

IT'S OUR HOUSE

2021 • CURLING ALBERTA ANNUAL AWARDS EDITION



2021 CHAMPIONS AND ALBERTA REPRESENTATIVES

Team Bottcher **Tim Hortons Brier**

Brendan Bottcher, Skip
Darren Moulding, Third
Bradley Thiessen, Second
Karrick Martin, Lead
Patrick Janssen, Alternate
Don Bartlett, Coach

Team Walker **Scotties Tournament of Hearts**

Laura Walker, Skip
Kate Cameron, Third
Taylor McDonald, Second
Rachel Brown, Lead
Dana Ferguson, Alternate
Shannon Pynn, Coach

Team Tran/Sluchinski **Home Hardware** **Canadian Mixed Doubles**

Brittany Tran
Aaron Sluchinski

Team Hansen, Hinton **Club Championship** **Champions Men**

Glen Hansen, Skip
Duane Wright, Third
Shaughn Lalonde, Second
Brent Fellows, Lead
Cody Ives, Alternate

Team Steuber, **Spruce Grove, Club** **Championship** **Champions, Women**

Tiffany Steuber, Skip
Brittany Martin, Third
Jen Person, Second
Brittany Zelmer, Lead

Team Helston/Miller **U21 Mixed Doubles** **Champions**

Lauren Miller
Benjamin Helston
Rob Helston, Coach

Team McMullan **Wheelchair Champions**

Mike McMullan, Skip
Warren Fleury, Third
Don Kuchelyma, Second
Shawna Walsh, Lead
Rick Jenkyns, Coach

2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Clubs of the Year

Shamrock Curling Club
Sylvan Lake Curling Club

Curling Community Heroes

Dennis Graham, Canmore
Golf and Curling Club

Daryl Huff,
Leduc Curling Club
Jamie Olver,
Banff Curling Club
Thomas Olver,
Banff Curling Club
Ron Pelkey,
Calgary Curling Club

Leonard Price,
Drumheller Curling Club
Shawna Walsh, Edmonton
Rocks Wheelchair Curling
Association

President's Award

Mike Libbus, Okotoks
Curling Club

CONTENTS

- 1 2021 Champions and Alberta Representatives
- 1 2021 Award Recipients
- 2 Message from the President
- 2 Message from the Executive Director
- 3 Club of the Year Recipients
- 4 Curling Community Hero Recipients
- 8 President's Award

**PLEASE
LIKE US!**



Follow Curling Alberta on social media! If you haven't yet clicked on our Facebook page or Twitter Account, now is a great time. We post reminders, announcements, celebrations, stories, and photos all year round. Click those 'like' and 'follow' buttons on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) right now!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2021 was a challenging year and our curling clubs, staff, athletes, and volunteers faced adversity unlike anything we have encountered in the past. With operations significantly disrupted, we had to devise new ways to **#keepcurling**, despite eventually closing our doors (all the way, if not most of the way) during the season.

While the upcoming 2021/22 season holds much promise, we remain mindful of the challenges ahead.

Today we are celebrating some of the bright points from 2021. The people, clubs, and special efforts hidden behind the day-to-day obstacles we faced. It was their leadership, dedication, and ingenuity that helped curlers return to the ice and enjoy the sport we all love.

To those being recognized, thank you. Your contributions, passion, and energy towards our sport is appreciated and you shone brightly in an otherwise trying time. At a time when we need it most, we are honored to celebrate your accomplishments and are grateful to have people like you at the heart of our curling community.

This year we will welcome the award recipients to enjoy a fun day at the Leduc Golf and Country Club at the Curling Alberta Awards Celebration and Golf Tournament, presented by Sentinel Storage. We look forward to spending time with other curlers from across our great province, and to moving towards a great year ahead with renewed energy.

Steven Young
President, Curling Alberta



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we tentatively emerge from the constraints that have held us back over the last year and a half, it is a time for celebration and reflection. Despite the many challenges this past season presented, many positive opportunities for growth and connection within our curling communities have emerged.

