

EXTRA END

2022 - 2023

**CHAMPS
AGAIN!**
THREE (PLAYERS)
EQUALS FOUR (TITLES)
FOR RESILIENT
GUSHUE



The Official Coffee of Curling Canada



**CURLING
CANADA**

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Editor

Dave Komosky

Managing editor

Al Cameron

Associate editor

Kyle Jahns

Art director

Samantha Edwards

**Director, client services,
national marketing**

Marylou Morris

On the cover

Brad Gushue's

Tim Hortons Brier champs

Cover photography

Michael Burns Photography

Photography

Michael Burns Photography

**Scotties Tournament of Hearts
photography**

Andrew Klaver

Director, national sponsorship

Catharine Dunlop

Chief executive officer

Katherine Henderson

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EXTRA END

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CURLING CANADA 2022-23 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

FOUR NEW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ELECTED to the Curling Canada Board of Governors during the organization's Annual General Meeting.

The governing body for the sport of curling in Canada conducted its virtual AGM on Saturday, bringing together Canada's 14 Member Associations along with invited guests to talk about the past season, as well as elect new members to the Board of Governors.

There were four available spots on the Board after outgoing Chair Amy Nixon of Calgary, Paul Addison of Victoria and Donna Krotz of London, Ont., completed their four-year terms, and after the departure of Chana Martineau of Edmonton this past season; Martineau had one year remaining on her term.

Elected to the Board for four-year terms were Ray Baker of Dauphin, Man., Scott Hindle of Ottawa, Jennifer Howard of Courtice, Ont., and Teri Palynchuk of Nanaimo, B.C.

They join fellow Governors Brian Cowan of Delta, B.C., Roselle Gonsalves of Edmonton, Kathy O'Rourke of

Cumberland, P.E.I., Darren Oryniak of Winnipeg, Calvin Seaman of Calgary, and Michael Szajewski of Kenora, Ont.

Szajewski was elected as Chair of the Board of Governors.

"Our sport and our organization is well-positioned to take significant strides, both on and off the ice, and I'm excited to work with my fellow Governors, as well as our Member Associations in pursuit of common goals," said Szajewski. "I'm truly grateful for this opportunity, and I'm ready to get to work with my colleagues on the Board."

"The past 12 months have provided us with so many opportunities for growth as we continue to learn about what the words 'meaningful change' truly mean," added Katherine Henderson, Chief Executive Officer of Curling Canada. "Those changes can apply to all facets of our sport across Canada, and we will continue to strive to make those changes that will benefit our sport, our Member Associations and Curling Canada for years to come."



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Chair

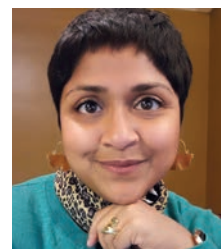
"Our sport and our organization is well-positioned to take significant strides, both on and off the ice, and I'm excited to work with my fellow Governors, as well as our Member Associations in pursuit of common goals."



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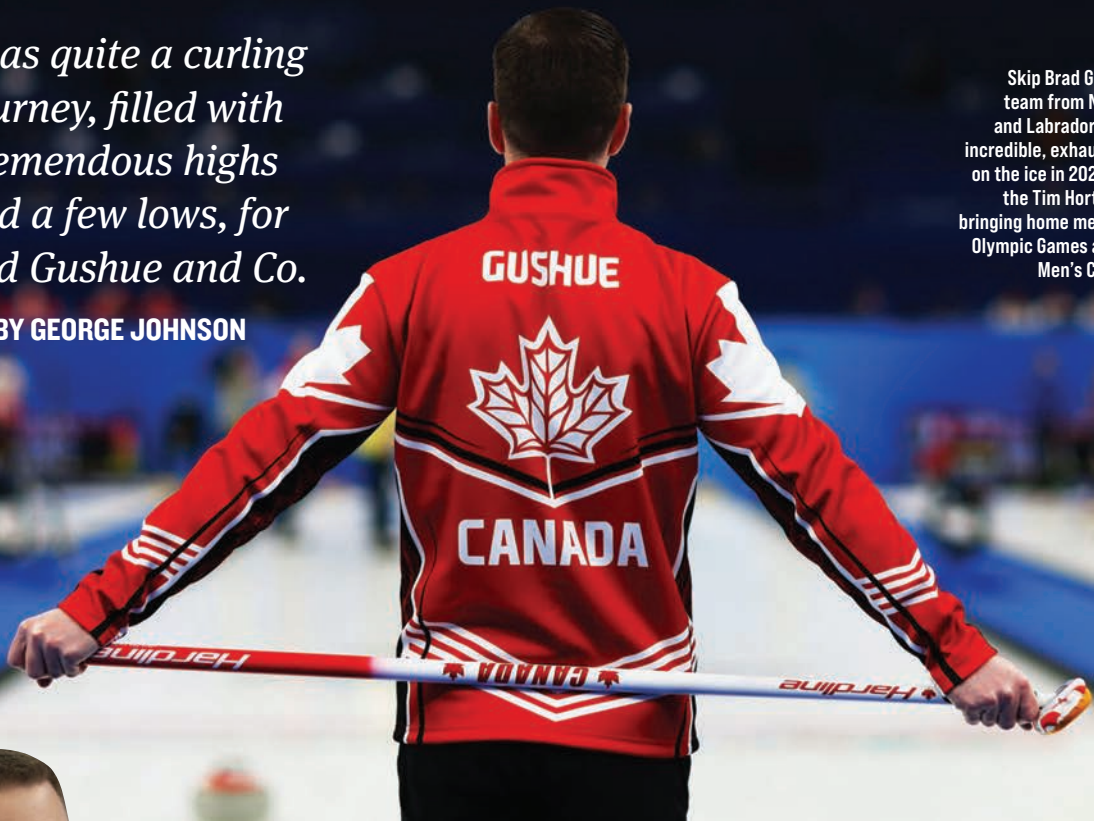
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RIDING *the* WAVES

It was quite a curling journey, filled with tremendous highs and a few lows, for Brad Gushue and Co.

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

Skip Brad Gushue and his team from Newfoundland and Labrador had a 'crazy, incredible, exhausting' season on the ice in 2021-22, winning the Tim Hortons Brier and bringing home medals from the Olympic Games and LGT World Men's Championship.



How sweet it is! Skip Brad Gushue struck it rich at the Tim Hortons Curling Trials in Saskatoon in November, sending him and his team to the Olympic Games.

THE SENSATION FELT LIKE something along the lines of world No. 1 Felipe Toledo of Brazil attempting to tame the monster waves off the legendary Praia do Norte beach in Nazaré, Portugal.

"A pretty incredible season, overall," sums up four-time Tim Hortons Brier champion Brad Gushue, from home in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

"As we were going through it, it just seemed like trying to ride these constant waves.

"Waves of highs and lows.

"But if you step back now and reflect on things objectively, which is tough to do in the moment, our lows were pretty darn high.

"At the Olympics we struggled and came away with a bronze medal.

Certainly not what we wanted but still pretty darn good.

"Then we follow that up by winning the Brier, especially in the fashion we did, with Mark going down (due to a positive COVID test). Then we follow that up, playing well in Las Vegas at the world championship but coming across some of the worst ice I've ever played on in the playoffs. And we lose.

"But, hey, you're still second at the world championships. Not too shabby. Then we come home and win the Champions Cup to finish it off.

"So, as I said, just ... waves. Wave after wave.

"Ups and downs. Highs and lows.

"But all of it — even the lows — were stuff 99 per cent of the teams in the world would die to have.

"So a crazy season. But incredible.

And exhausting.

"Even at this point, mid-July — though I certainly can't speak for the rest of the team — I don't think I'm fully over it.

"I sure needed a rest."

Whether binge-watching the first two seasons of *Ted Lasso* on Apple TV+, heading out to a favourite fishing hole or spending quality time with family, whatever floats your boat R&R-wise is required after any season, much less a season like the last one.



There is nothing better in sports than representing your country at the Olympics Games, which is why there was such wide grins on the faces of Team Gushue after they won the Tim Hortons Canadian Curling Trials in Saskatoon. (From left): skip Brad Gushue, third Mark Nichols, second Brett Gallant and lead Geoff Walker. Team Gushue defeated Team Brad Jacobs 4-3 in the final to earn tickets to the Games in Beijing, China.

“Getting away from the sport, the stress, even for a short amount of time is so therapeutic, so important,” he emphasizes. “Even getting away from your teammates, to a certain extent.

“We kinda try and go our own way because we spend so much time together during a season.”

Even at the close of such a demanding stretch, being the last year of a quadrennial meant a spate of off-ice work before the opportunity to kick back and decompress.

“Because a lot of our sponsorships terminated at the end of this year we had to go into the renewal stage and if some didn’t renew we had to go out and find new sponsors,” Gushue sighs.

“It’s really only been the last two weeks that I’ve been able to truly get away from it and try to relax.

“Doing nothing right now ... is a joy. Or doing things with family and friends that you felt you’ve missed out on the last three years due to the pandemic.

“Something as simple as going to a cabin and just hanging out by a fire. Or hikes. Things most people take for granted but during the curling season we never got to experience. Particularly over the last couple of years with the amount of isolation required and the precautions we took avoid COVID.

“If we got COVID, we couldn’t play in the Olympic trials or the Olympics or the Brier, so we went above and beyond in terms of precautions.

“When you build for four years to get a chance at the Olympic trials or the Olympics, you don’t want to miss out because you caught a virus.

“So that meant a ton of extra preparation and isolation.”

He and the crew are going to need every bit of the recharge. A hectic 2023 schedule awaits, including a new wrinkle to the Gushue, and world curling, itinerary: The inaugural Pan-Continental Championship, a world championship qualifying

BELOW LEFT: Skip Brad Gushue admits his team struggled at the Olympics, but coming home with a bronze medal was something to be proud of.

BELOW RIGHT: Brooms held high, members of Team Canada salute the fans at the Olympic Games in Beijing after winning their bronze medal.



RIGHT: After the year they had on the ice last season, both Geoff Walker (left) and skip Brad Gushue were looking for a little rest and relaxation over the summer.



MIDDLE: Wherever he plays, skip Brad Gushue is the centre of attention. He received huge support in Lethbridge, Alta., site of the 2022 Tim Hortons Brier, even though there were two Alberta teams in the field.



BELOW: Many said it couldn't be done, that the odds were way too long. But down a man due to COVID-19, skip Brad Gushue and his team won the Tim Hortons Brier in Lethbridge, Alta., with only a three-man lineup to win a fourth Canadian title.

“A PRETTY INCREDIBLE SEASON, OVERALL. AS WE WERE GOING THROUGH IT, IT JUST SEEMED LIKE TRYING TO RIDE THESE CONSTANT WAVES. WAVES OF HIGHS AND LOWS.”

event set to be staged at Calgary’s Winsport complex from Oct. 31 to Nov. 6. Along with Gushue and Co., representatives from the U.S., Brazil, Korea, Japan, China, Chinese Taipei and New Zealand are on the playlist.

“Overall, I think it’s a very positive thing for Canadian curling,” says Gushue. “And I say that because I do feel our national teams are at a bit of a disadvantage at world championships.

“The European championship and world championship are set up very, very similar. A lot of the same officials are there, the same rules are in place. So European teams are very, very comfortable in that world curling set-up. For us, the way we run our Briers and our Scotties is different.

“There are these little differences so when you go you just don’t feel quite as comfortable and sometimes it can be very frustrating.



“So this provides Canadian teams another opportunity for that experience. More teams are going to have that chance so when they go to the worlds they’re going to have that Pan-Continental experience behind them, which will help.

“On the other hand, there is going to be over the next 20 years a situation where a team doesn’t get through. But the positive of getting more and more experience playing at a world curling event is going to help.

“Because it is different.”

On the subject of different, long-time second Brett Gallant broke up the old gang, relocating to Alberta to be with new bride Jocelyn Peterman (second on the the Kaitlyn Lawes women’s foursome), and joining Brendan Bottcher’s Calgary-based team.

So stepping into that void for the familiar firm of Gushue, Mark Nichols and Geoff Walker will be former Brad Jacobs second E.J. Harnden.

To become somewhat acclimatized, Harnden acted as the team’s alternate during the 2022 world championship at Vegas.

“I think it’s going to provide some fresh energy,” adjudges the skip.

“We’d been together as a four-man unit for eight years. It’s been a great run together but historically teams don’t last much longer than that; a level of complacency starts to creep in and they start to trend downwards.

“For us to bring in a player of E.J.’s calibre and also his demeanour — he’s intense on the ice, but super nice off the ice, gets along well with all of us — makes for a perfect fit, to be quite honest.

“That intensity I mentioned is going to be something we need over the next four years because, let’s face it, Mark and I are getting up there a little bit in age so adding that element is going to be a good thing.

“We found when he was down in Vegas with us he fit in really, really well.

“I think curling as a whole, with all the (lineup) changes is going to be really exciting: How it all shakes out, especially the first half of the season, see which of these changes work out and which don’t. It’s almost inevitable we’re going to see tweaks at the end of the season.

“It’s always fun to watch because sometimes the one you thought wouldn’t work out does, and vice-versa.

“Because no one really knows how it’ll pan out. You can do all your homework, things can look perfect, but you don’t know — you can’t actually know — until you’re on the ice and in the moment.

“So from a curling fan’s perspective, it’s going to be very interesting.”



Skip Niklas Edin and his outstanding team from Sweden were a major roadblock for everybody in men’s curling last season, including Team Canada, after winning both the men’s gold at the Olympic Games and world championship.



ABOVE: With COVID-19 still a concern, fist bumps were the order of the day at major curling events last season, including the Olympics, and Canada’s Mark Nichols was happy to oblige.

BOTTOM RIGHT: It won’t seem the same not seeing Brett Gallant throwing second stones for skip Brad Gushue this season. Gallant broke up the old gang by relocating to Alberta to be with his new bride Jocelyn Peterman and joining Brendan Bottcher’s team in Calgary.



George Johnson is a freelance writer based in Calgary

While Canadian women's teams across the country were splitting up and creating new alliances, skip Kerri Einarson and her teammates saw no reason to break up a good thing.



SETTING THE BAR HIGHER

Team Einarson stays intact to pursue some unfinished business on the ice

BY MELISSA MARTIN

IN THE FINAL DAYS OF THE LAST Olympic cycle, as most of Canada's top curling teams announced their splits, the four members of Team Kerri Einarson began swapping guesses on where the newly-available players would land. It was, for them, something of a new experience. Four years before, they'd been the ones working the phones, hoping to build a team that

could battle up the ranks; this time, they got to just sit back, relax, and watch the free agency frenzy unfold.

"When you're in it, it's super stressful," second Shannon Birchard says. "You're trying to set yourself up for success going forward, and there's a lot of variables and everybody's talking to everybody, so you don't know exactly where you stand. So this year, it was

fun. It was kind of like we were the fans themselves, trying to guess where everybody was going to settle.”

So in that way, the offseason was a peaceful one, for Einarson, third Val Sweeting, Birchard and lead Briane Harris. There was lots of time to rest and catch up with friends and family. They stayed in touch, of course, and kept hitting the gym. But they got to take a break from thinking about curling too much, and even from each other for a bit. After all, they'd already decided they'd be spending most of the next four years together, as one of the few teams in Canada's curling elite to sign on for another quadrennial in its current form.

To fans, that decision likely came as no surprise. Team Einarson can count the reasons to stay together both in their victories – such as those three consecutive Maple Leaf jackets – and in their unfinished business. They are still hunting for the world championship victory that eluded them, in two visits; and of course, they're still yearning to punch that coveted Olympic ticket. The team has a “lot left in the tank,” Birchard says, and the fact they accomplished what they did shows those other prizes could be in their future too.

“We just figured that we were not done,” Birchard says. “I think we still all enjoy spending time together and training together, and feel that there's not really a ceiling. The team itself has a lot of room to grow, and even though we've had quite a bit of success, I think we can still keep pushing the boundaries and setting the bar high for ourselves.”

That's especially true when you consider how difficult the last two seasons have been. Few teams had a wilder ride through the last two-and-a-half years than Einarson's did. They won their first Canadian title just as COVID-19 began to sweep the world; hours before they were set to make their



world championship debut in Prince George, B.C., the 2020 event was cancelled.

After that, nothing was ever really normal. Public health restrictions made it hard for the three Manitoba-based team members to practise with Sweeting, who lives in Alberta. They found a way to push through, winning the next two Scotties in a bubble and nabbing a bronze at their second trip to worlds, in 2022. Still, life seemed to slide by in an unpredictable haze, as it did for so many people finding their way through the pandemic.

“With COVID and everything, it was the longest two years of our lives, but also the fastest, because not a lot happened,” Birchard says. “Aside from those big tournaments, like the Scotties and the worlds and the bubble, everything outside of that I don't really remember. It was very strange times.”

Yet a lot did change in that time for Team Einarson. They are not quite the same squad that

Is there a better tandem of front-end sweepers in the Canadian women's game today than Briane Harris (left) and Shannon Birchard from Team Kerri Einarson? Probably not.

Skip Kerri Einarson and the rest of her team used the summer to rest, relax and catch up with friends and family. It was another exhausting season for the team from Manitoba.



