

IT'S OUR HOUSE

SEVENTH EDITION • FEBRUARY 2021



CURLING ALBERTA TO BE STRONGLY REPRESENTED AT THE MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND MIXED DOUBLES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

As previously announced, the cancellation of the highly anticipated flagship provincial championships in Sylvan Lake left the Curling Alberta's Board of Directors with the incredibly difficult task of determining Alberta's representatives at the upcoming national championships. After considering several options in their selection process, the Board referred to the guidance created by Curling Canada encouraging Member Associations to declare winners of the last provincial championships as their representatives. Curling Alberta is confident that they will be proudly represented by reigning provincial champions Team Laura Walker, Team

Brendan Bottcher, and Team Tran/Aaron Sluchinski.

Curling Canada also recently announced that 2019-20's Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) standings will determine the three wild-card entries in both the men's and women's events. Ranked sixth in CTRS points, Team Kevin Koe has secured a wild-card berth, giving Alberta a fourth team at the Curling Capital Event Series. Now that all 14 Member Associations have declared their champions, [Curling Canada](#) has released the final roster, available on their website.

In a season full of emotional roller coasters, athletes across the province ►

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have experienced the excitement of seeing a potential return to the ice, last minute event cancellations, and constantly dealing with an unknown curling landscape. Learning to just roll with evolving directives and restrictions has become the familiar and the constant. With Alberta's teams declared, the road to the hub city in Calgary has become a reality. Teams and their fans could not be more excited.

The 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts kicks off the Curling Capital Event Series on February 19th, and Team Walker is diving into preparations. "In between the strictest of restrictions, we were able to have a couple of weekends on the ice together, and a fair bit of ice time on our own. When restrictions have kept us from seeing the ice, we have upped our off-ice strength training and continued to work with Shannon, our mental skills coach. Our on-ice, in-person training weekends have been replaced by Zoom meetings and homework and we are making the best of the situation we are in," said Laura Walker. "We can't thank Curling Alberta enough for all they've done this season, working hard to have us safely curl right up to the eleventh hour and then having to make the tough decision of selecting a

team. We are truly honoured to wear the Alberta jackets at the Scotties."

Beginning March 5th, Canada's top men's teams are back on the ice for the 2021 Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI. "Although this is not a typical path to the Brier, it also is not a typical year, and our team is proud to be representing Alberta in Calgary," said Brendan Bottcher. "This past year has been challenging to say the least, and our team is looking forward to getting back on the ice to compete against the best at the Brier."

A Brier wouldn't be the same without Kevin Koe in the mix and his team is excited to have the opportunity to compete for another national title. "It will be a unique experience this year in the bubble, but we are thankful to have the chance to play for another Brier," said Koe.

Brittany Tran and teammate, Aaron Sluchinski, are also eagerly anticipating their return to the ice at the Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship. After the abrupt and disappointing end to last season, Tran was open about the difficulty of staying positive and motivated – something all of us can relate to. "Once we received confirmation that we were chosen to

play in the bubble it was mixed feelings of relief and a lot of excitement," said Tran. "We are thrilled to play at a national event with high caliber teams and build on our experience as a mixed doubles team." An elite field of 35 teams will compete to represent Canada at the 2021 World Mixed Doubles Championship. Based on the Canadian Mixed Doubles Rankings, the field will likely include a few more Alberta-based teams. Once all teams have formally confirmed their participation, the complete roster will be announced by Curling Canada.

"In challenging times such as these, sports provide a way to connect and unify our communities, so we are grateful that the curling event of the season will be hosted within Alberta's boundaries," says Steven Young, President of Curling Alberta. "Although we are unable to cheer on Alberta's best from the stands, we will one hundred percent be rooting for each of the four Alberta-based teams virtually."

Curling's Capital Event Series will be hosted at the Markin MacPhail Centre at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary. Keep your eyes on [Curling Canada's website](#) for the broadcast schedule to be released, event updates and for scoring during each event.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Resources are continuously being added to Curling Alberta's COVID-19 Resources web page.

Please visit <https://curlingalberta.ca/member-club-resources> for important updates, upcoming webinars, and other relevant information for players, coaches and clubs.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of everyone at Curling Alberta and the broader curling community, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the essential frontline workers in Alberta and around the world who continue to make sacrifices for our well-being. We express our gratitude for the support of our curlers, and our compassion to the leaders in our clubs who continue to face difficult decisions as they guide our sport successfully into the future. I continue to be inspired by our resiliency and am convinced that not only will we weather this crisis, but we will emerge stronger than before. Your commitment and dedication to our sport truly makes all the difference and I encourage you to remain mindful of all the ways curling keeps our communities healthy, connected, and vibrant.

Of course, the safety and well-being of all of us continues to be paramount. We can only make positive contributions and achieve our common goals if we remain healthy and vigilant in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Although Curling

Alberta had already made the difficult decision to cancel the remainder of the 2021 competitive season, we will continue to advocate for curling to be considered as one of the first activities to resume as soon as it is safe and responsible to do so. At Curling Alberta, we have been mindful not to allow the crisis of the Now stop us from moving towards the Next. As a result, we will bolster our support to clubs and focus on emerging opportunities and preparations for next season and beyond.