We witnessed a defining moment for our sport with the safe and successful hosting of Curling's Capital series of events in Calgary. The dedication and commitment of all those behind the scenes that allowed athletes to return to the ice and champions to be crowned.

In a sense, 2021 has been an age of heroes, and not necessarily the ones wearing capes. From the frontline healthcare workers, caregivers, parents struggling to work remotely while educating their children, to the managers, volunteers, and staff at our local curling centres, we are grateful for each and every one of them. Countless others rallied together to help curlers of all ages

and abilities return to the ice and embody the values that make our sport so great.

If we have learned anything this year, it is to never put off something that is important. So today we acknowledge and celebrate all the fantastic work we have done, reflect on what gave us the strength to meet each challenge head on, and move with renewed purpose towards next season.

To the recipients of this year's Curling Alberta awards, and the people that nominated them, you are the trailblazers that inspire us and represent the best our sport has to offer. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts, tireless contributions, and passion for the sport of curling.

Take good care over the summer and I look forward to seeing you back on the ice this fall.

Jill Richard
Executive Director, Curling Alberta



CLUB OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

Shamrock Curling Club CLUB OF THE YEAR

"It's wonderful to receive recognition for all the hard work we put in. The award is a reflection of our membership and our community and honours how we managed our way through these troubled waters together."

It began with twelve people meeting at Hart's Drug Store in January 1955, to discuss forming a curling club. The Shamrock Curling Club in Edmonton officially opened its doors on February 14th, 1956 and has embraced a strong sense of community and comradery ever since.

During the 2020/21 season, the Shamrock Curling Club raised the bar in navigating the challenges presented by the ever-changing landscape COVID-19 presented. At the beginning of the season, their robust and detailed return to play communication established a level of trust and safety for their membership to return confidently back to the ice, with their registrations reaching 90% capacity. Their on-ice mask wear policy paved the way and provided a framework for

both the Edmonton & Area Curling Clubs (EACC) and Curling Alberta's own on-ice mask policies.

Throughout the pandemic, the Shamrock continued to keep their membership informed, connected and engaged with online 50/50 raffles, with monthly jackpots surpassing the \$6,000 mark. With the inevitable forced closure for curling clubs across Alberta, the Shamrock offered their membership the option of a refund or a donation of their dues. Their innovative Shamrock Loyalty Card provided discounts for the upcoming season and a Shamrock loyalty curling pin, which incentivized the donation option. The Shamrock Curling Club received an overwhelming \$100,000 in donations, reflecting their true sense of community and collective strength, as well as putting them firmly in the black to start next season.

"It highlights the fact that we are

doing something pretty special and good here and it reflects well on our membership," said Chris McTavish, General Manager, "There are a lot of people pulling on the same rope and people are proud to be part of our community."

With its enthusiastic and vibrant membership, the Shamrock Curling Club showcases Alberta's grassroots curling and community spirit and remains a place that brings neighbors together and where life-long connections are made. Curling Alberta is pleased to congratulate the Shamrock Curling Club as a recipient of 2021's Club of the Year Award.



Sylvan Lake Curling Club CLUB OF THE YEAR

For nearly one hundred years, the Sylvan Lake Curling Club has been throwing rocks down the ice, beginning as a two-sheet natural ice rink and only 32 members. Since opening their doors in 1928, the club has become a focal point not only for local curling enthusiasts, but as a gathering place for community meetings and social functions. Today the club calls the NexSource Centre home, and provides a world-class curling experience, while still maintaining that small-town community vibe. Descendants of the founding members are actively involved in the Sylvan Lake Curling Club and their rich curling history of making their community a

better place is evident today.

When Curling Alberta first determined that the combined Men's and Women's Provincial Championship would not be viable in a large arena due to no fans and COVID-19, they looked to smaller communities. After reaching out to Sean Durkin from the Town of Sylvan Lake and Leslie Hill from the Sylvan Lake Curling Club to see if they would support this initiative, both the . . . continued on next page



... continued from previous page town and curling club eagerly jumped onboard. From that moment forward, their support was unwavering and their efforts to create a safe and enjoyable event were unprecedented.

