

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SEASON OF CHAMPIONS

# EXTRA END



2021 - 2022



**MASKS,  
NO FANS AND A  
SEASON  
LIKE NO  
OTHER**

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC SET  
WORLD BACK BUT 'BUBBLE'  
KEPT CURLING ON THE ICE**

**ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE ICE CUBE IN BEIJING  
AS CURLERS GEAR UP FOR OLYMPIC GAMES**



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# CURLING CANADA 2021-22 BOARD OF GOVERNORS



**AMY NIXON**  
*Chair*

**THERE WILL BE THREE NEW** faces on the Curling Canada Board of Governors, as well as a new affiliate federation, it was confirmed during the organization’s Annual General Meeting.

There were three available spots on the Board after Cathy Dalziel of Eastern Passage, N.S., completed her term and two other members stepped down last season.

Elected to the Board for four-year terms were Brian Cowan of Delta, B.C., and Calvin Seaman of Calgary, while Roselle Gonsalves of Edmonton was elected to a two-year term.

They join fellow governors Paul Addison of Victoria, Donna Krotz of London, Ont., Chana Martineau of

Edmonton, Amy Nixon of Calgary, Kathy O’Rourke of Cumberland, P.E.I., Darren Oryniak of Winnipeg, and Mike Szajewski of Kenora, Ont.

Nixon was elected as Chair of the Board of Governors, resuming a role she took over during the 2020-21 season.

“I look forward to working with our new Board members as well as our Member Associations and other stakeholders as we continue to change the face of curling in Canada,” said Nixon.

Curling Canada also unanimously approved welcoming the Canadian Stick Curling Association as an affiliate member. The CSCA has held national championships since 2004.



**PAUL ADDISON**



**BRIAN COWAN**



**ROSELLE GONSALVES**



**DONNA KROTZ**



**CHANA MARTINEAU**



**KATHY O’ROURKE**



**DARREN ORYNIK**



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Queens Place Emera Centre, Liverpool, Nova Scotia

**Event manager:** Danny Lamoureux

**Tel:** (613) 878-3682 **Email:** dlamoureux@curling.ca



## TIM HORTONS CURLING TRIALS Presented By AGI

NOVEMBER 20 TO 28, 2021

SaskTel Centre, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Event manager:** Neil Houston

**Tel:** (778) 822-7198 **Email:** nhouston@curling.ca



## CONTINENTAL CUP

JANUARY 20 TO 23, 2022

Willie O'Ree Place, Fredericton, New Brunswick

**Event managers:** Amanda MacKenzie/Maddie Kelly

**Tel:** (403) 359-371 **Email:** amanda.mackenzie@curling.ca

**Tel:** (902) 217-5721 **Email:** maddie.kelly@curling.ca



## SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS

JANUARY 28 TO FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Fort William Gardens, Thunder Bay, Ontario

**Event manager:** Marcy Hrechkosy

**Tel:** (204) 612-6285 **Email:** mhrechkosy@curling.ca



## TIM HORTONS BRIER

March 4 to 13, 2022

ENMAX Centre, Lethbridge, Alberta

Event manager:

**Event manager:** Neil Houston

**Tel:** (778) 822-7198 **Email:** nhouston@curling.ca



## WORLD WOMEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

March 19 to 27, 2022

CN Centre, Prince George, British Columbia

**Event manager:** Marcy Hrechkosy

**Tel:** (204) 612-6285 **Email:** mhrechkosy@curling.ca



## NEW HOLLAND CANADIAN JUNIORS CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 25 TO APRIL 1, 2022

Stratford Rotary Complex, Stratford, Ontario

**Event manager:** Rob Douglas

**Tel:** (519) 271-4212 **Email:** RDouglas@stratfordcountryclub.ca

Kerri Einarson was put through the wringer of an exhausting schedule last season, and came through with flying colours.



BY DAVE KOMOSKY

# TIPTOEING THROUGH A MINEFIELD

**Kerri Einarson deftly navigates ridiculously difficult schedule of events inside The Hub City Bubble and emerges on the other side exhausted ... but a three-event winner**

Skip Kerri Einarson received tremendous support from her women's team, including lead Briane Meilleur (left) and third Val Sweeting.



PHOTOS: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

**K**ERRI EINARSON HAD A LOT ON HER PLATE over the past year, and we're not talking about the fresh pickerel her husband catches for a living on Lake Manitoba.

Einarson, one of Canada's top women curlers, was thrown head first into the tumbler of curling's infamous 'Hub City Bubble' last season.

It was never going to be easy for the lithe, effervescent, 33-year-old skip from the Gimli Curling Club. First up was the defence of her Canadian women's championship, followed by appearances in the Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles championship and two Grand Slam events, all held without spectators in the closed environment at WinSport Arena at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, the bio-secure bubble established to ward off the ravages of the COVID-19 virus.

But those first steps onto the ice at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in February turned into something else for Einarson. Something exhausting. Something that would test the outer limits of her stamina, both mentally and physically.

# “IT WAS VERY, VERY EXHAUSTING. IT WAS HARD TO BE AWAY FROM HOME FOR SO LONG, AND I CAN TELL YOU I HAD A FEW CRIES INSIDE THE BUBBLE. BUT IT WAS I WHO DECIDED TO DO THIS.”

At the end, five events — yes, five — and many hours of toil and sweat later, she emerged from the bubble’s tumbler, a bit ruffled but far from beat up.

Victorious is more like it.

“It was very, very exhausting,” said Einarson, who had to hack her way through a thick jungle of hardened competitors to make it to the finish line in Calgary. “It was hard to be away from home for so long, and I can tell you I had a few cries inside the bubble. But it was I who decided to do this.”

Einarson had two breaks to return home to Manitoba during her marathon on ice in Cowtown. She admits she couldn’t have survived without them.

“If I wasn’t able to come home, I wouldn’t have done it,” she said.

Einarson had cartoon hearts flowing from her chest as she described the joy of getting back on the ice last season after the major disappointment of losing the chance to represent Canada at the 2020 world women’s championship in Prince George, B.C. Just when that event was about to slide from the hacks, the rug was pulled out from everybody as COVID-19 swept the world. Einarson had the inglorious distinction of skipping the first women’s curling team in the modern era to win a Canadian championship but not go on to represent the country internationally.

Her Team Canada uniform, alas, would have to hang in her closet, unused.

But her joy in returning to competitive curling in Calgary a little more than a year later eventually turned into a back-breaking, mind-numbing ordeal.

It’s doubtful that any curler has been asked to navigate such a minefield for so long, under such trying conditions, and yet perform so well. Curling is hard enough as it is, but when you’re constantly matched up against world-class opponents, and have to contend with a closed environment where life fluctuates between the arena and hotel, and alone from family for big stretches, things get even harder.

But not only did she survive, she excelled. Einarson successfully defended her Hearts title in February to qualify for the women’s world championship inside the bubble two months later, then, after a trip home for some R&R, came back and teamed with Newfoundland and Labrador’s Brad Gushue to triumph at the Home Hardware

Canadian Mixed Doubles championship, rubber stamping a trip to the world event in Scotland.

Next up were back-to-back Grand Slam Tour events where Einarson and her talented teammates — third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard and lead Briane Meilleur — were outstanding. They made it to the semifinals of the Champions Cup and then won the Players Championship a week later.

For those counting at home, that was three victories for Einarson in four very, very tough events.

All that was left to do in Calgary was drag her spent body into the LGT World Women’s Championship, presented by BKT Tires, the final event inside the bubble.

That proved to be too much for Einarson and Co. Tired, and perhaps out of gas, the Canadians fell into the well by losing five of their first six games, but emerged a few days later, barely wet, to catapult into the playoffs with a 7-6 record. That they were

Kerri Einarson finally got to wear her Team Canada uniform on the ice at the 2021 World Women’s Curling Championship in Calgary.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF KERRI EINARSON

Kerri Einarson plays for more than one team. Her slowpitch team, Just Slide Inside, from Gimli poses with Einarson's Canadian championship Hearts Trophy.



bounced 8-3 in a qualification game by Sweden's Anna Hasselborg was disappointing, but hardly a shocker.

"We weren't playing badly at all," said Einarson. "We were very confused at what was happening. It was just one bad end in each game. But we kept it together and knew we weren't playing badly and things would turn, which they did. We battled back and a lot of people didn't think we could do it."

Still, it was a remarkable run by the Canadians, especially Einarson, who had to do all the mental gymnastics that come with standing on the T-line, directing traffic.

But that wasn't the end of it for Einarson. A week later she was back on the ice in Aberdeen, Scotland, with Gushue, battling for the world mixed doubles title.

A sixth high-profile event for Einarson? Well, why not? When you've come this far, what's another week or so of putting her nose to the icy grindstone.

The pair, their tongues hanging out at this stage, had to scrap for everything they got and did well to finish fourth and qualify Canada for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing.

Einarson, mercifully, was able to finally go home to Camp Morton for good, her last stretch on the road a staggering 46 days.

"I found that when I went over to Scotland that was when I hit my breaking point," she said. "I was tired and missing home."

Einarson admitted the failure to medal in the international events was disappointing, but the upside is she did help qualify Canada for Olympic berths in both women's and mixed doubles curling.

And since she qualified the country for the Big Show, she wouldn't mind representing the country in Beijing. She'll get her chance at the Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings in Saskatoon and the Canad Inns Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials in Portage la Prairie.

She does have a chance for a three-peat at the Tournament of Hearts, the first time since Jennifer Jones turned the trick in 2008, 2009, and 2010, but admits she'd rather not be in Thunder Bay as the defending champion. That would mean she won at the Trials and earned the right to represent Canada at the Olympics instead.

"That's my focus," she said.

So it all shapes up to be another hugely busy season for Einarson.

But she wouldn't have it any other way. Just as long as there's no bubble.

The Einarson household is filling up with trophies. Back, husband Kyle, and in front twin daughters Kamryn (left) and Chloe.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF KERRI EINARSON

*Dave Komosky is editor, event daily publications and Extra End magazines*

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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

Alberta's Bottcher finally gets to lift Tankard Trophy after winning first Tim Hortons Brier, and with the Olympics on the horizon, it could be the start of something really big

BY GEORGE JOHNSON



One, two, three times they made it to the Brier final, only to come up empty. But this time Brendan Bottcher and his Alberta teammates were not to be denied. The happy champs: (above, left to right) Brendan Bottcher, Darren Moulding, Brad Thiessen and Karrick Martin.

**O**H, THE STORIES THAT THE GRANDEST, most sought-after of sporting hardware could tell ...

The Brier Tankard, for instance.

"We partied pretty hard with it," acknowledged Brad Thiessen in early August, as the iconic symbol of Canadian curling supremacy was making the rounds of Alberta home bases following Edmonton skip Brendan Bottcher's long-awaited victory. "Tom Brady-throwing-the-trophy-off-the-boat hard? Well, the Tankard's a little heavier (than the NFL's Vince Lombardi Trophy) so it'd be a bit of a load to throw off a boat," said Thiessen, who throws second rocks on the team.

"We went golfing with it at Brendan's bachelor

party and put it on the top of a golf cart. And we drank a lot of, uh ... *stuff* out of it.

"Let's just say we certainly enjoyed ourselves in its company, as a team and then individually."

For third Darren Moulding, the opportunity for some one-on-one Tankard time included a trip to buddy Dave Davidson's farm outside of Lacombe, Alta.

"We just had a BBQ, a couple beers, hung out, told stories, looked at all the names engraved on it," he recalled. "Just seeing those names, and the memories they bring back ... is so neat. To think that now you're a part of that. When you have the Tankard, you're going to share it with people you really care about. It kind of made up for not being

able to do that right after we actually won.

“My mom hosted a gathering one night and a whole bunch of people came through, people from my past, some I haven’t seen for decades.

“Reconnecting in that way was just awesome. And it’s been cool, having the Tankard coinciding with (COVID-19) restrictions loosening. So it’s been a good July, for sure.”

Ahead lies a season that carries the potential to further strengthen the team’s credentials:

The 2021 Tim Hortons Trials, presented by AGI, Nov. 20-28 at Saskatoon’s SaskTel Centre to determine Canada’s 2022 Olympic representatives, a world away in Beijing, China; the chance at the ENMAX Centre in Lethbridge, Alta., March 4-13, to go back-to-back as national men’s champs, which would be the first time since another Edmonton rink, the Kevin Martin powerhouse, accomplished that feat in 2008-2009, and thus make a return trip to the world

men’s curling championship and earn a chance to win a medal, something they couldn’t do last season.

“A lot of really, really cool things on the table,” agreed Bottcher. “Like all the other top teams, we want to be the ones going to the Olympics. So that’s really goal No. 1 for all of us.

“We’re going to have a good run at the Brier again and cap off four really good years together as a team.

“The Olympics really is the pinnacle for any sport. It’s so cool to see people work their whole career for one shot at that moment and then see how they perform.”

It wasn’t hard to see that Alberta’s (left to right) Karrick Martin, Darren Moulding and Brad Thiessen couldn’t take their eyes off the action on the ice.



Top left: Masks were the order of the day inside the bubble in Calgary. Alberta’s alternate player Pat Janssen wore his constantly while watching his teammates perform.

Bottom: The masks came off for players on the ice, and skip Brendan Bottcher’s bare face revealed intense concentration.

The Olympic experience would certainly be a new experience for the principals, should Bottcher and his buds pull it off, but team lead Karrick Martin soaked in the experience watching his dad, Kevin, claim silver at the Salt Lake City Games in 2002 and upgrade to gold at the Vancouver Games eight years later.

It would have been gold in Salt Lake, too (the event was actually held in Ogden), but for a last-rock draw by Martin in the final end that slid inches too far in a draw to the four-foot.

“The amount of preparation needed is what I remember most from being close to that experience,” recalled Martin the younger. “I saw how well prepared they were, first for Salt Lake and then for Vancouver. Hopefully I can bring some of that to our team. It’s definitely good to have a guy like my dad in your corner.

“The one thing I can remember specifically was being in the crowd in 2002 in Salt Lake, when that draw went just an inch too far, followed by the de-briefing experience for the team after that all happened. Then preparing for the next one, in 2010, leaving no stone unturned, the build-up to (Vancouver). The two Briers before that, and the 2009 Trials, they just went undefeated, undefeated, undefeated. Dominating.

“So it was as close to a lock to win that Olympic gold going in as there’s going to be.

“I learned a lot from that type of meticulous preparation.”

In ending a heart-wrenching run of three runner-up finishes in row at the Brier, Bottcher’s team from the Saville Community Sports Centre

Right: Alberta lead Karrick Martin learned a lot as a young man watching his dad Kevin play in the Olympics.

Bottom: Curlers played for the Tankard Trophy in front of silent cardboard cutouts in a very unique situation in Calgary.



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There were some feel good moments for Team Canada at the BKT Tires & OK Tire World Men's Curling Championship, but a medal never materialized. But not all was lost as Canada qualified for the men's competition at the Olympic Games in Beijing.



toughened itself mentally, persevering through the unique demands of playing in a bio-secure 'bubble' at WinSport Arena in Canada's Olympic Park at Calgary, necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I can't speak for everyone but the bubble, for me, was difficult," acknowledged Moulding. "I know other guys felt similar. I'd say the first three weeks in there weren't too bad. The next two, two-and-a-half weeks were tolerable. After that I just hated it.

"To the point where, if you'd said to me 'Here's \$50,000 to stay another week' I would've walked out. Not a second thought. No questions asked."

(When asked if he'd react similarly to such an offer, an amused Thiessen, who dearly missed wife Alison and one-year daughter Hazel during his bubble time, sounded somewhat more pragmatic: "For \$50,000?" was the teasing response. "Exactly how much longer would I have had to stay?").

Not so Mr. Moulding.

"When I finally got out of there, I had some injuries to heal, too," he said. "So for a good four, five, six weeks I couldn't so much as *think* about curling, much less talk about it. I'd be sitting around a table with my parents and mom would start talking curling, and I'd be like: 'Uh, please, *no!*'

"That said, it was a safe place to be. We were so lucky just to be able to play. At the time, COVID was raging. Somehow Curling Canada and everyone there kept us safe and they deserve a ton of credit. Worked tirelessly.

"But, at the time, I was done.

"We all needed some down time, I think.

Gradually, into the spring you start sorting everything out and maybe start feeling like you might want to curl again ... some day."

That someday, they all concede, is at hand.

"Winning the Brier was ... amazing," reminisced Bottcher. "Just huge for us. Something we've all dreamed about doing for a very long time. But now we're back to the drawing board. You've got to recreate all that same magic. By 'magic' I mean putting in all the time and effort and from there prioritize curling in your life.

"Hopefully we can do that a couple of times this year."

With so much on offer, that competitive pilot light is back burning brightly.

"We learned a lot, accomplishing what we did and in the conditions we did it," said Moulding. "What we've learned over the years is that we're also really, really good.

"So if we're in a good place and throwing it well, with our cohesion, we're always going to be there. You've seen over the past years that we're in the hunt, consistently, in every big event.

"We win some and lose some. That's going to happen, to any team, but we're always giving ourselves a chance.

"We expect nothing different this year, even with all that there is to play for. I certainly think we're capable of winning everything there is to win.

"And I'm not sure anyone would really debate that."

---

*George Johnson is a Calgary-based freelance writer*

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# ON THE ROCKS

BY AL CAMERON

## **SUFFICE IT TO SAY, THE PAST 12 MONTHS STAND**

as a unique period in the history of our sport.

