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50/50 MEGA \$100,000 JACKPOT UP FOR GRABS AT 2022 TIM HORTONS BRIER FINAL

Building on last season's successful fundraising campaign during the Curling's Capital Event Series in Calgary, the 2021-22 Curling Alberta 50/50 raffle is back, and this time a minimum \$100,000 jackpot is on the line for the final day of the Tim Hortons Brier.

During the BOOST National and Tim Hortons Curling Trials, 15 very lucky and ecstatic winners have taken home \$101,106 in cash. There have been incredible stories from some extremely excited winners, and we aren't done yet!

Curling Alberta has already launched ticket sales for the coveted Tim Hortons Brier Final 50/50. With a guaranteed minimum \$100,000 jackpot, one lucky winner will be taking home \$50,000 or MORE. This jackpot is set to break the previous records and be the largest curling jackpot EVER! Tickets are on sale from now until 10:00 PM MST on March 13th, 2022, and can be purchased by visiting [here](https://CurlingAlberta.ca/5050) (AGLC #582894). You must be 18 years of age or older and in Alberta at time of purchase. The winning ticket number will be posted on Curling Alberta's website no later than

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PEI-ÎPÉ 2023 JEUX DU CANADA GAMES

CURLING ALBERTA ANNOUNCES CANADA WINTER GAMES TRIALS PROCESS

The process to name Team Alberta at the 2023 Canada Winter Games (CWG) has been finalized. Curling Alberta will send one U18 Boys, one U18 Girls, and one U20 Mixed Doubles team to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island February 18 - March 5, 2023. We wish to formally present some initial information on eligibility and the qualification process to our coaches and young curlers.

THE CANADA GAMES EXPERIENCE

Attending the Canada Winter Games is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Many curlers will attend multiple national and even international competitions in their careers. What makes the Canada Games different is the opportunity for an athlete to be part of one of the largest multisport events in the world. It is a great opportunity to travel across our country as part of Team Alberta, and make friends from many sports and provinces. It is an experience of immeasurable value.

BOY'S & GIRLS FOURS - QUALIFICATION PROCESS

SUMMARY: A pre-trials event will serve to qualify three teams of each gender for a CWG Trials event which will ultimately decide Alberta's representatives at the 2023 CWG. One additional team of each gender will qualify for the CWG Trials by being the top eligible team on the Excel Points Race after the first three events of the 2022-'23 season (each team's best three results according to the Excel Points Race will be counted before the determined cut-off date). All teams that qualify for the CWG Trials will be provided with training and support along their developmental journey. Details regarding the training opportunities will be

communicated as they become available. If any qualifying team is forced to withdraw from the process, the next team in the CWG points race will be offered a spot.

CURLING ALBERTA U18 CWG PRE-TRIALS

DATES: March 4-6, 2022

LOCATION: Saville Community Sports Centre, Edmonton, AB

EVENT DESCRIPTION & FORMAT:

Open registration, in both boys and girls categories. Triple knockout format, qualifying three U18 teams of each gender for the U18 Alberta CWG Trials.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: Under 18 as of June 30, 2022 (born July 1, 2004 or later)

COACH ELIGIBILITY: Competition Coach - Trained status

REGISTRATION INFO: To register, click [here](#) for U18 Boy Teams, and [here](#) for U18 Girls Teams, before February 16th, 2022 at 12:00 pm. The registration fee is \$300 per team.

CURLING ALBERTA U18 CWG TRIALS

DATES: Early 2023

LOCATION: TBD

EVENT DESCRIPTION & FORMAT: Only the four U18 boys' and the four U18 girls' teams that qualify for this event through the process described above will be eligible to enter.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: Under 18 as of June 30, 2022 (born July 1, 2004 or later)

COACH ELIGIBILITY: Certified Competition Development Coach OR Certified Competition (Competition Introduction) Coach with the following two Competition

Development Courses - "Manage a Program" and "Health and Wellness".

Registration info will be announced closer to the event.

U20 MIXED DOUBLES - QUALIFICATION PROCESS

SUMMARY: A pre-trials event will serve to qualify four teams of each gender for a CWG Trials event which will ultimately decide Alberta's representatives at the 2023 CWG. All teams that qualify for the CWG Trials will be provided with training and support along their developmental journey. Details regarding the training opportunities will be communicated as they become available. If any qualifying team is forced to withdraw from the process, the next highest ranked team at the CWG Pre-Trials will be used as a replacement.