To say it takes a village is an understatement. In this case, it took a dedicated curling club, a group of passionate volunteers, steadfast support from the town, and countless hours of hard work behind the scenes to bring life to the provincial championships.

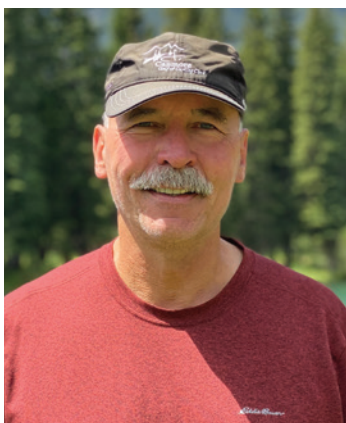
"With all of the uncertainty that we experienced while planning the Men's and Women's Provincial Championships during the pandemic, Sylvan Lake was ready to face every challenge head on and pivoted with us in a moment's notice every step of the way," said Britney Andersen, Competition Coordinator. "We are truly grateful for the support offered by the Town of Sylvan Lake, the dedicated

group of volunteers and the curling club. We look forward to working with them again in the future."

For displaying an outstanding impact on their local and broader curling community, Curling Alberta is honored to recognize and celebrate the Sylvan Lake Curling Club as a recipient of 2021's Club of the Year Award.



CURLING COMMUNITY HERO RECIPIENTS



DENNIS GRAHAM CURLING COMMUNITY HERO

Curling Community Hero, Dennis Graham, was nominated by Darren Cooke, the General Manager of the Canmore Golf and Curling Club. For over 30 years, Dennis been a dedicated member of the club, actively involved in both golf and curling. He is a valued volunteer and champion in all areas of the club, and his compelling commitment shines through his roles on the Executive and curling committees. It can be said the club is better with Dennis and would look a whole lot different without him.

"His motivating inspiration is assuming the lead role in several events and demands at club. When asked to help, I do not think I have ever heard Dennis say no. He takes on enormous jobs without hesitation," said Darren. "He is always here for ice install and removal, not just to help but to be involved from start to finish. From the first mist, logo install, or first rock. One phone call to Dennis and he is down in a minute, any time day or night."

Dennis can be counted on to take lead responsibilities during numerous bonspiels hosted by the club, including large events like the Qualico Mixed Doubles. He works long hours preparing draws, 50/50 raffles, prize organization, food organizing, and even taking his shot helping the ice makers, always determined to represent the club with his first-class approach. He has always been there, positive, supporting and encouraging players, staff and volunteers.

Being a retired Calgary firefighter and a qualified ice maker, he is eager to

get into the tough areas of the club. He has been instrumental in rink upgrades including LED light install, brine line repair and maintenance, speaker and stereo install, camera install for end viewing as well as online. Anything up high, Dennis is on it. As the driver for new leagues and players, Dennis always takes the time to encourage and connect personally with new players.

This upcoming November, the Canmore Golf and Country Club will proudly host the 2021 Canadian Mixed Championship. It was no surprise that Dennis was first to respond and has not only taken on the chair position but will also serve as Club President for the next two years.

Dennis is that tireless contributor, who keeps everyone around him focused on the goal of providing the best quality curling experience at affordable prices for the people of the Canmore Golf and Curling club. Every single day, he demonstrates respect, integrity, and commitment to his sport and is recognized as more than just a Curling Community Hero. He is a friend to many, a wonderful person, and an inspiration to all who have the privilege of knowing him.



WE ROCK AT STORAGE!

FIRST 4 WEEKS FREE!

SHOP  STORE 

SentinelStorage.ca

*Some conditions apply. See store for details.

THANK YOU TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members of Curling Alberta's Board of Directors are the most incredibly dedicated group of volunteers. Their leadership, expertise, and overall passion for our sport make them the heart of Curling Alberta, and guided us through a particularly challenging season with unprecedented obstacles. Board service is one of the most demanding volunteer roles, and these members have performed with commitment and tenacity. Each member contributed her or his own strengths, and these different contributions and perspectives considerably strengthened the Board and made a significant impact.