We also eagerly anticipate welcoming the Curling's Capital Event Series at the Markin MacPhail Centre at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park in Calgary beginning in February 2021. We are fortunate that Curling Canada remains in position to host the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, the Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, the World Men's Curling Championship and the Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship. Like holidays, concerts, weddings, and other gathering



Jill Richard
Executive Director
of Curling Alberta

occasions, sports are one of the most important ways that we bond with one another. Even though we will have to enjoy the action from our living rooms this time around, this will nonetheless be an opportunity for all of us to reconnect (virtually) around our shared passion.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support you or your club at this time. While it has been said many times, it remains true: we are in this together and we will get through this as a community by supporting each other. As always, we are grateful to serve you and wish you and yours health and happiness in 2021.

UPCOMING COACHING, ICE TECH AND UMPIRE COURSES

After many of our courses were postponed or cancelled due to health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Curling Alberta is pleased to announce we will be moving forward with a new Learning Management System (LMS). This online platform will allow coaches, officials, and ice technicians an opportunity to fulfill many certification and professional development requirements. We can also look forward to a coaching webinar series on this platform discussing many developmental topics such as strategy and tactics, team dynamics, and more!

Currently a Timer course is available online for those individuals looking to learn a new skill: <https://curlingalberta.ca/technical/curling-umpires-information>

Please email info@curlingalberta to express your interest in hosting or registering for a course. Updates to the course list and schedule will be announced as soon as possible.



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CURLING ALBERTA

2020 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

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MIXED DOUBLES
Glencoe Curling Club
Airdrie Curling Club
Brittany Tran, Aaron Sluchinski



JUNIOR • WOMEN
Saville Community Sports Centre
Abby Marks (Skip), Catherine Clifford (Third),
Paige Papley (Second), Jaimie Scott (Lead),
Doug Marks (Coach)



JUNIOR • MEN
Saville Community Sports Centre
Ryan Jacques (Skip), Desmond Young (Third),
Andrew Gittis (Second), Gabriel Dyck (Lead),
Skip Wilson (Coach)



SENIOR • WOMEN
Calgary Curling Club
Cheryl Bernard (Skip), Carolyn Darbyshire (Third),
Laine Peters (Second), Karen Ruus (Lead)



SENIOR • MEN
Lac La Biche Curling Club
Wade White (Skip), Barry Chwedoruk (Third),
Dan Holowaychuk (Second), George White (Lead),
Gary Greening (Alternate)



MEN
Saville Community Sports Centre
Brendan Botcher (Skip), Darren Moulding (Third),
Bradley Thiessen (Second), Karkk Martin (Lead),
Patrick Janssen (Alternate)



WOMEN
Saville Community Sports Centre
Laura Walker (Skip), Kate Cameron (Third),
Taylor McDonald (Second),
Nadine Scotland (Lead), Brian Chick (Coach)



MASTERS • WOMEN
Sherwood Park C.C.
North Hill Community C.C.
Calgary Winter Club
Debbie Santos (Skip), Judy Pendergast (Third),
Barb McDonald (Second), Cheryl Hall (Lead)



MASTERS • MEN
Red Deer Curling Club
Mickey Pendergast (Skip), Robert Armitage (Third),
Randy Ponich (Second), Kevin Pendergast (Lead)



U18 GIRLS
Airdrie Curling Club
Olivia Jones (Skip), Mercedes Smith (Third),
Micayla Koolstra (Second), Emily Klist (Lead),
Joe Brown (Coach)



U18 BOYS
North Hill Curling Club
Lethbridge Curling Club
Kyle Kurina (Skip), Evan Crough (Third),
Garrett Johnston (Second),
Zachary Duncan (Lead), Brian Duncan (Coach)



**WHEELCHAIR
RESCHEDULED**
Avonair Curling Club
Mike McMullan (Skip), Warren Fleury (Third),
Don Kuchelyma (Second), Shawna Walsh (Lead),
Rick Jenkins (Coach)



**CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP MEN
RESCHEDULED**
Hinton Curling Club
Glen Hansen (Skip), Duane Wright (Third),
Shaughn Lalonde (Second), Brent Fellows (Lead)



**CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
WOMEN
RESCHEDULED**
Spruce Grove Curling Club
Tiffany Steuber (Skip), Brittany Martin (Third),
Jen Person (Second), Brittany Zelmer (Lead)



**U21 MIXED DOUBLES
RESCHEDULED**
Garrison Club
Airdrie Curling Club
Benjamin Helston, Lauren Miller,
Rob Helston (Coach)



AB WINTER GAMES (MALE)
Okotoks Curling Club
North Hill Curling Club
Benjamin Kist (Skip), Nolan Duncan (Third),
Marcus Yurko (Second), Logan Thomas (Lead),
Penny Duncan (Coach)