CURLING ALBERTA U19 MIXED DOUBLES TEAM TRAINING CAMP

DATE: April 6, 2022

LOCATION: Edmonton, AB (Club TBD)

EVENT DESCRIPTION & FORMAT:

Leading into the U21 Mixed Doubles Provincial Championships, Curling Alberta will host an open registration mixed doubles training camp directed by some of our top competitive curlers and high-performance coaches.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: Under 20 as of June 30, 2022 (Born July 1, 2002 or later) Coach Eligibility: No credentials required.

REGISTRATION INFO: Free for all eligible curlers, register [here](#).

CURLING ALBERTA U20 MIXED DOUBLES CWG PRE-TRIALS

DATES: Fall 2022

LOCATION: TBD

FORMAT: Open "Trials Qualifier" - triple knockout format, qualifying 4 U20 teams for the U20 Mixed Doubles Alberta CWG Trials

These 4 teams would be given training opportunities by Curling Alberta, working with Curling Alberta's Excel Regional Coaches leading up to the U20 Mixed Doubles Alberta CWG Trials.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: Under 20 as of June 30, 2022 (Born July 1, 2002 or later)

COACH ELIGIBILITY: Competition Coach - Certified status

REGISTRATION INFO: Teams can register [here](#) before August 31, 2022 at 12:00 pm. The registration fee is \$200 per team.

SPRING 2023 - U20 MIXED DOUBLES ALBERTA CWG TRIALS - LOCATION TBD

4 mixed doubles teams will qualify for the U20 Alberta CWG Trials directly through

the U20 Mixed Doubles Alberta CWG Pre-Trials

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: Under 20 as of June 30, 2022 (Born July 1, 2002 or later)

COACH ELIGIBILITY: Certified Competition Development Coach OR Certified Competition (Competition Introduction) Coach with the following two Competition Development Courses - "Manage a Program" and "Health and Wellness".

Registration info will be announced closer to the event.

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.



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11:59 PM MST the day of the draw.

Don't worry, there is still lots of winning to come in the meantime. Raffles are planned for the following events:

- **2022 Men's and Women's Provincial Championship:** January 3 - 9

- **Grand Slam of Curling Meridian Open:** January 11 - 16
- **2022 Scotties Tournament of Hearts:** January 28 - February 6
- **2022 Tim Hortons Brier:** March 4 - 13

Will it be your turn next? Imagine what you could do with \$50,000!

Thank you to all the supporters! These funds are making a tremendous difference in supporting the sport of curling in Alberta!

*Submitted by Curtis Fairhurst,
Raffle Coordinator*

CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE

Alberta's teams have had some strong representation as championship season gets underway.

A big shout out to **Team MacAlpine** of Edmonton's Granite Curling Club, for finishing 6th in their pool at the 2021 Canadian Mixed Curling championship in Canmore. Team MacAlpine is comprised of Craig MacAlpine (skip), Hannah Phillips (third), Braden Pelech (second), and Brenna Bilassy (lead).

Congratulations to our Alberta Junior Team representatives at the 2021 New Holland World Juniors in Saskatoon. **Team Crough** of the Crestwood Curling Centre in Edmonton, went undefeated in the round robin and captured the silver medal in their final game. Coached by Mark Johnson, the team consists of Elysa Crough (skip), Quinn Prodaniuk (third), Kim Bonneau (second), and Julianna MacKenzie (lead). **Team Tao**,

based out of the Saville Community Sports Centre in Edmonton, includes Johnson Tao (skip), Jaedon Neuert (third), Benjamin Morin (second), Andrew Nowell (lead), and coach Skip Wilson. They finished with a strong run to the quarter finals.

At the 2021 Everest Canadian Curling Club Championships in Ottawa, Team Alberta on the women's side was represented by **Team Steuber** from the Spruce Grove Curling Club. Their team is made up of Tiffany Steuber (skip), Brittany Martin (third), Jen Person (second), and Brittany Zelmer (lead). On the men's side is Hinton's own **Team Hansen**, and includes members Glen Hansen (skip), Duane Wright (third), Shaughn Lalonde (second), and Brent Fellows (lead). Team Steuber finished first in their pool and narrowly missed out on a spot in the semi-finals. Team Hansen finished fifth in their pool, with a 2-4 record.