On behalf of Alberta's entire curling community, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the 2020-21 Board of Directors for the considerable time and energy they have contributed to Curling Alberta. Thank you, **Steven Young, Jodi Meli, Alan Bone, Mickey Pendergast, Neil Bratrud, Brendan Bottcher, Dawn Gavin, David Heavenor, Jenilee Streach, Vern Hafso, David Hyatt, and Curtis Fairhurst** for helping Curling Alberta to set the standard of excellence and evolve as an organization.

Bringing new and diverse skill sets to the Board for the 2021-22 season will be Gordon Copithorne, Darren Naconechny, and Ray Hineman.

We wish to sincerely thank our outgoing board members, Curtis Fairhurst, Jenilee Streach, and Vern Hafso for their hard work and dedication to Curling Alberta. They have dedicated considerable personal time and energy and contributed significantly to our progress and success.

DARYL HUFF

CURLING COMMUNITY HERO

Daryl Huff was the heart and soul of the Leduc Curling Club and even prior to the creation of this award, was considered a highly-regarded curling community hero. He played an integral role in the club's success and leadership, helping curlers safely return to the sport they love during the uncertainties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each year, the Leduc Curling Club's ice goes in very early and as such, they were in the unique position of being tasked to be the first in Canada to navigate a new reality and new rules for return to play for the 2020/21 season. Daryl spent countless hours in meetings, laying out a safe plan and implementing that plan successfully. He stepped out of his comfort zone, and was interviewed several times by news agencies and curling bloggers throughout the world. He happily became a resource for other

clubs, as they faced the questions of what to do during their reopening plan.

"It was an extremely stressful time and Daryl forged through despite the concern and pressure placed on him," said Dawn Gavin, the President of the Leduc Curling Club. "At every draw, his patience to assist players with checking in and completing the required health forms was unwavering. He diligently oversaw an impeccable contract tracing list, which was never needed as we thankfully didn't have any reported cases. He patrolled the ice, explaining to players where to stand, and how to keep each other safe. His attitude was contagious and the membership embraced the opportunity to play, while staying within the current restrictions."



Thanks largely to Daryl's hard work and guidance, Leduc successfully ran a summer league and moved into fall league that saw curling on the ice for 4 months before the province-wide shut down.

In his nomination of Daryl, Michael Malo, a director at the club, said, "His hard work, dedication to the game and passion for curling cannot be matched. The amount of stress, tears and hard work to keep curling this year during a pandemic was unbelievable. I don't think anyone in the province has the love or passion for the game like he has."

JAMIE OLVER AND THOMAS OLVER

CURLING COMMUNITY HEROS

The Board of Directors at the Banff Curling Club nominated Curling Community Heroes, Jamie and Thomas Olver for their outstanding contribution to the club and community this past season.

As host to the men's ATB Banff Classic in October, the Banff Curling Club aimed to livestream the event so that Alberta's broader curling community could enjoy the live curling action. Unfortunately, the individual who usually managed livestreaming was stuck out of country, and the club looked to their community for assistance. Jamie and Thomas Olver were extremely supportive and not only offered to do camera work on some of the draws, they even helped take over the programming and software set-up for the event.

Spanning over three days, the Olver brothers worked every single draw of the ATB Banff Classic, from early morning

to late at night, to ensure that there was full coverage for the event. When Alberta Health Services restrictions had still not eased a few weeks during the highly anticipated Banff and Canmore junior bonspiel, once again Jamie and Thomas rose to the occasion. They agreed to livestream all the draws which showcased the event and allowed for family and friends to enjoy curling from home or even from the parking lot!

"In these uncertain times, these two individuals stepped up and ensured fans had a chance to see some great curling and that family and friends could support their athletes while not being able to physically fill the stands. The sheer number of hours dedicated to the software work and actual programming, producing and camera work was significant. They never complained and did a fantastic job," said Steven Young, the President of the Banff Curling Club. "To make their

help even more special, the Olver brothers are not curlers, but know members of the club who have always helped them and their family out. When other IT persons in the community were asked to help, they wished to be paid, but Jamie and Thomas helped simply to give back to their community."