Societal changes, increased focus on diversity and inclusion and, oh yes, a global pandemic tend to overshadow sport, and that's understandable.

As an organization, though, I believe Curling Canada managed to get through the past year stronger for having gone through these experiences — both on and off the ice.

We found unique solutions to unique problems. No, not all were satisfied or happy with those solutions, but most people understand that the pandemic forced our hand and certainly impacted every operational decision that had to be made.

So the 2021-22 curling season will have increased focus for many reasons:

- Fingers crossed, it will be the first normal, or as-close-to-normal, curling season that we've had since 2019-20
- As an Olympic season, it is chock-full of major championship events that feature teams who will be trying to reach their Olympic-season peak in pursuit of gold
- It is the end of an Olympic/Paralympic quadrennial.

The latter point could be the most intriguing, for it is at the end of the Olympic/Paralympic four-year cycle (or, more accurately, the beginning of a new Olympic four-year cycle) that the most changes are both contemplated and then actually made.

That applies to teams and rulebooks, and tends to go well beyond that.

For instance, at the beginning of an Olympic/Paralympic cycle, national curling federations around the world (including Curling Canada) examine what went right and what went wrong over the previous four years.

Canada, of course, faces different challenges than most other curling countries just based on the sheer depth of our talent pool. That's a blessing in one sense, but a curse in another.

Where other countries can focus on one or two top teams, and devote their resources to them, Canada has no such luxury because we have so many contending teams.

Where other countries essentially have government-funded athletes who don't work outside of curling (essentially, curling is their full-time job), Canadian curlers have jobs because the funding that Curling Canada gets for our teams has to be spread among so many of them.

And where other countries can have their athletes train together, push each other to get better and learn from each other, in a central location, Canada's sheer mass of

geography and the vast distances between teams, and attached costs of getting those teams together, makes it next to impossible to do the same thing here.

All that said, it's safe to say that once the results from Beijing 2022 are known, the work will begin again, there will be endless hours of debriefing with athletes and coaches to gain insight into the years, months and weeks that led up to their performance in China, and make needed changes to prepare our athletes for 2026 in Milan, Italy.

Team changes are inevitable, as we've seen repeatedly over the years, and one would hope that curling fans react positively (which, to be blunt, hasn't always been the case) as teams look to improve themselves for another run at gold.

As for rulebook changes? Well, that, too, will be a significant topic of discussion, particularly over the summer of 2022.

Changes to the way curling is played realistically can only be made at the beginning of a quadrennial, so that players, umpires and broadcasters can adjust, and so that any kinks can be worked out before the next Olympics and Paralympics.

Always on the table are changes to the length of games (eight ends or 10 ends? Reduction in thinking time? Thinking time per end instead of a full-game total?).

And, of course, there are the rules of game play that are always under scrutiny. For instance, has the tick shot become too easy, and should its use be limited somehow? There's no question that tick shots have changed the complexion of the game, and essentially neutralized the offensive potential of the five-rock free guard zone rule.

Is it time to revisit the thorny subject of sweeping techniques/equipment? The Sweeping Summit of 2016 was undoubtedly a positive step for curling, and had everybody on the same page for a few seasons, but perhaps it's time, five years after that Summit, to have another group-think as a sport; bring athletes, officials and manufacturers together from around the world, and make sure everyone is on the same page about what should and shouldn't be permitted when it comes to sweeping.

For now, though? Let's just look forward to what should be a memorable season for our sport. We've earned it.

---

*Al Cameron is Curling Canada's director of communication and media relations*



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# ROLLING UP THEIR SLEEVES

*Curling Canada and the country's elite players prepared to do the hard work to return to the podium*

**BY DON LANDRY**

**I**T STINGS, DOESN'T IT? NOT GETTING TO THE podium at a global event is not something that Canadian curling fans are used to.

You'll be happy to know that it stings the players, the coaches and the organizers just as much — if not more — and that the disappointment is by no means being met with a shrug.

With the Winter Olympics just over the horizon, and national curling trials for men's, women's and mixed doubles even nearer, there is a collective determination coursing through the ranks of Curling Canada's High Performance Program — a determination to ensure that a proud curling nation is once again poised for medals next year in Beijing.

"We're providing our national teams anything that they need to get themselves ready and in a great position to be their best for the curling trials," said Jeff Stoughton, National Coach and Program Manager, Men's and Mixed Doubles Programs. "And then," he added, to "carry that forward right on through to the Olympics. To get on that podium."

Stoughton is one of a number of managers and coaches who've been creating a road map for Canadian curlers in the wake of non-podium finishes for each of the men's, women's and mixed doubles teams at last season's world championships.

“We are resolute in our effort to win a medal at every world championship,” said Elaine Dagg-Jackson, National Coach and Program Manager, Women’s Program, “and we would really prefer that that’d be gold.”

Getting to the podium used to be, to use a curling metaphor, an open hit for a bundle for Canada, particularly in the men’s and women’s competitions. Much has changed over the past couple of decades, and it is now easy to see that teams from all over the world are more than just gaining on Canada; they’ve arrived as legitimate, ongoing contenders themselves.

Anyone who believes that if Canada fails to win a medal it is simply because Canada hasn’t performed well hasn’t been paying attention to the rise of curling’s importance to other nations around the world.

For Stoughton, the lure of Olympic gold has done precisely what it was supposed to do and that is to

elevate the sport of curling globally.

“Ever since curling became an Olympic sport, there’s a lot more funding and resources going into other countries to create teams that are capable of medaling at the Olympics,” he said.

Both Alberta’s Brendan Bottcher and Manitoba’s Kerri Einarson, who each skipped Canada to Olympic berths with their placings at the 2021 world championships – but who missed out on podium finishes – know what Canada is up against in the modern curling world.

“All the other countries have simply gotten better,” said Bottcher.

“We’re competing against full-time athletes that are fully funded by their governments in a lot of cases, so I’m really not sure it’s an apples to apples fight to begin with.”

“I think a lot of it has to do with that’s their full-time job,” agreed Einarson, the reigning Scotties champion. “That’s what they have to do and they have to peak at certain times. For us, we have numerous times where we have to peak.”

That’s not to offer an excuse for podium misses at the international level. It is, instead, a recognition of the challenges that face a country that is physically vast – making logistics a difficult proposition – and rich in curling talent. How would you ever decide which handful of teams to fully fund for a years-long Olympic run?

“We need to embrace that,” said Dagg-Jackson of the challenges specific to Canada’s geographical sprawl and deep well of hungry, talented curlers. “Accept it, and just be better.”

Dagg-Jackson, a six-time Olympic coach, says



**“I think the support, once you get a Maple Leaf on your back, is incredible. I think we would rival any other country in terms of the support we give our teams at a world championship and at the Olympics.”**



Left: Brendan Bottcher acknowledges that teams from Canada are facing stiffer competition every year, and that other countries are simply getting better.

Right: Kerri Einarson has been putting in the work that needs to be done to prepare for the season, and has ramped up the frequency of team meetings.



Left: Jeff Stoughton is among a number of Curling Canada managers and coaches who have been creating a road map for Canadian curlers to return to the podium.

Right: Elaine Dagg-Jackson, right, a six-time Olympic coach, has worked with top players like Rachel Homan to help them reach their peak performance.



that the process of reaching peak performance is one that is constantly evolving. Curling Canada's High Performance coaches know this, and are continually adapting in order to meet the rising competitive tide. If it is impossible to concentrate on just one or two national teams, the way some other countries can, and do, then it is up to Canadian players to evolve in their preparations, and up to the coaches to help get them there.

"We need to train smarter, we need to train better, we need to train in ways that the training is even tougher than the competition so that when we get to the competition, it will feel almost easier than the training," said Dagg-Jackson.

The work was underway even as last year's curling season was ending. Teams that had already qualified for the trials were given the information they needed in order to plan their off-season training as well as their early fall schedules, leading up to both November's Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings competition (where both the men's and women's Olympic teams will be determined) and January's Mixed Doubles Curling Trials.

Some key considerations were kept in mind.

"One is making sure that everyone, from a national team standpoint, is completely prepared going into the trials and providing them with as much support as we can so that they'll perform at their best," said Scott Pfeifer, a four-time world champion and a coach in the Men's/Mixed Doubles Program.

For Einarson, whose team rebounded to earn Canada a women's Olympic berth after starting last year's world championship with a 1-5 record, this past summer did look a little different, based on input from the national coaching team.

"Doing a lot of mental prep getting ready for November," she said, adding that she and her mates had ramped up the frequency of team meetings.

"We have done quite a bit of off-ice work as well," echoed Bottcher.

With experience gleaned from Olympics past, Curling Canada is prepared for what will come the way of this country's Beijing representatives.

And even if they are newbies to the Olympic experience — as both Einarson and Bottcher were — the aim is to have the journey be as easy as possible for the players.

"It'll be fairly seamless, whoever wins," said Stoughton, himself a two-time world champion.

Once qualifiers are determined, he said, much of the organizational gymnastics will already have been accomplished. During the trials, competitors will be prepared for what to expect, should they emerge as Canada's representatives. So when they win, said Stoughton, "there's nothing, really, left to do other than sign documents and get going."

"We've got a really good schedule for them planned out for the eight weeks leading up to the Olympic Games," he added.

Bottcher is appreciative of the hard work being done, having gotten his initial Team Canada experience at last year's worlds.

"I think the support, once you get a Maple Leaf on your back, is incredible," the reigning Brier champ said. "I think we would rival any other country in terms of the support we give our teams at a world championship and at the Olympics."

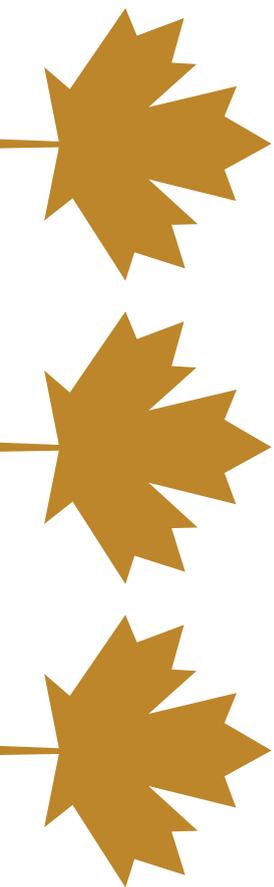
For Dagg-Jackson, energetic support is easy to summon when you tap into the passion and work ethic of Canada's curlers.

"The commitment to be the best in the world is a lofty dream," she said. "And, you know, our High Performance team at Curling Canada want to do everything possible to make those dreams come true."

Even if the fulfilment of those dreams is now harder work, in an increasingly competitive curling world.

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*Don Landry is a freelance writer based in Stratford, Ont.*



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# SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS

Markin MacPhail Centre › Calgary, Alberta › February 19 to 28, 2021



PHOTOS: ANDREW KLAVNER © KRUGER PRODUCTS

Winning the Scotties Tournament of Hearts once is tough enough. Trying doing it back-to-back. But that's exactly what Kerri Einarson and her team from Gimli, Man., did, knocking off Ontario's Rachel Homan 9-7 in a nail-biting final. The joyous champs (left to right): skip Kerri Einarson, third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard and lead Briane Meilleur.

**Kerri Einarson looked up into the stands** after winning her second straight Scotties Tournament of Hearts title. Her loved ones, including twin daughters Khloe and Kamryn, weren't sitting in the front row waiting for a visit from mom, as they usually do.

She gazed above the horizon of the silent cardboard crowd to the jumbo screen. There, she saw family and friends the way everyone had grown accustomed to seeing them over the past year of the COVID-19 pandemic — virtually on a screen, on the other side of a Zoom call.

That was one of the many peculiarities of hosting a national curling event inside a bio-secure “bubble” at WinSport Arena in Canada's Olympic Park at Calgary. It was the first bubble event of its kind in the world of curling and set the stage for a memorable season of curling during a pandemic.

But for all of the abnormalities of the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts,

there was a sense of familiarity during the gold-medal game; a 2020 re-match between defending champion Einarson, representing Canada, and Ontario's Rachel Homan.

The Einarson vs. Homan re-match marked the first time in Scotties history that two teams have met in back-to-back finals and promised to become another classic once again. And, just like the previous year, Einarson, vice-skip Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard and lead Briane Meilleur of the Gimli Curling Club in Manitoba defeated Homan, this time 9-7, to win back-to-back championships. Alternate Krysten Karwacki and coach Heather Nedohin round out the team.

“It means the absolute world to be able to repeat,” said Einarson, who was named the 2021 winner of the Sandra Schmirler Playoff Most Valuable Player Award. “It's hard to do and hasn't been done since 2014 (by Homan). So to do it again, playing against all these amazing



Trailing by a bunch after seven ends, Ontario's Rachel Homan made a game of it down the stretch, but in the end fell just short in the final against Team Canada.

teams, is really hard. I'm just so proud and honoured to be able to wear the Maple Leaf again.”

Homan, vice-skip Emma Miskew, second Sarah Wilkes, lead Joanne Courtney, alternate Danielle Inglis and coach Randy Ferbey managed a near

comeback attempt by stealing two in the ninth end to tie the game after Einarson missed a raise-takeout attempt. However, in the 10th, Homan missed a freeze attempt, and Einarson didn't need to throw her last rock for the win.

An unusual year brought a different format to the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in 2021. Rather than the standard 16 teams at the event, the field was expanded to 18 teams for the first time, accommodating for teams that had no chance to qualify through their respective Member Association championships that were cancelled due to the pandemic.

All 14 Member Associations sent teams, and the field was rounded out by the defending champion Team Canada, skipped by Einarson, and three Wild Card teams based on their performance in the 2019-20 Canadian Team Ranking System.

The new format led to the debuts of two teams from Manitoba: 2020 world junior

champion Mackenzie Zacharias and a team skipped by Beth Peterson.

Curling Canada changed the playoff format to a three-team playoff, with the top team advancing directly to the final in place of the traditional Page playoff system. The change was to account for the additional round-robin games played.

Homan's silver-medal finish will remain one of the most memorable achievements in Scotties history. She nearly led her team to a Canadian women's curling championship while eight months pregnant. Homan and Einarson finished the Championship Pool tied with 10 wins and two losses each, with Homan claiming the top seed due to their head-to-head record.

"They played really well, and again it went down to the last rock," said Homan. "That's the way curling goes sometimes. But really proud of my team in this first little bonspiel together. I'm really proud of these girls for battling through all week



Val Sweeting was a key member of the championship team.

**FINAL**

Ontario (Rachel Homan)	*020 101 012 0 — 7
Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)	101 030 200 2 — 9

\* Last-rock advantage

**PERCENTAGES**

Ontario		Team Canada	
Rachel Homan	75%	Kerri Einarson	88%
Emma Miskew	78%	Val Sweeting	75%
Sarah Wilkes	78%	Shannon Birchard	88%
Joanne Courtney	86%	Briane Meilleur	95%
<b>Team totals</b>	<b>79%</b>		<b>86%</b>

**SEMIFINAL**

Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)	*102 003 03x x — 9
Alberta (Laura Walker)	010 100 10x x — 3

\* Last-rock advantage

**FINAL STANDINGS**

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Manitoba (Kerri Einarson)	2	0
Alberta (Laura Walker)	1	1
Ontario Rachel Homan)	0	1
Manitoba (Jennifer Jones)	0	1

Championship round	Wins	Losses
Ontario (Rachel Homan)	10	2
Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)	10	2
Alberta (Laura Walker)*	9	3
Manitoba (Jennifer Jones)*	9	3
Wild Card #3 (Beth Peterson)	7	5
Saskatchewan (Sherry Anderson)	6	6
Quebec (Laurie St-Georges)	6	6
Wild Card #1 (Chelsea Carey)	6	6

**Round robin\***

Pool A	Wins	Losses
Ontario (Rachel Homan)	7	1
Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)	7	1
Wild Card #3 (Beth Peterson)	5	3
Alberta (Laura Walker)	5	3
Northwest Territories (Kerry Galusha)	4	4
Wild Card #2 (Mackenzie Zacharias)	3	5
Nova Scotia (Jill Brothers)	3	5
Northern Ontario (Krysta Burns)	2	6
Yukon (Laura Eby)	0	8

**Pool B**

	Wins	Losses
Saskatchewan (Sherry Anderson)	6	2
Manitoba (Jennifer Jones)	6	2
Quebec (Laurie St-Georges)	6	2
Wild Card #1 (Chelsea Carey)	5	3
British Columbia (Corryn Brown)	4	4
Prince Edward Island (Suzanne Birt)	4	4
New Brunswick (Melissa Adams)	3	5
Newfoundland/Labrador (Sarah Hill)	2	6
Nunavut (Lori Eddy)	0	7

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada, Curling Canada opted to include three wild card teams instead of the usual one. These teams qualified based on their performance in the 2019-20 Canadian Team Ranking System.

Top four teams in each pool advanced to the championship round carrying their full win-loss records forward.

\*Alberta's Laura Walker defeated Manitoba's Jennifer Jones 9-8 in the championship round tiebreaker game.

and sticking with me. Just a phenomenal week; we had a chance right to the end, and it didn't go our way.”

If there were an award for the most-improved team at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, Alberta's Laura Walker's bronze-medallist team from Edmonton would have claimed it. Walker's team missed out on the Championship Pool in 2020. But in 2021, Walker elevated her game to earn bronze, defeating Manitoba's Jennifer Jones 9-8 in a tiebreaker game to advance to the semifinal. At that point, Canada's Einarson defeated Walker 9-3 in the semifinal and advance to the final against Homan.