Second Shannon Birchard says Team Kerri Einarson has plenty left in the tank to make another run at a Scotties Tournament of Hearts title and a first trip to the Olympic Games.





They've been quite a one-two punch in Canadian women's curling. Since Edmonton's Val Sweeting (left) joined Kerri Einarson of Gimli, Man., in 2018, it's been a steady diet of success, including three consecutive Canadian women's championships and a world championship bronze medal.

started this journey, as either players or people. Their play transformed: Einarson, always a gunslinger, added a finesse element to her game that made her a threat on the most finicky of draws and soft-weight hits. And Birchard and Harris, who'd had relatively limited experience on the broom as former skips, have become one of the strongest sweeping duos in the sport.

"They have always been talented players, and just to see them develop in different roles now, they've put in so much hard work, and it definitely has not been easy," Einarson says. "Two of the best and strongest sweepers I've ever had, and I'm very lucky to have them."

More than that, their whole lives have changed together. When they first joined forces, Einarson points out, she was the only one who wasn't single. Flash forward to this summer: Harris just got married, Birchard is engaged, and Sweeting is happily partnered. To Birchard, who was just 24 years old when she joined Team Einarson, it feels like she's "grown up with this team," she says. And going through those life milestones has brought them closer together, too.

"It's pretty neat to watch all that, and to grow as individuals and a team," Einarson says. "Just to see how our lives change. Shannon, she's still pretty young, but when she first started with me... she was just a baby. It's pretty special. We've definitely become a family, they're like my sisters. It's pretty amazing."

That experience grants them a pretty comfortable view, as they look ahead to the start of the new

"I THINK WE STILL ALL ENJOY SPENDING TIME TOGETHER AND TRAINING TOGETHER, AND FEEL THAT THERE'S NOT REALLY A CEILING. THE TEAM ITSELF HAS A LOT OF ROOM TO GROW, AND EVEN THOUGH WE'VE HAD QUITE A BIT OF SUCCESS, I THINK WE CAN STILL KEEP PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES AND SETTING THE BAR HIGH FOR OURSELVES."

quadrennial. They're looking forward to getting more practise weekends in with the full team than they've been able to during the pandemic; they've learned that helps their team more than any big game, Einarson says. And while there are a lot of question marks around how the Canadian curling field will shake out, Einarson's team is just eager to get on the ice against the new squads, and see how their opponents are shaping up.

"All the other teams are new, and there are going to be some ups and down with them," Einarson says. "It's easier for us, because we have been together for the last four years, and we have gone through all those growing pains together, so we're definitely going to just go in and play like we know we can and play relaxed, and just go out there and have some fun."

Of course, being both the three-time reigning Canadian champions means they'll be going into this cycle as the team to beat. (The fact they were chosen to represent Canada at the new Pan-Continental Championship in November only cements that reputation.) They're looking forward to having that target on their backs — after all, for Einarson, it wasn't so long ago that she was the one helming a new team, hoping to break through to the sport's most rarified levels.

"It does take me back to four or five years ago, I was just sitting there knocking on the door constantly," Einarson says. "To finally be one of the top teams in the world, it feels absolutely amazing. That just shows how much hard work and dedication we put into this sport. We never gave up, even when the times got tough. That just shows that we're in it, and we want to be the best, and to be the best you got to put in the work for it."

Melissa Martin is a staff writer for the Winnipeg Free Press



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QUICK, ANYBODY GOT A PROGRAM?

Wind of change blowing through Canadian curling this season

BY DON LANDRY

THERE ARE FAMILIAR FACES. SO MANY of them, though, in different places. As the new curling season swings into action, our heads might be set spinning as we take in all of the team changes that have occurred since last year came to a close. The completion of one Olympic cycle and the imminent dawning of another will always mean plenty of tearful good-byes and excited hellos. This time around, however, it was more than just volume. A tectonic shift in big name stars made for dramatic alterations in the competitive landscape, leaving us with perhaps as many questions as answers.

Comprehensive changes to Team Koe and to Team Bottcher. The end of Team Jacobs and the end

of Team Jones. A changing of the guard for Brad Gushue's Fab Four. An allegiance born between two of the top skips in the game, Tracy Fleury and Rachel Homan. And a move back to skip for Reid Carruthers, reunited with an old friend at third.

How will it all play out?

One of the most fascinating new scenarios is one that sees Fleury jumping aboard with Team Homan to play with people she says she's admired for years. With Homan's long-standing teammate and third Emma Miskew sliding over to join Sarah Wilkes in a front-end pairing, the biggest mystery, over the long haul, is whether Homan shoots fourth stones, or does Fleury? The order we see at the beginning of this season is not necessarily one that is cast in stone.

"I think we want to do a little bit of experimenting and just see what feels right for all of us," said Fleury, who was skipping to begin the new season. "We're trying some new things, so that might take a little bit of time to get used to but I think, personality-wise, we'll gel really well. We've known each other for a while and our game style is fairly similar. I think that'll help us get used to competing together."

For Gushue, whose own team has undergone its first change in eight years with former Team Jacobs second E.J. Harnden joining the roster, the question of team dynamics is the really interesting one. Gushue is eager to see which combinations work and which ones do not.

"Sometimes you say 'okay, this person is a little this way and that person is a little that way,'" explained the four-time Tim Hortons Brier champion. "Are they gonna butt heads? Or are they gonna figure it out early on? Some will and some won't. It's gonna be fun to watch."

The new Team Bottcher is one that has piqued Gushue's interest along those lines. Gushue's longtime second, Brett Gallant, has moved west to join skip Brendan Bottcher along with veterans Ben Hebert and Marc Kennedy, meaning there has been

Some eyebrows were raised when 24-year-old Tyler Tardi, a two-time world junior champ, was recruited to play third for Team Kevin Koe.





a complete overhaul in the crew that Bottcher will be rolling with. There are a lot of eyes on this new foursome and expectations are sky high. They're all very skilled, said Gushue, and "they're also four very different personalities. How that mixes and who takes on the leadership role on that team will be interesting."

Hebert's departure from the Kevin Koe rink was part of a substantial remaking of that team as well, with Koe — a four-time Tim Hortons Brier champion skip — getting together with Bottcher's former front-end tandem of Brad Thiessen and Karrick Martin, who'd both curled with Bottcher for more than a decade. In that pairing, Koe brings in one of the best and most experienced sweeping duos in the game.

It is his choice of vice, though, that has raised eyebrows all across the curling world in a move that not very many anticipated. Tyler Tardi, 24, a two-

time world junior champion, will play third for the new Team Koe.

"I didn't really see that one coming," said Carruthers. "I think they're actually going to be a good fit for each other. That's a team that I'm intrigued to see."

If Koe's decision to bring in a youthful, hot-shot vice to join his rink can be considered surprising, then certainly Jennifer Jones' decision to join a team filled with young and talented but still developing players was a shocker. The 48-year-old Olympic gold medallist and six-time Scotties champion will be skipping the team formerly known as Team Zacharias.

Mackenzie Zacharias, who had been the skip but will now play second/vice-skip, is 23 years old. Her sister, Emily, is 21 and Karlee Burgess is 24. Lauren Lenentine, who rounds out a five-player roster, is 22 years old.

Together, the foursome won a world junior championship in 2020, and have appeared in two Scotties since.

"As much as I'm older than them I don't feel older than them when I'm around them," said Jones. "The chemistry is going amazing so far and I'm really enjoying spending time with them."

Jones sees this as a step towards more wins rather than merely a mentoring role for a new wave of up-and-comers, although having one of the greatest skips to ever play the game can be counted as a definite educational plus for the young stars. In her new teammates, Jones sees the work ethic

ABOVE: Six-time Scotties Tournament of Hearts champion and Olympic gold-medallist Jennifer Jones' decision to guide a team filled with young but still developing talent came as a shocker.

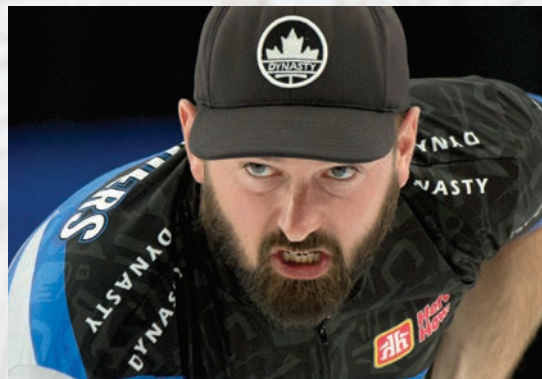
TOP LEFT: Skip Tracy Fleury came one shot away from qualifying for the Olympics in November but she chose to join forces with Team Rachel Homan this season.

BOTTOM LEFT: Mackenzie Zacharias, who skipped her Manitoba team to a world junior championship in 2020 and appeared in two Scotties Tournament of Hearts, has thrown in with veteran skip Jennifer Jones.

TOP LEFT: It's a changing of the guard for one of Canada's best men's teams as Brett Gallant is breaking away from Team Brad Gushue to play with Calgary's Brendan Bottcher.

TOP RIGHT: Veteran Reid Carruthers is jumping back into a skipping role this season after a stint as third for Mike McEwen in Manitoba.

BOTTOM RIGHT: After a fabulous run of success with her longstanding third Emma Miskew, Rachel Homan (pictured) will welcome Tracy Fleury into the fold and hope the new chemistry works.



needed to scale the heights.

“You can have a lot of potential,” Jones said, “but you also need the drive and determination to get there. And they have both.”

It's been a great start to the new season for Jones and Co. They won \$50,000 by capturing the inaugural PointsBet Invitational in Fredericton, N.B.

Jones' longtime teammate, Kaitlyn Lawes, is getting back to skipping after spending the last dozen years playing third. A two-time Canadian junior champion, Lawes will retain some familiarity with Jocelyn Peterman on her new team, with a couple of former Team Fleury players in Selena Njegovan and Kristin MacCuish joining.

“That's a powerhouse team,” said Carruthers, who should know one when he sees one, while continuing to coach Team Kerri Einarson — one of the few teams that didn't break up — last season.

Carruthers is hopping back into the skip's role, himself, after playing third on Team McEwen in the last quadrennial.

“I really do enjoy being the leader, per se,” he said of returning to the role he'd filled prior to getting his first taste of being a vice the last few years. “With this team, in this setup, I've got guys that have bought into me being the leader.”

Longtime Carruthers teammate Derek Samagalski will play front end, along with Connor Njegovan. The team's third sees a reunification of the skip with Jason Gunndaugson, with whom Carruthers curled during his first three seasons in men's. It's a back-end pairing that has really turned some heads.

“He's full of charisma and energy, said Carruthers of Gunndaugson. “And I think our dynamic should be good on the ice. I'm really looking forward to getting started.”

If it will take time for some teams to find top gear, but the Carruthers foursome was not one of them. They won the PointsBet men's event in September.

“We're wanting to start off strong and put the curling world on notice that we're gonna be a force,” he said.

There are so many other changes heading into this season that it is hard to include them all. Matt Dunstone will represent Manitoba and will curl with B.J. Neufeld, Colton Lott and former Team Brad Jacobs lead Ryan Harnden.

Chelsea Carey and Jolene Campbell will stay together in Manitoba along with Rachel Erickson, bringing in Liz Fyfe, formerly of Team Fleury.

Casey Scheidegger and her sister, Jessie Haughian, have former Team Laura Walker players Kate Hogan and Taylor McDonald aboard.

All these familiar faces starting out again in different places, making this new season one of the most captivating in recent memory as new combinations begin their quest for curling dominance.

“Some teams are gonna gel immediately and they're gonna come out like firecrackers,” said Jones of the sweeping changes. “And others, it's going to take a little bit of time. So it will be interesting to see how it all unfolds.”

It certainly will.

Don Landry is a freelance writer based in Toronto



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PHOTOS: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Skip Jason Gunnlaugson (left) and his team from Morris, Man., were sharp in clinching a berth in the Tim Hortons Canadian Curling Trials with a 9-8 win over Tanner Horgan in the men's A-side final. The Gunner had the solid support of (from left): vice-skip Adam Casey, second Matt Wozniak, and lead Connor Njegovan in Liverpool, N.S.

When Jason Gunnlaugson held his hand out to display his newly-earned trials curling competitor's badge for the traditional post-game picture, his arm could not stop shaking. The piece of fabric was light as a feather, but it represented a massive weight of expectation lifted off his shoulders. For the first time in 12 years, Gunnlaugson would

skip a team at the Tim Hortons Canadian Curling Trials, presented by AGI.

His was one of several stories from the 2021 Home Hardware Curling Pre-Trials, presented by New Holland, at Queens Place Emera Centre in Liverpool, N.S., back in October 2021. Gunnlaugson's team from Morris, Man., Team Tanner Horgan of Kingston, Ont., Krista McCarville's team from Thunder Bay, Ont., and Team Jacqueline Harrison of Dundas, Ont., all continued down a path towards the Trials. Twenty



Veteran skip Pat Simmons was knocked out in the B-side semifinal, ending his bid for a berth in the Canadian Curling Trials in Saskatoon.

MEN'S A-SIDE QUALIFIER

Tanner Horgan (Kingston, Ont.)	*101	020	103	0	8
Jason Gunnlaugson (Morris, Man.)	010	202	030	1	9

* Last-rock advantage

MEN'S B-SIDE QUALIFIER

Glenn Howard (Penetanguishene, Ont.)	001	000	102	0	4
Tanner Horgan (Kingston, Ont.)	*020	101	020	1	7

* Last-rock advantage

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs

	Wins	Losses
Jason Gunnlaugson (Morris, Man.)	2	0
Tanner Horgan (Kingston, Ont.)	2	1
Glenn Howard (Penetanguishene, Ont.)	2	2
Pat Simmons (Winnipeg Beach, Man.)	1	1
Tyler Tardi, (Langley, B.C.)	0	1
Paul Flemming (Halifax)	0	2

Round robin

Pool A

	Wins	Losses
Tanner Horgan (Kingston, Ont.)*	6	0
Jason Gunnlaugson (Morris, Man.)*	4	2
Pat Simmons (Winnipeg Beach, Man.)*	4	2
Mike Fournier (Montreal)	3	3
Vincent Roberge (Saint-Romuald, Que.)	2	4
Karsten Sturmey (Edmonton)	2	4
Jeremy Harty (Calgary)	0	6

* Top three teams in round robin advance to playoff round

Pool B

	Wins	Losses
Glenn Howard (Penetanguishene, Ont.)*	5	1
Paul Flemming (Halifax)*	4	2
Tyler Tardi (Langley, B.C.)*	4	2
Colton Flasch (Saskatoon)	4	2
Braden Calvert (Winnipeg)	2	4
Pat Ferris (Grimsby, Ont.)	2	4
Sean Grassie (Winnipeg)	0	6

* Top three teams in round robin advance to playoffs.

Colton Flasch eliminated based on tiebreaker formula

other men's and women's teams were sent home packing and preparing for another upcoming quadrennial.

"Oh, I'll be shaking for a good hour," said Gunnlaugson, 37, after the nail-biting 9-8 win against Horgan to win the first men's spot. "To get to the Trials was a huge goal for us; this is a tough event, but it was a lot of fun and we got through it. So, pretty happy with that."

The last time Gunnlaugson stepped on the ice at the Trials was in 2009, when he skipped a team at the event in Edmonton.



Skip Tanner Horgan, vice-skip Jon Beuk, second Wes Forget, and lead Scott Chadwick rebounded from an A-side final loss to grab the second men's spot at the Trials. Horgan secured the win with an open hit for one in the final end.

While 'Gunner' was an alternate for John Morris in 2013 and Brendan Bottcher in 2017, those experiences pale compared to being there with his squad. Gunnlaugson is calling his own game and leading his team of vice-skip Adam Casey, second Matt Wozniak, lead Connor Njegovan and coach Garry Van Den Berghe.

After powering to a 4-0 record in the round robin, Team Gunnlaugson dropped his final two games to finish 4-2 and second place in its pool. Team Gunnlaugson defeated Team Glenn Howard in the first playoff game and squeaked out the win against Horgan for the Trials berth.

The win came down to a 10th-end draw for one that was swept pillar-to-post by Wozniak and Njegovan. The final touch on that four-foot draw was from Njegovan, who had just enough in his tank to guide his team's rock between two Horgan counters and into the four-foot for the win.



Glenn Howard lost a B-event qualifier game at the Home Hardware Pre-Trials for the second time. He also lost in 2017.

"You watch Connor — he's in the gym every day, he's stronger than most guys twice his size out here. That's the difference, right? An inch or two of sweeping — it's just all that hard work over the five years I've played with the guy," said Gunnlaugson. "Just an unbelievable sweep. I didn't want to throw it too hard; I didn't, and I almost regretted it."