After the challenges of this past year, we are fortunate to recognize and celebrate individuals such as Jamie and Thomas Olver, who remind us that community heroes truly do exist and inspire us to work towards making our own communities a better place.





RON PELKEY CURLING COMMUNITY HERO

Ron Pelkey was nominated as a Curling Community Hero by his peers on the Board of Directors at the Calgary Curling Club, for his contributions as a participant, an organizer, an administrator, and a volunteer.

As a participant, Ron curls in multiple leagues at multiple clubs in Calgary, from recreational to semi-competitive, giving him a unique perspective at the grassroots level of the sport. Ron encourages and introduces new players to the game, always making them feel welcome and included. He keeps every game fun and embodies the spirit of curling every time he steps on the ice.

As an organizer, Ron has served on the Board of Directors since 2017 and began his term as President during the 2020/21 season. Since joining the board, Ron has modernized the evening leagues

draw spreadsheets, working with staff to improve and increase the efficiency and accuracy of the standings system. He also modernized the club's online practice ice booking system, again leading to a more efficient and cost-effective solution. In his term as president, Ron and the club have faced unprecedented challenges due to the pandemic, yet through it all, his pragmatic approach led the board and guided staff through the decisions that successfully ensured the financial health of the club. Despite a shortened year, Ron's leadership, as well as the generosity of the membership, helped the Calgary Curling Club achieve a balanced budget.

As an administrator, Ron was instrumental in helping the club organize and manage two separate 50/50 fundraising campaigns. These initiatives directly helped members understand the importance of fundraising efforts, and played a significant part in the Calgary Curling Club being recognized as one of the top selling clubs during the 2021 Curling's Capital event series #shareyourlovewiththeclub campaign. Perhaps his most significant contribution as an administrator has not yet been fully realized. The business of curling has changed dramatically, and Ron organized and hosted a series of workshops that includes input from staff, members, and directors and will shape how all aspects of business will be conducted at the Calgary Curling Club going forward.

"As a volunteer no job is too small for Ron," said Rob Lane, board member. "From selling 50/50 tickets to keeping score at the annual Turkey Shoot, or helping with door prizes, Ron does everything possible to make events fun and exciting for our members. From the onset of our COVID protocols, Ron was at our front door helping members stay safe and play within the recommended guidelines. If Ron sees a job that needs to be done, he doesn't hesitate to do it."

In true hero fashion, Ron was surprised and humbled upon learning of his award. "Like so many other businesses in Alberta, the Calgary Curling Club has struggled through the pandemic, but we have been fortunate to have, in addition to our board and staff, a wonderful group of members in our curling community who have generously donated a significant portion of their refunded fees to us and are also answering the call with their time, in a voluntary capacity," said Ron. "From where I sit, the road ahead is paved with uncertainty but I'm confident that together, we will move ahead in this new world with strength and determination as we get back to the sport we all love so much."



LEONARD PRICE CURLING COMMUNITY HERO

Leonard Price of the Drumheller Curling Club was nominated by Lance Farwell as a 2021 Curling Community Hero, but his efforts and contributions go far beyond this past season. His involvement with the

Drumheller Curling Club has evolved over a number of years, where he has served on the Board of Directors as President, Past-President and currently as Member at Large.

Volunteers are at the heart of Drumheller's curling club and essential to the day-to-day operations. Leonard has played several key roles, including growing and developing the junior program where he generously gives his time on the ice to inspire and teach the young curlers of tomorrow. Over the last few years, he has coordinated and taken on a lot of the club work himself. A key example of his dedication is when he led a team to redo the pipes and sand

base in the rink. Countless hours were spent prepping the surface to get ready for flooding. He also assists throughout the ice-making process, as it is a volunteer effort at the rink.