After missing out on the right to represent Canada due to the cancelled 2020 world women's event in Prince George, B.C., Team Einarson got its chance at the 2021 LGT World Women's Curling Championship, presented by BKT Tires, in Calgary. After a slow start, Canada made a memorable run to the playoffs and qualified Canada for the women's event at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing.

**First-team all-stars**

- Skip Kerri Einarson, Team Canada
- Third Val Sweeting, Team Canada
- Second Shannon Birchard, Team Canada
- Lead Lisa Weagle, Manitoba

**Second-team all-stars**

- Skip Rachel Homan, Ontario
- Third Selena Njegovan, Wild Card #1
- Second Jocelyn Peterman, Manitoba
- Lead Joanne Courtney, Ontario



It was an outstanding week for Team Canada's Kerri Einarson. Not only did she win the Scotties Tournament of Hearts for the second year in a row, she was also named the most outstanding player in the playoffs.



First team all-star honours went to: (left to right) skip Kerri Einarson, third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard, all Team Canada players, and Manitoba lead Lisa Weagle.

**MARJ MITCHELL AWARD**

Quebec skip Laurie St-Georges won the Marj Mitchell Award for best embodying the spirit of curling at the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. The award is named in memory of Marj Mitchell, who skipped Canada to its first world title in 1980. In 1983, shortly after the second Hearts, Mitchell died of cancer at the age of 35. The winner is selected each year in a vote by all players at the tournament.



Quebec's Laurie St-Georges turned a few heads for her curling ability and sportsmanship on the ice, making her a popular winner of the Marj Mitchell Award.

**JOAN MEAD BUILDER AWARD**

The 2021 Builder Award was awarded to Calgary's Shannon Kleibrink, who won bronze for Canada at the 2006 Winter Olympics. She also has been an active coach in the Calgary area, as well as overseas. Kleibrink won the Ray Kingsmith award in 2014, signifying outstanding contributions to women's curling. Kleibrink was a vice-chair of the 2015 Tim Hortons Brier and 2015 Continental Cup in Calgary. The award is presented in the name of the late CBC-TV producer Joan Mead, who died suddenly of a heart attack in January 2000.



Olympian, coach, administrator and volunteer, Calgary's Shannon Kleibrink has done it all in curling, and her Joan Mead Builder Award was well deserved.

**SANDRA SCHMIRLER AWARD**

Presented in the name of the late Sandra Schmirler, the MVP award was presented to Team Canada skip Kerri Einarson after she was chosen the most outstanding player in the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts playoffs. It was the second year in a row that Einarson was named MVP in the playoffs.

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# TIM HORTONS BRIER PRESENTED BY AGI

Markin MacPhail Centre › Calgary, Alberta › March 5 to 14, 2021



After coming home empty-handed after three trips to the Tim Hortons Brier final, Alberta's Brendan Bottcher finally struck paydirt in the Calgary "bubble", defeating Kevin Koe's Wild Card #2 team 4-2 in the 2021 final. It was a most satisfying victory for the new Canadian men's champions: (left to right) Bottcher, third Darren Moulding, second Brad Thiessen and lead Karrick Martin.



Calgary skip Kevin Koe (left) and second John Morris had their hands full in the Tim Hortons Brier final against Edmonton's Brendan Bottcher.

## Losing three straight gold-medal games

at the Tim Hortons Brier was enough of a burden for Brendan Bottcher and his Edmonton teammates.

The very idea of losing FOUR in a row? Well, that was a possibility Bottcher, vice-skip Darren Moulding, second Brad Thiessen and lead Karrick Martin simply didn't want to contemplate.

And while the circumstances of the 2021 Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, were unique to say the least, the bubbled, fan-less atmosphere of WinSport Arena at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary did not slow down the Bottcher Express.

Bottcher's Team Alberta took advantage of back-to-back misses from four-time Tim Hortons Brier champ Kevin Koe in the seventh end to score a decisive three en route to a 4-2 win over Koe's Team Wild Card #2 lineup from Calgary.

The win landed Bottcher, Moulding, Thiessen, Martin, alternate Patrick Janssen and coach Don Bartlett with those long-awaited Tim Hortons Brier gold medals dangling around their necks.

"It's just absolutely amazing," said Bottcher, who was named the winner of the Hec Gervais Playoff Most Valuable Player award. "Those three years were tough, each one of them for different reasons, but it just makes tonight so much more special, to know that we persevered, we worked so hard, and we've just been so consistent the last few years — it's awesome."

Bottcher had lost to Koe in the 2019 final, and bowed to Brad Gushue's St. John's team in 2018 and 2020.

And in this pandemic-era Tim Hortons Brier, he was surrounded by star quality as the field had been expanded to 18 teams to give more teams a chance that couldn't compete in cancelled provincial and territorial playdowns because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But Team Alberta snagged one of the three available playoff berths (the expanded field produced a schedule that didn't allow time for the lengthier four-team Page playoffs) with a 9-3 record, and on Championship Sunday, Bottcher showed his championship pedigree by making a marvellous 13-foot angle-raise takeout in the 10th end to score two and beat Saskatchewan's Matt Dunstone 6-5.

The gold-medal game was lacking that kind of drama until the seventh broke it open and essentially sent Bottcher's team to victory.

"Obviously it was a well-played game," said Koe, who, backed up by vice-skip John Morris, second B.J. Neufeld, lead Ben Hebert, alternate Mike Caione and coach John Dunn, fell short in his bid to win a record fifth Tim Hortons Brier title as a skip. "I had the pick in seven, and that's obviously huge in a low-scoring game like that. I had a chance to limit it to a deuce and missed my double, which was

PHOTOS: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY



unfortunate. That was their chance and they took advantage of it. And when they missed, we just didn't take advantage. They had two misses in 10 and we should have been able to come out of that with at least a deuce."

While Bottcher and his teammates insisted throughout the week that the spectre of losing the three previous gold-medal games was not weighing heavily on them, there was no question after the game that there was a massive sense of relief at finally winning.

"It means a lot," said Bottcher, who matched Brad Gushue in 2020 and Kevin Martin in 2009 for the best shooting percentage by a skip (97) in a Tim Hortons Brier final. "It means a LOT. Losing is never easy. Losing in this game . . . sucks. For lack of a better word, it really sucks. It sucked the first time. It sucked the second time. And it sucked just as much the third time. We all show it differently, but it means so much to us. I think that was really on display tonight when we closed it out — just the raw emotion that was out there, just how happy we all

It takes teamwork to win championships, and Alberta's Brendan Bottcher and mates were a well-oiled machine during the Tim Hortons Brier.

**FINAL**

Alberta (Brendan Bottcher)	000 000 301 x 4
Wild Card 2 (Kevin Koe)	*001 000 010 x 2

\* Last-rock advantage

**PERCENTAGES**

**Alberta**

Brendan Bottcher	97%
Darren Moulding	93%
Brad Thiessen	85%
Karrick Martin	91%
<b>Team totals</b>	<b>91%</b>

**Wild Card 2**

Kevin Koe	74%
B.J. Neufeld	85%
John Morris	91%
Ben Hebert	85%
<b>Team totals</b>	<b>84%</b>

**SEMIFINAL**

Alberta (Brendan Bottcher)	010 010 110 2 6
Saskatchewan (Matt Dunstone)	*101 001 002 0 5

\* Last-rock advantage

**PERCENTAGES**

**Saskatchewan**

Matt Dunstone	81%
Braeden Moskoway	85%
Kirk Myers	91%
Dustin Kidby	94%
<b>Team totals</b>	<b>88%</b>

**Alberta**

Brendan Bottcher	83%
Darren Moulding	79%
JBrad Thiessen	75%
Karrick Martin	91%
<b>Team totals</b>	<b>82%</b>

**FINAL STANDINGS**

**Playoffs**

	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Losses</b>
Alberta (Brendan Bottcher)	2	0
Saskatchewan (Matt Dunstone)	0	1
Wild Card 2 (Kevin Koe)	0	1

**Championship pool**

	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Losses</b>
*Wild Card 2 (Kevin Koe)	10	2
*Saskatchewan (Matt Dunstone)	9	3
*Alberta (Brendan Bottcher)	9	3
Team Canada (Brad Gushue)	8	4
Wild Card 3 (Glenn Howard)	8	4
Northern Ontario (Brad Jacobs)	7	5
Ontario (John Epping)	7	5
Manitoba (Jason Gunnlaugson)	6	6

\* The top three teams earned playoff positions. The first-place finisher, Wild Card 2, advanced directly to the final. Alberta defeated Saskatchewan 6-5 in the semifinal to play Wild Card 2 in the final.

**Round robin**

**Pool A**

	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Losses</b>
**Wild Card 3 (Glenn Howard)	7	1
**Alberta (Brendan Bottcher)	6	2
**Northern Ontario (Brad Jacobs)	5	3
**Manitoba (Jason Gunnlaugson)	5	3
New Brunswick (James Grattan)	4	4
Wild Card 1 (Mike McEwen)	4	4
British Columbia (Steve Laycock)	3	5
Northwest Territories (Greg Skauge)	2	6
Yukon (Dustin Mikkelsen)	0	8

**Pool B**

	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Losses</b>
**Wild Card 2 (Kevin Koe)	7	1
**Saskatchewan (Matt Dunstone)	6	2
**Team Canada (Brad Gushue)	6	2
**Ontario (John Epping)	6	2
Nova Scotia (Jamie Murphy)	4	4
Quebec (Mike Fournier)	4	4
Newfoundland/Labrador (Greg Smith)	2	6
P.E.I. (Eddie MacKenzie)	1	7
Nunavut (Peter Mackey)	0	8

\*\* The top four teams from Pool A and Pool B advanced to the Championship Pool, carrying their full win-loss records forward.

were. I think for each other as much as for ourselves, and that's pretty special."

As for Karrick Martin, he's one of a handful of players who have fathers who've won Tim Hortons Brier titles — dad Kevin won four of them.

"It's very special," said Martin. "I saw (the trophy) on the mantle a couple times, got to know it pretty well. I wanted to get it for myself; it took a few tries, and it's a big deal. I know how much work he put into it, and we put in a ton of work and definitely deserve this. I'm pretty happy for all of us."



Making the Tim Hortons Brier first team all-star list is quite an honour, and there to enjoy the accolades were (left to right) Brad Gushue, Braeden Moskow, Brad Thiessen and Ben Hebert.



Wild Card #2 skip Kevin Koe (left) and his third B.J. Neufeld, second Brett Gallant of Team Canada, and Northern Ontario lead Ryan Harnden were named to the 2021 Brier second all-star team.

### ALL-STAR TEAMS

#### First-team all-stars

Skip Brad Gushue, Team Canada  
 Third Braeden Moskow, Sask.  
 Second Brad Thiessen, Alberta  
 Lead Ben Hebert, Wild Card #2

#### Second-team all-stars

Skip Kevin Koe, Wild Card #2  
 Third B.J. Neufeld, Wild Card #2  
 Second Brett Gallant, Team Canada  
 Lead Ryan Harnden, N. Ontario

### ROSS HARSTONE AWARD

Team Alberta skip Brendan Bottcher is the winner of the 2021 Ross Harstone Award, whose recipient is selected by the players. The award is presented to the curler who best combines playing ability and sportsmanship.



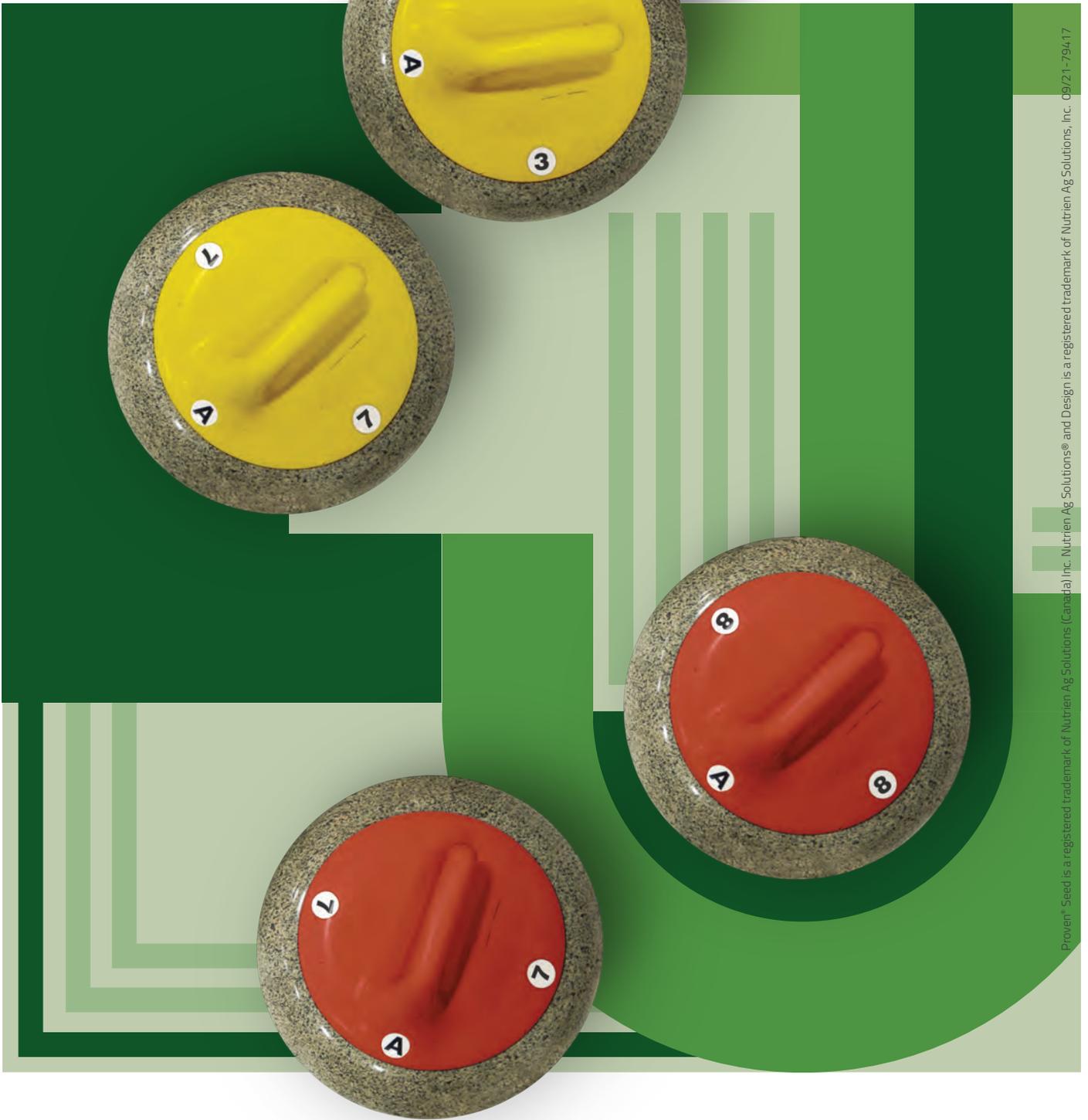
It's quite something to be a great curler, but to be voted as a great sportsman in addition is a special achievement. Brendan Bottcher displays the Ross Harstone Award.



More hardware for the Brendan Bottcher trophy case. Bottcher displays the award for winning the Hec Gervais Award.

### HEC GERVAIS AWARD

Presented to the most valuable player in the Tim Hortons Brier playoffs, the 2021 Hec Gervais Award was won by Alberta skip Brendan Bottcher



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# BKT TIRES & OK TIRE WORLD MEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESENTED BY NEW HOLLAND

Markin MacPhail Centre › Calgary, Canada › April 2 to 11, 2021

**King Niklas reigned supreme yet again on Canadian soil.**

Swedish superstar Niklas Edin made all kinds of history when his team won gold at the 2021 BKT Tires & OK Tire World Men's Curling Championship, presented by New Holland, in early April at WinSport Arena at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary.

Edin, along with vice-skip Oskar Eriksson, second Rasmus Wranå, lead Christoffer Sundgren, alternate Daniel Magnusson, team coach Fredrik Lindberg, national coach Maria Prytz, made history as the first man ever to win three straight world men's curling champions.

It also set Edin apart from the pack as the first five-time men's world champion skip, and it also marked the fifth time he's won a world championship gold medal on Canadian soil — four in men's play (this year in Calgary, 2019 in Lethbridge, Alta., 2015 in Halifax and 2013 in Victoria) and



Winning never gets old for the men from Sweden. World men's champions for the fifth time: (left to right) skip Niklas Edin, third Oskar Eriksson, second Rasmus Wranå and lead Christoffer Sundgren.

one at the World Juniors (2004 at Trois-Rivières, Que.).

"It feels super special," said Edin after his team turned back Scotland's Bruce Mouat 10-5 in the gold-medal final. "Going for three straight, and five titles (in his career), both of them were huge goals and obviously this is all leading up to the Olympics, which is the ultimate goal. So this was a huge step for us. Especially after a season like this — we've been practising OK, but not playing a lot of games, so we really didn't know our form going into this. So obviously not competing much worked out well for us."

The event was staged in a bubble environment in Calgary, with no fans in the building due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and many of the teams had arrived in Calgary with little in the way of competitive games.

Others, such as Canada's Brendan Bottcher team, had spent more than five weeks inside the bubble without seeing friends and family.