WOMEN'S A-SIDE QUALIFIER

Krista McCarville (Thunder Bay, Ont.)	*102 210 021 x	9
Jacqueline Harrison (Dundas, Ont.)	050 001 000 x	6

* Last-rock advantage

WOMEN'S B-SIDE QUALIFIER

Corryn Brown (Kamloops, B.C.)	000 000 20x x	2
Jacqueline Harrison (Dundas, Ont.)	*021 112 02x x	9

* Last-rock advantage

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Krista McCarville (Thunder Bay, Ont.)	2	0
Jacqueline Harrison (Dundas, Ont.)	2	1
Corryn Brown (Kamloops, B.C.)	2	1
Sherry Anderson (Martensville, Sask.)	1	1
Mackenzie Zacharias (Altona, Man.)	0	2
Suzanne Birt (Montague, P.E.I.)	0	2

Round robin

Pool A	Wins	Losses
Krista McCarville (Thunder Bay, Ont.)*	5	1
Jacqueline Harrison (Dundas, Ont.)*	5	1
Corryn Brown (Kamloops, B.C.)*	4	2
Penny Barker (Moose Jaw, Sask.)	3	3
Jestyn Murphy (Mississauga, Ont.)	2	4
Beth Peterson (Winnipeg)	1	5
Kerry Galusha (Yellowknife, N.W.T.)	1	5

* Top three teams in round robin advance to playoff round

Pool B	Wins	Losses
Suzanne Birt (Montague, P.E.I.)*	4	2
Mackenzie Zacharias (Altona, Man.)*	4	2
Sherry Anderson (Martensville, Sask.)*	4	2
Darcy Robertson (Winnipeg)	3	3
Holly Duncan (Woodstock, Ont.)	3	3
Danielle Inglis (Mississauga, Ont.)	2	4
Jill Brothers (Halifax)	1	5

* Top three teams in round robin advance to playoff round

While Horgan, vice-skip Jon Beuk, second Wes Forget, lead Scott Chadwick, alternate Jacob Horgan and coach Sean Turriff were inches away from earning that first spot, another opportunity to qualify was not far behind.

Tanner Horgan and his brother Jacob joined the lineup after old skip Scott McDonald exited the team and the unit found plenty of early season success. The team ran the table in its pool and defeated Team Paul Flemming of Nova Scotia in its first playoff game. Horgan faltered for the first time in the qualification game against Gunnlaugson but rebounded with a 7-4 win against Team Howard for the second and final Trials spot available.

It was a youth vs. experience game, with youth gaining the upper hand. With the win Horgan, age 23, became the youngest skip — man or woman — to compete at the Tim Hortons Canadian Curling Trials.

"All of it," Horgan said of what he's most looking forward to at the Trials. "It's a big event, and there's a shot to go for the



Skip Krista McCarville (left) admitted to being “over the moon excited” after winning the women’s A-side final and securing a trip to the Trials, along with her team of third Kendra Lilly, second Ashley Sippala and lead Sarah Potts of Thunder Bay, Ont. The team needed major comebacks in its two playoff games to make it to the finish line.



Playing the role of underdog, skip Jacqueline Harrison (left) of Dundas, Ont., punched her ticket to the Trials by winning the B-side final. Harrison was supported by third Allison Flaxey, second Lynn Kreviazuk, and lead Laura Hickey.



It was so near and yet so far for skip Corryn Brown and her team from Kamloops, B.C., after losing in the women’s B-side final.

Olympics. Getting there now, this early in my career, is just something that I’ve always wanted to do. I think it will be an amazing stepping stone for us, and I want to soak it up and learn as much as I can.”

It is hard to determine which feat was more impressive for Team McCarville out on the east coast in Nova Scotia last fall: McCarville leading her team to another pre-trials event win — her third in four attempts — or how the

team overcame incredible odds to win a berth. A team trailing by four points in a playoff game usually should not emerge victorious, but Team McCarville did it twice on the same day.

After qualifying for the playoffs with a 5-1 round-robin record, Team McCarville came up against newcomer Team Mackenzie Zacharias for a first-round playoff game. The youngsters from Manitoba had Team McCarville in a bad spot and led 7-3 in the final end. McCarville, with hammer, needed a Hail Mary of a 10th end to come back. The team scored a stunning four-ender to tie the game and stole another point in the extra end to make the A-qualifier final.

But the journey remained uphill for McCarville, vice-skip Kendra Lilly, second Ashley Sippala, lead Sarah Potts and coach Rick Lang. Team McCarville took on Team Harrison for the first berth and — after scoring one in the first end — gave up a five-ender in the second. If there was any positive to be drawn from the situation, it was that the score of five came early. It allowed

the unit a chance to rebound by evening the score at the fifth-end break. Team McCarville maintained control in the second half to win 9-6.

“Every game we play, we want to go hard right through to the 10th end and make the skip shoot their last shot. We always have that mindset that we never give up,” said McCarville.

Team Harrison was tied with Team McCarville in its pool with a 5-1 record. In the playoffs, Team Harrison doubled Team Suzanne Birt of Prince Edward Island 8-4 in the first round. After losing to Team McCarville, Team Harrison dropped to the B-side qualifier and took on a weary Team Corryn Brown of British Columbia, playing its third game in under 24 hours. Team Harrison kept Team Brown off the scoreboard until the seventh end and secured a 9-2 victory.

It was the first earned Trials berth for skip Harrison, second Lynn Kreviazuk and lead Laura Hickey, while third Alli Flaxey skipped her team in 2017 at the Trials. Caleb Flaxey served as team coach.



Veteran Sherry Anderson came up empty in her bid to play in the Trials in her home province of Saskatchewan.

“We’re a newer team and haven’t been together as long as some of the other really great teams here,” said an elated Harrison. “We take the underdog role and run with it. We know we can fly a bit under the radar so we took that to our advantage and had a great week. The team played so well today and all week so to come into this week and come out with a victory? I can’t even describe it.”

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TIM HORTONS CURLING TRIALS PRESENTED BY AGI

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PHOTOS: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Skip Brad Gushue, left, earned another trip to the Winter Olympics as Canada's men's four-player team after winning the Tim Hortons Trials with third Mark Nichols, second Brett Gallant and lead Geoff Walker.

They are already considered by many to be among the greatest Canadian skips of all time and Jennifer Jones and Brad Gushue added to their remarkable legacies by booking a second trip to the Olympic Winter Games.

They did it in remarkable style, winning nail-biting finals at the 2021 Tim Hortons Curling Trials, presented by AGI, at SaskTel Centre in Saskatoon.

Jones was the first to punch her ticket, defeating Team Tracy Fleury of East St. Paul, Man., 6-5 in an extra end in the women's final.

Gushue followed that up with a tight 4-3 win over Team Brad Jacobs of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., in the men's final.

The wins guaranteed Jones and Gushue a second trip to the Olympics. Jones, third Kaitlyn Lawes and lead Dawn McEwen were all part of Canadian team in 2014 when it won the gold medal at the Sochi Olympics in Russia. Lisa Weagle, also on the current team as lead, played that position for Rachel Homan at the



Skip Brad Jacobs and his team from Sault Ste Marie, Ont., were running hot until the end.

MEN'S FINAL

Brad Gushue (St. John's, N/L)	*010 100 002 0	4
Brad Jacobs (Sault Ste Marie, Ont.)	001 000 010 1	3

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

Team Gushue		Team Jacobs	
Brad Gushue	89%	Brad Jacobs	82%
Mark Nichols	93%	Marc Kennedy	76%
Brett Gallant	83%	E.J. Harnden	89%
Geoff Walker	96%	Ryan Harnden	83%
Team totals	90%	Team totals	82%

SEMIFINAL

Brad Jacobs (Sault Ste Marie, Ont.)	*004 040 xxx x	8
Kevin Koe (Calgary)	000 102 xxx x	3

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Brad Gushue (St. John's, N/L)	1	0
Brad Jacobs (Sault Ste Marie, Ont.)	1	1
Kevin Koe (Calgary)	0	1

Round robin

	Wins	Losses
Brad Gushue (St. John's, N/L)*	7	1
Brad Jacobs (Sault Ste Marie, Ont.)*	7	1
Kevin Koe (Calgary)*	6	2
Mike McEwen (Winnipeg)	4	4
Matt Dunstone (Regina)	3	5
John Epping (Toronto)	3	5
Brendan Bottcher (Edmonton)	3	5
Jason Gunnlaugson (Morris, Man.)	2	6
Tanner Horgan (Kingston, Ont.)	1	7

* Top three teams advance to playoffs

2018 Games. The Olympic experience would be new for second Jocelyn Peterman.

Gushue was also eager to return to the Olympics where he had already shown he can get the job done. The 41-year-old business owner skipped his Canadian team, which included Mark Nichols, Russ Howard and Jamie Korab, to Olympic gold in 2006 in Turin, Italy.

This time he would go with a different front end — his Tim Hortons Trials-winning team was rounded out by vice-skip Nichols, second Brett Gallant, lead Geoff Walker, alternate Jeff Thomas and coach Jules Owchar.

Jones was thrilled to get another shot at the Olympics at age 47.

"Holy smokes," said Jones, who has six Canadian women's titles, two world championships and that Olympic gold on her sparkling resume. "It was a dream come true to get to do this twice. It's such a privilege to do it with these girls.

Jones, playing out of the St. Vital Curling Club in Winnipeg and



There were no shortages of tears or sighs of relief after skip Jennifer Jones skipped her team from the St. Vital Curling Club to the women's gold medal at the 2021 Tim Hortons Curling Trials in Saskatoon. The win propelled Jones and her team to the Beijing Winter Olympics Games. The happy crew at the conclusion of the final: left to right, Jones, third Kaitlyn Lawes, second Jocelyn Peterman, and leads Dawn McEwen and Lisa Weagle.

coached by Viktor Kjell, needed every bit of experience and shot-making to subdue Fleury, the number one ranked team in the world that went 8-0 in round robin.

It took a miraculous steal in an extra end to push Team Jones over the line. Playing a soft hit with her final rock to win the game, Fleury rubbed on a guard to give Team Jones the winning point.

Trailing 5-4 after nine, Team Jones appeared to have the game won in the 10th end until Jones was off with her final hit for two.

"I couldn't believe I missed that shot in 10," said Jones, adding she "never would have forgiven" herself if they had lost the game.

It was an emotionally disappointing loss for Team Fleury, including vice-skip Selena Njegovan, second Liz Fyfe, lead Kristin MacCuish, alternate Chelsea Carey, and coach Sherry Middaugh.

"We thought we had lost in the tenth for sure. Jen makes that shot 99 per cent of the time, so lucky to go to an extra," said Fleury, who took the blame for her final stone in the extra that left Team Jones escape with the win.

"It felt close, but it caught the curl," she said. "I wasn't positive enough with it."

Team Gushue put on a clinic against Team Jacobs.

"Boy, oh boy, did we play good," said Gushue. "I thought we managed the game."

The final was just what was advertised. A battle between two superb teams



Tracy Fleury lost a heartbreaking final when her final stone rubbed on a guard to give Team Jones the winning point in an extra end.

WOMEN'S FINAL

Tracy Fleury (East St. Paul, Man.)	*010 200 101 00	5
Jennifer Jones (Winnipeg)	102 001 000 11	6

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

Team Fleury		Team Jones	
Tracy Fleury	72%	Jennifer Jones	81%
Selena Njegovan	72%	Kaitlyn Lawes	82%
Liz Fyfe	78%	Jocelyn Peterman	85%
Kristin MacCuish	78%	Dawn McEwen	92%
Team totals	78%	Team totals	85%

SEMIFINAL

Jennifer Jones (Winnipeg)	*100 120 022 x	8
Krista McCarville (Thunder Bay, Ont.)	001 002 000 x	3

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Jennifer Jones (Winnipeg)	2	0
Tracy Fleury (East St. Paul, Man.)	0	1
Krista McCarville (Thunder Bay, Ont.)	0	1

Round robin	Wins	Losses
Tracy Fleury (East St. Paul, Man.)*	8	0
Jennifer Jones (Winnipeg)*	5	3
Krista McCarville (Thunder Bay, Ont.)*	4	4
Kerri Einarson (Gimli, Man.)	4	4
Casey Scheidegger (Lethbridge, Alta.)	4	4
Laura Walker (Edmonton)	3	5
Kelsey Rocque (Edmonton)	3	5
Jacqueline Harrison (Dundas, Ont.)	3	5
Rachel Homan (Ottawa)	2	6

* Top three teams advance to playoffs; Einarson eliminated on basis of tiebreaking format.

with contrasting styles, both in their prime, both with 7-1 records in the round robin, and both yearning for a trip to the biggest stage in sports and another shot at glory. Jacobs had skipped Canada to Olympic gold in Sochi.

Team Jacobs came into the final as the week's top shooting machine, and fans — and opponents — could only drop their jaws in admiration. It was actually scary to watch as Team Jacobs dismantled Calgary's Team Kevin Koe 8-3 in the semifinal, a game in which the winners shot an astonishing 94 per cent and made some 'highlight of the week' shots.

But Team Gushue, which enjoyed the bye, set the tone in the final, turning it into a strategic, cat-and-mouse game that it plays so well, and giving Team Jacobs only a few bare peeks at setting up an end.

The game turned in the ninth end when Team Jacobs missed a line call, setting up the only deuce of the game for Team Gushue.

It was a crushing loss for Jacobs and his outstanding team from the Soo Curling Association — third Marc Kennedy, second E.J. Harnden, lead Ryan Harnden and coach Caleb Flaxey. They were all looking for a return to the Olympics and another shot at gold. Jacobs and the Harnden brothers were together when they won in gold in Sochi. Kennedy, who joined the team the previous season, won gold in 2010 playing second for Edmonton's Kevin Martin.

SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS

Fort William Gardens » Thunder Bay, Ontario » January 28 to February 6, 2022



PHOTOS: ANDREW KLAVER © KRUGER PRODUCTS

Winning never gets old and it certainly doesn't for Kerri Einarson and her team from Gimli, Man., after winning a third consecutive Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Thunder Bay, defeating home town Krista McCarville 9-6 in a nail-biting final. The joyous champs (from left): skip Einarson, third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard, and lead Briane Harris.

Team Canada skip Kerri Einarson got to enjoy curling's version of a 'do-over' after guiding her outfit from the Gimli Curling Club in Manitoba to a third straight Canadian women's curling championship, overcoming Krista McCarville's Team Northern Ontario 9-6 in the Scotties Tournament of Hearts final in Thunder Bay, Ont.

The win assured that Einarson, supported by vice-skip Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard, lead Briane Harris, alternate Krysten Karwacki and coach Reid Carruthers, would get to return to Prince George, B.C., and this time play in the BKT Tires & OK Tire World Women's Curling Championship.

The 2020 women's championship was among the early international sporting

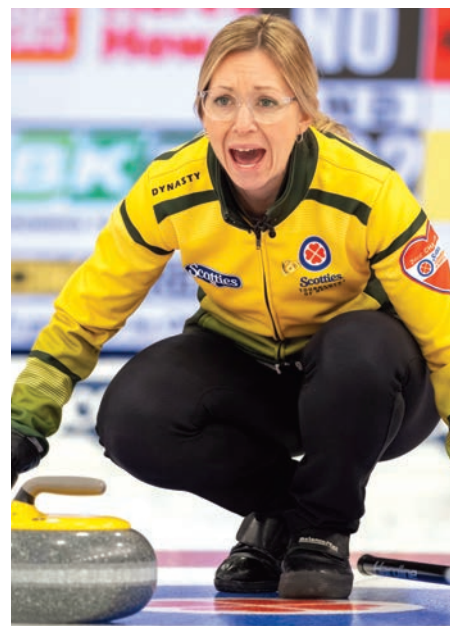
events wiped out by the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Curling Canada compensated Prince George with the hosting of the 2022 women's championship.

"When I found out it was in Prince George, I said I want to get back there," said Einarson. "I said 'girls, we need to get back there and play in Canada at the worlds'. It was pretty disappointing when we were unable to compete last time."

Team Canada had to overcome a determined comeback from the McCarville team, plus a small but vocal crowd in the Fort William Gardens madly cheering on the local team from Thunder Bay.

But as her team has done over the past three years, Einarson found a way to the winner's circle.



Cheered on by their home-town fans, skip Krista McCarville and her teammates had a wonderful Scotties Tournament of Hearts, reaching the final where they lost a heartbreaker 9-6.

Team Canada had to win three straight games in the Page playoffs after losing its first game in the Page seeding round.

“It feels absolutely amazing,” said Einarson. “To win once is hard, but to do it back-to-back-to-back is extremely hard. I’m so proud of my teammates, they’ve been unreal all week.”

The third straight national title lifts Einarson and her team into elite company, along with Team Nova Scotia’s Colleen Jones, Team Jennifer Jones of Manitoba and Saskatchewan’s Team Vera Pezer as other skips with at least three consecutive championships. Team Colleen Jones won four in a row during her brilliant career.

It was also the fourth Scotties win for Birchard. She previously won the 2018 Scotties with Jennifer Jones when she filled in for Kaitlyn Lawes who was off to the PyeongChang Olympics for mixed doubles.

Team Canada, the best shooting team at all positions during the Scotties, did what

it did best all week. It limited its opposition to a few bare peeks at the scoreboard, and capitalized when the opportunities came along. But Team Northern Ontario came back from an early 6-2 deficit and made Team Canada sweat until the end.