"The amount of work he has done has saved our club so much in labor and pain in finding volunteers," said Lance. "We thank him, but it is so hard to thank him enough. The board of the Drumheller Curling Club nominated him for this award as he exemplifies what the award is about."



SHAWNA WALSH
CURLING COMMUNITY HERO

"Shawna goes above and beyond ensuring that individual members' needs are met so that all wheelchair curlers have an opportunity to participate in the sport."

Nominated by Linda Robinson, Shawna Walsh is the quintessential Curling Community Hero, who works tirelessly to make her club and community a better place. She serves on the board of the Edmonton Rocks Wheelchair Curling Association and ensures that individual members' needs are met so all wheelchair curlers have the opportunity to participate in the sport.

"Shawna does everything," said Linda. "With her strong organizational skills, Shawna is an expert at managing the fine details of our regular curling practices, events and tournaments. She looks after booking all the hotels, makes sure we have transportation, and goes above and beyond to ensure everybody has everything they need. Shawna just cares for everybody."

Always willing to lend a hand and pitch in for the common good, Shawna continues to spread the positive power of sport and inclusion through her commitment, dedication and passion for curling.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

MIKE LIBBUS



As President of Curling Alberta, I had the privilege of facilitating our Board in making many difficult decisions this year. Yet as I contemplated selection of the President's Award, I quickly realized this would be the most difficult decision I would face, and one I would have to make on my own.



The President's Award is an annual recognition given by the President of Curling Alberta to a member of the curling community for outstanding contribution to the sport. The award is not about identifying 'THE' person best suited, but rather 'A' person suited for this award. There are a number of worthy individuals, and my hope is that we will recognize all of them eventually. To date, two individuals have received this award; Rene Sonnenberg and Barb Dickson, both true pillars of the curling community and leaders who have inspired us to be better ourselves.

As to what constitutes selection for the President's Award, I learned some time ago, those people in your organization that you recognize and put on a pedestal, essentially become your organization's heroes. In other words, they become the face of your organization's identity and reflect what we as an organization believe our best behavior looks like. Guided by this definition, the task was not just a big deal for myself, but a significant responsibility on the award recipient.

Behavior is how a person acts and exemplifies the values that guide their decision-making. To me, the right selection for the President's Award would

need to reflect the values of Curling Alberta. Our values, the core standard of behavior we follow in carrying out our business on route to achieving our goals, include Fearless Leadership, Trusted Professionals, Part of a Community, and Excellence by Design.

I am confident you will agree with me that this year's recipient clearly demonstrates each of these values. He is unequivocally a leader, is multi-talented, sought after for his opinions and knowledge, has an unparalleled passion for the sport, is honest in every conversation, brings unique perspective, is dedicated to his club, and has a genuine love for his community.

This year's recipient is none other than

Mr. Mike Libbus.

Mike's **Fearless Leadership** has always been evident, from his time as a competitor to his current role as General

Manager at the Okotoks Curling Club. Meeting the challenges and obstacles of last season's upheaval with clear focus and a determination is only one such example of how he exhibits this value. During the time when it would have been easy to take his foot off the gas, Mike continually brought his energy and expertise to the table- not only to see his own clubs and community through, but to also ensure that others, and curling on the whole would weather the storm. Navigating the constantly changing landscape, he provided opportunities for curlers to return to the game in a safe environment and on some of the best ice in the province. He opened the doors to the Okotoks Curling Club for practice ice that attracted competitive junior and adult teams from across Southern Alberta, operated a full line-up of competitive and recreational leagues, and instructed at the Okotoks Junior Curling Academy.

Over the last several years, Mike has

taken every opportunity to dive head-first into major curling events, from assisting with the ice at the 2016 Pinty's Grand Slam in Okotoks, making ice for the 2018 Mixed Nationals in China, to co-chairing 2020 Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts. This past year was no exception, as he was at the helm when the Okotoks Curling Club hosted the ATB Okotoks Classic and an Alberta Ladies Tour event in the fall. Mike and his ice-making crew were also set to be part of the team at the combined provincial championships in Sylvan Lake prior to their cancellation.

