

IT'S OUR HOUSE

NINTH EDITION • NOVEMBER 2021



TEAM BOTTCHEER



TEAM WALKER



TEAM SCHEIDEGGER



TEAM KOE



TEAM ROCQUE

ALBERTA CURLERS EMBARK ON OLYMPIC JOURNEY

Now that competitive curling has returned across the country, fans should have curling to track online every weekend between now and the end of the season. This year, as unique as it has been, following the shortened 2020-21 season, is even more unique, as Curling Canada will decide its representatives for the 2022 Olympic Games. Curling fans will have even more to look forward to, as a long-winding Olympic qualifying process begins this September and progresses through October, culminating in the Tim Hortons Canadian Olympic Curling Trials in late November. Due to the COVID-19 shortened 2020-21 curling season, Curling Canada was unable to award all of its 2020-21 berths to the Olympic Curling Trials, which forced them to adjust their qualifying process. One of these adjustments included adding two events to this process, which has given some teams in Alberta more chances to reach this prestigious event. We will guide you through each step, with some Alberta teams to watch out for along the way.

... continued on next page

CONTENTS

- 1 Alberta Curlers Embark on Olympic Journey
- 3 Message from the Executive Director
- 3 COVID-19 Resources
- 4 Curling Alberta's Youth Advisory Panel Update
- 4 Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd. is Ready to Rock with Curling Alberta
- 4 Classified & Bonspiel Listings
- 5 Alberta Curling Tour Takes to the Ice
- 6 Two-Person Stick Curling
- 6 Courses and Online Learning
- 7 Provincial Qualifiers Registration
- 8 2022 Calendar of Events
- 9 Enhanced Coaching Interaction
- 9 Thank You to Our Sponsors

... continued from previous page

2021 TIM HORTONS CURLING TRIALS, PRESENTED BY AGI: NOVEMBER 20TH - 28TH, SASKATOON, SK

Curling Canada will host nine men's and nine women's teams in Saskatoon, all competing for an opportunity to represent Canada at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China. At the start of this process, five men's teams and four women's teams had already qualified for this event, including two Alberta men's teams (Team Bottcher and Team Koe).

TEAM BOTTCHER: (lead - Karrick Martin, second - Brad Thiessen, third - Darren Moulding, and skip - Brendan Bottcher), currently ranked 10th in the world rankings. Team Bottcher has attended the last five Tim Hortons Briers, winning their first national title last season.

TEAM KOE: (lead - Ben Hebert, second - BJ Neufeld, third - John Morris, skip - Kevin Koe), currently ranked 6th in the world rankings. Kevin Koe and Ben Hebert represented the Canada men at the 2018 Winter Olympics, and Team Koe will once again be one of the favourites as they will look to return to the Olympic Games with a different lineup.

The nine team fields will be rounded out through a series of events this fall:

	Women's	Men's
Pre-Qualified	4	5
Direct Entry Event	3	2
Pre-Trials	2	2

OLYMPIC TRIALS DIRECT-ENTRY EVENT: SEPTEMBER 21-26, 2021, OTTAWA, ON

This round-robin event was composed of five women's teams competing for three direct berths and five men's teams competing for two direct berths into the Tim Hortons Curling Trials.

Three Alberta teams from Alberta (Team Rocque, Team Scheidegger, and Team Walker) competed in the women's field for this event.

TEAM ROCQUE: (lead - Rachele Brown, second - Dana Ferguson, third - Danielle Schmiemann, and skip - Kelsey Rocque), currently ranked 15th in the world rankings. This team was formed prior to last season, but was unable to compete in any women's events due to the pandemic last season. The front end of Rachele Brown and Dana Ferguson have competed at five Scotties Tournament of Hearts together.

TEAM SCHEIDEGGER: (lead - Kristie Moore, second - Jessie Haughian, third - Cary Anne McTaggart, and skip - Casey Scheidegger), currently ranked 28th in the world rankings. Team Scheidegger competed in the 2018 and 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, and qualified for this event due to their CMDR points in the 2018-19 season.

TEAM WALKER: (lead - Nadine Scotland, second - Taylor McDonald, third - Kate Cameron, and skip - Laura Walker), currently ranked 12th in the world rankings. Team Walker has represented Alberta at the last two Scotties Tournament of Hearts, placing 3rd in last season's championships.