Team Alberta also had a strong presence at the 2021 Everest Canadian Senior Curling Championships. On the women's side, **Team Bernard** curling out of Calgary's Glencoe Club, with Cheryl Bernard (skip), Carolyn McRorie (third), Laine Peters (second), Karen Ruus (lead), and coach Terry Meek, finished fourth overall. After an undefeated streak on the men's side, **Team White** based out of the Lac La Biche Curling Club, won the gold medal game versus Team Ontario. Wade White (skip), Barry Chwedoruk (third), Dan Holowaychuk (second), and George White (lead) will represent Canada at the World Seniors Curling Championship.

Congratulations to each of the teams for representing our province so well and making Alberta so proud.



TEAM MacALPINE



TEAM CROUGH



TEAM TAO



TEAM STEUBER



TEAM HANSEN



TEAM BERNARD



TEAM WHITE



ALBERTA JUNIOR CURLING TOUR UPDATE

This is a very special season for the [Alberta Junior Curling Tour \(AJCT\)](#) as it is our 10th year in operation! The Tour was formed back in 2011 with the intent of creating meaningful competition for junior curlers in the province, and we are proud to continue this mission through the 2021-2022 season. We have had a great 10 years so far, and we hope to make this season the best one yet!

Leading into this season, the AJCT had a tough task as the dates for the U18 and U20 Canadian Championships were switched. U18 curlers would now play their Qualifiers and Provincials in December and January, and U20 curlers would now play in late January and February. This meant that our competitive bonspiel schedule had to be altered to allow for teams to play meaningful games leading up to their respective playdowns. This also gave us an opportunity to look at the overall schedule and make modifications so it works well for both the clubs and the

curlers. On the Tour, each club runs and organizes their own bonspiels – and of course each club has their own constraints regarding ice availability and the timing of their events. The AJCT hosted a Town Hall meeting for all the clubs and event organizers to explain the situation and ask for support of a new schedule. Rest and training breaks in a long season are very important, so it was imperative that the competitions were spaced out so teams were not forced to play every weekend. We also wanted to limit the number of weekends that had two events running at the same time, so every bonspiel was well attended and successful. We are happy that many of these clubs were responsive and able to make changes to their event dates, and we are proud of the [schedule](#) that we created for the 2021-2022 season. As with any new ideas, we plan to reflect on how the schedule worked and make the appropriate changes for next year.

Another change that was made this season was the way the points system was organized. In years previous, the AJCT and Curling Alberta had separate points systems for ranking teams and this caused lots of confusion as they were slightly different. Through the offseason we worked very closely with Curling Alberta to combine the two points systems, and together we created the [Alberta Junior Team Ranking System \(AJTRS\)](#). This system awards points to teams based off their results at Tour events, Provincial Qualifiers and Championships. The AJTRS is used to award a berth directly to provincials at both the U18 and U20 age categories,

as well as qualifying a second team (in addition to the Provincial Champion) to the Canadian Championships. The top teams on the AJTRS will also be invited to the annual Curlers Corner AJCT Players Championship which will be held April 1-3, 2022 (host TBA). More than previous seasons, the AJTRS carries a lot of weight and has large implications for our teams.

Here is a look at the top 5 teams on the AJTRS [standings](#) as we head into the winter playdown season (current as of Dec 1). We have some tight races, and it will be exciting to see who qualifies to Provincials!

The AJCT also has a very exciting new development. In March 2022 we will be piloting our U21 Mixed Doubles Tour! Mixed Doubles is a very quickly developing discipline and we want to provide curlers the opportunity to play competitive games in advance of the U21 Mixed Doubles Provincial Championship in April. The Mixed Doubles Tour will have three events in the spring: Innisfail (March 11-13), Sherwood Park (March 18-20) and Airdrie (March 25-27). Thank you to these clubs who signed on to host a Mixed Doubles event – we are very excited for these bonspiels! This tour is one of the very first created in Canada and will set our athletes up well for the future.

There has been some great curling so far this year, and we look forward to watching it continue the rest of the season. Good luck to all teams!

Submitted by Mark Taylor, Chairman | Alberta Junior Curling Tour

U18 Women			U18 Men			U20 Women			U20 Men		
1	Plett	151.2	1	Wipf	124.9	1	Booth	125	1	Tao	245
2	Booth	139	2	Burton	80.5	2	Plett	121.2	2	Runciman	162.01
3	Wood	63.34	3	Whittmire	62	3	Gray-Withers	107.84	3	Wipf	111.575
4	Johnston	62.2	4	Kiist	41.17	4	Bakker	87.84	4	Balance	103.2
5	Yarmuch	60	5	Davies	27.16	5	Jones	32.52	5	Kurina	81.5825

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE

Curling Alberta is pleased to introduce the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force (DEI). Chaired by Brittany Tran, and including members David Heavenor, Dawn Gavin, Jack Smart, Lars Eriksson, Neville Headley and Brenna Bilassy. Alongside staff support Shannon Kleibrink, the task force has been meeting regularly since June 2021.