That bubble fatigue undoubtedly had an effect on Bottcher, vice-skip Darren Moulding, second Brad Thiessen, lead Karrick Martin, alternate Marc Kennedy, team coach Don Bartlett, team support Patrick Janssen and national coach Jeff Stoughton.

Canada finished with a 9-4 record in round-robin play, good enough to both make the playoffs tied for fourth place with the Scots as well as secure a berth for Canada in the men's field at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

But in the playoff qualification round, Canada fell short 5-3 to the Scots, who moved on to the semifinals.

"I'm really proud of the guys. There have been a lot of highs, a lot of lows," said Bottcher after the elimination. "I think we battled as hard as we could; I really do feel that way. Even the game out there tonight, they outplayed us. I think plain and simple that's what happened, but I think we battled right until the end."



Scottish skip Bruce Mouat shot 76 per cent in the gold-medal final, but giving up a five-ender late in the game proved to be his undoing.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY



They thought it would never be done, but Sweden's Niklas Edin has passed the great Ernie Richardson of Canada by winning his fifth world men's championship, this time in the "bubble" in Calgary.



**COLIN CAMPBELL MEMORIAL AWARD**

Swedish third Oskar Eriksson is the winner of the 2021 Colin Campbell Memorial Award. The award winner is selected annually by competitors in the World Men's Curling Championship as the player who best combines playing ability with sportsmanship. The award was instituted in 1979 to honour

the memory of Colin A. Campbell, who served as president of the International Curling Federation (now the World Curling Federation) from 1969 until his death in 1978.

John Shuster's U.S. team also made the playoffs with a 10-3 record to lock up an Olympic berth for his country (the top six finishers all earned Olympic berths for their respective nations), but was eliminated after losing 7-6 to Switzerland's Peter de Cruz (8-5) in the playoff qualifying round.

In the semifinals, Sweden (11-2 in the round robin) dispatched Switzerland 11-3, while Scotland (9-4) was a 5-3 winner over RCF's Sergey Glukhov (11-2).

In the gold-medal game, Edin broke open a 5-5 tie with a runback double takeout to score a stunning five in the ninth end, and Scotland immediately conceded defeat.

"The whole year was just awkward with no games," said Edin. "We didn't really know if we were still that good. So coming here, we had a lot of pressure on ourselves, a lot of nerves going into it. We're normally super confident going into events like this, but we just couldn't really know that our form and will to win was still the same. So winning this one feels unreal in a way."

It was Sweden's 10th gold medal, second only to Canada's 36.

In the bronze-medal game, Switzerland's last-rock thrower Benoît Schwarz drew to the four-foot with his final rock of the game to complete a 6-5 victory over RCF.

**FINAL**

Sweden (Niklas Edin)	*102 010 105 X 10
Scotland (Bruce Mouat)	020 101 010 X 5

\* Last-rock advantage

**PERCENTAGES**

Sweden		Scotland	
Niklas Edin	85%	Bruce Mouat	76%
Oskar Eriksson	92%	Grant Hardie	94%
Rasmus Wranå	86%	Bobbie Lammie	74%
Christoffer Sundgren	93%	Hammie McMillan Jr.	86%
<b>Team totals</b>	<b>89%</b>		<b>83%</b>

**BRONZE-MEDAL GAME**

Switzerland (Peter de Cruz)	200 101 010 1 6
RCF (Sergey Glukhov)	*010 020 101 0 5

**SEMIFINALS**

Sweden (Niklas Edin)	*101 051 03x x 11
Switzerland (Peter de Cruz)	010 200 00x x 3
RCF (Sergey Glukhov)	*010 100 001 0 3
Scotland (Bruce Mouat)	003 000 010 1 5

**QUALIFICATION ROUND**

United States (John Shuster)	*010 020 110 1 6
Switzerland (Peter de Cruz)	003 002 002 0 7
Canada (Brendan Bottcher)	*001 001 012 0 3
Scotland (Bruce Mouat)	000 010 202 x 5

**FINAL STANDINGS**

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Sweden (Niklas Edin)	2	0
Switzerland (Peter de Cruz)*	2	1
Scotland (Bruce Mouat)	2	1
Canada (Brendan Bottcher)	0	1
United States (John Shuster)	0	1
RCF (Sergey Glukhov)	0	2

\* Won bronze-medal game against RCF 6-5

**Round robin**

	Wins	Losses
Sweden (Niklas Edin)	11	2
RCF (Sergey Glukhov)	11	2
United States (John Shuster)	10	3
Canada (Brendan Bottcher)	9	4
Scotland (Bruce Mouat)	9	4
Switzerland (Peter de Cruz)	8	5
Italy (Joël Retornaz)	7	6
Norway (Steffen Walstad)	7	6
Japan (Yuta Matsumura)	6	7
Germany (Sixten Totzek)	4	9
Denmark (Mads Nørgård)	3	10
Netherlands (Jaap van Dorp)	2	11
South Korea (Jeong Yeong-seok)	2	11
China (Zou Qiang)	2	11

# LGT WORLD WOMEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESENTED BY PIONEER HI-BRED

Markin MacPhail Centre › Calgary, Canada › April 30 to May 9, 2021

## It was a grind of different sorts for a

Canadian team at a world women's curling championship. While it won't be known for landing Canada a position on the medal podium, it will be remembered as one of the gutsiest Canadian curling efforts in recent memory, with so much on the line.

It was a grind of different sorts for a Canadian team at a world women's curling championship. While it won't be known for landing Canada a position on the medal podium, it will be remembered as one of the gutsiest Canadian curling efforts in recent memory, with so much on the line.

Canada's Kerri Einarson entered the 2021 LGT World Women's Curling Championship, presented by BKT Tires, as a medal contender. The two-time defending Canadian champions were poised for a deep run into the playoffs and seemed to have all the momentum on their side.

Einarson, vice-skip Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard, lead Briane Meilleur, alternate Krysten Karwacki and coach Heather Nedohin all had weeks of experience in the Calgary bubble in WinSport Arena at Canada's Olympic Park at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship and two Grand Slam of Curling Events. The team from Gimli, Man., had all of the makings and talent needed to get Canada back on the world women's podium for the first time since 2018.

But, as is the case in any high-performance sport, sometimes the results don't go as expected. When adversity faced Canada with the challenge of only one win in its first six games, it would have been easy to call it quits and cut losses. But there was more on the line for the country as a whole as six teams qualifying for the playoffs also earned a precious spot for their respective nations in the women's



PHOTOS: WORLD CURLING FEDERATION/STEVE SEIXERO

There were plenty of smiling faces around the silverware after Silvana Tirinzoni (bottom left) skipped her Swiss team to another World Women's Curling Championship in Calgary. She also won the title in 2019. The 2020 championship was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

competition at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing.

Six wins over the next seven games clinched Canada's spot in the playoffs and guaranteed that the 2021 Tim Hortons Curling Trials winner in November 2021 will indeed travel to Beijing to wear the Maple Leaf.

"I've learned so much about myself and my teammates," Einarson said. "This is our very first time on the world stage, and we became a tight-knit family in here. We'll just grow from it and learn from this experience. I'm so excited to see what's next for us."

Team Canada split its first two games at the event. First, a one-point loss in a close 6-5 game against Sweden's Anna Hasselborg, followed by a 9-2 win against Anna Kubešková of the Czech Republic. From there, Einarson and her team faced the biggest bout of adversity with four losses in a row to Switzerland's Silvana



PHOTO: XXXX

Alina Pätz shot 79 per cent in the final to help her team from Switzerland win the gold-medal final against Alina Kovaleva, representing the Russian Curling Federation.

Tirinzoni, Alina Kovaleva of RCF (Russian Curling Federation), Tabitha Peterson of the U.S.A. and Germany's Daniela Jentsch.

But brick-by-brick, game-by-game, the Canadian women rebuilt the proverbial foundation.



Sweden's Anna Hasselborg, appearing in her fourth World Women's Curling Championship, was denied once again from winning gold. After a strong performance in the round-robin, she lost two of her three games in the playoffs, including a defeat in the bronze-medal game.

The team strung together five wins in a row, improving to a 6-5 record and transforming from a team in need of life support to flourishing and flirting with a spot in the playoffs. First, Canada doubled South Korea's Eun-jung Kim 8-4, trounced Stefania Constantini of Italy 10-4, edged Scotland's Eve Muirhead 6-5 in an extra end, rolled through Estonia's Marie Turmann 10-4 and bested Denmark's Madeleine Dupont 10-8.

While Einarson did lose the next game against Japan's Sayaka Yoshimura, her team bounced back with a win against China's Yu Han in its final round-robin game. With that done, the Canadian women still needed to wait for the final two draws to wrap up before knowing their destiny and if they had qualified.

Thanks to Switzerland's win over Germany, the Canadians locked up the sixth and final playoff spot via tiebreakers and, with it, the prized berth at the 2022 Olympics for a Canadian women's team. But now, with six teams still in the mix, and Team Canada one of them, there was another job to do. Team Einarson set its sights on winning an international medal.

However, the event ended as it began, with a loss to Sweden. This time in the qualifying game, Hasselborg did not often miss, with the entire team having more than 90 per cent shooting accuracy in winning the Qualifying Round game 8-3.

Switzerland's Team Tirinzoni reaped the rewards in Calgary, winning its second consecutive world women's title. First, the Swiss defeated the U.S.A. 7-3 to advance to the final. Then the team rallied for a 4-2 win against RCF to claim gold. In the bronze-medal game, the U.S.A. won its first medal at the world women's event since 2006 when Peterson upended Sweden 9-5.

### FRANCES BRODIE AWARD

Switzerland's Alina Pätz, who throws skip rocks, is the 2021 winner of the Frances Brodie Award. The award winner is selected annually by competitors in the World Women's Curling Championship as the player who best combines playing ability

### FINAL

Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	*100 200 000 1 4
RCF (Alina Kovaleva)	001 000 010 0 2

\* Last-rock advantage

### PERCENTAGES

Switzerland		RCF	
Alina Pätz	79%	Alina Kovaleva	78%
Silvana Tirinzoni	88%	Yulia Portunova	81%
E. Neuenschwander	84%	Galina Arsenkina	85%
Melanie Barbezat	91%	Ekaterina Kuzmina	88%
<b>Team totals</b>	<b>86%</b>		<b>83%</b>

### BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

United States (Tabitha Peterson)	000 110 502 x 9
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	*011 002 010 x 5

### SEMIFINALS

Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	*102 001 201 x 7
United States (Tabitha Peterson)	010 100 010 x 3

RCF (Alina Kovaleva)	010 410 101 0 8
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	001 003 020 1 7

### QUALIFICATION ROUND

Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	*102 020 21x x 8
Canada (Kerri Einarson)	010 101 00x x 3

Denmark (Madeleine Dupont)	*110 100 202 0 7
United States (Tabitha Peterson)	001 003 030 1 8

### FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	2	0
United States (Tabitha Peterson)*	2	1
RCF (Alina Kovaleva)	1	1
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	1	2
Canada (Kerri Einarson)	0	1
Denmark (Madeleine Dupont)	0	1

\* Won bronze-medal game against Sweden 9-5

Round robin	Wins	Losses
Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	12	1
RCF (Alina Kovaleva)	11	2
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	10	3
Denmark (Madeleine Dupont)	8	5
United States (Tabitha Peterson)	7	6
Canada (Kerri Einarson)	7	6
South Korea (Kim Eun-jung)	7	6
Scotland (Eve Muirhead)	6	7
Germany (Daniela Jentsch)	6	7
China (Han Yu)	6	7
Japan (Sayaka Yoshimura)	5	8
Czech Republic (Anna Kubešková)	3	10
Italy (Stefania Constantini)	2	11
Estonia (Marie Turmann)	1	12

with sportsmanship. The award was named in honour of Scotland's Frances Brodie, one of curling's pioneering women. Brodie helped establish the women's world championship and chaired the first such event in Perth, Scotland, in 1979. The award was presented for the first time in 1989.



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# HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESENTED BY NATURE'S BOUNTY VITAMINS

Markin MacPhail Centre › Calgary › March 18 to 25, 2021

**It's argued that the best mixed doubles** curling teams comprise of players with both experience at skip and front end.

Having the strategic wherewithal and the decisiveness of a skip, combined with a sweeper's stamina and power, have worked well for the likes of former Canadian mixed doubles champions such as Jocelyn Peterman/Brett Gallant and Laura Walker/Kirk Muyres.

But two skips — Kerri Einarson of Camp Morton, Man., and Brad Gushue of St. John's, N.L., — squashed that theory at the 2021 Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship, presented by Nature's Bounty Vitamins. Einarson and Gushue, a first-time, all-skip duo, emerged victorious in WinSport Arena at Canada's Olympic Park in Calgary by defeating 34 other mixed doubles teams vying for the championship at the only mixed doubles event in the hub city.

It was record-setting in itself as Einarson and Gushue became the first all-skip team to win the event since its inception in 2013. It was memorable because Einarson won her second Canadian curling championship in a month after leading Team Canada to victory at the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. It was impressive for Canadian curling in the sense that Einarson has already become the third curler to win women's and mixed doubles titles in the same season (following Peterman in 2016 and Joanne Courtney in 2017).

"Wow, it's crazy," said an ecstatic Einarson after the game. "I never thought I would win a mixed doubles title in the same year (as a Scotties), and it feels absolutely amazing."

In the final, Einarson and Gushue defeated Kadriana Sahaidak and Colton Lott of Winnipeg Beach, Man., 9-6. For the latter, it was their second silver-medal



PHOTOS: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Two of the most recognizable skips in Canada showed they can do a little heavy sweeping when they have to by capturing the Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles championship in Calgary. Showing off their championship hardware after the final victory are gold medallists Kerri Einarson of Gimli, Man., and Brad Gushue of St. John's, N.L. The pair went on to represent Canada at the world championships in Aberdeen, Scotland, where they finished fourth.

Kadriana Sahaidak and Colton Lott had a splendid week on the ice but fell just short by losing in the gold-medal final.



finish at the Canadian mixed doubles event after placing second in 2018. Sahaidak and Lott had an opportunity for an early first-end lead, but a missed double resulted in a steal of one for Einarson and Gushue, which the seasoned curlers used to their advantage. Einarson and Gushue capitalized with a steal of four in the fourth end for a 7-1 lead which allowed them an opportunity to control the game en route to the win.

With 35 teams vying for the title, predicting a winner is anyone's guess. The teams were separated into five pools of seven and played six-game round robins. The top 12 teams moved onto the qualifying round with the top four teams — Lisa Weagle/John Epping, Danielle Schmiemann/John Morris, Peterman/Gallant and Jennifer Jones/Brent Laing — receiving a bye through the first round.

Einarson and Gushue battled through some wins and losses, heading to the final. In their opening playoff game against Alberta's rep Brittany Tran and Aaron Sluchinkski, the Einarson/Gushue duo surged to an 8-4 lead before giving up four in the seventh end and needing a single point to win. The following game, an 11-2 win against Jones/Laing, provided them with the kind of ongoing confidence and validation needed after the first game of the playoffs. Fans watched a preview of the final during the Page playoff seeding games, with Sahaidak and Lott dealing the first blow with an 8-5 win. The win sent the Winnipeg Beach



Kerri Einarson calls for a hard brushing from teammate Brad Gushue at the Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles championship in Calgary. They finished the week off in style, winning the final 9-6.

duo to the 1v2 game, while Einarson and Gushue would need to scramble through the long route — the 3v4 game.

Up first was the 2018 championship-winning duo of Walker/Muyres. It was a back and forth game, but a three-ender in the sixth end was the main difference that elevated Einarson and Gushue into the semifinal against Schmiemann/Morris. In that game, Einarson drew to the four-foot for the win in the final end, which set up the gold-medal re-match against the Winnipeg Beach duo that resided a mere 28 kilometres from her home town of Camp Morton.

The win marked Gushue's second appearance in a major mixed doubles final after pairing with Val Sweeting, who plays third on Einarson's women's team, and being one win away from representing Canada at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games during the 2018 Canad Inns Canadian Mixed Doubles Trials in Portage la Prairie, Man.

"The last year has been a challenge for everybody, and to come here and have a disappointing performance at the Brier,

and then follow it up with a good performance here, it kind of makes up for a lot of the crappy stuff that's happened in the last year. I had a ton of fun this week; I really enjoyed playing with Kerri, and even off the ice, telling stories, teasing each other, laughing. It's been a ton of fun," Gushue said.

Einarson and Gushue represented Team Canada at the 2021 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship with a lot on the line, including qualifying Canada for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games mixed doubles competition by placing in the top seven at the event. Canada placed fourth overall, losing the bronze-medal game to Sweden's Almida de Val/Oskar Eriksson, but securing Canada a spot at the Olympics and an opportunity to defend the gold medals that Kaitlyn Lawes and Morris won in 2018.

The 2021 Canad Inns Canadian Mixed Doubles Trials event will once again be held in Portage la Prairie and will determine Canada's mixed doubles entry at the upcoming Games in Beijing. Both teams in the final, Einarson/Gushue and Sahaidak/Lott, qualified for the event due to their performances in Calgary.