Even in accomplishing all of this, he remains ready to tackle new challenges, open to trying new things, hear others, and even be wrong. He is always looking for ways to spearhead a new initiative to better curlers, the sport, and his facility, all the while being connected and engaging with the sport's governing bodies whether that be SACA in the past or Curling *continued on next page . . .*

BW | Best Western®
Hotels & Resorts

BECAUSE WE CARE ABOUT
REWARDING YOU

BW Best Western
REWARDS

Curling Alberta Members:

Take Advantage of Special Rates with Best Western® Hotels & Resorts

Our award winning Best Western Rewards® loyalty program is one of the most valuable programs in the industry. It's FREE to enroll and with more hotels in more locations, you can earn points towards your first free night even faster. And our points NEVER EXPIRE. It's quite possibly the most rewarding loyalty program in the world.



BestWesternAlberta.com/curling | 1.800.WESTERN® | Provide your Corporate Rate ID# 01539280

*Restrictions apply. See bestwesternrewards.com for program terms and conditions.

Each Best Western® branded hotel is independently owned and operated. Best Western and the Best Western marks are service marks or registered service marks of Best Western International, Inc. ©2021 Best Western International, Inc. All rights reserved.

continued from previous page . . .

Alberta today. And when I say engaging, it might be challenging a rule or policy or agreeing with a new event or direction. He is not afraid to professionally ask the hard question or stand behind an unpopular decision. Either way he is there to offer his support or share his concerns. His knowledge and willingness to always help others in the curling community makes the name Mike Libbus synonymous with outstanding service to the sport of curling.

A **Trusted Professional**, Mike is highly respected in the curling community. His reputation has been built over many years playing at a high level, managing the Okotoks Curling Club, making ice for both the High River Curling Club and the Oilfields Curling Club in Black Diamond. Mike has mentored and coached several

competitive junior teams, and still finds time to commentate for hours at live-streamed events. As an active member of the Calgary and Area Managers Group, he is a compelling curling community advocate and has a well-rounded understanding of the entire business. Mike is knowledgeable on all topics of curling and considerably opinionated when asked.

Two qualities Mike possesses particularly stand out. While possessing strong opinions, he actively listens to other's ideas, in fact he invites it, and is receptive to changing his mind or parts of his conclusions if convinced. Second, he maintains a level-headed, calm nature, and is respectful in his approach and responses. Even when arguing, I have never seen Mike raise his voice or get

overly emotional. Although I have been privy to some drawn out 'Geeeeeeeshes' or 'comeeeee onnnnnnnn' or my favorite 'Buuudddyyyyyyy, buuudddyyy, walk with me' amongst his other drawn-out sayings.

Before Curling Alberta, I was on the SACA competition committee and had to contact Mike regarding a situation he had inquired about. While the details are confidential, the best way I can describe the conversation was that when it was done, he left a positive impression and had me cheering for him in any future situations. Even though he wasn't necessarily happy with my answer, he was able to rise above to allow for a conversation to take place about what we could do differently in the future. He clearly articulated his thoughts, and after a healthy exchange left it there. We have never spoken about it since, even though we have spoken often. I am sure that to this day, he still doesn't agree with the decision. But like the trusted professional he is, rather than dwelling on a conflict, he has moved forward, knowing that both sides have been heard and have actually grown in their respect for each other.

Mike is a **key part of Alberta's curling community** and involved at many different levels. As someone who is always one of the smartest people in any room he goes into, he doesn't assume that or position himself that way. While well-connected with the elite curlers, coaches, juniors, and other managers and ice makers around the province, Mike is also fully in-tune with the grassroots club curlers. He knows the name of every single player that walks through the doors of the Okotoks Curling Club and is dedicated to helping curlers of all ages and abilities have the best curling experience possible every time they step on his ice.