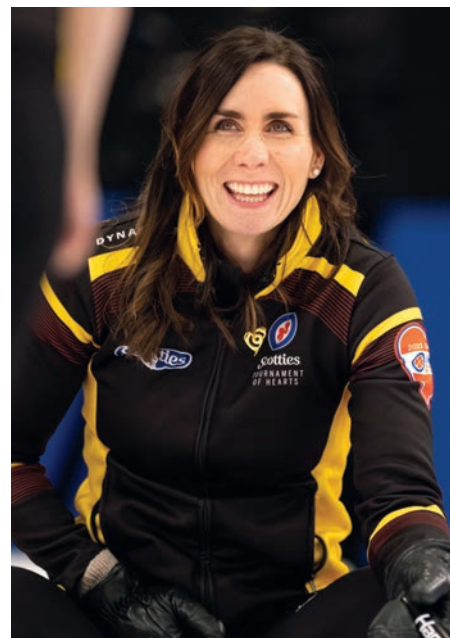
McCarville had shaved the Team Canada lead down to two, trailing 8-6 in the 10th, but with her final rock in her hand she really had nowhere to go with it in an attempt to score two. The button was locked up.

“It was not really the shot I was expecting to try to tie it,” said McCarville. “It was kind of the way that end went. It was a Hail Mary and it didn’t work.”

Einarson tipped her hat to Team Northern Ontario.

“They’re a wonderful team and they make a ton of shots,” she said. “We knew we had to make all of our shots.”

McCarville has been down this road before. She lost the final of the 2016



New Brunswick skip Andrea Kelly had plenty to smile about during the 2022 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. The Scotties veteran surprised a lot of curling fans by reaching the semifinal of the Page playoffs before finally bowing out.

FINAL

Northern Ontario (Krista McCarville)	010	102	020	0	6
Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)*	102	030	101	1	9

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

Northern Ontario

Krista McCarville	69%	Team Canada	Kerri Einarson	83%
Kendra Lilly	71%		Val Sweeting	90%
Ashley Sippala	83%		Shannon Birchard	85%
Sarah Potts	95%		Briane Harris	80%
Team totals	79%	Team totals	84%	

SEMIFINAL

New Brunswick (Andrea Kelly)	010	101	010	x	4
Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)	*201	010	202	x	8

* Last-rock advantage

FINAL STANDINGS

Pool A

	Wins	Losses
Wild Card #1 (Tracy Fleury)*	7	1
New Brunswick (Andrea Kelly)*	6	2
Northern Ontario (Krista McCarville)*	5	3
Saskatchewan (Penny Barker)	4	4
P.E.I. (Suzanne Birt)	4	4
Wild Card #2 (Chelsea Carey)	4	4
Wild Card #3 (Emma Miskew)	4	4
Newfoundland/Labrador (Sarah Hill)	2	6
Nunavut (Brigitte MacPhail)	0	8

Pool B

	Wins	Losses
Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)*	8	0
Nova Scotia (Christina Black)*	5	3
N.W.T. (Kerry Galusha)*	5	3
Manitoba (Mackenzie Zacharias)	5	3
Ontario (Holly Duncan)	4	4
Alberta (Laura Walker)	3	5
Quebec (Laurie St-Georges)	3	5
British Columbia (Mary-Anne Arsenault)	3	5
Yukon (Hailey Birnie)	0	8

* Top three teams in each pool make the playoffs; N.W.T. defeated Manitoba in the third-place tiebreaker game.

Championship round

Semifinals

Nova Scotia (Christina Black)	010	041	110	x	8
Northern Ontario (Krista McCarville)*	104	400	002	x	11

New Brunswick (Andrea Kelly)	010	202	200	1	8
N.W.T. (Kerry Galusha)*	201	020	010	0	6

Finals

Wild Card #1 (Tracy Fleury)*	000	000	111	x	3
Northern Ontario (Krista McCarville)	021	122	000	x	8

Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)	000	310	002	0	6
New Brunswick (Andrea Kelly)*	112	001	110	1	8

Page playoffs

1 v. 2

New Brunswick (Andrea Kelly)*	202	110	101	00	8
Northern Ontario (Krista McCarville)	030	000	030	21	9

3 v. 4

Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)*	010	304	201	x	11
Wild Card #1 (Tracy Fleury)	003	020	010	x	6

Scotties, and finished third at the 2021 Tim Hortons Canadian Curling Trials in Saskatoon, but this may have been her most bitter loss of all, coming as it did in front of friends and family.

“It’s disappointing,” she said. “We’ve been here before. You don’t know when you’re ever going to get back. So to come up a wee bit short in the final is tough.”

Einarson advanced to the final after defeating skip Andrea Kelly’s Team New Brunswick of Fredericton 8-4 in the semifinal. The win exacted a measure of revenge over Kelly’s team which won their previous meeting in the Page playoff seeding round. It was Team Canada’s only loss of the week after rolling to an 8-0 record in the round robin.

McCarville advanced to the final by posting a 9-8 heart-stopping extra-end win over Kelly in the Page 1v2 game.

For the third year in a row, Einarson also won the Sandra Schmirler Most Valuable Player Award for her performance in the playoffs.

ALL-STAR TEAMS

First-team all-stars

- Skip Kerri Einarson, Team Canada
- Third Val Sweeting, Team Canada
- Second Shannon Birchard, Team Canada
- Lead Briane Harris, Team Canada

Second-team all-stars

- Skip Selena Njegovan, Wild Card #1
- Third Sarah Wilkes, Wild Card #3
- Second Ashley Sippala, Northern Ontario
- Lead Kerry Galusha, N.W.T.
(skips but thows lead)



Team Canada skip Kerri Einarson kept a tight grip on the Most Valuable Player Award, winning it for the third straight time at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.



Team Canada swept the first-team all-star honours (from left): skip Kerri Einarson, third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard, and lead Briane Harris of the Gimli Curling Club in Manitoba.

MARJ MITCHELL AWARD

Karlee Everist, second for Team Nova Scotia, won the Marj Mitchell Award for best embodying the spirit of curling at the 2022 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.



It was a good week for Team Nova Scotia, which made the championship round. Team second Karlee Everist also won the Marj Mitchell Award.

JOAN MEAD BUILDER AWARD

The 2022 Builder Award was awarded to Leslie Kerr who was the Northern Ontario Curling Association’s (NOCA) inaugural Executive Director from 2007 to 2020, serving as the face of NOCA for 14 years. She helped steer the amalgamation of five northern Ontario regional curling associations into one effective and efficient curling governing body. 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.



Roses and the Joan Mead Builder Award were given to hard-working Leslie Kerr who was instrumental in organizing women’s curling in Northern Ontario.

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 2022 Scotties Tournament of Hearts playoffs. It was the third year in a row that Einarson was named MVP in the playoffs.



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OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Beijing National Aquatics Centre › Beijing, China › February 2 to 20, 2022



PHOTOS: WCF/STEPHEN FISHER

Niklas Edin of Sweden claimed the only major title missing from a career in which he's established himself as the most decorated skip in curling history by winning Olympic men's gold in Beijing. The winners, left to right: Daniel Magnusson, Rasmus Wranå, Oskar Eriksson, Christoffer Sundgren and skip Edin.

Only so much training and preparation

can perfect the craft of curling. Even with those meticulous training plans, very little can prepare teams for the magnitude — and pressure — of an Olympic Winter Games.

It certainly helps that Canada's men's and women's teams both had prior Olympic Games experience. But as the 2022 event in Beijing shows, sometimes even the stalwart combination of training and experience can only go far in chasing a gold medal at the world's most challenging curling event.

2006 gold-medallist Brad Gushue and 2014 gold-medallist Jennifer Jones led their men's and women's teams through a week full of challenging competition. Each seasoned skip felt the pressure to stand on top of the podium again for themselves and a Canadian program that

did not earn a medal in men's or women's curling in 2018.

For Gushue and vice-skip Mark Nichols, it resulted in a repeat trip to the podium 12 years after winning gold in Torino, Italy. The duo, joined by second Brett Gallant, lead Geoff Walker, alternate Marc Kennedy and coach Jules Owchar had an up-and-down week and managed to put together the performance needed to take home bronze for Canada.

"Of all the curling teams in the world, to be one of three on the podium here, it's pretty special," Gushue said. "Hopefully curling fans understand that. It was quite clear to any curling fan we weren't at our best this week, so quite proud to get on the podium. It's something I'm proud of right now but in a couple of years it's something we're going to appreciate even more."



Great Britain's Bruce Mouat had the hammer and momentum to start the gold-medal final but, in the end, had to settle for the silver medal.



Sixteen years after winning his first Olympic medal, Canadian skip Brad Gushue added another to his collection, taking home bronze in Beijing. Gushue won gold in Turin in 2006.

The Canadian men started the week with a pair of wins but took two steps back with back-to-back losses. However, Team Gushue picked up three more wins in a row before dropping its last two round-robin games and settling for a 5-4 round-robin record.

Team Gushue, tied with reigning Olympic champion John Shuster of the United States in the standings, ranked third in the four-team semifinals by virtue of its head-to-head record.

With all teams on even ground in the semifinal and only one win away from a gold-medal game, Canada fought hard against Sweden's Niklas Edin for a chance to play in the final. Gushue had an opportunity on his last rock to play a shot for the win and missed by mere centimetres. It sent Sweden to the final against Bruce Mouat of Great Britain, while Shuster and the United States took on Canada in the bronze-medal game.

With a quick turnaround between the semifinal loss and the bronze-medal game, there was very little time to focus on the past. Leading by one point in the ninth end, Canada sealed the deal with a steal of two over the United States and paving the way for Canada to pick up the bronze-medal win.

"Every emotion in the book," Canadian third Mark Nichols said after the game at the Ice Cube. "To get here and struggle, not play at our best and just fight ... man, did we ever fight hard and it could have been really easy to just say, 'it's not our week.' I'm obviously disappointed it's not a gold medal, but it could also be nothing."

Edin completed his Olympic medal set in the gold-medal game by defeating Mouat 5-4 in an extra-end for the gold medal. He won bronze in 2014 and silver in 2018.

Jones, vice-skip Kaitlyn Lawes and lead Dawn McEwen made

MEN'S GOLD-MEDAL GAME

Great Britain (Bruce Mouat)	*100 100 100 10	4
Sweden (Niklas Edin)	021 000 010 01	5

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

Great Britain		Sweden	
Bruce Mouat	89%	Niklas Edin	87%
Grant Hardie	94%	Oskar Eriksson	93%
Bobbie Lammie	80%	Rasmus Wranå	95%
Hammy McMillan Jr.	95%	Christoffer Sundgren	99%
Team totals	90%	Team totals	94%

BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

United States (John Shuster)	010 202 000 x	5
Canada (Brad Gushue)	*201 010 022 x	8

SEMIFINALS

Great Britain (Bruce Mouat)	*003 020 001 2	8
United States (John Shuster)	020 200 000 0	4
Sweden (Niklas Edin)	*010 200 010 1	5
Canada (Brad Gushue)	001 020 000 0	3

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Sweden (Niklas Edin)	2	0
Great Britain (Bruce Mouat)	1	1
Canada (Brad Gushue)*	1	1
U.S.A. (John Shuster)	0	2

* Won bronze-medal game against U.S.A. 8-5

Round robin

	Wins	Losses
Great Britain (Bruce Mouat)*	8	1
Sweden (Niklas Edin)*	7	2
Canada (Brad Gushue)*	5	4
U.S.A. (John Shuster)*	5	4
China (Ma Xiuyue)	4	5
Norway (Steffen Walstad)	4	5
Switzerland (Peter de Cruz)	4	5
ROC (Sergey Glukhov)	4	5
Italy (Joel Retornaz)	3	6
Denmark (Mikkel Krause)	1	8

* Top four teams make the playoffs

return trips alongside Olympic newcomer Jocelyn Peterman at second, Lisa Weagle as alternate and coach Viktor Kjell. The Canadian women's team also finished with a 5-4 round-robin record. However, unlike the men, the standings did not work out in favour of the women.

"I can tell everybody at home that we tried our very best," Jones said. "We're really sorry we don't get to play again but we tried our hardest. I think we embodied what the Olympics are all about, enjoying the experience, laying it all on the ice, not being afraid to lose and just being our very best. We did that all week and it's devastating not to move on but we did our best."

Team Jones did what it needed to do during the final round-robin draw of the event, nailing a 10-4 win against Denmark in eight ends. However, all the team could do was watch the



PHOTO: WCF/STEPHEN FISHER

Eve Muirhead led Great Britain to its first curling gold since 2002, pulling away with a four-ender in the seventh end for a 10-3 victory over Japan. It was the most lopsided women's final in Olympic history. The jubilant winners (from left): skip Muirhead, Vicky Wright, Jennifer Dodds, Hailey Duff and Mili Smith.



PHOTO: WCF/CELINE STUCKI

Sweden's Anna Hasselborg defeated Silvana Tirinzoni's reigning world champions Switzerland to clinch the Olympic bronze medal at the National Aquatics Centre in Beijing, China.



PHOTO: WCF/STEPHEN FISHER

Canadian skip Jennifer Jones couldn't find the magic that carried her to Olympic curling gold in 2014 but was proud of her team's performance.

WOMEN'S GOLD-MEDAL GAME

Japan (Satsuki Fujisawa)	010 001 010 x 3
*Great Britain (Eve Muirhead)	*200 110 402 x 10
* <i>Last-rock advantage</i>	

PERCENTAGES

Japan		Great Britain	
Satsuki Fujisawa	69%	Eve Muirhead	88%
Chinami Yoshida	64%	Vicky Wright	89%
Yumi Suzuki	82%	Jennifer Dodds	89%
Yurika Yoshida	97%	Hailey Duff	90%
Team totals	78%	Team totals	89%

BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	*010 010 203 0 7
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	100 203 020 1 9

SEMIFINALS

Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	*010 100 301 0 6
Japan (Satsuki Fujisawa)	001 041 010 1 8
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	*401 002 010 30 11
Great Britain (Eve Muirhead)	030 110 204 01 12

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Great Britain (Eve Muirhead)	2	0
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)*	1	1
Japan (Satsuki Fujisawa)	1	1
Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	0	2
* <i>Won bronze-medal game against Switzerland 9-7</i>		
Round-robin	Wins	Losses
Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	8	1
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	7	2
Great Britain (Eve Muirhead)	5	4
Japan (Satsuki Fujisawa)	5	4
Canada (Jennifer Jones)	5	4
U.S.A. (Tabitha Peterson)	4	5
China (Han Yu)	4	5
South Korea (EunJung Kim)	4	5
Denmark (Madeleine Dupont)	2	7
ROC (Alina Kovaleva)	1	8

remaining games from ice level and hope the other results went their way. It wasn't in the cards for the Canadian women's team, and it was eliminated from playoff contention.

"Honestly I couldn't watch," said Lawes. "It's difficult when it's out of our control. But we have a lot to be proud of. We're Olympians in a pandemic and we worked really, really hard. I'm really proud that we hung in there together."

Great Britain's Eve Muirhead defeated Japan's Satsuki Fujisawa 10-3 to win the gold-medal game and win the first Olympic gold medal of her career. Sweden's Anna Hasselborg bested Switzerland's Silvana Tirinzoni 9-7 to win the bronze-medal game.

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OLYMPIC MIXED DOUBLES

Beijing National Aquatics Centre › Beijing, China › February 2 to 8, 2022

There was no shortage of opportunities

available to the Canadian team of Rachel Homan and John Morris to claim a medal in mixed doubles curling at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

But mixed doubles curling has the capability to be both cruel and kind in equal measure, as the Canadian pairing discovered at the Ice Cube.

Four years previously, Morris had teamed with Kaitlyn Lawes to win the inaugural Olympic mixed doubles curling gold medal, but his bid for back-to-back gold would fall short as back-to-back extra-end losses by Homan and Morris to close out the round robin resulted in Canada missing the playoffs.

The Canadian duo, coached by Scott Pfeifer, ended up with a 5-4 round-robin record, tied with Sweden's Oskar Eriksson and Almida de Val, but the Swedes' head-to-head win nailed down the fourth and final playoff spot.

Homan and Morris were named Canada's Olympic team a few weeks earlier after a COVID-prompted cancellation of the Canad Inns Canadian Mixed Doubles Trials that were scheduled for Portage la Prairie, Man.

The Canadian duo had no shortage of championship pedigree, but as Morris pointed out following its final game, an agonizing 8-7 loss to the eventual gold-medallists from Italy, mixed doubles curling is merciless.

"Here's the bottom line about the Olympics compared to (2018) — the mixed doubles field is phenomenal," he said. "It's the hardest field I've ever played in for a mixed doubles event. You saw it. You saw how hard it was, and you saw how close every game was. We just were a fraction of an inch from being in the playoffs, and you know what happens in the playoffs at the Olympics — anything can happen. I really liked the way we played against Italy, and with half a break, a millimetre here or there, we're playing in that semifinal."

That missing millimetre proved prominent against Italy's Stefania Constantini and Amos



Italy's Amos Mosaner and Stefania Constantini proudly show off their gold medals after dominating the mixed doubles curling competition, going through undefeated. It was the first ever Olympic medal won by the Italians.



Norway's Kristin Skaslien reacts after winning a place in the gold-medal final of mixed doubles with partner Magnus Nedregotten. The Norwegians had to settle for silver after losing the final 8-5.