Together they have developed a mission to guide Curling Alberta with establishing and implementing a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion framework that fosters a safe and inclusive environment, provides resources, and reduces barriers to creating safe sport and employment. Hand

in hand with Curling Alberta, the task force has a vision to share the joy of curling with future generations of curlers, volunteers, fans, and employees that not only reflects the diversity within our communities, but builds a space where everyone can play, learn and grow, regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

“DEI is very important in society and sports have the power to influence change and inspire people. Sport can unite people in so many ways, through play, volunteering or being a fan and this is something unique that we can focus on by building a space where people feel like they belong,” said DEI chair Brittany Tran. “This task force was created to help educate curling rinks and Curling Alberta, grow the awareness of curling to more communities and build a plan for future progression in this space.”

One initiative currently underway to increase the diversity and inclusion in curling is the [Ready to Rock](#) program for youth ages 9-15. With more than 50 clubs around Alberta participating, hundreds of participants from a more diverse socioeconomic and ethnic make-up will ensure that curling continues to be an inclusive sport that fosters a culture where everyone is welcome.

In ongoing collaboration with Curling Alberta's Board of Directors, the task force aims to ensure Diversity, Equity and Inclusion practices are implemented, including education, training, and governance. With these solid foundation stones, they are looking to build on those practices within Curling Alberta and its member clubs. Please watch for updates and details on future initiatives on [Curling Alberta's website](#).

OFFICIAL'S CORNER



The triggers are inserted.



Trigger

I had the privilege of working as a Curling Canada Game Umpire for the 2021 Tim Hortons Olympic Trials in Saskatoon. It was so great to have fans in the stands again! The cheers for great shots and the local Dunstone team were terrific. We National Umpires split our time working at the 2021 New Holland World Junior Qualifier at the Granite Club training and mentoring CurlSask Level II umpires – they were great and so was the competition. Our Alberta teams of Team Tao and Team Crough represented us well with the Girls team advancing to the finals and just coming up short losing 7-6.

After three years of testing, the new sensor stone handles were used at the Trials! We did extensive testing in the ‘bubble’ last year in Calgary, however more work was required with the computer chips. We had little to no problems with the batteries which was always the problem on the ‘Eye on the Hog’ handles. These batteries are far less expensive using six AAA batteries. With a built-in microchip, we used a ‘trigger’ to reset the handles.



Brenda Rogers, Chief Umpire, Curling Alberta

Each umpire and Ice Tech carried the ‘trigger’ and we would insert and remove and the stone was reset- worked great!

We know that we are lucky to have wonderful dedicated volunteers, but we had one special one from Vancouver Island. Due to road closures in BC, he drove through the USA to get to Saskatoon to volunteer at the Trials, all at his own expense – Amazing! As we start our full season of playdowns, we thank all of our umpires and volunteers for your time and dedication to our sport, we couldn't do it without you!



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 Master Men's Provincial Qualifiers (all event locations)
Registration Deadline: January 12, 2022 at 12:00pm

Curling Alberta Master Women's Championship (open registration)
Registration Deadline: January 12, 2022 at 12:00pm

Curling Alberta Mixed Provincial Qualifiers (all event locations)
Registration Deadline: January 19, 2022 at 12:00pm

Curling Alberta Senior Men's Provincial Qualifiers (all event locations)
Registration Deadline: January 26, 2022 at 12:00pm

Curling Alberta Senior Women's Championship (open registration)
Registration Deadline: January 26, 2022 at 12:00pm

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



MARC KENNEDY JR. CLASSIC

The MKJC began in March of 2016 in St. Albert and Edmonton, Alberta. After the Kevin Martin Junior Spiel closed, there was a desire in the area for a youth bonspiel to wrap up their season. With the help of two beautiful facilities, the St. Albert Curling Club and Crestwood Curling Club, (and Jasper Place Curling Club for 2016-2017), top-notch staff, dedicated financial partners, and a killer crew of committee members and volunteers - we dove in head first!