After a 4-game round robin, Team Scheidegger and Team Rocque were successful in qualifying for the Tim Hortons Curling Trials! Team Walker, the last Alberta team remaining, was forced to win one extra game in order to qualify, and they were also successful! All three Alberta teams qualified through the Direct Entry Event into the Tim Hortons Curling Trials, and will join Team Bottcher and Team Koe in Saskatoon, SK!

OLYMPIC CURLING PRE-TRIALS QUALIFICATION EVENT: SEPTEMBER 21-26, 2021, OTTAWA, ON

At the same time and venue as the Olympic Trials Direct Entry Event, eight men's and eight women's teams

competed for the final two spots (per gender) in the Canadian Olympic Curling Pre-Trials event.

Although there weren't any Alberta-based teams in this event, there were some Alberta curlers competing in the field.

These include:

Jessie Hunkin & Becca Hebert - Team Hunkin (SK)

Nicky Kaufman - Team Wark (BC)

Unfortunately, neither team qualified for the Olympic Curling Pre-Trials Event in Liverpool, NS.

2021 HOME HARDWARE CURLING PRE-TRIALS PRESENTED BY NEW HOLLAND: OCTOBER 26-31, 2021, LIVERPOOL, NS

14 women's teams and 14 men's teams will compete in pools of 7 in the event to determine the final two spots (per gender) in the Tim Hortons Curling Trials.

Who to watch: Two Alberta men's teams have already qualified for this event (Team Harty and Team Sturmey), and Alberta women's teams may compete in this event by virtue of the Olympic Trials Direct Entry Event or the Olympic Curling Pre-Trials Qualification Event.

Team Harty: (lead - Kurtis Goller, second - Joshua Kiist, third - Kyler Kleibrink, and skip - Jeremy Harty), currently ranked 31st in the world rankings. Team Harty has had a very successful couple of tour seasons, accumulating the majority of their points in events within Alberta.

Team Sturmey: (lead - Glenn Venance, second - Chris Kennedy, third - Tristan Steinke, and skip - Karsten Sturmey), currently ranked 26th in the world rankings. Team Sturmey had success at the university curling level, representing Canada at the FISU Winter Universiade in 2019.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A warm welcome back to our entire curling family. We've been looking forward to the day we'd step back on the ice.

Was anyone else tempted to move forward into this curling season as if the strangeness was over? Unfortunately, yet realistically, the only thing we can be certain of right now is that we continue to be in uncertain times.

While there is no doubt that we will all still have adjustments and difficult decisions to make, I am also confident in being able to start the season positively. We know we have great people and protocols in place to be successful as our clubs reopen and our events get underway. To support our clubs as they reopen, we have provided frequent updates, shared many valuable resources, offered virtual

learning sessions and opportunities for sharing best practices, and significantly increased our investment in grassroots and youth programming. This, in conjunction with updates to our Return to Play guidelines, as well as to our policies and protocols to support the creation of the safest environment we can offer, gives us even greater confidence that we are minimizing risk and extending our chances at a full curling season.

I'd like to emphasize how much every member of our curling community is valued: the volunteers, ice technicians, staff members, coaches, curlers, officials, and fans. We are fortunate to have the help and support of so many who have worked hard to ensure our community is ready to meet the challenges of the year ahead. Together, we all play an important role in making sure our clubs continue to thrive so we can safely enjoy all the great things curling brings to our lives. Thank you to everyone who is making this season possible.



Jill Richard
Executive Director
of Curling Alberta

Finally, as we enter the season, remember that we can manage our hardships and amplify our successes through cooperation, kindness, and compassion. If you or your club need our support at all, at any time, please don't hesitate to ask.

Here's to having a safe and successful return to the ice.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

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



CURLING ALBERTA'S YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL UPDATE

As an inclusive and collaborative organization, Curling Alberta continues to build a culture where diversity and multiple points of view are not only valued, but celebrated. One new initiative specifically focused on engaging the youth in our sport, is the Youth Advisory Panel.