Italy's Amos Mosaner and Stefania Constantini were the class of the field in Olympic mixed doubles competition in Beijing, China.

PHOTOS: WORLD CURLING FEDERATION/CELINE STUCKI



Sweden's Oskar Eriksson and Almida de Val rebounded from an 8-1 spanking in the semifinals to emerge with a bronze medal after defeating Great Britain 9-3.



Four years after winning the inaugural gold medal in Olympic mixed doubles curling, Canada's John Morris, together with new partner Rachel Homan, missed by a whisker of making the playoffs in Beijing, China. Canada fell millimetres short against Italy in its final round-robin game, losing a close measure in an extra end.

Mosaner, who stole an 8-7 win when Homan's last-shot draw for the win slid a fraction too far and went to a measurement.

"It's a game of millimetres out there," said Homan. "One more shot and we're in the playoffs. It sucks, but we tried our best for Canada. John was phenomenal all week. I wish I could have made a few more."

Canada had rallied from a 5-2 deficit to take a 7-5 lead, only to surrender a game-tying deuce in the eighth.

It was similar to its next-to-last game of the round robin, a 10-8 extra-end loss to an Australian team that Morris used to coach, and had won just once in its previous seven games. Canada fell behind 7-0 after four ends, only to tie it with a steal in the eighth before losing in the extra.

"There's no point beating that dead horse, there's nothing more we can talk about, how or why we lost," said Morris. "The bottom line is that we're so proud to represent Canada; it's the

GOLD-MEDAL GAME

Italy (S. Constantini/A. Mosaner)*	021 301 01	8
Norway (K. Skaslien/M. Nedregotten)	200 100 20	5

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

Italy		Norway	
Stefania Constantini	83%	K. Skaslien	70%
A. Mosaner	90%	M. Nedregotten	69%
Team totals	87%	Team totals	69%

BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

Sweden (A de Val/Eriksson)	*043 110 xx	9
Great Britain (J. Dodds/B. Mouat)*	100 002 xx	3

SEMIFINALS

Italy (S. Constantini/A. Mosaner)*	112 110 2x	8
Sweden (A. de Val/O. Eriksson)	000 001 0x	1
Norway (K. Skaslien/M. Nedregotten)*	010 103 01	6
Great Britain (J. Dodds/B. Mouat)	102 010 10	5

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Italy (S. Constantini/A. Mosaner)	2	0
Norway (K. Skaslien/M. Nedregotten)	1	1
Sweden (Almida de Val/Oskar Eriksson)	1	1
Great Britain (J. Dobbs/Bruce Mouat)	0	2

Round robin	Wins	Losses
Italy (Stefania Constantini/Amos Mosaner)*	9	0
Norway (Kristin Skaslien/M. Nedregotten)*	6	3
Great Britain (Jennifer Dobbs/Bruce Mouat)*	6	3
Sweden (Almida de Val/Oskar Eriksson)*	5	4
Canada (Rachel Homan/John Morris)	5	4
Czech Rep. (Zuzana Paulova/Tomas Paul)	4	5
Switzerland (Jenny Perret/Martin Rios)	3	6
USA (Vicky Persinger/Chris Plys)	3	6
China (Fan Suyuan/Ling Zhi)	2	7
Australia (Tahli Gill/Dean Hewitt)	2	7

*Top four team qualify for playoffs. Without any tiebreaker games, Sweden advanced based on its 6-2 victory over Canada in the round robin

best country in the world in our opinion, and it was such an honour to wear the Maple Leaf. We did it with all of our hearts."

"I'm super proud of the effort they put in," added Pfeifer. "We had a great opportunity to qualify and I'm sure we'll be stewing on that for a little bit. But all I can say is that when we look back on it, they left everything they had out on the ice, without a doubt."

Constantini and Mosaner, meanwhile, finished a perfect run through the Games by beating Great Norway's Kristin Skaslien and Magnus Nedregotten 8-5 to give Italy its first Olympic curling medal.

"It's the dream of every athlete," said Constantini. "It's really amazing, it was my dream, our dream, and it's so good because we worked hard to reach this goal – and now the gold medal is ours!"

Sweden captured the bronze medal with a 9-3 win over Great Britain's Jennifer Dodds and Bruce Moat.

TIM HORTONS BRIER PRESENTED BY AGI

ENMAX Centre › Lethbridge, Alberta › March 4 to 13, 2022



There was only three of them to celebrate another Tim Hortons Brier victory, but three was all that was needed to wrap up a fourth national men's curling title for the outstanding team from St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. Gathered around the hardware were (from left): skip Brad Gushue, second Brett Gallant and lead Geoff Walker of Team Wild Card #1. Missing is third Mark Nichols who missed the playoffs with COVID-19 symptoms.



Calgary skip Kevin Koe was the class of the field until he and his Calgary teammates came up short in the final.

There have been some remarkable stories

written about the Tim Hortons Brier over the years, but nothing can touch the one authored in 2022 by skip Brad Gushue and his Team Wild Card #1.

Playing a man down in the playoffs, Gushue and his team won the Canadian men's curling champions for the fourth time.

With veteran third Mark Nichols sidelined for the playoffs after a positive COVID-19 test late in the week, Gushue, Brett Gallant and Geoff Walker defeated Alberta's Team Kevin Koe, 9-8, in a thrilling extra-end final of the Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, at the ENMAX Centre in Lethbridge, Alta.

The win lifted Gushue into a tie with Koe, Regina's Ernie Richardson and Edmonton's Randy Ferbey and Kevin Martin as skips with four national men's titles. But only Gushue had to win his fourth title with one hand tied behind his back.

Gushue previously won Canadian titles in 2020, 2018 and 2017 (all with the same team members), twice representing Newfoundland & Labrador and once as Team Canada. It also marked the first time a Wild Card team had won the Canadian title.

"Once Mark went down it was a huge long shot for us, but to be honest I think it kind of inspired us," said the 41-year-old Gushue, who limped into the last three games of the playoffs with only second Gallant and lead Walker for support, along with coach Jules Owchar, after Nichols, who was earlier named to the second all-star team as third, was forced to the sidelines.

"It gave us some extra energy and we knew we had to be at our best. Brett and Geoff, the way they adapted to the new positions, was incredible. It's pretty amazing. I never thought this would happen when Mark went down."

The good news for Team Wild Card #1 was they still had plenty of fire in their bellies and the usual eight rocks to play with, and that was enough. They threw them with confidence and precision.

Team Wild Card #1 won its final three playoff games in impressive fashion, and then completed the impossible dream with a win over Koe, who was looking to become the first man to skip teams to five national titles.

What made this all more amazing was the fact the team from St. John's barely had time to catch its collective breath after a tough two weeks in Beijing where it won a bronze medal in the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, and a long, tiring flight home before heading right into the Tim Hortons Brier.

Team Wild Card #1 earned a berth in the final with a 9-3, eight-end win over defending champion Brendan Bottcher and Team Canada (Edmonton) in the morning's semifinal.

It was a wonderfully played final, a typical chess match that had the usual

PHOTOS: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Skip Brad Gushue says the odds facing him to win the 2022 Tim Hortons Brier with only three players was akin to playing a hockey game and killing a penalty for 60 minutes. But in a manner that defied logic, Gushue led his three-member team to its fourth Brier title, wrapping it up in Lethbridge with a 9-8 extra-end victory over Alberta's Kevin Koe. The win lifted Gushue into a tie with Koe, Regina's Ernie Richardson and Edmonton's Randy Ferbey and Kevin Martin as skips with four national men's titles.



number of well-played shots by two teams that have made many of them over the years. Team Gushue scored a pair of three-ender in the third and sixth ends that eventually spelled the difference.

Koe, trailing 8-6 in the 10th, almost won it in the 10th after positioning his rocks nicely to score three, but Gushue made a superb raise takeout with his final rock, leaving Koe a draw for two to force the extra end.

Gushue, who shot a sparkling 93 per cent in the final, played a clean extra end, and hit and stuck with the hammer to win.

Koe, backed up by third B.J. Neufeld, second/vice-skip John Morris, lead Ben Hebert, alternate Carter Rycroft and coach John Dunn, was crushed by the loss, especially because it came in Alberta and in front of friends and family.

FINAL

Alberta (Kevin Koe)*	020 020 200 20 8
Wild Card #1 (Brad Gushue)	003 003 011 01 9

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

Alberta		Wild Card #1	
Kevin Koe	81%	Brad Gushue	93%
B.J. Neufeld	69%		
John Morris	83%	Brett Gallant	82%
Ben Hebert	90%	Geoff Walker	89%
Team Totals	81%	Team Totals	87%

SEMIFINAL

Team Canada (Brendan Bottcher)	100 101 00x x 3
Wild Card #1 (Brad Gushue)*	010 030 32x x 9

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

Canada		Alberta	
Brendan Bottcher	69%	Brad Gushue	94%
Pat Jenssen	79%		
Brad Thiessen	86%	Brett Gallant	96%
Kerrick Martin	88%	Geoff Walker	94%
Team totals	79%	Team totals	94%

Round-robin

Pool A	Wins	Losses
Alberta (Kevin Koe)*	7	1
Team Canada (Brendan Bottcher)*	7	1
Saskatchewan (Colton Flasch)*	6	2
Wild Card #2 (Matt Dunstone)	6	2
Ontario (Glenn Howard)	4	4
New Brunswick (James Grattan)	3	5
P.E.I. (Tyler Smith)	1	7
N/L (Nathan Young)	1	7
Yukon (Thomas Scoffin)	1	7

Pool B

	Wins	Losses
Wild Card #1 (Brad Gushue)*	8	0
Northern Ontario (Brad Jacobs)*	6	2
Wild Card #3 (Jason Gunnlaugson)*	5	3
Manitoba (Mke McEwen)	5	3
British Columbia (Brent Pierce)	4	4
Quebec (Mike Fournier)	4	4
Nova Scotia (Paul Flemming)	3	5
N.W.T. (Jamie Koe)	1	7
Nunavut (Peter Mackey)	0	8

* Top three teams in each pool make the playoffs; Saskatchewan and Wild Card #3 win tiebreakers.

Championship round

Semifinals

Northern Ontario (Brad Jacobs)	001 020 0xx x 3
Saskatchewan (Colton Flasch)*	210 400 3xx x 10
Team Canada (Brendan Bottcher)*	010 302 10x x 7
Wild Card #3 (Jason Gunnlaugson)	001 010 01x x 3

Finals

Alberta (Kevin Koe)*	010 002 013 x 7
Saskatchewan (Colton Flasch)	001 000 100 x 2
Wild Card #1 (Brad Gushue)*	000 010 101 0 3
Team Canada (brendan Bottcher)	000 001 020 1 4

Page playoffs

1 v. 2

Team Canada (Brendan Bottcher)	020 201 010 1 7
Alberta (Kevin Koe)*	203 010 201 0 9

3 v. 4

Saskatchewan (Colton Flasch)	002 020 102 0 7
Wild Card #1 (Brad Gushue)*	020 102 010 3 9

* Last-rock advantage

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Wild Card #1 (Brad Gushue)	3	1
Alberta (Kevin Koe)	2	1
Team Canada (Brendan Bottcher)	2	2
Saskatchewan (Colton Flasch)	1	2
Wild Card #3 (Jason Gunnlaugson)	0	1
Northern Ontario (Brad Jacobs)	0	1

“I thought this one was ours to win,” he said. “They did a better job of making us pay (for our mistakes) than I thought we did on them.”

Gushue made it clear how tough his team was to hang in there.

“I’ll always remember the gutsiness of this team,” he said. “The tenacity, whatever adjectives you want to use. What the three of us pulled off the last

three days was pretty crazy.”

Gushue also said the four national wins was something special.

“I’ve never been shy about saying our team is among the greats of all-time,” he said. “We’re in the argument with all the other teams. I feel pretty confident in our place.”

The win marked Owchar’s eighth Tim Hortons Brier win as a coach.

ALL-STAR TEAMS

First-team all-stars

- Skip Brad Gushue, Wild Card #1
- Third Marc Kennedy, Northern Ontario
- Second Kevin Marsh, Saskatchewan
- Lead Karrick Martin, Team Canada

Second-team all-stars

- Skip Kevin Koe, Alberta
- Third Mark Nichols, Wild Card #1
- Second John Morris, Alberta
- Lead Ben Hebert, Alberta

ROSS HARSTONE AWARD

Team Nova Scotia third Scott Saccary was the winner of the 2022 Ross Harstone Award, whose recipient is selected by the players. The award is presented to the curler who best combines playing ability and sportsmanship.



Making the Tim Hortons Brier first team all-star list is quite an honour, and the top players in 2022 were (left to right) Brad Gushue, Marc Kennedy, Kevin Marsh and Karrick Martin.



Sharp shooting helped these players make the second all-star team, including, left to right, Kevin Koe, John Morris and Ben Hebert. Missing from the photo is Mark Nichols.



Scott Saccary of Team Nova Scotia was a deserving winner of the Ross Harstone Award.



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PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

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PHOTOS: WORLD CURLING FEDERATION/CELINE STUCKI

Chinese skip Haitao Wang, left, celebrates after retaining his Paralympic curling title in Beijing with an 8-3 victory over Sweden's Viljo Petersson-Dahl in the gold-medal final. Other members of the back-to-back champions are third Jianxin Chen, second Mingliang Zhang, lead Zhuo Yan, alternate Yulong Sun and coach Qingshuang Yue.



Sweden's Kristina Ulander shot a brilliant 88 per cent from the lead position, but it wasn't enough to help get her country to the gold-medal position at the Winter Paralympic Games. The Swedes, skipped by Viljo Petersson-Dahl, settled for a well-earned silver medal.

It was a grind but thoroughly worth it for Canada's national

wheelchair curling team at the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games at the iconic Ice Cube venue in Beijing.

Canada's rejuvenated wheelchair curling program rallied to claim its fifth trip to the Paralympic medal podium and maintained its status as the only country to win medals in every Paralympic curling competition.

After losing the semifinal 9-5 to the host Chinese, Canada, skipped by Mark Ideson, would rally later the same day to defeat Slovakia's Team Radoslav Ďuriš 8-3 to claim the bronze medal and put Ideson, vice-skip Ina Forrest, second Dennis Thiessen, lead/last-rock thrower Jon Thurston and alternate Collinda Joseph on the medal podium.

"Everyone showed up to play today," said Ideson. "Jon made a couple of beauties to finish it off. We're so happy to win the bronze."

For Ideson, Thiessen and Forrest, it was a second successive Paralympic bronze to go along with the gold they won in 2014. Forrest also was a member of Canada's 2010 gold-medal team. Thurston and Joseph, meanwhile, were members of the 2018 bronze-medal team.



China's Haitao Wang, front, was all business on the ice at the Paralympic Games.

"It's incredible to see the team's hard work pay off," said national coach Mick Lizmore. "Between training remotely through COVID, staying game ready, working hard together in the lead up to the Games, I'm so proud of this team and this medal, and it was hard earned."

It was indeed. Canada won its final three games of the round robin, including a dramatic 7-6 victory over Norway in its last game, capped by a big three in the eighth and final end.

That left Canada in the fourth and final playoff spot at 7-3, tied with Slovakia and Sweden but finishing the lowest in the tiebreaker scenarios. China, meanwhile, was seeded first with an 8-2 record as the host team was chasing its second straight Paralympic gold medal.

After the semifinal loss to China, Canada quickly regrouped to play Slovakia, and took a 4-3 lead with hammer into the eighth end — a sixth-end stolen point for Canada looming large.

But in the eighth, Slovakia had two shots buried and was looking good to steal to either force an extra end or win the game outright.

Thurston, though, snuffed out the Slovakian hopes with a spectacular, soft-weight, double takeout.

"I actually got to practise that spot just before the game," said Thurston. "With similar weight too . . . I felt really comfortable throwing it. It was a big shot."

Canada would end up with four in the eighth and the celebration was on.



It was a thrilling moment for Canadians Mark Ideson and Ina Forrestrest after winning bronze at the Winter Paralympic Games.

GOLD-MEDAL GAME

China (Haitao Wang)	*010 040 3x	8
Sweden (Viljo Petersson-Dahl)	001 101 0x	3

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

China		Sweden	
Haitao Wang	70%	Viljo Petersson-Dahl	71%
Jianxin Chen	84%	Ronny Persson	71%
Mingliang Zhang	93%	Mats-Ola Engborg	70%
Zhuo Van	88%	Kristina Ulander	88%
Team totals	84%	Team totals	75%

BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

Canada (Mark Ideson)	*110 011 04	8
Slovakia (Radoslav Ďuriš)	000 200 10	3

SEMIFINALS

China (Haitao Wang)	*103 032 0x	9
Canada (Mark Ideson)	010 200 2x	5
Slovakia (Radoslav Ďuriš)	000 310 00	4
Sweden (Petersson-Dahl)	*111 001 11	6

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
China (Haitao Wang)	2	0
Sweden (Petersson-Dahl)	1	1
Canada (Mark Ideson)	1	1
Slovakia (Radoslav Ďuriš)	0	2

Round robin

	Wins	Losses
China (Haitao Wang)*	8	2
Slovakia (Radoslav Ďuriš)*	7	3
Sweden (Viljo Petersson-Dahl)*	7	3
Canada (Mark Ideson)*	7	3
U.S.A. (Matthew Thums)	5	5
South Korea (Go Seung-nam)	5	5
Norway (Jostein Stordahl)	4	6
Great Britain (Hugh Nibloe)	4	6
Latvia (Poļina Rožkova)	4	6
Estonia (Andrei Koitmäe)	3	7
Switzerland (Laurent Kneubühl)	1	9

* Top four team qualify for the playoffs

"I'm just trying to digest it all," said Thurston. "You know, it was such an exciting game, and emotional day, up and down. Of course, down first after the semifinal, it was a tough loss. Just regroup and get back and come out with a win was very special. The team played really well, we're well supported by a great staff. So, I'm really happy right now."