### FINAL

Kerri Einarson, Brad Gushue	102 402 0x 9
Kadriana Sahaidak/Colton Lott	*010 010 4x 6

\* Last-rock advantage

### FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Kerri Einarson/Brad Gushue	5	1
Kadriana Sahaidak/Colton Lott	4	1
Danielle Schmiemann/John Morris	2	2
Shannon Birchard, Catlin Schneider	1	1
Laura Walker/Kirk Muyres	1	1
Lisa Weagle/John Epping	1	1
Val Sweeting/Marc Kennedy	0	1
Emma Miskew/Ryan Fry	0	1
Mackenzie Michell/Greg Smith	0	1
Jocelyn Peterman/Brett Gallant	0	1
Jennifer Jones/Brent Laing	0	1

### Round robin

Pool A	Wins	Losses
Jocelyn Peterman/Brett Gallant	5	1
Kadriana Sahaidak/Colton Lott	5	1
Brittany Tran/Aaron Sluchinski	4	2
Clancy Grandy/Patrick Janssen	3	3
Joanne Courtney/Darren Moulding	3	3
Melissa Adams/Alex Robichaud	1	5
Angela Dale/Peter Van Strien	0	6

Pool B	Wins	Losses
Jennifer Jones/Brent Laing	5	1
Kerri Einarson/Brad Gushue	5	1
Laurie St-Georges/Felix Asselin	4	2
Emile Desjardins/Robert Desjardins	3	3
Lauren Wasylikiw/Shane Konings	2	4
Kimberly Tuck/Wayne Tuck	2	4
Bayly Scoffin/Wade Scoffin	0	6

Pool C	Wins	Losses
Laura Walker/Kirk Muyres	6	0
Nancy Martin/Tyrel Griffith	4	2
Selena Njegovan/Reid Carruthers	4	2
Briane Meilleur/Mark Nichols	3	3
Chaelynn Kitz/Kyler Kleibrink	2	4
Lauren MacFadyen/Alex MacFadyen	1	5
Stephanie Jackson-Baier/Corey Chester	1	5

Pool D	Wins	Losses
Emma Miskew/Ryan Fry	5	1
Val Sweeting/Marc Kennedy	5	1
Shannon Birchard/Catlin Schneider	4	2
Krysten Karwacki/Derek Samagalski	3	3
Karlee Jones/Bryce Everist	3	3
Bobbie Sauder/Brendan Bottcher	1	5
Elizabeth King/Landon King	0	6

Pool E	Wins	Losses
Danielle Schmiemann/John Morris	5	1
Lisa Weagle/John Epping	5	1
Mackenzie Michell/Greg Smith	4	2
Ashley Quick/Mike Armstrong	2	4
Oye-Sem Won/Trevor Bonot	2	4
Dazaray Hawes/Tyler Tardi	2	4
Kaitlyn Lawes/Connor Lawes	1	5

# { IN THE NEWS }

The COVID-19 pandemic, which set the world back when it was first identified in early 2020, did not spare the sport of curling. The sport was laid low last season, and only the miracle of the Hub City Bubble in Calgary kept national and international events alive.

But the pandemic also played havoc with the men and women who would otherwise be honoured for their contributions to the sport over the past season. Regrettably, many of the award categories went dormant. But at least one person in the sport was recognized: super coach Jules Owchar of Edmonton.

## HALL OF FAME

The award salutes those hard-working volunteers who are a vital component to curling facility operations.

Because of the pandemic, there was not an award winner last season.

## CURLING CANADA AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT

Presented annually, Curling Canada's Award of Achievement recognizes an individual who has contributed significantly to curling in one of four areas — builder, technical development (instructor, coach, official, ice technician, marketing and media).

Because of the pandemic, there was not an award winner last season.

## CURLING CANADA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The award salutes those hard-working volunteers who are a vital component to curling facility operations.

Because of the pandemic, there was not an award winner last season.

## RAY KINGSMITH EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The award is presented annually to the volunteer who best exemplifies the dedication to curling and benevolence demonstrated by Kingsmith throughout his life.

Because of the pandemic, there was not an award winner last season.



Jules Owchar (centre) has coached teams skipped by Brad Gushue (left) and Kevin Martin to world and Olympic championships. Owchar is a member of Curling Canada's Hall of Fame.

## JANET ARNOTT EXCEPTIONAL COACH AWARD

One of the most familiar, and respected, curling coaches in the world has been honoured again.

Jules Owchar, who has coached teams skipped by Brad Gushue and Kevin Martin to world (Gushue in 2017, Martin in 2008) and Olympic championships (Martin in 2010) in addition to helping the curling program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton (NAIT, has been named winner of the 2021 Janet Arnett Exceptional Coach Award.

The award recognizes exceptional coaching contributions and accomplishments over a significant period of time. It is awarded only in special circumstances to an individual who has coached at the national/high performance level, and has been a difference-maker in the sport of curling as a result of their contribution to the development, well-being or sport-for-life aspirations of an athlete, athletes or team.

The award was created by the Women in Curling Leadership Circle to recognize the exceptional attributes and contributions of the late Janet Arnett to the profession of coaching in curling. Arnett's passion, commitment and relentless pursuit of excellence were trademarks of her coaching style.

In addition to his coaching achievements with various teams, Owchar was inducted into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame in 2019.

Owchar guided Edmonton's Martin to 10 provincial championships and four Canadian championships. As Martin's coach, he has also coached at three Winter Olympics and four world championships.

After Martin's retirement at the end of the 2013-14 season, Owchar was recruited by 2006 Olympic gold medallist Gushue to coach his Newfoundland and Labrador team. Since coming on board, the team has achieved much success under Owchar's tutelage, including three Tim Hortons Brier titles and a world championship.

Owchar began his career at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology as a physical education instructor in 1969.



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# NO BURSTING THIS BUBBLE

BY ANDREW DENNY

**B**Y THE NUMBERS, CURLING CANADA'S HUB City Bubble at WinSport Arena at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary was Canada's largest and most successful athletic bio-secure bubble.

More than 90 days of competition and six new Canadian/world champions were crowned while 209 volunteers contributed 10,870 hours of their time working alongside athletes, staff and health officials to ensure a successful and safe bubble. Thanks to Tim Hortons, more than 14,000 cups of coffee were consumed in the bubble along with 9,852 donuts, 4,476 muffins, 6,636 cookies and 8,618 litres of water.

And while the success of the bubble cannot be truly encapsulated by metrics alone, it can be measured in the amount of hope it inspired by bringing live curling back into our homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The execution of the Calgary Hub City Bubble will not be a small appendix in the annals of history, either; it will have proven to be one of the greatest feats in curling — ever. Taking on

unprecedented conditions, a laundry list of unknowns and building up the sheer gall to make an attempt at running events, Curling Canada will have successfully produced four world-calibre events, with an additional two Grand Slam events piggybacking on the planning and execution of the Hub City Bubble.

It goes without saying that without the support and vision of Curling Canada's Board of Directors, the Hub City Bubble would not have been possible. Much of the risk of planning a large-scale athletics bubble fell on the shoulders of the board of directors and it was a challenge they did not shy away from, said board chair Amy Nixon.

"The Bubble conversations were really about risk vs opportunity. The board was, as it should be given its role, concerned about understanding the financial and reputational risks, the safety and well being of our staff, volunteers, the players and their support teams. That was paramount. We believed that there would be great interest amongst the fans given the pandemic reality that many people were facing."

PHOTOS: MIKE BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY



Major curling was brought back to Canadians in the bio-secure bubble of the WinSport Arena at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary.

Balancing the needs of fans and athletes weighed heavily on the board's mind as well, where striking a balance between both was deemed paramount.

"We believed that there would be great interest in the events amongst the fans given the pandemic reality that many people were facing," said Nixon. "We were mindful of the timing of the Olympic qualifying and the need to provide the high performance teams with some aspect of competition in 2021."

Nixon was aware of the herculean nature of the project, and while the board approved and incurred much of the risk surrounding the Hub City Bubble's execution, she credits Curling Canada staff for their efforts.

"I am sure that the employees had much more to contemplate on a daily basis than the board did," she said. "There was no doubt that there were some moments of doubt where we had test results that required further information/exploration. We were always keenly aware of the need to provide very careful consideration to the safety of all those involved on the ground in Calgary."



Curling Canada chief executive officer Katherine Henderson was instrumental in putting together a plan to make the herculean task of the Calgary Hub City Bubble concept work. The execution of the bubble required the enormous commitment from everybody involved, including Curling Canada's Board of Directors.

Canadian women's champion Val Sweeting was grateful for an opportunity to play, knowing the difficulties involved in putting on a series of events during a pandemic.



**THE EXECUTION OF THE HUB CITY BUBBLE IS A TESTAMENT TO THE THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF LABOUR FROM CURLING CANADA STAFF, ALBERTA HEALTH, ICE TECHNICIANS, VOLUNTEERS, BROADCAST STAFF, AND HUNDREDS OF ATHLETES. ALL THESE COMPONENTS WORKING IN SYNCOPATION MADE THE HUB CITY BUBBLE A COMPLETE SUCCESS.**

Nixon was also part of the volunteer corps that was essential to the successful execution of the bubble, despite how different it felt from a regular championship.

“I was a volunteer statistician during the Hub City Bubble in various events. I scored the Scotties final game and I remember both observing the eerie feeling of a win that big in such a quiet building, but also the feeling of fierce pride in that moment that our operations team had managed to get the players and competition to that moment without any serious health impacts.”

Nixon also extends her gratitude for a successful bubble to many others on behalf of Curling Canada's Board of Directors.

“There are so many people who deserve heaps of credit who were on the ground. Danny Lamoureux, Kyle Jahns, Al Cameron, Nolan Thiessen, Danielle Inglis and the countless volunteers who gave their time and energy in a challenging time and environment. Katherine Henderson, as well, for championing her team's ideas and planning. No doubt in my mind that as the CEO, she deserves definite kudos. (Also) Shannon Kleibrink from Curling Alberta, who spent much of the months of the bubble in the arena coordinating volunteer schedules, among other (multiple) duties as assigned. Many of my board colleagues invested significant amounts of time in the concept and the meetings required. No one less than both of our former Chairs of the Board whose tenures overlapped from concept approval to completion: John Shea and Mitch Minken.”

Board chair Amy Nixon was part of the volunteer corps that was essential to the successful execution of the bubble. She was one of many to step up and make it happen.



Val Sweeting, part of the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts championship team, experienced the bubble first hand over multiple events and expressed her gratitude for an opportunity to play.

“It meant so much to be able to play here,” she said. “It took a ton of people, a ton of organizers. The Curling Canada crew, Sportsnet, TSN, the World Curling Federation, and the athletes. It was a lot on everybody, but we're still super grateful and it went off really smoothly. There were hiccups here and there, but I think they were all managed really well by the organizers and the athletes. The icemaking crew especially – some of them were there for a super long stretch. Thank you to everyone for the opportunity.”

The execution of the Hub City Bubble is a testament to the thousands of hours of labour from Curling Canada staff, Alberta Health, ice technicians, volunteers, broadcast staff, and hundreds of athletes. All these components working in syncopation made the Hub City Bubble a complete success.

Odds are we'll never see another bubble again. There won't be any eerily still walks down the sheet in celebration of newly crowned champions, nor will there be any more silence in the crowd from cardboard fans after a top quality shot.

Soon, fans will return to their seats, eager to cheer on their favourite teams and yet there's a subtle beauty having seen curling from a different perspective and knowing that The Roaring Game will roar once more.

---

*Andrew Denny is writer/editor and web content journalist*

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# READY TO PICK UP WHERE THEY LEFT OFF



Canada's National Wheelchair Curling Team members have been working hard to keep their skills sharp. They participated in a training camp in Waterloo, Ont., in September.

BY BRIAN CHICK

**W**HEN THE CANADIAN NATIONAL Wheelchair Curling Team parted ways at Toronto's Pearson Airport in March 2020, it faced an iffy future.

Mark Ideson, Ina Forrest, Dennis Theissen, John Thurston and Colinda Joseph were fresh off a silver medal-winning performance at the world championship in Switzerland and, as they said their goodbyes and headed for different connecting flights home, COVID-19 and its related shutdowns had begun to sweep the globe.

Little could team members imagine it would be nearly 18 months before they would see each other again in person.

"As we were leaving Switzerland, cases were starting to pop up all over the world," said Mick Lizmore, named head coach following the championship. "After we'd been back in Canada for about a week, all the lockdowns began."

Canada was among the numerous countries to impose restrictions, although guidelines differed across the land. In some locales, indoor gatherings of any sort were banned, while others had limitations on the number of people allowed and/or distancing requirements. Curling clubs opened and closed accordingly.

"We thought about holding some small satellite camps, but as those dates approached, more restrictions came into place so it became impossible," said Lizmore. "We quickly realized we were better off assuming that we weren't going to be able to get together, and started to work towards coming up with training plans on a more individual level."

Without a crystal ball to predict when lockdowns would end, or if the team would be able to travel again, planning for a season became very difficult.

"We love getting together, and practising, and seeing each other," said Lizmore. "But that wasn't possible, obviously, so we had to find the opportunity in the challenge. We had to pivot and direct our attention to some things that maybe hadn't gotten a lot of attention before."

Players who found available ice continued to practice, while others discovered different ways to work on their skills at home.

"Everybody got creative," said team leader Wendy Morgan. "Dennis started tossing beanbags, like playing 'Cornhole' just to keep the target practice, and a similar movement familiar. Everybody came up with their own little inventions or innovations to keep training at home as much as possible. We tried new things with lasers and different technology . . . anything that would help the athletes train by themselves. They were problem-solving for their own situations."

The only way the team could gather was on Zoom. While a poor substitution for on-ice training, the forced downtime allowed the squad to address other parts of the game, including strategy, team dynamics and season planning.

"We wanted to be creative and stay connected," said Morgan. "So we tried to put the camps together in a way that was fun. Some of the onus was on the athletes, some was just trying to keep us connected, and doing some fun stuff together."

"Because our team is decentralized anyway, this almost seemed like an opportunity to see each other more, and communicate more, even if it is remotely," said Lizmore.

"I could see us doing a lot of this stuff even after the pandemic," added Thurston. "We were really able to get a lot done, even in the virtual meetings. The strategy stuff and game-tape review was really good. It kept our mind on curling, and we were able to get a lot out of it."



Back together again and on the ice: (left to right) Fourth rock Jon Thurston, third Ina Forrest, second Dennis Thiessen, lead/skip Mark Ideson and fifth Collinda Joseph. Not pictured is coach Mick Lizmore.



Team leader Wendy Morgan faced the task of keeping the Canadian players involved and continuously training during the down time caused by the pandemic.

With help from Own The Podium and Curling Canada’s Renée Sonnenberg (Women’s Program and Analytics Lead), the coaching staff examined all the statistics from recent championships and applied a new level of analytics.

“Through some new data that we had access to, we were able to compare the probability of making certain shots,” said Morgan. “So our strategy lesson now had this different aspect of shot-selection, because we could incorporate the probability numbers.”

“The analytics stuff we went through with Renée was really time well spent,” said Forrest. “It will lead to a lot of little increments of improvement that can make the difference when it matters.”

“We all understand shot difficulty, but when you see it on a paper in green versus red, and you can see it in plain numbers, it becomes more real,” said Morgan. “We started using the data to our advantage.”

The calls weren’t all curling business, however. The team had regular check-ins with a variety of medical experts including doctors, physiotherapists and dietitians.

“In a time when health and wellness was being threatened, we made it a priority by having regular meetings with all our specialists,” said Lizmore. “Typically, we’d see the team doctor or physiotherapist at the camps here and there, but we did a lot of regular virtual meetings with the whole staff to make sure we were doing everything we could.”

The time apart also reinforced a big part of the regular National Team preparation routine: Autonomy. More than before, athletes were on their own, creating their own practice plans, their own drills,

and their own innovations to make their personal efforts more effective throughout the season.

“Anytime anybody did have ice, which was off-and-on all year depending on which province you were in – and seldom together with a coach or another player – everybody knew exactly what their training plan was going to look like,” said Morgan. “But they were probably going to be out there alone, so it really put the athlete in charge of their own training more than ever.”

As time went on, it became clear that the world championship in Beijing, scheduled for March 2021, was not going to happen. At the same time, each province still had different (and constantly changing) restrictions on travel, health and safety related lockdowns. Getting the team together for training was still impossible.

While Curling Canada, the World Curling Federation and the Grand Slam of Curling series were able to create the Calgary “bubble” and host several international events in early 2021, wheelchair curling wasn’t among them. The season passed without a competitive stone being delivered.

The Beijing world championship, a test event for the upcoming 2022 Paralympic Games, were rescheduled for October 2021, meaning Team Canada will have two trips to China this season.

“We’re kind of going into the Paralympics not knowing the protocols and what-not,” said Ideson. “To have the ability to go to Beijing and have a bit of a dry run ahead of time will be a bonus.”

Team Canada was forced to play in the

B Group world championship in 2019-20, following a messy tiebreaker scenario the previous season. After winning the B Group title in Finland, the same team nearly won the A Group championship in Switzerland just a few months later.

“Obviously, we didn’t want to be at the World B’s, but the benefit of having the B championship, then the A Group, was having two major championships back-to-back,” said Ideson. “It gave us the skill set we need leading into this season. We had a sneak peek at that sort of schedule last year, so we’ll be prepared this time around.”

“That season gave us a bit of a blueprint,” said Lizmore “We’ll have a bit of confidence going into this year because it is a similar schedule, and a similar path to something we’ve already done.”

The team’s first training camp was scheduled for August 2021 and the first face-to-face contact in nearly 18 months.