Following their initial virtual meeting in April, co-chairs Caleb Boorse of Leduc and Brenna Bilassy of Edmonton, have met with Executive Director, Jill Richard, Director of Player & Leadership Development, Jason Ginter, and Board Member liaison, David Hyatt, to discuss ideas of how the panel will work effectively and best fit within Curling Alberta's operations.

The twelve-member panel was specifically asked for feedback on two issues relating to youth curling:

- Format of the U21 Mixed Doubles
- Thoughts and ideas on how to include overaged players on the tour prior to the upcoming special provincial competition

The panel met in September to really shape how it will work going forward, especially how it will communicate with youth curlers around the province. Curling Alberta is eager to see the tremendous contributions these future leaders in our sport will make this season.

FEDERATION OF ALBERTA GAS CO-OPS LTD. IS READY TO ROCK WITH CURLING ALBERTA

Curling Alberta's brand new **Ready to Rock** program is geared up to launch this season with the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd. jumping on board as a corporate partner. Giving back to the community and helping make lives better are values shared by both Curling Alberta and the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd., and we are joining forces to provide access and encourage inclusion and diversity in curling.

Thanks to the generous support of the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd., Ready to Rock has added over 20 additional rural locations and will accommodate up to 4800 participants in over 50 community curling centres across Alberta. The program will not only introduce a whole new generation of curlers to our sport, but will leave a legacy of 80+ trained curling instructors in the rural clubs.

Ready to Rock will introduce youth aged 9 to 15 to the sport of curling with a free two-hour "try-it" event. Participants will have the opportunity to be coached by some of Canada's top curling athletes, including Olympic Silver Medalist Carolyn Darbyshire, two-time

Canadian Champion Chelsea Carey, and Canadian Junior Champion Brittany Tran. An eight week learn-to-curl program will follow, offering one hour of curling instruction per week, with the necessary equipment including helmets, brooms and sliders being supplied.

Youth are the centre and heart of communities across the province. We believe by removing barriers to entry and encouraging youth and families from a more diverse socioeconomic and ethnic make-up to take part, will ensure curling continues to be an inclusive sport that fosters a culture where everyone is welcome.

Curling Alberta extends our sincere gratitude to the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd. for helping make this program a reality. To learn more about our new corporate partner, please visit their [website](http://www.fedgas.com). Information and registration details for the Ready to Rock program can be found [here](http://www.fedgas.com).



CLASSIFIED & BONSPIEL LISTINGS

Are you a member club looking to promote an upcoming bonspiel or a team starting to plan your upcoming 2021/22 season? To see what events are on deck in all levels of competition within our boundaries, visit the **Get Curling** section on Curling Alberta's website, where a detailed list of bonspiels will be listed and updated as soon as clubs add them.

Curling Alberta's **Classifieds** are a great resource whether you are looking to build a new team, fill a vacancy, or recruit a coach. It also offers our members a platform to buy and sell curling equipment or supplies.

Listings are posted on behalf of teams, curlers and member clubs, so head to the Bonspiels and Classifieds pages now to post your ad.



ALBERTA CURLING TOUR TAKES TO THE ICE

It's truly an exciting time to be curling in Alberta! This season, as part of Curling Alberta's Alberta Curling Tour, the Alberta Curling Series is a group of events bringing together curlers all across Alberta. This Series is developed by Matt Yeo, Ted Appelman, and myself, Brayden Shopland. We've created a full season of events stretching from as early as August to as late as March. Every Alberta Curling Series event is run entirely by our organization. We handle registration and communication with curlers; we create the draw schedule; we canvas for sponsors with the host club if they choose to; and for all events, we've set a standard entry fee, draw format, and purse payout structure. We're also here to help clubs as well: every club we go to receives a percentage of the entry fees because it's crucial that we support our clubs!

In August, we were fortunate enough to be able to host our first ever events - the Men's and Women's, and Mixed Doubles, both at the wonderful Leduc Curling Club. The energy from the curlers and spectators was awesome. We all waited so long to get back to playing and watching our great sport, and finally we were able to! Plus, who doesn't love curling in the summer; it's so surreal though as it's nearly freezing in the ice shed yet it can get as high as 30°C outside.