China, skipped by Haitao Wang, made it back-to-back gold medals with an 8-3 win over Sweden.

"I'm very happy and very thrilled," said Wang, whose team was rounded out by vice-skip Jianxin Chen, second Mingliang Zhang, lead Zhuo Yan, alternate Yulong Sun and coach Qingshuang Yue. "Four years ago we didn't have too much pressure, but today we were playing at home, so it just put us under a lot of pressure, but luckily, we made it."



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BKT TIRES & OK TIRE WORLD WOMEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

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CN Centre » Prince George, B.C., Canada » March 19 to 27, 2022

It turned out to be their swan song —

and the harmony was as sweet as ever.

Skip Silvana Tirinzoni's Team Switzerland raised its level of dominance in world women's curling another notch when it laid claim to its third world title in a row — a first for any team — in Prince George, B.C.

The Swiss won the 2022 BKT Tires & OK Tire World Women's Curling Championship, presented by Nature's Bounty, with a hard-fought 7-6 win over skip EunJung Kim's Team South Korea, and the victory only underlined just how impressive the three-peat winners have been over the past four years.

It was an unprecedented run by the team, which included vice-skip Alina Paetz (who throws skip stones), second Esther Neuenschwander, lead Melanie Barbezat, alternate Carole Howald and coach Pierre Charette of Canada.

But it will also be their last win together. After the season the team announced Neuenschwander and Barbezat are leaving the team to focus on off-ice pursuits.

But the foursome was superb right up to their last performance together.

"To win it once is hard enough, but to win it three times in a row is crazy," Tirinzoni said. "All three of them were tough and so special."

The team was victorious last year in Calgary and in 2019 in Silkeborg, Denmark. The 2020 championship was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was also the seventh win by a Swiss team in the last nine world championships played. It was also the ninth world title by a Swiss team, second only to Canada which has won 17.

"I think we have some good individual players and in the past, they found a way



PHOTOS: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

It was a triumphant final performance for the Switzerland team skipped by Silvana Tirinzoni, left, in Prince George, B.C. The team won its third consecutive BKT Tires and OK Tire World Women's Curling Championship, and later announced it was breaking up. Moving on to other endeavours are lead Melanie Barbezat (second from left) and second Esther Neuenschwander (third from left). Alina Paetz, who throws skips rocks, remains with Tirinzoni.

to play together," Paetz said. "That's why we always had great teams. We are just hard workers in Switzerland and we know how to practise."

The South Korean team, which included vice-skip KyeongAe Kim, second ChoHi Kim, lead SeonYeong Kim, alternate YeongMi Kim and coach MyungSup Lim, was looking for the first world title for its country.

The Swiss had to fight through the resilient Koreans who fell behind 3-0 early but were dogged in their determination to fight back, which they did, tying the the score at 6-6 after nine. The Koreans had shot stone biting the four-foot, but EunJung Kim was unable to put a lid on it with her last shot, sliding too far, and Paetz blasted the enemy stone out to win.

Paetz was named the recipient of the Frances Brodie award for sportsmanship. The award is voted on by the players and



Skip EunJung Kim put on a masterful display winning the silver medal for South Korea and showed why her team is one of the best in the women's curling world.

it is the second year in a row Paetz earned the honour.

It was poetic justice that the Swiss took the gold medal after heading into the final unbeaten. They won 12 of their games in the 13-team round-robin, then defeated Team Sweden in the semifinals.



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Team Canada was mighty pleased to secure the bronze medal at the 2022 BKT Tires and OK Tire World Women's Curling Championship. From left: skip Kerri Einarson, third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard, lead Briane Harris, alternate Krysten Karwacki and coach Reid Carruthers from the Gimli Curling Club in Manitoba.

Team Canada, skipped by Kerri Einarson and supported by third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard, lead Briane Harris, alternate Krysten Karwacki, team coach Reid Carruthers and national coach Renée Sonnenberg, won the bronze medal, defeating skip Anna Hasselborg's Team Sweden 8-7.

The Canadians saw their gold-medal dreams go 'poof' in a heartbreaking 9-6 loss to Team South Korea's EunJung Kim in the semifinals.

It was a bitter loss for the Canadians who rolled through the 13-team round robin with a sparkling 9-3 record and had a boisterous Canadian crowd cheering their every shot.

FRANCES BRODIE AWARD

Switzerland's Alina Paetz, who throws skip rocks, was awarded the Frances Brodie Award at the 2022 World Women's Curling Championship. It was her second win in a row. The award winner is selected annually by competitors in the World Women's Curling Championship as the player who best combines playing ability with sportsmanship. The award was



Switzerland's Alina Paetz took home the Frances Brodie Award for the second season in a row. Presenting the award was Dianne Barker, chief umpire at the event.



Team Turkey made its first-ever appearance at the BKT Tires and OK Tire World Women's Championship and skip Dilsat Yildiz came through with two victories.

FINAL

Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	*030 101 010 1 — 7
South Korea (EunJung Kim)	001 020 201 0 — 6

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

Switzerland		South Korea	
Alina Paetz	93%	EunJung Kim	86%
Silvana Tirinzoni	90%	Kveong-ae Kim	89%
E. Neuenschwander	98%	Cho-hi Kim	91%
Melanie Barbezat	93%	Seon-yeong Kim	83%
Team totals	93%	Team totals	87%

BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	020 110 100 20 — 7
Canada (Kerri Einarson)	*101 003 020 01 — 8

* Last-rock advantage

SEMIFINALS

Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	102 010 020 1 7
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	010 200 200 0 5
South Korea (EunJung Kim)	020 101 021 2 9
Canada (Kerri Einarson)	001 020 300 0 6

QUALIFICATION ROUND

Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	011 010 100 4 8
U.S.A. (Cory Christensen)	000 201 021 0 6
Canada (Kerri Einarson)	202 002 030 0 9
Denmark (Madeleine Dupont)	030 100 201 1 8

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	2	0
Canada (Kerri Einarson)*	2	1
South Korea (EunJung Kim)	1	1
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	1	2
U.S.A. (Cory Christensen)	0	1
Denmark (Madeleine Dupont)	0	1

* Won bronze-medal game against Sweden 8-7

Round robin

	Wins	Losses
Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)*	12	0
South Korea (EunJung Kim)*	9	3
Canada (Kerri Einarson)*	9	3
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)*	9	3
U.S.A. (Cory Christensen)*	8	4
Denmark (Madeleine Dupont)*	7	5
Japan (Ikue Kitazawa)	6	6
Norway (Marianne Rorvik)	5	7
Germany (Daniela Jentsch)	5	7
Italy (Stefania Constantini)	4	8
Turkey (Dilsat Yildiz)	2	10
Czech Rep. (Alžběta Baudyšová)	2	10
Scotland (Rebecca Morrison)	0	12

* Qualified for playoffs

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.

NEW HOLLAND CANADIAN JUNIORS

Stratford, Rotary Complex » Stratford Ontario » March 26 to April 1, 2022

The 2022 New Holland Canadian Junior

Curling Championships was a significant return to the ice for the best curlers under 21 years of age across the nation.

After cancelling the 2020 event, Canada's best youth curlers strongly desired a chance to compete at the premiere junior curling event with a field chock full of returning players and fresh faces in Stratford, Ont.

Landan Rooney won Ontario's first Canadian junior men's title in 12 years during his national juniors debut. Nova Scotia's Taylour Stevens improved on her bronze-medal performance to win the 2022 Canadian junior women's championship for the first time in her career.

Rooney, third Nathan Steele, second Jacob Jones, lead Austin Snyder, alternate Scott Mitchell and coach Collin Mitchell (1998 Olympic silver medallist) only faltered once during the eight-game round robin in a game against Manitoba's Jordon McDonald.

While the Whitby Curling Club team qualified for the six-team playoff, it did not receive the bye and had to win three games straight to capture the title. Team Ontario rode a score of four, followed by a steal of four, against Nathan Young of Newfoundland & Labrador to win its first playoff game 10-6 and earn a spot in the semifinal.

Another big steal came in handy for the team from Ontario in the semifinal game. Rooney and his team earned an 8-4 win against Saskatchewan's Daymond Bernath with a steal of three in the eighth end.

Ontario faced another tough test against Team Johnson Tao of Alberta in the gold-medal game. Team Rooney book-ended its linescore with tallies of three in the second and ninth ends to seal away the 10-4 win and earn the Canadian junior men's championship. It is Ontario's 10th Canadian junior men's title.

"It's awesome. Just awesome," said Rooney of the national title victory. "Once we popped that big three, it was kind of just about keeping damage control. We knew we could give up a few and still be in control."

In the bronze-medal game,



The host team, Ontario 1, captured the 2022 Canadian junior men's championship. (From left): Landan Rooney, third Nathan Steele, second Jacob Jones, and lead Austin Snyder. Rooney and his Whitby Curling Club outfit are the first men's team to win on home ice since British Columbia's Tyler Tardi accomplished the feat in 2017 at Victoria.

Saskatchewan's Team Bernath scored a four-ender in the second and climbed to an 11-5 win against Manitoba's Team McDonald.

Taylour Stevens of the Halifax Curling Club arrived in Stratford with lofty goals, having won bronze at the last national championship in 2020. The teams that bested Stevens in 2020 had since aged out. It paved a path for Stevens and her revamped lineup with Cate Fitzgerald at lead (she also played with Stevens in 2020), newcomers Lauren Ferguson at third and Alison Umlah at second, along with coach Mary Mattatall, who felt they had a lot to prove at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

There were no questions; it was the best team at the end of the event. Nova Scotia ran the table at the 2022 New Holland Canadian Juniors. Team Stevens was the only undefeated team in the round-robin with a perfect eight wins and zero losses. This record earned Nova Scotia a bye to the semifinals and a date with newcomers Team Claire Booth of Alberta.

It was a very close semifinal match with Nova Scotia trailing by one in the final end with hammer. Team Stevens made its shot



Johnson Tao, skip of Alberta 1, had a tough time in the gold-medal final, but came away with the silver medal.

for two, coming out as the 7-6 winner and getting its spot in the gold-medal game.

In the final, Nova Scotia took on 2019 Canadian Under-18 silver-medallist Emily Deschenes of Ontario. Tied and coming home with hammer, Team Stevens scored two for a 7-5 win and Nova Scotia's sixth Canadian junior women's championship.

"There were a lot of things going through my mind," said Stevens of her emotions



Nova Scotia's Taylour Stevens team captured the Canadian Under-21 Women's Curling Championship in Stratford, Ont. (From left): Stevens, third Lauren Ferguson, second Alison Umlah, and lead Cate Fitzgerald.



Emily Deschenes, left, and third Emma Artichuk, look over the situation for Team Ontario 1. They lost the gold-medal final in the 10th end.

JUNIOR MEN'S FINAL

Ontario 1 (Landan Rooney)	*030 210 103 X 10
Alberta 1 (Johnson Tao)	001 002 010 X 4

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

Ontario 1		Alberta 1	
Landan Rooney	86%	Johnson Tao	63%
Nathan Steele	76%	Jaedon Neuert	82%
Jacob Jones	79%	Benjamin Morin	81%
Austin Snyder	83%	Andrew Nowell	85%
Team totals	81%	Team totals	77%

SEMIFINALS

Manitoba 1 (Jordan McDonald)	*010 002 010 0 4
Alberta 1 (Johnson Tao)	001 010 101 1 5
Sask. 1 (Daymond Bernath)	*002 010 001 x 4
Ontario 1 (Landan Rooney)	020 200 130 x 8

BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

Sask. 1 (Daymond Bernath)	*040 220 102 X 11
Manitoba 1 (Jordan McDonald)	002 001 020 X 5

* Last-rock advantage

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Ontario 1 (Landan Rooney)	3	0
Alberta 1 (Johnson Tao)	2	1
British Columbia 1 (Connor Deane)	1	1
Saskatchewan 1 (Daymond Bernath)	1	1
N/L 1 (Nathan Young)	0	1
Manitoba 1 (Jordan McDonald)	0	2

Round robin

Pool A

	Wins	Losses
Saskatchewan 1 (Daymond Bernath)*	7	1
Alberta 1 (Johnson Tao)*	7	1
N/L 1 (Nathan Young)*	7	1
Nova Scotia (Nick Mosher)	5	3
Ontario 2 (Dylan Niepage)	4	4
British Columbia 2 (Adam Fenton)	3	5
Prince Edward Island (Mitchell Schut)	2	6
Manitoba 2 (Aaron Van Ryssel)	1	7
New Brunswick (Rajan Dalrymple)	0	8

Pool B

	Wins	Losses
Manitoba 1 (Jordan McDonald)*	7	1
Ontario 1 (Landan Rooney)*	7	1
British Columbia 1 (Connor Deane)*	6	2
Saskatchewan 2 (Nathen Pomedli)	5	3
Alberta 2 (Justin Runciman)	4	4
Quebec (Dimitri Audibert)	3	5
Northern Ontario (Dallas Burgess)	3	5
N/L 2 (Sean O'Leary)	1	7
Northwest Territories (Mason MacNeil)	0	8

* Top three teams in each pool advance to the playoffs



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when the winning stone was in her hands in the tenth. “I knew I just had to take a deep breath and shake some of the nerves away. I ended up throwing it OK so it all worked out.”

Alberta’s Booth rebounded in the bronze-medal game, defeating Northern Ontario’s Katy Lukowich 13-5.

Team Rooney will represent Canada at the 2023 World Junior Men’s Curling Championship scheduled for Feb. 25-March 4 in Fuessen, Germany. Team Stevens, which Deschenes will skip as Stevens has aged out of juniors, will first compete at the World Junior-B Curling Championships in Lohja, Finland, from Dec. 8-19, 2022.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S FINAL

Ontario 1 (Emily Deschenes)	010 100 101 0	5
Nova Scotia 1 (Taylour Stevens)	*001 011 020 2	7

* Last-rock advantage

SEMIFINALS

Nova Scotia 1 (Taylour Stevens)	*200 200 010 2	7
Alberta 2 (Claire Booth)	001 011 102 0	6
Northern Ontario 1 (Katy Lukowich)	*200 002 001 x	5
Ontario 1 (Emily Deschenes)	013 120 120 x	10

QUARTER-FINALS

New Brunswick (Celia Evans)	*202 000 000 x	4
Alberta 2 (Claire Booth)	010 111 241 x	11
Ontario 1 (Emily Deschenes)	*101 010 211 x	7
Alberta 1 (Serena Gray-Withers)	020 101 000 x	4

BRONZE-MEDAL FINAL

Northern Ontario (Katy Lukowich)	010 001 003 x	5
Alberta 2 (Claire Booth)	*101 330 410 x	13

FINAL STANDINGS

Round robin

Pool A	Wins	Losses
Northern Ontario (Katy Lukowich)*	7	1
New Brunswick (Celia Evans)*	5	3
Alberta 1 (Serena Gray-Withers)*	5	3
Manitoba 1 (Tansby Tober)	5	3
Prince Edward Island (Rachel MacLean)	4	4
N/L (Mackenzie Mitchell)	4	4
Nova Scotia 2 (Sophie Blades)	3	5
Quebec 2 (Jolianne Fortin)	2	6
N.W.T. (Cassie Rogers)	1	7

Pool B	Wins	Losses
Nova Scotia 1 (Taylour Stevens)*	8	0
Ontario 1 (Emily Deschenes)*	6	2
Alberta 2 (Claire Booth)*	5	3
Saskatchewan (Madison Kleiter)	5	3
British Columbia (Holly Hafeli)	4	4
Ontario 2 (Rachel Steele)	4	4
Quebec 1 (Lauren Cheal)	2	6
Manitoba 2 (Morgan Maguet)	1	7
Yukon (Bayly Scoffin)	1	7

* Top three teams in each pool advance to the playoffs; Manitoba 1 Tansby Tober and Saskatchewan Madison Kleiter eliminated on basis of tiebreaker system



Winners of the Joan Mead Award were Jackson Dubinski of Northern Ontario, left, and Mackenzie Mitchell of Newfoundland and Labrador.

JOAN MEAD LEGACY AWARD

The 2022 Joan Mead Legacy Award went to Jackson Dubinski of Northern Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador’s Mackenzie Mitchell. The Joan Mead Award, in honour of former CBC curling producer Mead, is awarded annually to a male and a female junior curler who best exemplify leadership, excellence and fair play, and recognizes community involvement, academic achievement and volunteerism.