Both Marc and I have been involved in youth sport for a number of years and have had the privilege to work with and help with the

development of young athletes. We knew this bonspiel would be a lot of work, but we also knew how rewarding it could be.

We wanted to combine the elements of fun, fitness, and skill but in a competitive spirit. It was our goal to elevate the level of play but to make each athlete feel appreciated and wanted - despite their level of expertise (play).

Every year we have learned a little, grew a little and tweaked a little. With an average of 60 plus teams every year, we have been able to host rinks from across Canada from 10-21 years old. Coaches, parents and fans



have come and supported their teams and have brought an energy that takes the MKJC to another level.

In 2018 we worked with James Dryburgh to begin a program called the OTP (Over the Pond) - an introduction of international teams to each other's events. Athletes were selected at the end of the event and given a season to fundraise and prepare. Athletes and coaches were billeted in the region and introduced to one another's culture, practices and loving hospitality. Encouraging lasting relationships from across the pond.

I would be remiss if I didn't say the success of this bonspiel rests on the shoulders of LITERALLY EVERYONE involved. I truly believe curling produces the best kids and we love following the teens into their men's and women's careers!

Submitted by Nicole Kennedy

CLASSIFIED & BONSPIEL LISTINGS

Are you a member club looking to promote an upcoming bonspiel or a team starting to plan your upcoming 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.



50 50



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SCAN ME TO BUY TICKETS



[CURLINGALBERTA.CA/5050](https://CurlingAlberta.ca/5050)

MUST BE 18 OR OLDER AND IN ALBERTA TO PURCHASE. LICENCE #582894

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 – 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS					
PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS					
EVENT	DATES	LOCATIONS	DEADLINE	PRE-QUALIFIER DEADLINE	PROVINCIALS
2021 MIXED	Sep. 17-19	Airdrie C.C.	Aug. 18	N/A	Sept. 29-Oct. 3 Okotoks C.C.
WORLD JUNIOR TEAM QUALIFICATION EVENT	N/A	N/A	Sept. 15	N/A	Oct. 20-24 Airdrie C.C.
WOMEN	Nov. 25-28 Dec. 2-5	Fort Saskatchewan C.C.* Vulcan C.C.*	Nov. 3	Nov. 22	Jan. 3-9 Grande Prairie C.C.
MEN	Dec. 2-5 Dec. 2-5 Dec. 2-5	Fort McMurray C.C. Spray Lake FSC, Cochrane* Grande Prairie C.C.*	Nov. 3	Nov. 30	Jan. 3-9 Grande Prairie C.C.
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	Jan. 12-16 Hinton C.C.
WHEELCHAIR	N/A	N/A	Dec. 22	N/A	Jan. 14-16 Banff C.C.
U15	N/A	N/A	Nov. 24	N/A	Feb. 3-6 Medicine Hat C.C.
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	Feb. 17-21* Granite C.C. Edmonton*
U-20	Jan. 27-30 Jan. 28-30 Feb. 3-6	Airdrie C.C. Fairview C.C. Thistle C.C.	Dec. 29	Jan. 24	Feb. 23-27 Spray Lake Sawmills Family Sports Centre, Cochrane
MASTERS	Feb. 3-6 (Men only) Feb. 4-6 (Men only) Feb. 10-13 (Men only)	Lethbridge C.C. Grande Prairie C.C. Elderslie C.C.	Jan. 12	N/A	Mar. 2-6 Granite C.C. Edmonton
MIXED	Feb. 10-13 Feb. 11-13 Feb. 17-20	Medicine Hat C.C.* Beaverlodge C.C. Thistle C.C.	Jan. 19	N/A	Mar. 9-13 Black Diamond C.C.
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	Mar. 16-20 Thistle C.C. Edmonton
CANADA WINTER GAMES	Mar. 4-6 (Pre-Trials) Apr. 6 (U19 MD Team Training Camp) Fall 2022 (U20 MD Pre-Trials)	Saville Com. Sports Centre TBD TBD	Feb. 16 N/A Aug. 31	N/A	Early 2023 Spring 2023
U-21 MIXED DOUBLES	N/A	N/A	Mar. 16	N/A	Apr. 7-10 Thistle C.C. Edmonton
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	Apr. 6-10 Airdrie C.C.

*Date and/or location change from previously announced.



CARSON SCHULTZ

LET'S GO STURLING!

This fun, fast-paced, and relatively young discipline of curling is capturing the interest of curlers of all ages and abilities.