Mike's willingness to share his creativity and well-conceived ideas are a valued asset to our curling community. Skilled at working collaboratively, the people and decisions he is involved in are all the better because of his input and presence. Even when making day-to-day decisions to improve his club, Mike looks towards the larger picture of keeping

THE SOFTEST AND STRONGEST
SUPPORTERS FOR

40 YEARS

Scotties
TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS

Cashmere

Sponge Towels
ULTRA

Purex

Scotties

CANADIAN MADE:
CANADIAN LOVED.

* Tournament of Hearts, Hearts design, Cashmere, and Sponge Towels are registered trademarks of Rogee Products Ltd.
* Registered trademarks and TM trademarks of Rogee Products Ltd. © 2021 Rogee Products Ltd. * SCOTTIES is a trade-mark of Kimberly-Clark Worldwide Inc., used under license.

curling in Alberta healthy and vital. His actions recognize if the sport is healthy, developing, and growing in Alberta, he and his club will share in that success.

'The tide rises all ships'.

As someone who epitomizes measure twice, cut once, Mike exemplifies **Excellence by Design**. He has achieved many successes, both on the ice and in business through building meaningful relationships and truly caring for the well-being of others, by surrounding himself with great people like you, and by developing his business acumen. The driving force behind many quality events, leagues and functions, Mike consistently puts forth a significant amount of hard work and time to ensure he delivers on what he promises. Mike simply does it right the first time, and always seeks to ensure people leave happy when visiting his facilities.

In all of his efforts, Mike looks to the future, not just today. He is always working on the infinite plan while being mindful of the finite plan currently being executed. When the game changes, the rules alter, or a need is identified, Mike is right out in front of it, ready to take on the new challenges. In this way Mike, you are a shining example for others.

As a person is not an island, many accomplishments can only occur because of a strong supporting cast. I have had the privilege of being introduced to many talented and like-minded people that Mike has as part of his support group. It is no wonder why Mike has been successful!

Before the curling season even wraps up, Mike is traveling the province as the Onsite Tournament Coordinator for the PGA of Alberta and helping them better their sport as well. When late summer arrives and he is preparing to put the ice back in for curling, he is usually managing

it between golfer registrations on the golf course. General Manager, Ice Technician, Advocate, and Coach, Mike is a jack of all trades when it comes to curling. He is that tireless contributor who continues to make extraordinary efforts to advance the sport of curling and make his community a better place.

Outside of curling and golf, Mike's most impactful roles are that of husband and father, and being the world's biggest fan of his three children, Sydney, Jacob and Cooper. On behalf of many people who have benefited from Mike's passion and energy for curling, I want to thank you, Carly, Sydney, Jacob and Cooper, for sharing him with us and letting us enjoy some of the special qualities that have moved our sport further ahead.

Mike, on behalf of Curling Alberta, I could not be prouder to present you with the 2021 President's Award. Congratulations, BUUUUUUUUDY!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS




PERCY PAGE CENTRE, 11759 GROAT ROAD, EDMONTON, AB T5M 3K6
T 780.454.2875 | info@curlingalberta.com | f CurlingAlberta | v Curling_Alberta | i curlingalberta
curlingalberta.ca

PROUD PARTNER OF  **CURLING
ALBERTA**

OFFICIAL BEER OF CURLING



Original16.com  

Hurry hard...to try one of our smooth, refreshing beers. Please drink responsibly.



Alberta Optimist Clubs

Proud Sponsor of U-18 Curling and Junior Golf

Title Sponsor of U-18 Curling Since 2001

***Bringing Out The Best In Youth,
The Community, and Yourself.***

**Join Your Local
Optimist Club Today!**

Visit us at: www.amsnwoptimist.org or



AMSN&W District 13 OI



**OUR HOUSE
OR YOURS?**

BOSTON PIZZA
JUST A STONE'S THROW AWAY

**BOSTON PIZZA IS A
PROUD PARTNER OF
CURLING ALBERTA**



Boston Pizza[®]

ORDER ONLINE AT [BOSTONPIZZA.COM](https://www.bostonpizza.com)

Boston Pizza and the Boston Pizza roundel are registered trademarks of Boston Pizza Royalties Limited Partnership, used under license. © Boston Pizza International Inc. 2020.