Since then, we have had 3 more events and at the time of writing this, our Men's & Women's at the Thistle Curling Club is underway. We host 2 high level Women's events at the Saville Community Sports Centre and the Sherwood Park Curling Club. From there, we went to the Avonair Curling Club where they handed us their annual Avonair Cash Spiel to place it on the Series.

It's been amazing to have curling back on the ice and see so many new and common faces around the clubs, competing in our events. Aside from the competition, we have also brought people together, socialising again in the club's lounge after the game . . . a tradition of course!

LET'S GET CURLING!

For more information on the Alberta Curling Series, please feel free to visit our website at www.abcurlseries.ca.

Submitted by Brayden Shopland, General Manager | Alberta Curling Series





TWO-PERSON STICK CURLING

One of the categories in curling that is growing significantly is the two-person stick curling game. A recent survey by Curling Alberta identified that over 35% of curling clubs in Alberta currently offer two-person curling leagues. Stick Curling has become very popular with seniors and wheelchair curlers, with most of the leagues running during the day. Many curlers in a variety of leagues at all levels of competition can be seen using the delivery stick to play.

Developed by Brian Dingman and Carson Schultz of Didsbury in 1998, the game was named “Sturling” which is popular in many clubs throughout Alberta. The game consists of two-player teams and is typically played in under one hour. Only six rocks are thrown per player per end. Players stay at each end of the ice surface; one player is the thrower and

one player is the skip. The next end, the roles are reversed. After six ends the game is complete.

Under the direction of Milt McDougall of St. Albert, the Alberta Stick Curling Association was formed in December 2016, with the first Alberta Stick Curling Championship held in February 2017. Planning is currently underway to host the 2022 Alberta Stick Curling Championship, presented by Olson Curling, in Leduc, February 18th – 20th. This year Men’s, Women’s, and Mixed championship divisions will be featured, with all ages welcome. Registration and event details are available on the [Alberta Stick Curling website](#). The winners will represent Alberta at the Canadian Stick Curling Championship in Moncton, New Brunswick in April 2022.

The [Alberta 55 plus Winter Games](#) will be held in Edmonton, April 7th -10th, 2022. For the first time, the two person teams will have two categories of ages 55+ and 70+. Become a 55 plus member and enter through one of the eight zones that are hosting the games.

Resources for hosting clinics, delivery techniques and rules of the game are available on both the [Alberta Stick Curling website](#) and the [Canadian Stick Curling website](#). If you wish to host a clinic or become an instructor in your club, please contact Randy Olson at randyolson@shaw.ca. Visit the [Alberta Stick Curling website](#) to find a club near you.

Submitted by Randy Olson, President, Alberta Stick Curling Association

COURSES AND ONLINE LEARNING

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 certifications and professional development requirements. In May, we can also look forward to a coaching webinar series involving our own Excel Regional Coaches on this platform discussing many developmental topics such as strategy and tactics, team building, fitness, and more!

Currently a [Timer course](#) is available online for those individuals looking to learn a new skill.

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.



PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS REGISTRATION

Registration for all upcoming Curling Alberta competitions opened up on September 1st, 2021. Teams must be registered and prepaid prior to the registration deadline, which are approaching quickly.

Curling Alberta Women's Provincial Qualifiers (all event locations)

Registration Deadline: November 3rd, 2021 at 12:00pm

Curling Alberta Men's Provincial Qualifiers (all event locations)

Registration Deadline: November 3rd, 2021 at 12:00pm

Curling Alberta U18 Boys & Girls Provincial Qualifiers (all event locations)

Registration Deadline: November 17th, 2021 at 12:00pm

Curling Alberta U15 Provincial Qualifiers (all event locations)

Registration Deadline: November 24th, 2021 at 12:00pm

Curling Alberta Wheelchair Championship (open registration)

Registration Deadline: December 22nd, 2021 at 12:00pm

Curling Alberta Mixed Doubles Qualifiers (all event locations)

Registration Deadline: December 29th, 2021 at 12:00pm

Curling Alberta U20 Provincial Qualifiers (all event locations)

Registration Deadline: December 29th, 2021 at 12:00pm

For a complete listing of Curling Alberta's provincial qualifiers and championships, or to register, please visit Curling Alberta's website.