“Everybody is itching to get on the ice,” said Morgan, prior to the camp. “They’re so excited to see each other, and to be together again. And we already know exactly what those first days, and the whole first camp is going to be like. We’re not waiting to figure it out!”

“I feel like it’ll feel pretty natural when we get back on the ice,” said Ideson. “Of course, we’ll need a bit of time to shake off the cobwebs, but once we’re all back together on the ice, we’ll feel pretty inspired and pick up where we left off.”

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*Brian Chick, author of Written in Stone: A Modern History of Curling, is a curling professional in Toronto and a frequent contributor to Curling Canada projects*

# THE 2022 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



The Beijing National Aquatics Center, known as the Water Cube, hosted aquatics competitions at the 2008 Summer Olympics and Paralympics. It will be converted to the Ice Cube and host all the curling events at the 2022 Winter Olympics.

**C**URLING WILL ONCE AGAIN HAVE THREE medals available at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games next February in Beijing, China.

And in order to determine mixed doubles, women's and men's Olympic champions, the sport is being played over the course of 19 days of competition, which is two extra days that need to be played beginning on the Wednesday before the Opening Ceremony. It will all take place at the National Aquatics Centre, also known as the Water Cube. The venue, which is traditionally used for aquatics events, including at the 2008 Summer Olympics and Paralympics Games, has been renovated to host curling events.

It will be the seventh time that curling has been a full-medal sport, and the 2022 edition kicks off with the mixed doubles competition on Feb. 2 — two days before the official opening ceremony. That competition will conclude with medal games on Tuesday, Feb. 8. The four-player competition for men and women begins the following day and concludes with the men's gold-medal

game on Saturday, Feb. 19, and the women's gold-medal game the following day.

The Games officially welcomed curling in July 1992, when the IOC announced that curling would be recognized for the first time as a medal sport at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Japan. Curling made its Olympic debut as a full-medal sport in 1998 at Kazakoshi Park Arena in Karuizawa, Japan, about an hour from downtown Nagano.

Curling made its next Olympic appearance in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2002 at The Ice Sheet arena on the campus of Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, 45 kilometres north of Salt Lake City.

Four years later, in 2006, the Olympic curling competition took place at the Palaghiaccio, a multi-purpose ice arena in Pinerolo, Italy, 35 kilometres southwest of Torino.

Vancouver played host to the 2010 Olympics and the curling events were held at the 5,600-seat Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre.

PHOTOS: HANDOUTS



In 2014, the 3,000-seat Ice Cube Curling Center in Sochi, Russia, hosted the curling competition.

Mixed doubles curling made its debut at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea at the 3,500-seat Gangneung Curling Centre. It was the first time three medals were awarded in a curling competition at the Olympic Winter Games.

### THE ROAD TO BEIJING

The World Curling Federation has 66 member associations, but only 10 women's and men's teams are allowed to participate at the medal level of the 2022 Games in four-player competition. For mixed doubles, there is an increased quota of 10 teams competing at Beijing 2022, compared to eight teams in 2018.

Although Scotland, Wales and England compete individually in the world championships, Great Britain has only one entry in the Olympics. For 2022, only Scotland was nominated to earn Olympic points and

qualification on behalf of Great Britain. China, as host nation, has berths in both the men's and women's team competitions, in addition to the mixed doubles event.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of the 2020 world championships, all Olympic qualification was determined through the 2021 championships. The six highest-ranked men's and women's teams earned berths to the Olympic Winter Games.

The remaining three men's and women's berths will be determined at a WCF Olympic Qualification Event to be staged Dec. 5-18 at Elfsedenhal in Leeuwarden, Netherlands.

For mixed doubles, the seven highest-ranked teams at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship earned spots in the mixed doubles discipline at the Olympic Winter Games.

The final two teams will also be determined at the WCF Olympic Qualification Event taking place in Leeuwarden. ■

It will take 19 days of competition in the Beijing National Aquatics Centre to determine the medal winners at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. The curling competition will start before the actual official Opening Ceremonies.

## HOME HARDWARE CURLING PRE-TRIALS

# PLAYER PROFILES



OCTOBER 25 TO 31, 2021 > QUEENS PLACE EMERA CENTRE > LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA

### TEAM ANDERSON SASKATOON



Sherry Anderson



Nancy Martin



Chaelynn Kitz



Breanne Knapp

**SKIP:** Sherry Anderson **Born:** Jan. 16, 1964 **Occupation:** Owner/partner (C&S Promotions) ■ **THIRD:** Nancy Martin **Born:** Feb. 17, 1973 **Occupation:** Public Servant, Government of Canada ■ **SECOND:** Chaelynn Kitz **Born:** March 10, 1997 **Occupation:** Kinesiology graduate, University of Saskatchewan ■ **LEAD:** Breanne Knapp **Born:** April 16, 1990 **Occupation:** Registered dietician, Saskatchewan Health Authority ■ **COACH:** Shane Kitz

### TEAM BARKER MOOSE JAW, SASK.



Penny Barker



Christie Gamble



Jenna Enge



Danielle Scinski

**SKIP:** Penny Barker **Born:** Sept. 25, 1985 **Occupation:** Director of actuarial services pricing, SGI CANADA ■ **THIRD:** Christie Gamble **Born:** May 22, 1986 **Occupation:** Senior director of sustainability, CabonCure ■ **SECOND:** Jenna Enge **Born:** March 2, 1988 **Occupation:** Letter carrier, Canada Post ■ **LEAD:** Danielle Scinski **Born:** Nov. 30, 1982 **Occupation:** Accountant ■ **COACH:** Mark Lang

### TEAM BIRT CORNWALL/MONTAGUE, P.E.I.



Suzanne Birt



Marie Christianson



Meaghan Hughes



Michelle McQuaid

**SKIP:** Suzanne Birt **Born:** Oct. 2, 1981 **Occupation:** Stay-at-home mom ■ **THIRD:** Marie Christianson **Born:** Aug. 12, 1988 **Occupation:** Registered massage therapist, Brickyard Health ■ **SECOND:** Meaghan Hughes **Born:** Jan. 3, 1986 **Occupation:** Lawyer, Province of P.E.I. ■ **LEAD:** Michelle McQuaid **Born:** July 30, 1991 **Occupation:** TEAM lead, Veterans Affairs Canada ■ **COACH:** Kathy O'Rourke

### TEAM BROTHERS HALIFAX



Jill Brothers



Erin Carmody



Sarah Murphy



Jenn Mitchell

**SKIP:** Jill Brothers **Born:** May 20, 1983 **Occupation:** Hairstylist, Dime Salon ■ **THIRD:** Erin Carmody **Born:** Aug. 4, 1988 **Occupation:** Research assistant, GI Research IWK Health / Clinical dietician, IWK Health ■ **SECOND:** Sarah Murphy **Born:** July 28, 1986 **Occupation:** Forensic engineer, Contract Engineering Limited ■ **LEAD:** Jenn Mitchell **Born:** May 11, 1988 **Occupation:** Autism specialist, HRCE ■ **ALTERNATE:** Kim Kelly ■ **COACH:** Jeff Wilson

# HOME HARDWARE CURLING PRE-TRIALS PLAYER PROFILES

## TEAM BROWN KAMLOOPS, B.C.



Corryn Brown



Erin Pincott



Dezaray Hawes



Samantha Fisher

**SKIP:** Corryn Brown **Born:** July 19, 1995 **Occupation:** Provincial airtanker centre dispatch, BC Wildfire Service ■ **THIRD:** Erin Pincott **Born:** April 17, 1995 **Occupation:** Sport performance coordinator, PacificSport Interior BC ■ **SECOND:** Dezaray Hawes **Born:** Jan. 23, 1997 **Occupation:** Senior administrator, MNP LLP ■ **LEAD:** Samantha Fisher **Born:** Sept. 19, 1995 **Occupation:** Respiratory therapist, Interior Health Authority

## TEAM DUNCAN WOODSTOCK, ONT.



Hollie Duncan



Megan Balsdon



Rachelle Strybosch



Tess Bobbie

**SKIP:** Hollie Duncan **Born:** Jan. 6, 1987 **Occupation:** Lawyer and decision writer, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario ■ **THIRD:** Megan Balsdon **Born:** May 10, 1982 **Occupation:** Research associate, SoleScience Inc.; PhD candidate, Western University ■ **SECOND:** Rachelle Strybosch **Born:** July 1, 1991 **Occupation:** General manager, Woodstock Meadows Golf Centre ■ **LEAD:** Tess Bobbie **Born:** Aug. 12, 1991 **Occupation:** Senior claims assistant, Allstate Canada ■ **ALTERNATE:** Julie Tippin ■ **COACH:** Barry Westman

## TEAM GALUSHA YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.



Kerry Galusha



Jo-Ann Rizzo



Sarah Koltun



Margot Flemming

**SKIP/LEAD:** Kerry Galusha **Born:** Nov. 3, 1977 **Occupation:** Financial officer of Department of Justice, Government of the Northwest Territories ■ **VICE-SKIP-FOURTH:** Jo-Ann Rizzo **Born:** June 1, 1963 **Occupation:** Curler ■ **THIRD:** Sarah Koltun **Born:** July 6, 1993 **Occupation:** Medicine student, Northern Ontario School of Medicine ■ **SECOND:** Margot Flemming **Born:** Dec. 9, 1993 **Occupation:** PhD student, geography, University of Waterloo ■ **ALTERNATE:** Shona Barbour

## TEAM HARRISON DUNDAS, ONT.



Jacqueline Harrison



Allison Flaxey



Lynn Kreviazuk



Laura Hickey

**SKIP:** Jacqueline Harrison **Born:** July 28, 1978 **Occupation:** Full-time mother ■ **THIRD:** Allison Flaxey **Born:** Feb. 17, 1985 **Occupation:** Sales division manager (Canada Malting) ■ **SECOND:** Lynn Kreviazuk **Born:** May 2, 1991 **Occupation:** Executive assistant, House of Commons/Government of Canada ■ **LEAD:** Laura Hickey **Born:** May 31, 1988 **Occupation:** Occupational Therapist, Lifemark Health ■ **COACH:** Caleb Flaxey

## TEAM INGLIS MISSISSAUGA, ONT.



Danielle Inglis



Jessica Corrado



Stephanie Corrado



Cassandra de Groot

**SKIP:** Danielle Inglis **Born:** Feb. 26, 1988 **Occupation:** Social media and web content coordinator, Curling Canada ■ **THIRD:** Jessica Corrado **Born:** May 21, 1991 **Occupation:** General maintenance, Toronto District School Board ■ **SECOND:** Stephanie Corrado **Born:** July 27, 1985 **Occupation:** Administrative assistant, Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan ■ **LEAD:** Cassandra de Groot **Born:** April 5, 1988 **Occupation:** Associate wealth advisor, RBC Dominion Securities ■ **COACH:** Lynne Corrado

## TEAM McCARVILLE THUNDER BAY, ONT.



Krista McCarville



Kendra Lilly



Ashley Sippala



Sarah Potts

**SKIP:** Krista McCarville **Born:** November 10, 1982 **Occupation:** Teacher, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board ■ **THIRD:** Kendra Lilly **Born:** June 18, 1991 **Occupation:** Operations manager, DKB Financial Services Group Inc. ■ **SECOND:** Ashley Sippala **Born:** Jan. 21, 1987 **Occupation:** Lab technician, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre ■ **LEAD:** Sarah Potts **Born:** Sept. 21, 1989 **Occupation:** Social worker, St. Joseph's Care Group ■ **COACH:** Rick Lang

# HOME HARDWARE CURLING PRE-TRIALS PLAYER PROFILES

## TEAM MURPHY MISSISSAUGA, ONT.



Jestyn Murphy



Carly Howard



Stephanie Matheson



Grace Holyoke

**SKIP:** Jestyn Murphy **Born:** Sept. 21, 1996 **Occupation:** Supply teacher; curling instructor, Mississauga Golf and Country Club ■ **THIRD:** Carly Howard **Born:** Oct. 7, 1993 **Occupation:** Human resources assistant, Bay Street HR ■ **SECOND:** Stephanie Matheson **Born:** Oct. 11, 1984 **Occupation:** Principal, Colliers Project Leaders ■ **LEAD:** Grace Holyoke **Born:** Feb. 25, 1997 **Occupation:** Client services specialist, Court Reporting Firm ■ **ALTERNATE:** Janet Murphy

## TEAM PETERSON WINNIPEG



Beth Peterson



Jenna Loder



Katherine Doerksen



Melissa Gordon

**SKIP:** Beth Peterson **Born:** March 1, 1994 **Occupation:** Radiation therapist, CancerCare Manitoba ■ **THIRD:** Jenna Loder **Born:** July 11, 1988 **Occupation:** Technical advisor, Federal Government ■ **SECOND:** Katherine Doerksen **Born:** Jan. 18, 1994 **Occupation:** General manager, Tim Hortons ■ **LEAD:** Melissa Gordon **Born:** July 24, 1994 **Occupation:** Early childhood education, Stanley Knowles Children's Centre ■ **ALTERNATE:** Meghan Walter

## TEAM ROBERTSON WINNIPEG



Darcy Robertson



Laura Burtnyk



Gaetanne Gauthier



Krysten Karwacki

**SKIP:** Darcy Robertson **Born:** March 13, 1965 **Occupation:** Dental hygienist, Lifesmiles Dental Corp. ■ **THIRD:** Laura Burtnyk **Born:** Sept. 5, 1995 **Occupation:** Project coordinator, Seed World Group ■ **SECOND:** Gaetanne Gauthier **Born:** Oct. 5, 1996 **Occupation:** Marketing and events coordinator, True North Sports and Entertainment ■ **LEAD:** Krysten Karwacki **Born:** April 30, 1991 **Occupation:** Freelance social media manager ■ **COACH:** Kerry Burtnyk

## TEAM ZACHARIAS ALTONA, MAN.



Mackenzie Zacharias



Karlee Burgess



Emily Zacharias



Lauren Lenentine

**SKIP:** Mackenzie Zacharias **Born:** June 8, 1999 **Occupation:** Kinesiology student, University of Manitoba ■ **THIRD:** Karlee Burgess **Born:** Sept. 14, 1998 **Occupation:** Kinesiology student (Dalhousie University) ■ **SECOND:** Emily Zacharias **Born:** March 13, 2001 **Occupation:** Kinesiology student, University of Manitoba ■ **LEAD:** Lauren Lenentine **Born:** June 24, 2000 **Occupation:** Student, University of Manitoba

## TEAM CALVERT WINNIPEG



Braden Calvert



Kyle Kurz



Ian McMillan



Rob Gordon

**SKIP:** Braden Calvert **Born:** July 16, 1995 **Occupation:** Owner and sales agronomist, Calvert Cattle Co. ■ **THIRD:** Kyle Kurz **Born:** April 10, 1995 **Occupation:** Construction electrician, Allco Electrical ■ **SECOND:** Ian McMillan **Born:** July 17, 1991 **Occupation:** Senior credit analyst, CWB National Leasing ■ **LEAD:** Rob Gordon **Born:** Nov. 28, 1995 **Occupation:** Event/Development assistant, CurlManitoba

## TEAM FERRIS GRIMSBY, ONT.



Pat Ferris



Ian Dickie



Connor Duhaime



Zack Shurtleff

**SKIP:** Pat Ferris **Born:** Oct. 28, 1975 **Occupation:** Commercial insurance broker, Milmine Insurance Brokers ■ **THIRD:** Ian Dickie **Born:** Dec. 21, 1985 **Occupation:** Sales director, GNB Industrial Power ■ **SECOND:** Connor Duhaime **Born:** March 5, 1990 **Occupation:** Energy systems specialist, HES PV ■ **LEAD:** Zack Shurtleff **Born:** May 18, 1995 **Occupation:** Registered massage therapist, SWAT Health

# HOME HARDWARE CURLING PRE-TRIALS PLAYER PROFILES

## TEAM FLASCH SASKATOON



Colton Flasch



Catlin Schneider



Kevin Marsh



Dan Marsh

**SKIP:** Colton Flasch **Born:** Feb. 27, 1991 **Occupation:** Owner, Flasch Construction Inc. ■ **THIRD:** Catlin Schneider **Born:** Oct. 17, 1991 **Occupation:** Project engineer, Prairie Sun Solar ■ **SECOND:** Kevin Marsh **Born:** Nov. 18, 1988 **Occupation:** Category strategy and performance manager, Federated Co-operatives Ltd. ■ **LEAD:** Dan Marsh **Born:** Nov. 18, 1988 **Occupation:** Teacher, Sun West School Division

## TEAM FLEMMING HALIFAX



Paul Flemming



Scott Saccary



Ryan Abraham



Phil Crowell

**SKIP:** Paul Flemming **Born:** Oct. 8, 1968 **Occupation:** Restaurant owner, Harbour Fish N Fries ■ **THIRD:** Scott Saccary **Born:** March 26, 1985 **Occupation:** Owner, New Scotland Clothing Co. and New Scotland Brewing Co. ■ **SECOND:** Ryan Abraham **Born:** July 15, 1999 **Occupation:** Maintenance worker, Homekeepers & part-time technical direct, Nova Scotia Curling Association ■ **LEAD:** Phil Crowell **Born:** March 26, 1978 **Occupation:** Team lead, Nova Scotia Health ■ **ALTERNATE:** Kevin Ouellette