Ken Watson Award winners for 2022 (from left): Josh Miki, Sam Follett, Raelyn Helston and Anna Munroe.

KEN WATSON AWARD

The 2022 women’s winners of the Ken Watson Award are Alberta 1 Anna Munroe (Pool A) and Alberta 2 Raelyn Helston (Pool B), while the men’s winners were Newfoundland and Labrador’s Sam Follett (Pool A) and Josh Miki of British Columbia (Pool B). The awards are voted on by the players in the New Holland Canadian Juniors and presented to the curlers who best combine playing ability with sportsmanship.

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The 2022 Balance Plus Canadian Juniors Fair Play Award winners.

ASHAM FAIR PLAY AWARD

Junior Men

- Lead Daniel Del Conte, Ontario 2
- Second Jonah Peterson, Manitoba 2
- Third Sam Follett, N.L.
- Skip Connor Deane, B.C. 1
- Coach Marie-Josée Billo, Quebec

Junior Women

- Lead Anna Munroe, Alberta 1
- Second Julie Evans, New Brunswick
- Third Sydney Howatt P.E.I.
- Skip Emily Deschenes, Ontario 1
- Coach Sue Ross, Yukon

The Fair Play Award winners are selected by the junior men’s and women’s officials.



The 2022 Asham National Coaching Awards went to junior men’s coach Colin Mitchell of Ontario 1, left, and junior women’s coach Mary Mattatall of Nova Scotia 1.

ASHAM NATIONAL COACHING AWARD

The 2022 Asham National Coaching Award winners are junior men’s coach Colin Mitchell of Ontario 1 and junior women’s coach Mary Mattatall of Nova Scotia 1. The award winners at the New Holland Canadian Juniors are chosen by coaches, who are asked to select an opposing team coach who best exemplifies the attributes of coaching.

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LGT WORLD MEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESENTED BY NEW HOLLAND

Orleans Arena › Las Vegas, U.S.A. › April 2 to April 10, 2022

In another unusual curling season, it was the usual suspects who ended up battling for gold at the 2022 LGT World Men's Curling Championship, presented by New Holland.

Sweden's Team Niklas Edin, just a few weeks removed from winning gold at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, and Canada's Team Brad Gushue, who won bronze in Beijing, renewed their longstanding rivalry in the gold-medal game at Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

It was the third time these men's curling powerhouses battled for world gold, which each team having prevailed once coming into the 2022 final — Team Gushue in 2017 at Edmonton and Team Edin a year later in Las Vegas.

The rubber match would go Sweden's way, as Edin, vice-skip Oskar Eriksson, second Rasmus Wranå, lead Daniel



PHOTOS: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

The Swedish juggernaut, skipped by Niklas Edin, has staked its claim as the greatest men's curling team — ever. And who can argue? The current lineup — which includes Oskar Eriksson, Rasmus Wranå and Christoffer Sundgren — gave Edin his sixth world title as skip by winning in Las Vegas, defeating Canada's Brad Gushue 8-6 in the final.



Team Canada's Brad Gushue earned a thumbs up for leading his team to a silver medal.

Magnusson, alternate Christoffer Sundgren and coach Fredrik Lindberg prevailed on 8-6 on ice conditions that left both teams shaking their heads in frustration.

"I'm not that disappointed with the loss, to be honest," said Gushue, who captured Canada's 12th world championship silver medal and world-leading 55th medal overall. "I'm disappointed that a really cool experience was taken away from our team. When you get into moments like this, where it's one sheet at a world championship, you want to go out and display what you're able to do and have a good battle and make some shots, and get the crowd roaring. It became a coin toss on every rock, and unfortunately it came up heads for Niklas a little more than it did for us. I'm disappointed at the conditions. Not losing. Niklas can beat us on good ice, too."

For Edin, it was a sixth world men's

gold medal, and fourth in succession. But it didn't come easily. Gushue, backed up by vice-skip Mark Nichols, second Brett Gallant, lead Geoff Walker, alternate E.J. Harnden, team coach Jules Owchar and national coach Jeff Stoughton, would post the best record of the 13-team round-robin standings at 10-2 (including a win over the Swedes, who finished second at 9-3).

Canada would defeat the home-country favourites — Korey Dropkin's U.S. team in one semi, while Sweden knocked off Italy's Joel Retornaz in the other.

And it was Canada that would set the early pace in the gold-medal game, as the St. John's, N.L., team would take an early 3-0 lead through two ends.

But Sweden came back to tie it with a deuce in the third and a steal in the fourth, and then took its first lead with two in the sixth.



Italian skip Joël Retornaz, playing in his eighth world men's championship, finally hit the podium in Las Vegas, winning the bronze medal. It was Italy's first medal at a men's world championship.

In the seventh, Gushue had a makeable raise takeout for three, but his stone overcurled and Canada would settle for a game-tying single, and saw its hopes practically vanish when the skipper's peel attempt for a blank in the ninth end resulted in a single point, a tie game, and the Swedes having the hammer in the 10th end, which they used for the game-winning deuce.

"We're very happy," said Edin. "That game was

very tough, difficult conditions to play on, so I'm really happy that we could fight as hard as we did, and really try to figure out every spot. That meant we could play as smart as we can, not making the wrong mistakes at the wrong time."

And while the game result was a disappointment for Gushue, he was able to see the big picture.

"Oh, it's incredible, it really is incredible," he said. "And it's been a roller coaster. We had the high where we played extremely well at the Trials, and then struggle at the Olympics but come away



COLLIE CAMPBELL MEMORIAL AWARD

Italian lead Simone Gonin is the winner of the 2022 Collie 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.

with the bronze when we probably played the worst we've ever played over that long of a stretch, to be honest, and then follow it up with what we did at the Brier, which was incredible. And then to come here where I thought we played as well as we could with the conditions that were offered to us. We were beaten by a great team; what Niklas has achieved is incredible."

Italy defeated the U.S. 13-4 for its first World Championship medal of any colour, and Italian lead Simone Gonin won the player-voted Collie Campbell Memorial Award for sportsmanship.

FINAL

Canada (Brad Gushue)	*120 010 101 0 6
Sweden (Niklas Edin)	002 102 010 2 8

* Last-rock advantage

PERCENTAGES

Sweden		Canada	
Niklas Edin	78%	Brad Gushue	62%
Oskar Eriksson	69%	Mark Nichols	80%
Rasmus Wranå	79%	Brett Gallant	93%
Daniel Magnusson	86%	Geoff Walker	91%
Team totals	78%	Team totals	82%

BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

United States (Korey Dropkin)	021 001 00x x 4
Italy (Joël Retornaz)	*400 210 60x x 13

SEMIFINALS

Canada (Brad Gushue)	*020 102 010 2 8
U.S.A. (Korey Dropkin)	001 010 102 0 5
Italy (Joël Retornaz)	000 101 110 x 4
Sweden (Niklas Edin)	*021 040 001 x 8

QUALIFICATION ROUND

Switzerland (Yannick Schwaller)	010 200 10x x 4
Italy (Joël Retornaz)	*401 021 02x x 10
Scotland (Kyle Waddell)	*010 000 111 0 4
U.S.A. (Korey Dropkin)	201 110 000 1 6

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Sweden (Niklas Edin)	2	0
Italy (Joël Retornaz)*	2	1
Canada (Brad Gushue)	1	1
United States (Korey Dropkin)	1	2
Switzerland (Yannick Schwaller)	0	1
Scotland (Kyle Waddell)	0	1

* Won bronze-medal game against U.S.A. 13-4

Round robin	Wins	Losses
Canada (Brad Gushue)*	10	2
Sweden (Niklas Edin)*	9	3
Italy (Joël Retornaz)*	8	4
Scotland (Kyle Waddell)*	7	5
U.S.A. (Korey Dropkin)*	7	5
Switzerland (Yannick Schwaller)*	6	6
Germany (Sixten Totzek)	6	6
South Korea (Kim Soo-Hyuk)	6	6
Czech Republic (Lukas Klima)	5	7
Norway (Magnus Ramsfjell)	5	7
Finland (Kalle Kiiskinen)	4	8
Netherlands (Wouter Goesgens)	3	9
Denmark (Tobias Thune)	2	10

* Top six teams advance to playoffs; Switzerland advances based on tiebreaker format.



Building on a **SOLID FOUNDATION**

After capturing bronze in Beijing, Canada's National Wheelchair Curling Program looks ahead to 2026

BY LISA WEAGLE



The Canadians were thrilled with their bronze-medal win at the Paralympic Games in Beijing, China. Left to right, Jon Thurston, Mark Ideson, Dennis Thiessen and Ina Forrest.

COMPETING AT THE Paralympic Games takes years of planning, preparation and training. But preparing to compete at a Paralympic Games during a global pandemic?

That presents a whole new set of challenges.

“These were preparations like no other,” said Mick Lizmore, national program head coach of the Canadian Wheelchair Curling Team. “We had to find ways to do almost everything as a team online. The extended time away from the ice gave us opportunities to shift our focus; we adjusted tactics, spent more time looking at game tape, and shifted how we approached health and wellness. The athletes each did an amazing job of adapting to the circumstances.”

The athletes got creative facing the unique challenge of training for an ice sport when ice wasn’t always readily available. Dennis Thiessen practised outdoors on a frozen pond. Some athletes created at-home target setups to simulate finesse shots. When ice was available, curlers trained alone or regionally in small groups, always following strict COVID-19 protocols.

When the team competed at the World Wheelchair Curling Championship in Wetzikon, Switzerland, in March of 2020, they had no idea that it would be the last time they would all see each other for 16 months. During the championship, COVID-19 was spreading quickly worldwide. Despite uncertainty around the event being able to finish, the Canadians played their final game, received their

silver medals, and flew home just in time for Canada’s first lockdown.

Nearly a year and a half later, the team reunited for a training camp to prepare for the 2021 World Wheelchair Curling Championship in Beijing, China. Typically, the world championship is hosted a full year in advance of the Paralympic Games, but this event had been pushed to October, a mere five months before the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games.

Mark Ideson, Jon Thurston, Ina Forrest, Thiessen, and Collinda Joseph finished the world championship round-robin with a 7-4 record. They lost the qualification game 6-4 to the United States and found themselves off the podium with a fifth-place finish. Team Canada used the event as a significant learning opportunity to prepare for the upcoming Paralympic Games.

National coach Wendy Morgan, in her fifth Paralympic Games, and Lizmore had the daunting challenge of leading athletes and support personnel to Beijing amid ever-changing restrictions and directives. With the Omicron variant spreading throughout the world, they decided that an extended period in a pre-Games training bubble would be necessary to stay healthy and provide the best chance of success on the ice.

The Delta Thistle Curling Club in Richmond, B.C. was home base for a three-week staging camp. Marie Wright, who won Paralympic bronze for Canada in 2018, joined the Richmond bubble as a second alternate, ready to travel to Beijing if necessary. The training environment was well-supported by mental performance consultant Kyle Paquette, team physician Dr. Steven Dilkas, physiotherapist Sari Shatil, strength and conditioning coach Kyle Turcotte, and dietician Jorie Janzen.

The idea of living with the same people in close quarters for three weeks of training plus two weeks in high-stakes competition might sound overwhelming, but Ideson found the experience memorable and enjoyable.

“It felt like a real family affair. Everyone took turns cooking and washing the dishes,” he recalled. “We got to know each other really well and at the end of five weeks, although we were happy to go home to our own families, I could have done another five weeks with the team.”

Dennis Thiessen (back) and Jon Thurston work together at the Paralympic Games in Beijing, China.



“THERE WERE SOME TENSE MOMENTS AND CLOSE GAMES BUT THAT’S WHAT YOU WANT IN A BIG COMPETITION. WE LEFT A LITTLE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT AND WE’LL CONTINUE TO LEARN AND GROW OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.”

The curlers flew to Beijing with the entire Canadian delegation on an Air Canada charter flight organized by the Canadian Paralympic Committee. Once they arrived in Beijing, the first big hurdle had been met: get everyone to the Games healthy and COVID-free.

All major games come with distractions, and these were no exception. Players’ mental training and composure were put to the test many times, including navigating constantly changing plans and ‘what-if’ scenarios. The Canadians began the Paralympics amidst a breach of the Olympics truce by Russia, had to replay an end because a rock was moved by an official, endured a long delay of game when an opponent suffered an injury, and managed a 12-hour time difference to connect with loved ones at home. All were all unique situations for the team.

On the ice, the Canadians had a steady performance despite some ups and downs. They beat host nation China in their first game and won their next three games to post a sparkling 4-0 record. The team then lost three consecutive matches, but won the final three to end the round robin at 7-3, putting it into the semifinal. Following a tough loss to defending champions China in the semifinal, the Canadians quickly returned to the ice to face Slovakia in a thrilling bronze-medal game, where they rebounded with a last shot win and a hard-earned medal. This was the fourth Paralympic medal for Forrest, who was the Opening Ceremony flag-bearer, the third medal for Thiessen

Canada’s Wheelchair Program has an impressive history of success on the international stage thanks in large part to team veteran Mark Ideson.



and Ideson, and first for Paralympic Games rookies Thurston and Joseph.

“There were some tense moments and close games but that’s what you want in a big competition,” said Ideson. “We left a little room for improvement and we’ll continue to learn and grow over the next four years.”

Canada’s National Wheelchair Curling Program has an impressive history of success on the international stage. Since wheelchair curling joined the Paralympic Winter Games program in 2006, Canada captured three consecutive gold medals followed by bronze in 2018 and 2022.

Expectations are high of Canadian curlers, but gold medals and podium performances are not a given in a field that continues to get stronger. Canada must work to maintain its status as a leading nation in high-performance wheelchair curling in the face of countries like China and Sweden achieving recent sustained international success.

A significant development for the next quadrennial is the provisional addition of mixed doubles to the Paralympic Games program in 2026. The first ever World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship was held in Lohja, Finland in April 2022. Marie Wright and Jamie Anseuw represented Canada, along with national coach Wayne Kiel, team coach Dana Ferguson, and physiotherapist Alysia Patience. Canada had a 3-5 record in their pool.

Canada’s National Team Program is poised to meet the challenges of the next



Ina Forrest is the most experienced player on the Canadian side, and over the years has become an indispensable force for the team.

quadrennial, with the leadership of Kyle Paquette, newly appointed National Program Director, and Gerry Peckham, Canada’s High Performance Director. Mick Lizmore remains as head coach, with long-time national coach Morgan stepping into a program coordinator role. Wayne Kiel is retiring, and Dana Ferguson is the mixed doubles coach.

As a new quadrennial begins, the program is looking to add depth to maintain, develop and support a talent pool in both disciplines. Over the past two years, the cancellation of bonspiels and nationals presented few opportunities for aspiring athletes to compete and led to challenges in recruitment and talent identification. Athletes across the country look forward to the return of the National Wheelchair Curling Championship, with the 2023 edition to be held in February in Moose Jaw, Sask. Within the National Team Program, several training camps are planned for the upcoming season, and the athletes selected to the 2023 national teams will compete for gold in March at the world championships.

The upcoming season presents an opportunity for the broader wheelchair curling community to reconnect and reengage in competition while the National Team Program builds towards the goal of being on the top of the podium, not once, but twice, at the 2026 Milano Cortina Paralympic Winter Games.



Jon Thurston is one of Team Canada’s newest – and youngest – wheelchair curlers. He earned his spot on the team of veterans in 2019.



Longtime national coach Wendy Morgan has stepped into the Canadian National Wheelchair Program in a coordinator role.

Lisa Weagle is the Communications and Media Relations Manager for the National Wheelchair Program

Conversations about racism and anti-racism are becoming more prominent throughout sport, including curling. Sports institutions, including Curling Canada, are beginning to take action to insure all individuals, no matter their skin colour or race, participate and feel welcome.



CHANGING THE FACE OF CURLING:

The legacy of 2020 and beyond

BY SIMON BARRICK, RICHARD NORMAN
AND HEATHER MAIR

CURLING FINDS ITSELF AT a crossroads. Confronting racial injustices and additional systemic inequities are growing in attention throughout mainstream society. The same is true across sport in Canada, including curling.

We (Drs. Simon Barrick, Richard Norman, and Heather Mair) offer some thoughts on the current moment. We organized this article as a conversation between authors because our ongoing work in curling has truly been a team effort, where we combine our voices and ideas to help facilitate meaningful, transformative action.

What impact did the murder of George Floyd in spring 2020 — and ensuing public outrage — have on your personally? How did it impact curling and lead us to this point?

RICHARD NORMAN (RN): It's hard to fully comprehend the impact that 2020 had on me as a Black person living in Canada. Such a range of emotions: rage, sorrow, pain, hope, fear, frustration, compassion, all woven together. Seeing the murder of

George Floyd as yet another example of the police brutality directed at Black bodies. There had been so many, but it broke open what had been pent up for decades. To feel the true extent of anti-blackness that permeates our lives existing in a settler colonial state.

I am still grappling with all the events that occurred in 2020 and integrating them into my mind, body, and spirit. It also raised the alarm that we collectively needed to act, to change the very fabric of what we refer to as Canada. That includes sport. But it also presented an opportunity to have conversations in spaces that perhaps would not “normally” be readily open to do so.