CURLING ALBERTA - 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS

PROVINCIALS

EVENT	DATES	LOCATIONS	DEADLINE	PRE-QUALIFIER DEADLINE
2021 MIXED	Sep. 17-19	Airdrie C.C.	Aug. 18	N/A
WORLD JUNIOR TEAM QUALIFICATION EVENT	N/A	N/A	Sept. 15	N/A
WOMEN	Nov. 25-28 Dec. 2-5	Fort Saskatchewan C.C.* Vulcan C.C.*	Nov. 3	Nov. 22
MEN	Dec. 2-5 Dec. 2-5 Dec. 2-5	Fort McMurray C.C. Cochrane C.C.* Grande Prairie C.C.*	Nov. 3	Nov. 30
U-18	Dec. 9-12 Dec. 10-12 Dec. 16-19	Okotoks C.C. Grande Prairie C.C.* Beaumont C.C.	Nov. 17	Nov. 29
WHEELCHAIR	N/A	N/A	Dec. 22	N/A
U15	Dec. 16-19 Jan. 6-9 Jan. 7-9	Lacombe C.C.* Beaumont C.C. Slave Lake C.C.	Nov. 24	N/A
MIXED DOUBLES	Jan. 20-23 Jan. 21-23 Jan. 27-30	Crowsnest C.C. High Prairie C.C. Leduc C.C.*	Dec. 29	Jan. 4
U-20	Jan. 27-30 Jan. 28-30 Feb. 3-6	Airdrie C.C. Fairview C.C. Thistle C.C.	Dec. 29	Jan. 24
MASTERS	Feb. 3-6 (Men only) Feb. 4-6 (Men only) Feb. 10-13 (Men only)	Lethbridge C.C. Grande Prairie C.C. Ellerslie C.C.	Jan. 12	N/A
MIXED	Feb. 10-13 Feb. 11-13 Feb. 17-20	Medicine Hat C.C.* Beaverlodge C.C. Thistle C.C.	Jan. 19	N/A
SENIORS	Feb. 17-20 (Men only) Feb. 24-27 (Men only) Feb. 25-27 (Men only)	Ottewell C.C. Innisfail C.C. Sexsmith C.C.	Jan. 26	N/A
U-21 MIXED DOUBLES	N/A	N/A	Mar. 16	N/A
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS	Mar. 17-20 Mar. 17-20 Mar. 18-20	North Hill C.C. Leduc C.C. Grande Prairie C.C.	Feb. 23 (Intent) Mar. 11 (Roster)	N/A

*Date and/or location change from previously announced.

ENHANCED COACHING INTERACTION (ECI)

Curling Alberta is pleased to introduce a pilot project to allow coaches more coaching time with their teams. A similar program has been used in Saskatchewan with positive feedback.

The ECI will be used at all Curling Alberta U15, U18 and U20/U21 competitions including Excel Cup competitions.

Coaches will be located in the ice area next to their teams' stones and can move end to end with the play. Seating will be provided if space permits.

Interactions are intended to be 30-60 seconds in length and allows the coach to have discussions with their team during the game. The U15 and U18 categories are permitted two (2) interactions per end per team allowing up to 4 interactions in total per end. The U20/U21 category is permitted one (1) interaction per team per

end allowing up to 2 interactions in total per end. The team in control of the house calls the interaction, and both teams can meet for the same amount of time.

These interactions replace team timeouts.

In events that are timed, 4 minutes will be added to the clocks for the U18 category and 2 minutes for the U20/U21 category (U15 is not timed but must maintain suitable pace of play)

The Umpire will monitor the ECIs, however, it is up to the coaches to time and keep track of the number of interactions used.

Coaches will be permitted to wear a warm jacket over their team uniform and will not be required to remove it. Proper footwear is required as coaches may need to walk on the ice to move end to end.



Brenda Rogers, Chief Umpire, Curling Alberta

We are attempting to give coaches more time with their teams for training purposes and are looking forward to a successful program. We will appreciate any feedback following the completion of the event so we can monitor the success.

Please access this [link](#) for more detailed information.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS



PERCY PAGE CENTRE, 11759 GROAT ROAD, EDMONTON, AB T5M 3K6
T 780.454.CURL (2875) | curlingalberta.ca
f CurlingAlberta | v Curling_Alberta | @ curlingalberta