## TEAM FOURNIER DOLLARD-DES-ORMEAUX, QUE.



Michael Fournier



Félix Asselin



Martin Crête



Jean-François Trépanier

**SKIP (THROWS SECOND):** Michael Fournier **Born:** Nov. 24, 1971 **Occupation:** Pricing strategy manager, McDonald's Restaurants of Canada ■ **FOURTH:** Félix Asselin **Born:** Nov. 17, 1994 **Occupation:** Geologist, Wesdome Gold Mines ■ **THIRD:** Martin Crête **Born:** March 12, 1985 **Occupation:** Business intelligence architect, Desjardins ■ **LEAD:** Jean-François Trépanier **Born:** Feb. 20, 1987 **Occupation:** Electrician, Quebec Hydro ■ **COACH:** Benoit Forget

## TEAM GRASSIE WINNIPEG



Sean Grassie



Tyler Drews



Daryl Evans



Rodney Legault

**SKIP:** Sean Grassie **Born:** Oct. 18, 1974 **Occupation:** Tennis teaching pro ■ **THIRD:** Tyler Drews **Born:** July 29, 1989 **Occupation:** Project manager, Sigfusson North ■ **SECOND:** Daryl Evans **Born:** June 19, 1989 **Occupation:** Early resolution officer — Labour program (Government of Canada) ■ **LEAD:** Rodney Legault **Born:** July 8, 1982 **Occupation:** Operations manager, Pinchin Ltd. **ALTERNATE:** Nick Drews ■ **COACH:** Jack Grassie

## TEAM GUNNLAUGSON MORRIS, MAN.



Jason Gunnlaugson



Adam Casey



Matt Wozniak



Connor Njegovan

**SKIP:** Jason Gunnlaugson **Born:** July 2, 1984 **Occupation:** Owner, DV Painting ■ **THIRD:** Adam Casey **Born:** Aug. 28, 1989 **Occupation:** Director of operations, MDS Coating ■ **SECOND:** Matt Wozniak **Born:** Jan. 6, 1983 **Occupation:** Mortgage broker, Vertuity Mortgage ■ **LEAD:** Connor Njegovan **Born:** June 23, 1992 **Occupation:** Real estate agent, Royal LePage — The Neufeld Group ■ **COACH:** Gary Van Den Berghe

## TEAM HARTY CALGARY



Jeremy Harty



Kyler Kleibrink



Josh Kiist



Kurtis Golle

**SKIP:** Jeremy Harty **Born:** May 22, 1995 **Occupation:** Senior associate, RSM Canada ■ **THIRD:** Kyler Kleibrink **Born:** Oct. 1, 1995 **Occupation:** Applications specialist, CNRL ■ **SECOND:** Josh Kiist **Born:** Sept. 29, 1999 **Occupation:** Electrician ■ **LEAD:** Kurtis Goller **Born:** March 7, 1997 **Occupation:** Test lab technologist, NCS Multistage ■ **COACH:** Shannon Kleibrink

# HOME HARDWARE CURLING PRE-TRIALS PLAYER PROFILES

## TEAM HORGAN KINGSTON, ONT.



Tanner Horgan



Jonathan Beuk



Wes Forget



Scott Chadwick

**SKIP:** Tanner Horgan **Born:** Feb. 12, 1998 **Occupation:** Civil servant ■ **THIRD:** Jonathan Beuk **Born:** April 18, 1983 **Occupation:** Data monitor, Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging ■ **SECOND:** Wes Forget **Born:** June 2, 1991 **Occupation:** Client success associate, Phreesia Inc. ■ **LEAD:** Scott Chadwick **Born:** Jan. 16, 1991 **Occupation:** Shift manager, Haakon Industries Ltd. ■ **ALTERNATE:** Jacob Horgan ■ **COACH:** Sean Turriff

## TEAM HOWARD PENETANGUISHENE, ONT.



Glenn Howard



Scott Howard



David Mathers



Tim March

**SKIP:** Glenn Howard **Born:** July 17, 1962 **Occupation:** Consultant and spokesperson, Brewers Retail Inc. ■ **THIRD:** Scott Howard **Born:** July 11, 1990 **Occupation:** Estimator/contract manager, Maacon Construction ■ **SECOND:** David Mathers **Born:** May 12, 1991 **Occupation:** Group relationship manager, Canada BrokerLink ■ **LEAD:** Tim March **Born:** April 28, 1987 **Occupation:** Senior accountant, Cathy L. Tune, CPA

## TEAM ROBERGE ETCHEMIN, QUE.



Vincent Roberge



Jean-Michel  
Arseneault



Jesse Mullen



Julien Tremblay

**SKIP:** Vincent Roberge **Born:** Dec. 16, 1997 **Occupation:** Advisor, Primeau Vélo ■ **THIRD:** Jean-Michel Arseneault **Born:** Oct. 26, 1988 **Occupation:** Automation technician ■ **SECOND:** Jesse Mullen **Born:** June 14, 1998 **Occupation:** Civil servant ■ **LEAD:** Julien Tremblay **Born:** May 27, 1997 **Occupation:** Physical educator, Laval University ■ **ALTERNATE:** François Roberge

## TEAM SIMMONS WINNIPEG BEACH, MAN.



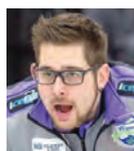
Pat Simmons



Colton Lott



Kyle Doering



Tanner Lott

**SKIP:** Pat Simmons **Born:** Nov. 21, 1974 **Occupation:** Director of High Performance, CURLSASK ■ **THIRD:** Colton Lott **Born:** July 21, 1995 **Occupation:** Carpenter, Brygg Carpentry ■ **SECOND:** Kyle Doering **Born:** Dec. 14, 1995 **Occupation:** Community relations officer, Winnipeg Humane Society ■ **LEAD:** Tanner Lott **Born:** Nov. 13, 1992 **Occupation:** Electrician, CNE ■ **ALTERNATE:** Emerson Klimpke

## TEAM STURMAY EDMONTON



Karsten Sturmay



Tristan Steinke



Chris Kennedy



Glenn Venance

**SKIP:** Karsten Sturmay **Born:** Nov. 7, 1996 **Occupation:** Regional promotion coordinator, Leduc, Nisku & Wetaskiwin Regional Chamber of Commerce ■ **THIRD:** Tristan Steinke **Born:** April 13, 1995 **Occupation:** Teacher ■ **SECOND:** Chris Kennedy **Born:** Nov. 20, 1997 **Occupation:** Manager, The Ranch Pet Care ■ **LEAD:** Glenn Venance **Born:** Sept. 1, 1996 **Occupation:** Irrigation technician, The Derrick Golf & Winter Club

## TEAM TARDI LANGLEY, B.C.



Tyler Tardi



Sterling Middleton



Jason Ginter



Jordan Tardi

**SKIP:** Tyler Tardi **Born:** Aug. 10, 1998 **Occupation:** Motion graphic design freelancer ■ **THIRD:** Sterling Middleton **Born:** Dec. 8, 1998 **Occupation:** Pro shop assistant, Capilano Golf & Country Club ■ **SECOND:** Jason Ginter **Born:** Sept. 8, 1993 **Occupation:** Director of player & leadership development, Curling Alberta ■ **LEAD:** Jordan Tardi **Born:** Aug. 19, 1996 **Occupation:** Lead architectural drafter, KLC Kre-a-tiv ■ **COACH:** Paul Tardi



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— For the Love of Curling —

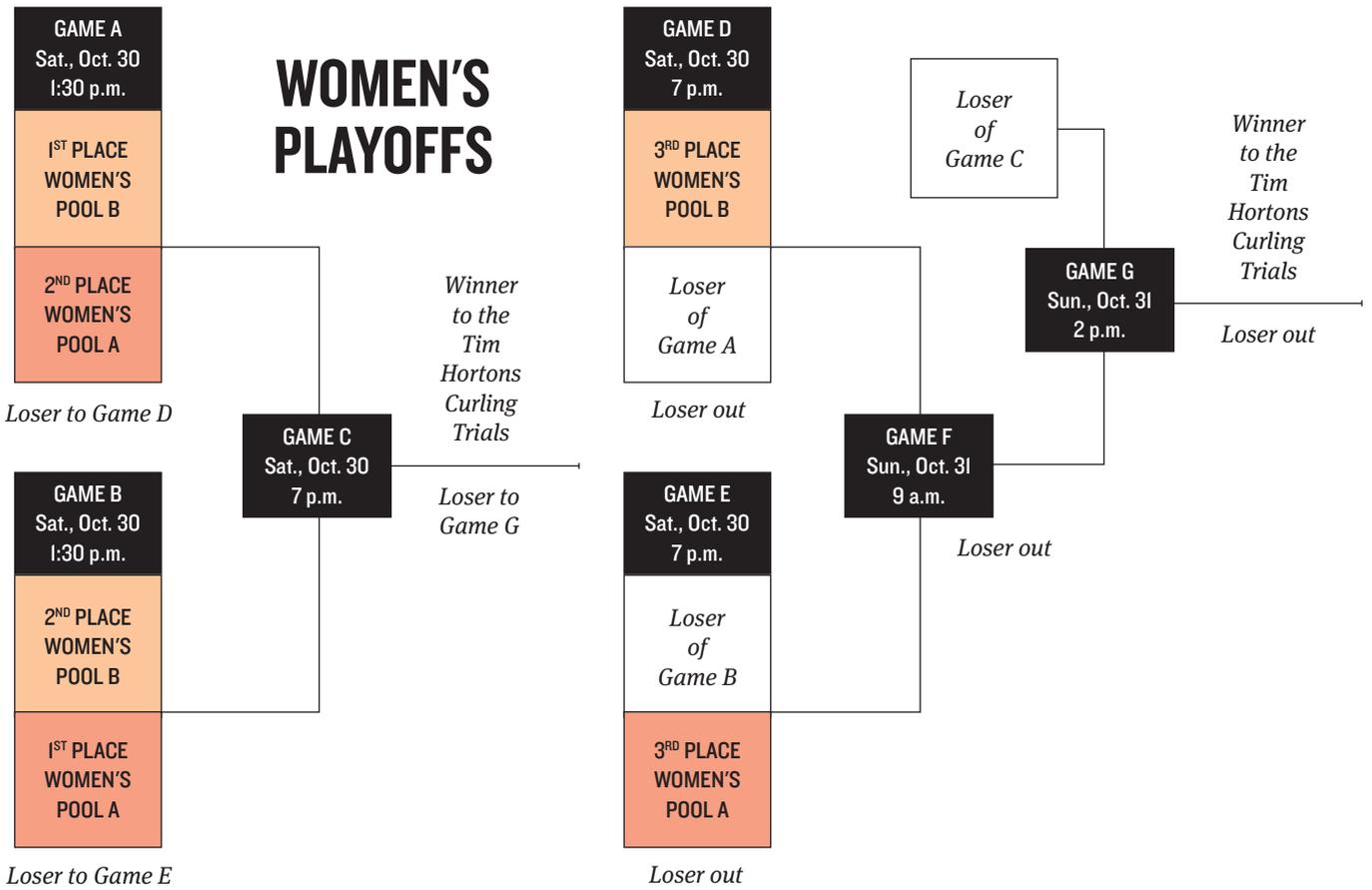


# CURLING PRE-TRIALS OFFICIAL DRAW

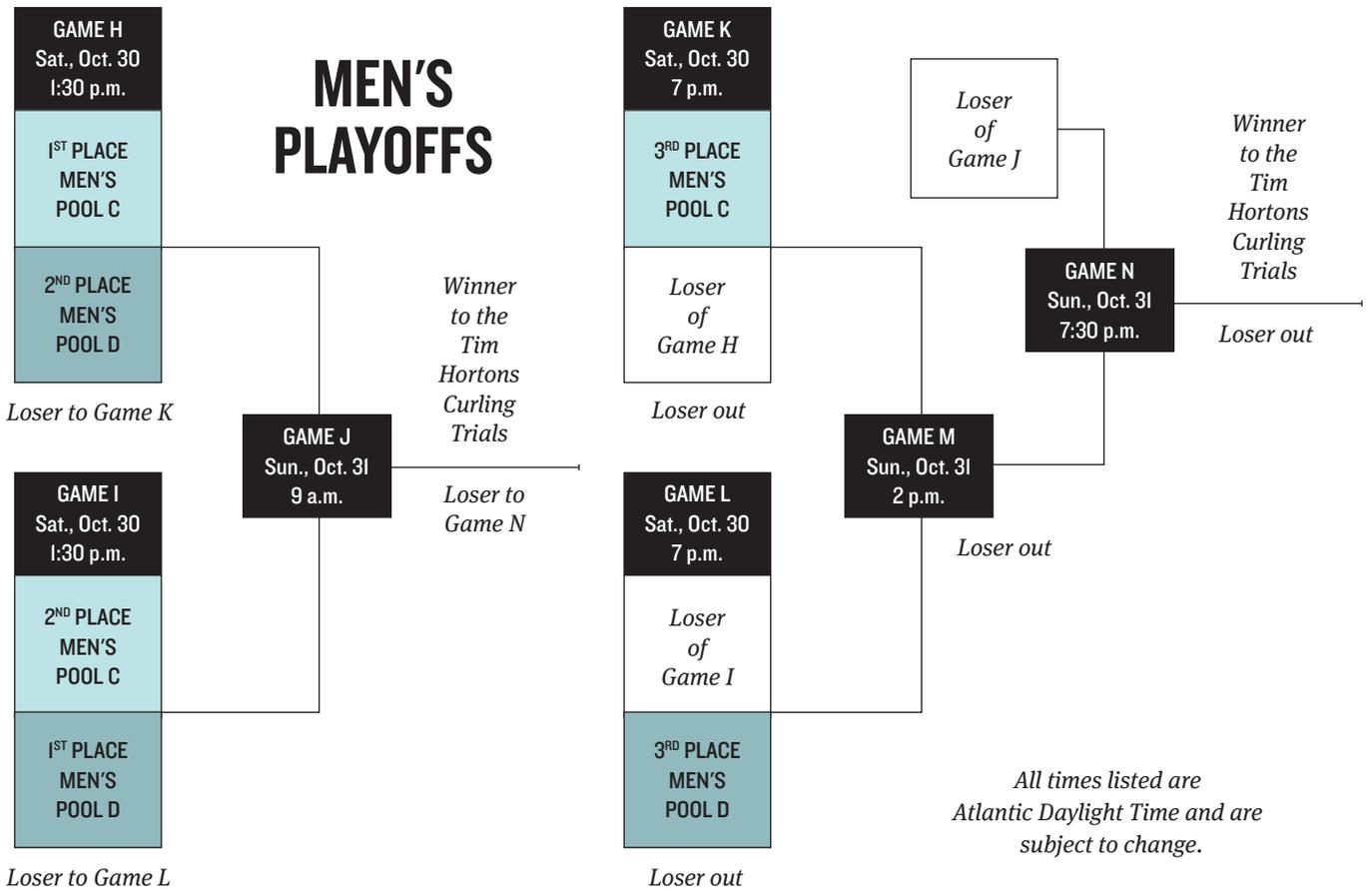
WOMEN		MEN	
POOL A	POOL B	POOL C	POOL D
Brown	Birt	Gunnlaugson	Flasch
Peterson	Zacharias	Simmons	Howard
Murphy	Anderson	Horgan	Calvert
McCarville	Duncan	Harty	Tardi
Barker	Robertson	Sturmey	Ferris
Harrison	Inglis	Fournier	Flemming
Galusha	Brothers	Roberge	Grassie

DATE	TIME	DRAW	SHEET A	SHEET B	SHEET C	SHEET D	SHEET E
Monday, October 25	5 p.m.	1	Brown vs Peterson	Birt vs Zacharias	Murphy vs McCarville	Anderson vs Duncan	
	9 p.m.	2	Robertson vs Inglis	Gunnlaugson vs Simmons	Horgan vs Harty		Barker vs Harrison
Tuesday, October 26	8 a.m.	3	Sturmey vs Fournier	Flasch vs Howard	Ferris vs Flemming	Calvert vs Tardi	Galusha vs Brown
	12 noon	4	Harrison vs McCarville	Duncan vs Inglis	Barker vs Peterson	Robertson vs Brothers	Birt vs Anderson
	4 p.m.	5	Flemming vs Howard	Harty vs Fournier	Tardi vs Grassie	Roberge vs Gunnlaugson	Simmons vs Horgan
	8 p.m.	6	Zacharias vs Robertson	Brown vs Murphy	Flasch vs Calvert	Inglis vs Birt	Brothers vs Duncan
Wednesday, October 27	8 a.m.	7	Roberge vs Horgan		Sturmey vs Gunnlaugson	Galusha vs Barker	McCarville vs Peterson
	12 noon	8	Tardi vs Ferris		Fournier vs Simmons	Flemming vs Calvert	Grassie vs Flasch
	4 p.m.	9	Murphy vs Barker	Anderson vs Robertson	Brothers vs Birt	Brown vs Harrison	Duncan vs Zacharias
	8 p.m.	10	Gunnlaugson vs Harty	Galusha vs McCarville	Howard vs Tardi	Horgan vs Sturmey	Fournier vs Roberge
Thursday, October 28	8 a.m.	11		Grassie vs Flemming	Anderson vs Zacharias	Ferris vs Flasch	Inglis vs Brothers
	12 noon	12	Peterson vs Galusha	Barker vs Brown	Duncan vs Robertson		Harrison vs Murphy
	4 p.m.	13	Calvert vs Grassie	Tardi vs Flasch	Harty vs Sturmey	Simmons vs Roberge	Horgan vs Gunnlaugson
	8 p.m.	14	Brothers vs Anderson	Robertson vs Birt	McCarville vs Brown	Zacharias vs Inglis	Howard vs Ferris
Friday, October 29	8 a.m.	15	Simmons vs Sturmey	Harrison vs Galusha	Gunnlaugson vs Fournier	Peterson vs Murphy	Roberge vs Harty
	12 noon	16	Birt vs Duncan	Ferris vs Calvert	Zacharias vs Brothers	Howard vs Grassie	Flemming vs Tardi
	4 p.m.	17	McCarville vs Barker	Inglis vs Anderson	Peterson vs Harrison	Fournier vs Horgan	Murphy vs Galusha
	8 p.m.	18	Flasch vs Flemming	Sturmey vs Roberge	Grassie vs Ferris	Harty vs Simmons	Calvert vs Howard

# WOMEN'S PLAYOFFS



# MEN'S PLAYOFFS



All times listed are  
Atlantic Daylight Time and are  
subject to change.