AB WINTER GAMES (FEMALE)
Okotoks CC • Carstairs CC
Saville Community Sports Centre
Rachel Jaques (Skip), Myla Platt (Third),
Chloe Johnston (Second), Halla Grunow (Lead),
Sherryl Campbell (Coach)



U21 FEMALE EXCEL CUP
Glencoe Curling Club
Ryleigh Bakker (Skip), Ashton Skirrik (Third),
Lisa Parent (Second), Julianna Mackenzie (Lead),
Jack Moss (Coach)



**2018 TRAVELERS WOMEN'S
CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONS**
Calgary Curling Club
Morgan Jay Muise (Skip), Lyndsay Allen (Third),
Sarah Evans (Second), Sara Gartner-Frey (Lead)



**2018 TRAVELERS MEN'S
CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONS**
Strathmore Curling Club
Scott Garnett (Skip), Jason Wilson (Third),
Brennen Fule (Second), Cory Campbell (Lead),
Lorelei Garnett (Coach)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS





PARTNER OF THE YEAR:



NORTHERN ALBERTA CORPORATE OFFICE, SHELDON HAY

Nominated by Curtis Fairhurst and Ted Appelman, Sheldon Hay and Boston Pizza Northern Alberta Corporate, are incredible partners, supporters, and fans of curling. Sheldon is one of the driving forces behind Boston Pizza's long-time support of curling in Alberta, including their title sponsorship of the men's provincial curling championships since 2007. Over the past years, Sheldon has built many relationships with all the athletes that participate in the provincials and is well respected by all.

"Sheldon is an incredibly passionate curler and sports fan and really understands the value sports brings to local communities. He's always looking at things from both perspectives and helps us all to find ways to add value and succeed. Even when we get hit with a few curve balls, he has a special ability to embrace the challenge and turn it into an opportunity."

"He's become a bit of a fixture at the Boston Pizza Cup. Where it goes, Sheldon goes. Most of the players know him by name and he can be found in the stands for every draw. He puts so much passion and pride into his involvement and that rubs off on everyone at the event."

—Jill Richard
Executive Director, Curling Alberta

Thanks to the continued support received from Boston Pizza Northern Alberta Corporate, Curling Alberta is able to execute programming including provincial qualifiers and championship events. Not only does every local Boston Pizza in Northern Alberta contribute to the sponsorship fund, they also provide support to their local curling clubs through advertising, junior development programs, and bonspiel sponsorship. Sheldon's special talent for embracing challenges and turning them into opportunities, and passion for the sport of curling, make both Sheldon and his colleagues at Boston Pizza Northern Alberta Corporate well deserving recipients for this year's Partner of the Year award.

CURLING'S CAPITAL EVENT SERIES

Curling Canada's 2021 Hub City series of championship curling events is coming to Calgary, showcasing an unprecedented six world-class events over 70+ days. Beginning February 19, The Scotties Tournament of Hearts will kick off the series, followed by the Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, The Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles, and the Worlds Men's Curling Championship. Two Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling events, the Humpty's Champions Cup and the Princess Auto Players' Championship, will close out the show.

Curling Alberta has been working hard to recruit over 200 volunteers to ensure the success of Curling's Capital Event series. Alberta's curling community stepped up to the plate filling all the required volunteer positions. Our team of dedicated volunteers is greatly looking forward to supporting the athletes as they compete at this highly anticipated event.

Fans across the country and around the world are in for a thrilling experience as curling will dominate television screens over next few months. We look forward to cheering on our favorite teams and seeing curling's top athletes come together in Calgary!



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SYLVAN LAKE'S CURLING COMMUNITY SHINES

To say it takes a village, is an understatement. In this case, it took a dedicated town, a group of passionate volunteers, steadfast sponsors, and countless hours of hard work behind the scenes to bring life to the provincial championships. Although the event was cancelled due to reasons beyond our control, Curling Alberta's partners stood behind them every step of the way and pivoted in a moment's notice as each new challenge arose.

On behalf of our organization and curling community, we extend our thanks to His Worship, Mayor Sean McIntyre of the Town of Sylvan Lake, the department of Recreation, Culture and Tourism, and all the local businesses of Sylvan Lake for their support and for showcasing the hospitality the community is known for. Your warm welcome is what made these events a realistic consideration from the beginning.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Board of Directors at the Sylvan Lake Curling Club, ice technician Roger Huff, the dedicated committee chairs and volunteers, for their unwavering efforts to meet the challenges set by coordinating an event of this magnitude, amidst constantly evolving directives.

Last, but certainly not least, we are beyond fortunate to have the partners

we do, that are as passionate about our sport as we are. Thank you to Boston Pizza Northern Alberta, Best Western Hotels & Resorts, Kruger Products, Sentinel Storage, Original 16, Nature's Bounty, and the Northern Alberta Curling Championship Society for your devotion to our communities and in helping spread the positive benefits of sport. For that, we are tremendously grateful.



THE SNAPHAPPY PHOTOGRAPHER

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS



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