Sturling's roots go back to two long-time friends that curled together in a senior's league. "A very good friend of mine, Brian Dingman, ended up in a wheelchair after what was supposed to be a minor medical procedure," shared Carson Schultz, one of the founders. "He worked his way up to walking with a cane, but he wanted to get back to curling. There was no way he could run up and down the ice in a traditional four-person game, so I went to one end of the ice and he went to the other. We just threw some rocks back and forth. Two other people joined us, and that is how the game evolved. Just that simple."

Brian and Carson went on to play in a lot of spiels together, including the first Sturling bonspiel in 2002, and winning the inaugural Alberta Championship in 2004 at the Didsbury Curling Club.

Contributing to the curling experience significantly, Sturling has introduced additional league and bonspiel opportunities, and has even grown club memberships, all of which are crucial with local community curling centres

struggling to keep their doors open. It allows for individuals, even on the same team, to use their own preferred stick or slide delivery, is physically less demanding, and has no gender or age restrictions. For those who may not be physically able to participate in physically demanding traditional curling, it provides an opportunity to get back to the game they love, be competitive and have fun.

Using the same facilities, equipment, and similar rules as a typical curling game, Sturling players share equal responsibility for skipping and throwing. They deliver six rocks in a row, for a total of 18 rocks, keeping the game full of nonstop action. Games are fast-paced, typically lasting an hour, and most events are kept to one day to maximize the number of teams who get to play. "That's the beauty of this sport," adds Carson. "It only takes two to make a team. Rather than getting four people to commit for a three- or four-day event, it's just let's just go have some fun for a day, then on to the next one."

Carson and his long-time curling partner and wife Marianne have enjoyed Sturling events here, there and everywhere. From the 64-team Summer Spiel in Irma, to a weekend event in Wetaskiwin where his

youngest grandson, Spencer even scored a five-ender, to the Skins Championship in Rocky Mountain House, it is a favorite activity for their entire family. Their teams range in age from 12 to 73, consist of both new and seasoned curlers, and everything in between. A Sturling event is always time well-spent among family and friends.

With its rising popularity, Sturling bonspiels fill up nearly as quickly as they are posted. A complete list of events can be found [here](#) with details regarding the 2022 Skins Championship and Alberta Championship coming soon.

If you have been sidelined from traditional curling, want to gather some friends for some fun, or simply want to try something new, why not expand that curling repertoire and give Sturling a try.

If Sturling has stirred your curiosity even a little, everything from previous champions across Canada to the latest news can be found on their official website. Sturling's original founder would also be more than willing to share his wealth of knowledge and love of the sport.

"You betcha," laughed Carson.



CARSON SCHULTZ



www.sturling.net

HIT, DRAW, TAP RETURNS!

HIT, DRAW, TAP (HDT) is making its big return to curling rinks across Alberta and we cannot wait! The HDT youth skills competition involves kids aged 6-13 to compete as individuals. Grouped into three different age categories, 6-8, 9-10, and 11-13, competitors will perform three different shots including a "Hit," a "Draw," and a "Tap." Difficulties of the skills are modified based on the age of the child.

Curling Alberta is encouraging clubs to host a HIT, DRAW, TAP competition as part of their Junior Program whenever it best suits them. Participants do not need to be a curler or a member of a club to compete, so this is an opportunity to encourage players to bring a friend. Each club will require an hour and a half to two hours to complete their HDT competition and results must be entered into the Curling Canada database by Monday, March 14, 2022 at 12:00 pm.

Participants will be ranked to those in similar age groups from clubs across the

province on a "Provincial Leaderboard" that can be accessed online by the public at: www.hitdrawtap.ca. The top five participants from each category will qualify to compete in the Hit, Draw, Tap Provincial Championships, presented by Tim Hortons, at the Alberta Curling Tour Championship held in Leduc, AB on Saturday, April 2, 2022.

The last HIT, DRAW, TAP competitions were in 2019, with over 450 participants from across all of Alberta competed at

their local clubs. The top five in points from the different age categories qualified to compete in the first-ever Provincial HIT, DRAW, TAP Competition at the 2020 Sentinel Storage Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Okotoks.

Contact your local curling club to get involved in the HIT, DRAW, TAP Program!

Any questions regarding HIT, DRAW, TAP can be directed to Shannon Kleibrink at shannon.kleibrink@curlingalberta.ca.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS



PERCY PAGE CENTRE, 11759 GROAT ROAD, EDMONTON, AB T5M 3K6

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