## TIM HORTONS CURLING TRIALS

# PLAYER PROFILES



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NOVEMBER 20 TO 28, 2021 > SASKTEL CENTRE > SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

### TEAM EINARSON GIMLI, MAN.



Kerri Einarson



Val Sweeting



Shannon Birchard



Briane Meilleur

**SKIP:** Kerri Einarson **Born:** Oct. 3, 1987 **Occupation:** Rehabilitation assistant, Betel Home Foundation ■ **THIRD:** Val Sweeting **Born:** July 9, 1987 **Occupation:** Civil servant ■ **SECOND:** Shannon Birchard **Born:** May 11, 1994 **Occupation:** Bookkeeper ■ **LEAD:** Briane Meilleur **Born:** March 11, 1992 **Occupation:** CAD technician, EuroCraft Office Furnishings ■ **COACH:** Heather Nedohin

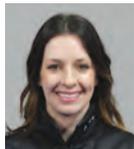
### TEAM FLEURY EAST ST. PAUL, MAN.



Tracy Fleury



Selena Njegovan



Liz Fyfe



Kristin MacCuish

**SKIP:** Tracy Fleury **Born:** June 13, 1986 **Occupation:** Accounting & reporting director, Laurentian University ■ **THIRD:** Selena Njegovan **Born:** Jan. 22, 1992 **Occupation:** Owner, Selena Njegovan Virtual Solutions ■ **SECOND:** Liz Fyfe **Born:** May 11, 1987 **Occupation:** Stay-at-home mom ■ **LEAD:** Kristin MacCuish **Born:** Dec. 8, 1992 **Occupation:** Student, Athabasca University/Home care aide ■ **ALTERNATE:** Chelsea Carey ■ **COACH:** Sherry Middaugh

### TEAM HOMAN OTTAWA



Rachel Homan



Emma Miskew



Sarah Wilkes



Joanne Courtney

**SKIP:** Rachel Homan **Born:** April 5, 1989 **Occupation:** Curler ■ **THIRD:** Emma Miskew **Born:** Feb. 14, 1989 **Occupation:** Industrial and graphic designer ■ **SECOND:** Sarah Wilkes **Born:** Aug. 4, 1990 **Occupation:** Student advisor, University of Alberta ■ **LEAD:** Joanne Courtney **Born:** March 7, 1989 **Occupation:** Registered nurse, Alberta Health Services ■ **COACH:** Marcel Rocque

### TEAM JONES WINNIPEG



Jennifer Jones



Kaitlyn Lawes



Jocelyn Peterman



Dawn McEwen

**SKIP:** Jennifer Jones **Born:** July 7, 1974 **Occupation:** Motivational speaker/lawyer ■ **THIRD:** Kaitlyn Lawes **Born:** Dec. 16, 1988 **Occupation:** Self-employed ■ **SECOND:** Jocelyn Peterman **Born:** Sept. 23, 1993 **Occupation:** Curler ■ **LEAD:** Dawn McEwen **Born:** July 3, 1980 **Occupation:** Case officer, Government of Canada ■ **ALTERNATE:** Lisa Weagle **Born:** March 24, 1985 **Occupation:** Communications specialist, Syntax Strategic ■ **COACH:** Viktor Kjell

# TIM HORTONS CURLING TRIALS PLAYER PROFILES

## TEAM ROCQUE EDMONTON



Kelsey Rocque



Danielle Schmiemann



Dana Ferguson



Rachel Brown

**SKIP:** Kelsey Rocque **Born:** March 25, 1994 **Occupation:** Curling coordinator, University of Alberta ■ **THIRD:** Danielle Schmiemann **Born:** May 29, 1996 **Occupation:** Acupuncturist, Acupuncture Turning Point ■ **SECOND:** Dana Ferguson **Born:** Feb. 25, 1987 **Occupation:** Curling development coach, Saville Community Sports Centre ■ **LEAD:** Rachel Brown **Born:** July 9, 1986 **Occupation:** Teacher, Black Gold School Division ■ **COACH:** Beth Iskiw

## TEAM SCHEIDEGGER LETHBRIDGE, ALTA.



Casey Scheidegger



Cary-Anne McTaggart



Jessie Haughian



Kristie Moore

**SKIP:** Casey Scheidegger **Born:** Jan. 31, 1988 **Occupation:** Teacher, Palliser Regional Schools ■ **THIRD:** Cary-Anne McTaggart **Born:** June 4, 1986 **Occupation:** Registered nurse, Alberta Health Services ■ **SECOND:** Jessie Haughian **Born:** Ability advisor, Alberta Health Services ■ **LEAD:** Kristie Moore **Born:** April 22, 1979 **Occupation:** Massage therapist, Northwest Wellness Centre ■ **ALTERNATE:** Susan O'Connor ■ **COACH:** Joan McCusker

## TEAM WALKER EDMONTON



Laura Walker



Kate Cameron



Taylor McDonald



Nadine Scotland

**SKIP:** Laura Walker **Born:** Nov. 10, 1990 **Occupation:** Mortgage broker, Mortgage Design Group ■ **THIRD:** Kate Cameron **Born:** Oct. 22, 1991 **Occupation:** Paralegal, Tapper Cuddy LLP ■ **SECOND:** Taylor McDonald **Born:** May 12, 1993 **Occupation:** Mortgage broker, Mortgage Design Group ■ **LEAD:** Nadine Scotland **Born:** Oct. 4, 1990 **Occupation:** Communications and special events manager, Special Olympics Calgary ■ **COACH:** Shannon Pynn

## TEAM BOTTCHER EDMONTON



Brendan Bottcher



Darren Moulding



Brad Thiessen



Karrick Martin

**SKIP:** Brendan Bottcher **Born:** Dec. 19, 1991 **Occupation:** Applications specialist, Spartan Controls Limited ■ **THIRD:** Darren Moulding **Born:** Dec. 2, 1982 **Occupation:** Head ice technician, Lacombe & Bentley Curling Clubs/Business owner, Pinpoint Roofing ■ **SECOND:** Brad Thiessen **Born:** March 1, 1990 **Occupation:** Web developer, LawDepot ■ **LEAD:** Karrick Martin **Born:** May 24, 1989 **Occupation:** Event & labour supervisor, Government of Alberta ■ **ALTERNATE:** Pat Janssen ■ **COACH:** Don Bartlett

## TEAM DUNSTONE REGINA



Matt Dunstone



Braeden Moskowy



Kirk Muyres



Dustin Kidby

**SKIP:** Matt Dunstone **Born:** June 25, 1995 **Occupation:** Mortgage broker, Integra Mortgage ■ **THIRD:** Braeden Moskowy **Born:** Aug. 14, 1990 **Occupation:** Mortgage broker, The Mortgage Group ■ **SECOND:** Kirk Muyres **Born:** June 29, 1990 **Occupation:** Mortgage Broker, Kirk Muyres Mortgage ■ **LEAD:** Dustin Kidby **Born:** May 26, 1985 **Occupation:** Senior group benefits underwriter, Co-operators Life Insurance Company ■ **COACH:** Adam Kingsbury

## TEAM EPPING TORONTO



John Epping



Ryan Fry



Mat Camm



Brent Laing

**SKIP:** John Epping **Born:** March 20, 1983 **Occupation:** Consultant, Epping Consulting ■ **THIRD:** Ryan Fry **Born:** July 25, 1978 **Occupation:** Curler ■ **SECOND:** Mat Camm **Born:** March 29, 1990 **Occupation:** Owner, Camm & Jones Residential Improvements ■ **LEAD:** Brent Laing **Born:** Dec. 10, 1978 **Occupation:** Entrepreneur, World Financial Group

# TIM HORTONS CURLING TRIALS PLAYER PROFILES

## TEAM GUSHUE ST. JOHN'S, N.L.



Brad Gushue



Mark Nichols



Brett Gallant



Geoff Walker

**SKIP:** Brad Gushue **Born:** June 16, 1980 **Occupation:** Business owner, Orangetheory Fitness ■ **THIRD:** Mark Nichols **Born:** Jan. 1, 1980 **Occupation:** Business owner/personal trainer, Orangetheory Fitness ■ **SECOND:** Brett Gallant **Born:** Feb. 18, 1990 **Occupation:** Curler ■ **LEAD:** Geoff Walker **Born:** Nov. 28, 1985 **Occupation:** Turf team, The Derrick Golf & Winter Club ■ **ALTERNATE:** Jeff Thomas ■ **COACH:** Jules Owchar

## TEAM JACOBS SAULT STE. MARIE, ONT.



Brad Jacobs



Marc Kennedy



E.J. Harnden



Ryan Harnden

**SKIP:** Brad Jacobs **Born:** June 11, 1985 **Occupation:** Senior marketing director, World Financial Group ■ **THIRD:** Marc Kennedy **Born:** Feb. 5, 1982 **Occupation:** Coaching consultant ■ **SECOND:** E.J. Harnden **Born:** April 14, 1983 **Occupation:** Instant games product manager, OLG ■ **LEAD:** Ryan Harnden **Born:** June 28, 1986 **Occupation:** Supply teacher, Algoma District School Board/Sales representative, Royal LePage ■ **COACH:** Caleb Flaxey

## TEAM KOE CALGARY



Kevin Koe



John Morris



John Morris



Ben Hebert

**SKIP:** Kevin Koe **Born:** Jan. 11, 1975 **Occupation:** Surface landman ■ **THIRD:** B.J. Neufeld **Born:** Feb. 28, 1986 **Occupation:** PGA of Canada head golf professional, Larters at St. Andrews Golf and Country Club ■ **SECOND:** John Morris **Born:** Dec. 16, 1978 **Occupation:** Firefighter, Chestermere & Rockview Fire County Service ■ **LEAD:** Ben Hebert **Born:** March 16, 1983 **Occupation:** Business development manager, Caltech Surveys Ltd. ■ **ALTERNATE:** Denni Neufeld ■ **COACH:** John Dunn

## TEAM McEWEN WEST ST. PAUL, MAN.



Mike McEwen



Reid Carruthers



Derek Samagalski



Colin Hodgson

**SKIP:** Mike McEwen **Born:** July 30, 1980 **Occupation:** Sales representative, Hardline Curling ■ **THIRD:** Reid Carruthers **Born:** Dec. 30, 1984 **Occupation:** Substitute teacher, Louis Riel School Division ■ **SECOND:** Derek Samagalski **Born:** Sept. 9, 1984 **Occupation:** Superintendent, Carberry Sandhills Golf Course ■ **LEAD:** Colin Hodgson **Born:** June 8, 1990 **Occupation:** Director of operations/owner, Dynasty Curling Ltd. ■ **COACH:** Rob Meakin

# TIM HORTONS CURLING TRIALS OFFICIAL DRAW



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DATE	LOCAL TIME	ET TIME	DRAW	SHEET A	SHEET B	SHEET C	SHEET D
Saturday, November 20	2 p.m.	3 p.m.	1	W PT1 vs Jones	W PT2 vs Homan	Einarson vs Fleury	Scheidegger vs Walker
	7 p.m.	8 p.m.	2	Bottcher vs Gushue	Koe vs M PT2	Dunstone vs McEwen	Jacobs vs Epping
Sunday, November 21	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	3	Walker vs Rocque	Einarson vs Scheidegger	W PT2 vs Jones	Homan vs W PT1
	2 p.m.	3 p.m.	4	Epping vs M PT1	Dunstone vs Jacobs	Koe vs Gushue	M PT2 vs Bottcher
	7 p.m.	8 p.m.	5	W PT2 vs Einarson	Jones vs Walker	Scheidegger vs W PT1	Fleury vs Rocque
Monday, November 22	2 p.m.	3 p.m.	6	Koe vs Dunstone	Gushue vs Epping	Jacobs vs Bottcher	McEwen vs M PT1
	7 p.m.	8 p.m.	7	Jones vs Scheidegger	W PT1 vs Fleury	Rocque vs Homan	Walker vs Einarson
Tuesday, November 23	2 p.m.	3 p.m.	8	Gushue vs Jacobs	Bottcher vs McEwen	M PT1 vs M PT2	Epping vs Dunstone
	7 p.m.	8 p.m.	9	Homan vs Fleury	Scheidegger vs Rocque	Jones vs Einarson	W PT1 vs W PT2
Wednesday, November 24	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	10	M PT2 vs McEwen	Jacobs vs M PT1	Gushue vs Dunstone	Bottcher vs Koe
	2 p.m.	3 p.m.	11	Einarson vs W PT1	Fleury vs W PT2	Homan vs Walker	Rocque vs Jones
	7 p.m.	8 p.m.	12	Dunstone vs Bottcher	McEwen vs Koe	M PT2 vs Epping	M PT1 vs Gushue
Thursday, November 25	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	13	Fleury vs Walker	Homan vs Jones	W PT1 vs Rocque	W PT2 vs Scheidegger
	2 p.m.	3 p.m.	14	McEwen vs Epping	M PT2 vs Gushue	Bottcher vs M PT1	Koe vs Jacobs
	7 p.m.	8 p.m.	15	Rocque vs W PT2	Walker vs W PT1	Fleury vs Scheidegger	Einarson vs Homan
Friday, November 26	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	16	M PT1 vs Koe	Epping vs Bottcher	McEwen vs Jacobs	Dunstone vs M PT2
	2 p.m.	3 p.m.	17	Scheidegger vs Homan	Rocque vs Einarson	Walker vs W PT2	Jones vs Fleury
	7 p.m.	8 p.m.	18	Jacobs vs M PT2	M PT1 vs Dunstone	Epping vs Koe	Gushue vs McEwen

## TIEBREAKERS • SEMIFINALS • FINALS

<b>TIEBREAKERS</b> (if necessary)	Saturday, November 27	9 a.m. CST / 10 a.m. ET
<b>WOMEN'S SEMIFINAL</b>	Saturday, November 27	2 p.m. CST / 3 p.m. ET
<b>MEN'S SEMIFINAL</b>	Saturday, November 27	7 p.m. CST / 8 p.m. ET
<b>WOMEN'S FINAL</b>	Sunday, November 28	11 a.m. CST / 12 p.m. ET
<b>MEN'S FINAL</b>	Sunday, November 28	7 p.m. CST / 8 p.m. ET

MEN'S

WOMEN'S

# CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES CURLING TRIALS PLAYER PROFILES



Kerri Einarson



Brad Gushue

**KERRI EINARSON**

**Born:** Oct. 3, 1987  
**Occupation:** Rehabilitation assistant, Betel Home Foundation

**BRAD GUSHUE**

**Born:** June 16, 1980  
**Occupation:** Business owner, Orangetheory Fitness



Jocelyn Peterman



Brett Gallant

**JOCELYN PETERMAN**

**Born:** Sept. 23, 1993  
**Occupation:** Curler

**BRETT GALLANT**

**Born:** Feb. 18, 1990  
**Occupation:** Curler



Rachel Homan



John Morris

**RACHEL HOMAN**

**Born:** April 5, 1989  
**Occupation:** Curler

**JOHN MORRIS**

**Born:** Dec. 16, 1978  
**Occupation:** Firefighter, Chestermere & Rockview Fire County Service



Kadriana Sahaidak



Colton Lott

**KADRIANA SAHAIDAK**

**Born:** May 12, 1999  
**Occupation:** Optometric assistant, Oakley Vision Centre

**COLTON LOTT**

**Born:** July 21, 1995  
**Occupation:** Carpenter, Brygg Carpentry



Jennifer Jones



Brent Laing

**JENNIFER JONES**

**Born:** July 7, 1974  
**Occupation:** Motivational speaker/lawyer

**BRENT LAING**

**Born:** Dec. 10, 1978  
**Occupation:** Entrepreneur, World Financial Group



Lisa Weagle



John Epping

**LISA WEAGLE**

**Born:** March 24, 1985  
**Occupation:** Communications specialist, Syntax Strategic

**JOHN EPPING**

**Born:** March 20, 1983  
**Occupation:** Consultant, Epping Consulting



Nancy Martin



Tyrel Griffith

**NANCY MARTIN**

**Born:** Feb. 17, 1973  
**Occupation:** Public Servant, Government of Canada

**TYREL GRIFFITH**

**Born:** Dec. 22, 1985  
**Occupation:** Golf operations manager/PGA of Canada Golf Professional, Black Mountain Golf Club



\* Rounding out the field are the next 10 highest non-qualified teams on the Canadian Mixed Doubles Rankings as of December 12, 2021.

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**THIS VIEW**



NOW TRY IT FROM  
**THIS ONE**



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