team Reese-Hansen from Kitimat qualified in Zone 7 (North West).

For the rest of the story, please visit <http://www.curlbc.ca/fifteen-juvenile-curling-teams-head-to-bc-winter-games/>



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A perfect draw to the button is something curlers strive for - but it rarely happens in every game. So wasn't DANIELLE CALLENS and the rest of the organizers of a Wednesday Night Mixed League party at Osoyoos Curling Club surprised when the feat was managed by not one curler - but by two curlers - at the same time, and four times in a row!

Draw to the button contest yields great results for pair

AT A recent fun night for the Wednesday Night Mixed League in Osoyoos, the league coordinators organized a Hot Shots Competition that included four different shots with curlers scored individually based on the outcome of each shot (similar to Ford Hot Shots).

At the completion of the competition, a Draw to the Button was held as a separate competition. Curlers were able to use sweepers for the shot and each rock was measured with the top two curlers determined by the closest distance to the pin. In the event any thrower covered the pin, they were asked to throw a second rock as a tie breaker, again based on closest to the pin. It all seemed fairly straight forward and simple until it came down to the last participants where two of the curlers had each covered the pin on their first shot.

Both went back to their respective hacks and, with the help of their teammates, threw their shot again. As one of the stones came to rest on sheet one, a loud cheer erupted as it had stopped on the pin. As the celebration continued, the second stone on the adjoining sheet slid into the house and it too covered the



Wendee Copeland and Herb Wycherley

pin. Disbelief by both curlers, who then returned to their hacks to throw yet a third stone. The rock on sheet one left the curler's hand and things were looking a little light as the sweepers bared

down on the stone, dragging it to the house and yes again, coming to rest on the pin. The spectators were in disbelief and at this point assumed the competition was over until the stone on the adjoining sheet edged closer and closer to the house with the assistance of a couple of hardworking teammates who dragged the stone into the house and covered the pin for the third time!

By this time, the party upstairs had come to a complete halt and all eyes were on the players as they again went back to the hacks for another tie breaker shot. This time, both curlers threw at relatively the same time and it was much like watching a TSN moment in slow motion – brooms, sweepers, skips' calling, throwers urging the rock on – until finally the stones came to rest (one just short of the house and the other, you guessed it, covering the pin for the 4th consecutive time).

In the end, it was Wendee Copeland edging out Herb Wycherley for the grand prize – a 15 lb turkey just in time for Christmas. As a consolation, Herb took home a very healthy 3 lb Cornish Game Hen.

Regular curler membership lists are due February 15

MEMBER centres are reminded that membership list submissions are due on February 15.

If your club opted to be covered by the Curl BC personal accident insurance policy, you will have to submit curlers' names (not just initials).

The list should contain names of all Regular Curlers (definition to follow) who are part of your curling centre membership, including children, youth, adults,

seniors and masters all on one list.

Please visit <http://www.curlbc.ca/membership/affiliation-and-membership-reporting/affiliation-reporting/> where you will find a link to the Regular Curler Reporting Form.

A Regular Curler is anyone whocurls in a regularly scheduled league at an affiliated curling centre, whether the league is organized by the curling centre or by another outside group (commercial

league, rental league, Masters league, etc.). This also includes participants in provincial playdowns who may or may not play in a regularly scheduled league but who are fully paid members, representing your facility at competitions. Curling centres pay affiliation fees to Curl BC based on \$15 (or \$14 if opting out of Personal Accident Insurance coverage) per Regular Curler registered at their centre.

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PAUL MONTGOMERY from the Merritt Curling Centre helped to celebrate the 100th anniversary of a bonspiel held in the region. He tells *The Curling Connection* all about it.

Merritt helps mark 100 years of men's bonspiel

THIS year we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of our Men's League Strickland Cup.

The event took place in early January and featured junior as well as senior curlers and was attended by local dignitaries and covered in the local media.

We had an official opening ceremony that was attended by our Mayor, Susan Roline and a Curl BC representative, Paul Quesnel. The ceremony began with two pipers playing as the 1:00 p.m. curlers filed out onto the ice. After speeches, Meagan Dunsmore, one of our juniors, threw the first rock at a broom being held by one of our executive members, Rick Olsen, dressed in 19th Century curling attire.

We had 22 teams participate and it was a very fun event with more than a few upsets. For the first time in many years two Merritt teams were in the A Final and B Final. Greg Van Rossum's team came from behind to defeat Grant Angman's team in the A Final and Bob Taylor's last-minute make up team defeated Brent Lindquist's team in the B Final. Bob Arksey's Lower Mainland team defeated Dave Conlin's team in the C Final.

Dinner on Saturday evening was provided by Jerry Sanders and a host of volunteers including many of our ladies' curlers. Our curlers enjoyed a feast of prime rib steak, prawns, baked potatoes and all the trimmings. Well done Jerry!

Our major sponsor this year was Black's Pharmacy and a huge thank you goes out to Curt Thomas for his support. Black's Pharmacy covered our costs for dinner, a beer glass for each curler along with a free beer ticket and jackets for each member of the winning A Final team. Gary Dixon from Boston Pizza provided a large pizza for each team and Brian Snee from Merritt Optometry provided two pairs of sunglasses for a silent auction. Thank you to all.

We had a very good turnout of townspeople taking in the event. Our local newspaper covered the story as did our radio station and Shaw Cable had someone on our ice for over an hour filming the ceremony and our first draw.



A brief history of curling in Merritt

It is believed that the Merritt Curling Centre is the third oldest curling organization in British Columbia.

- The Merritt Curling Club was founded in 1906 by coal miners while curling on natural ice, dependent on the weather. The Middlesborough Coal Mine was booming.
- On November 17th, 1911 Merritt curlers organized and built a curling rink where the civic centre now stands, again with natural ice.
- During 1914 the Strickland Cup was awarded to the mens' champion team. This was donated by A.W. Strickland and presented every year up to this date hence our 100 Year Anniversary.
- 1949 - Men curlers made a motion for women to curl in the afternoon.
- 1951 - Women curlers moved to evening curling two nights per week.
- 1951 - On January 10th, high school boys over the age of 14 curled after school and on Saturday mornings.
- 1958 - Curlers played under the bleachers at the arena, again on natural ice.
- On October 31, 1959 a two sheet curling rink was opened with artificial ice on the rinks present site. This happed along with the start up of the Craigmont Mine.
- October 1972 – The rink was moved into a four sheet facility built by a contractor, many volunteers and local donations of \$25,000 and a \$25,000 bank loan that was paid off in 1975. Sheets 2 and 3 of the existing rink is where the old 2 sheet rink once stood.
- The facility is currently insured for \$1.55 million.
- Further improvements continued in the years following.
- In the mid-to-late 1970's bonspiels included the use of the arena with a 4 event, 48 team men's bonspiel.
- During the men's bonspiel in January 2007 two different teams recorded 8 enders on the same day. Most curlers never experience an 8 ender in their whole curling career
- In 2009 we changed our name to Merritt Curling Centre from Merritt Curling Club.
- Currently we attempt to fill a 32 rink, 3-event men's bonspiel each year.

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Contact information can be found at www.curlbc.ca/about/staff or www.curlbc.ca/about/board