Curling being largely devoid of participants who are racialized was a place ripe for such a conversation. One of the questions was how to have an impact in a sport that is predominantly white. It brought the three of us (Heather, Simon and myself) together to discuss how to amplify critical questions of race and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

For me, there was a belief in change, and a belief that we had to do something beyond performative steps prevalent in the new social justice landscape. We needed to discuss the deeply rooted issues of race to reshape the landscape towards being a more open, receptive, safe(r), and empathetic space that currently keeps Black folx out and feeling that they don't belong.

HEATHER MAIR (HM): I remember feeling disgust and rage as I watched the news. However, unfortunately, what I didn't feel was shock. Events like this are not uncommon. And yet, what was uncommon (and encouraging) was the response around the world as a profound conversation about systemic racism had finally been sparked. I started to reflect on what my role should be — as a white, middle-class researcher from Canada — and I wanted to work closely with you both and Curling Canada to try and foster a national conversation about the experiences of curlers who are racialized and individuals involved in sport more broadly.

SIMON BARRICK (SB): This resonates so much with my thoughts on 2020 until today. In particular, I was surprised (in the best possible way) to see just how many individuals throughout curling leaned-in to confront the current social moment. Conversations about racism and anti-racism are becoming more prominent throughout the sport, grassroots organizations (e.g., Black Rock Initiative) are facilitating real change, and curling institutions (e.g., Curling Canada) are beginning to take action. While curling is at the start of this journey, it is heartwarming how much has happened in two years!

In May 2022, we ran the Changing the Face of Curling symposium in Niagara Falls, Ont. with the generous support of the University of Waterloo, Curling Canada, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Leaders from all levels of Canadian curling converged on Niagara Falls to engage in difficult conversations about challenges facing the sport as well as future possibilities for how to shape curling into the truly welcoming, inclusive environment we collectively aspire for it to become.



The murder of George Floyd in the spring of 2020 has had a profound impact on the Black community in the United States and Canada. It has drawn some Canadians together to discuss how to amplify critical questions of race and diversity, equity and inclusion in curling.

What is your main takeaway from the recent Changing The Face of Curling symposium?

HM: As a university professor, I've gotten used to talking to big groups. When you do that a lot, you become able to 'read the room' and get a clear sense as to whether the audience is 'with you' or not. My main takeaway from the symposium was a feeling — for nearly the entire two days — that people around the room were genuinely listening and reflecting on what they heard. It was really something; you could feel people reacting to what



Curling has a tremendous opportunity to reach out to groups of people who traditionally haven't been involved in the sport, and make them feel welcome.



SIMON BARRICK



RICHARD NORMAN



HEATHER MAIR

they were hearing and working through what this meant for their clubs and curling in the future. We took a risk, I think, trying to start the conversation and to make change in this way — other NSOs haven't been so brave. But knowing the world of curling the way I do, this was really the only way to make it happen.

RN: Opening a conference is never an easy thing, but knowing the context and audience made it daunting. It wasn't that I didn't think people would be receptive, it centred on what had to be said: Canada has issues with race and so does curling. I felt a responsibility to lay out what was at the heart of the conversation, while creating a pathway for us all to move forward together.

My biggest takeaway was the readiness of the audience to engage in difficult conversations, to be present, to listen, and to absorb what was being said by the presenters and panelists with care and respect. To bring so many leaders together representing athletes, grassroots, industry, academia, media, and Curling Canada was unprecedented. Regardless of what comes next, it marked a space and place in time where we all came together to listen, learn, discuss and connect about how curling could be better for all individuals to participate and belong in the sport.

SB: I completely agree with you, Rich, about the historic moment we collectively experienced back in May 2022. However, curling will have lost a mammoth opportunity if we do not seize the current momentum and energy to take bold, coordinated action. The setting could not be better — let's get to work!

What is one specific recommendation for curling club leaders to work towards a welcoming, inclusive curling future?

SB: For me, it starts with your why. As an individual, club, or organization — why do you want to do this work? Your why may be specific (e.g., you are someone who is racialized and faces racism in sport) or general (e.g., you want to make curling more accessible for people from diverse backgrounds). Spending some time thinking really deeply about your why, and any assumptions informing it (e.g., that curling — in its current form — is 100 per cent welcoming to everyone in your community) will go a long way to setting (or keeping) you on a good path.

RN: Building from your recommendation, Simon, I think it really depends on how mature one's comprehension and action around DEI is within your facility. For some, you are just beginning

to understand the complexity of making spaces more welcoming, and others have been working towards that end for a longer time. It is important to begin and determine what might be achievable goals given your commitment, skills and readiness. But before any of that happens, I believe it is developing real, trusting relationships with those groups that you are trying to help feel more comfortable in your space. Whether that is Black, Indigenous, Persons of Colour, 2SLGBTQIA+, or any additional group, you can't really make people feel comfortable just from your point-of-view. It is their reality that is important. Go outside the club and form those relationships first, and then perhaps they will see the goodwill and feel there is true allyship that is not performative.

HM: I want leaders of curling clubs to act from a position of strength. Specifically, clubs should appreciate how wonderfully welcoming they can be, to remember the flexibility and adaptability that underscores how curling has evolved over time, and to move forward without fear (that's three recommendations, I guess!). I think sometimes these difficult conversations can make people feel unable to make change for fear of saying or doing the wrong thing (I've felt that myself). We need to move past that feeling. Clubs should understand their strengths and take some risks — from reconsidering board and membership structure, to the very shape and feel of the club.

Where are we as a research team heading next?

HM: We have long had deep connections with the curling world but as a result of the symposium, I feel like we've started to build trust and to deepen relationships with some of the key movers and shakers in the sport. We'll keep building on these relationships with more research, including a huge, international project with close to two dozen partners in curling (from local clubs to other national sport organizations and non-profits, as well as the World Curling Federation). Our aim is to develop, implement and evaluate strategies and initiatives that support curling stakeholders in building diversity and inclusion. We want to create a 3-5 year road map that marries our desire to foster real change in the sport with the need for robust and useful research that can help transform sport everywhere.

The three of us (Simon, Rich, and Heather) are passionate about this work and are always keen to offer support. Do not hesitate to reach out via email (simon_barrick@cbu.ca, richard.norman@ryerson.ca, hmair@uwaterloo.ca) to keep the conversation going! ■

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PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

Transition period for Curling Canada as Peckham, Lamoureux and Morris set to retire after exceptional careers

BY DAVE KOMOSKY

IT'S INEVITABLE. PEOPLE LEAVE their jobs, sooner or later.

And now, with Baby Boomers retiring in large numbers, organizations that hired them are feeling the pinch.

Let's be honest, losing good people hurts.

It's no different for Curling Canada. Three classy and dependable employees who served the national body well for many years — Gerry Peckham, Danny Lamoureux and Marylou Morris — will be walking out the door soon as they transition into retirement, taking their deep, institutional knowledge of the organization and skill with them as they look for new fulfillment outside of work.

All three agree on one thing: they greatly enjoyed their positions with Curling Canada (they were hired when it was still the Canadian Curling Association) and the people they worked with, both within the organization and outside of it. They became part of a group of people who joined together to achieve a common purpose — in this case to enhance and promote Canadian curling.

They also have something else in common. They will leave behind a history of a job well done.

While the rest of the world has taken significant strides in recent years, Canada continues to be a curling powerhouse, and much of that success has come under the direction of Peckham. The Director of High Performance has been an influential, behind-the-scenes figure who has helped Canadian teams reach the podium at many major events, including

world championships, Olympics and Paralympics, for more than 25 years.

Peckham, who went about his job with little flair but profound insight into what it took to succeed, is proud of his work, which he admitted got tougher every year as the rest of the curling world improved and winning medals became more difficult.

But it was very rewarding on many levels.

“The most substantial reward in it all is when you bear witness to someone's lifelong aspirations come true as they stand on top of the podium with O Canada playing in the background,” he said. “To have made a contribution to that outcome, to have got to know the athlete, the coaches, is incredibly rewarding.”

Curling Canada Chief Executive Officer Katherine Henderson admitted replacing Peckham's experience will not be easy.

“The impact that Gerry has had on the game played at the highest echelons of the world cannot be understated,” she said. “Over many decades, Gerry has continued to study the game, its athletes, his High Performance staff, and its playing conditions to look for new ways to do things in the best ways. His pursuit of excellence is second to none and the results of his world-leading programs are a testament to the tireless work that he has led. He has not only been the leader behind Canada's High Performance curling programs but is a leader in the sport system as well in his committed partnership to our funders, Sport Canada, Own the Podium and the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Committees. He is a mentor, confidante, and innovation person for many, a trusted

colleague, a strategist, and he has a gold medal sense of humour.”

Lamoureux, Executive Director of Curler Experience and Curling Club Development, was also a key player within the organization, making the curling experience fun and memorable for all who played it at the club or national level, while guiding clubs across the country to make smart business decisions. His background — he was manager of the Ottawa Curling Club for years — made him an ideal candidate for the job when it first became available.

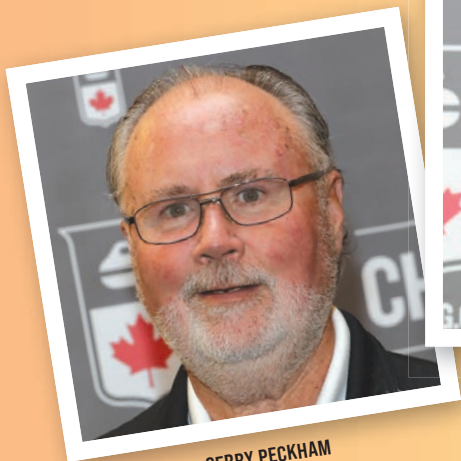
Lamoureux, who wore multiple hats for Curling Canada, was particularly proud of the job he did at the curling club level.

“I most enjoyed club development, for sure,” he said. “I started in 1998 interacting with curling club managers and curling club boards and it's just been a hoot. All the symposiums we've done, probably 50 to 55 in the past 25 years, I'd leave there all pumped up because I hear all the great things that are happening in curling and being able to share best practices with those clubs.

“I had a really good example of that this past fall in Niagara Falls where this guy from Comox Valley (B.C.), the club manager, came up and said: ‘I was at your symposium in 2019 in Kelowna and I took all of the stuff you recommended that some of the successful clubs were doing, and we went from 440 members to 725.’ That was very satisfying.”

Lamoureux knew the writing was on the wall for him after last spring's Tim Hortons Brier in Lethbridge, Alta.

“I came home in March after the Brier



GERRY PECKHAM



DANNY LAMOUREUX



MARYLOU MORRIS

and I said to my wife, 'I'm tired. I'm tired of the travelling, I'm tired of being away four months of the year.' It just wasn't fun any more. It was too much like work."

Lamoureux said the timing just felt right.

"We just did a symposium on Changing the Face of Curling, and I realized it's time for Danny to get his face out of the way," he laughed. "Get some younger people in, some next generation ideas in."

Henderson was full of praise for Lamoureux and his contribution to Curling Canada.

"There is not a curling centre, curler or curling fan in Canada that has not been influenced by the work of Danny Lamoureux," she said. "Danny will forget more about curling than most of us will ever know. He began his career as a professional club manager and over the years became one of the key influencers in the business of curling. With an eye for detail and an indefatigable work ethic, Danny has steered curling from programs for when people first step on the ice to creating a cadre of world-class, ice-making experts."

Morris is another of those behind-the-scenes but crucial people who worked tirelessly to make Curling Canada successful. How important was she? Well, as Director, Client Services, National Marketing, she had the task of keeping Season of Champions event sponsors happy through customer liaison and fulfilment, and the fact many of the sponsors remained loyal over the years was a testament to her talent and charm.

Morris joined Curling Canada in 1995 after working in event publications for The

St. Clair Group, at that time the marketing arm of the national curling body. In time she moved into her present role. Her job allowed her to do what she loves to do: interact with people.

"I really enjoyed developing strong relationships with the sponsors," she said. "I worked very closely with all the event managers, the local sponsorship team, all the volunteers. I got to work with pretty much everybody on the event side."

One of her favourite events was the New Holland Canadian Juniors. It was a Season of Champions event but not a Curling Canada event-managed property.

"The juniors was a wonderful event," she said, "because obviously a lot of these kids were fresh and new. One of my best memories was the kids coming up to the title sponsor and saying 'thank you'. You don't get that at the more elite events."

Many employees may retire without giving much notice. Curling Canada was lucky. All three made clear their intentions early and, rather than just pack up and go, agreed to stay involved to make the transitions easier.

Peckham, who has spent almost 32 years with Curling Canada after moving from Prince George, B.C. to join the organization, will transition to a part-time role in the fall and help "guide and shape" the next phase and generation of leaders in the program.

He has no doubt Curling Canada is in good hands.

"There has been an array of world-class leadership and that certainly is the case today," he said, praising the contribution of people such as Lindsay Sparkes, Jim Waite, Bill Tschirhart, Rick Lang, Elaine

Dagg-Jackson, Paul Webster, Renée Sonnenberg, Jeff Stoughton and Scott Pfeifer, among others.

"It's an exceptional group of leadership just because of who they are and how they represent the sport of curling and Curling Canada, and how they are committed to the Maple Leaf. I'm stepping aside with the utmost confidence in the leadership team that will continue to steer the ship."

Lamoureux will also stay involved.

"I'm going to do a little bit of work for Curling Canada . . . they asked me to hang around and do some stuff related to event bidding. But that's about it," he said about his retirement plans. "We're moving to the country (outside of Ottawa), we're going to get a dog, curl and play some golf."

Morris admitted some family issues played a part in her decision to leave a job she enjoyed.

"I really needed to be closer to home (Oakville, Ont.)," she said.

But before departing she will make herself available until her replacement is on board.

"So I will be mentoring my replacement, offering any advice I can," she said.

And that advice?

"Roll up your sleeves, you never know what the sponsors are going to need, or want. Go to the events with an open mind and with a smile on your face."

It's no surprise all three have agreed to stick around during the adjustment period. It's just what classy and dependable employees do. ■

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



ON THE ROCKS

BY AL CAMERON

ULTIMATELY, CURLING IS A GAME OF MAKING shots. To win, you need to make more good shots, at the right time, than your opponent. Pretty much the same as any sport, right?

And yet, as we sit at the beginning of another Olympic quadrennial, the sport of curling finds itself peeling back layers to examine the nitty-gritty of our sport and, yes, our culture.

Suffice it to say, sometimes it's not a lot of fun, because it reveals that as much as we take pride in our sporting community, we also realize there is work to be done.

Therein lies an opportunity, and we should be embracing it.

It crosses into every realm of curling, from grassroots on up to high performance, and it goes all the way from clubs up to our own organization, Curling Canada, and as much as it's a challenge to figure out what needs to be done, and how to do it, it's also exciting because it keeps our sport moving forward.

Sometimes it takes an incident that has absolutely zero to do with curling to effect change, and a perfect example of that was the tragic killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis in 2020. As you'll read elsewhere in this Extra End Annual, Floyd's death sparked some serious looks at all aspects of society, including curling, and it wasn't always flattering.

We discovered that as much as we like to say curling is a welcoming sport, regardless of your background, the truth of the matter was that, in fact, this was not always the case.

Hard questions were asked, and continue to be asked, which is a good thing, and a necessary thing. Attending the Changing the Face of Curling symposium in Niagara Falls, Ont., reminded us that while there is much to be proud of, there is much work to be done to make our sport truly welcoming and comfortable for all.

Canada's High Performance curling program also is being examined, both internally and externally, in the wake of the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Being Canadian, of course we had high expectations entering those Winter Games in Beijing, and to many the fact that our three entries managed to win just a single medal was a disappointment.

Rest assured, it was a disappointment to Curling Canada as well as our coaches and athletes.

As noted previously, change doesn't happen without some kind of a spark, and one might suggest that had our teams won three medals in Beijing, we would be comfortable to simply sit on our laurels and pat ourselves on the back.

That would be incorrect, because even following our double-gold performance (as well as a gold in wheelchair curling) at the 2014 Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Sochi, there was a significant debrief with the teams and coaches to refine and improve our high performance program and processes.

Still, there is a certain level of comfort that is naturally associated with success, so when the success doesn't come as easily, as has been the case for the past two or three years, then the hard questions start being asked — by fans, by the media and by coaches and athletes.

Understand, those questions are a good thing. They tell you that there are high expectations. But as we've discovered, sometimes those expectations need to be tempered by the reality of the current landscape of international curling, wherein Canada's unmatched depth actually hampers our ability to place all of our focus on a few elite athletes, which is the approach taken by other countries.

That said, the work has already begun to prepare our athletes for the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Italy and beyond. New teams have been formed, as has been well-chronicled, and there are consultations going on to examine what works, what doesn't and what can be done better.

That also applies to Curling Canada championship events, and you will see evidence of that during this coming season. The debut of the PointsBet Invitational, for instance, will give curling fans a unique, high-stakes single-knockout competition and will take place in September — the earliest start ever to Curling Canada's Season of Champions.

Yes, there will be changes. That's a good thing. Moving forward, it's a required thing. And we're ready to change. Some of it won't be easy, and not all of it will be popular. That's the nature of change. And if the alternative is sitting still, well, that's simply not an option.

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



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