

# IT'S OUR HOUSE

SIXTEENTH EDITION • MARCH 2023



## 'TEACHING THE TEACHERS' CURLING CLINIC

Prairie Land school division held a successful curling clinic on Thurs. Feb. 2, in Consort, working with Shannon Kleibrink and Andy Jones from Curling Alberta.

"For many, curling is one of the lifetime sports that individuals can enjoy at any age," said Divisional Numeracy Coordinator Holly Stanger.

"Both young and old can enjoy the sport of curling. It's also a really social sport. Joining a curling team or attending a local bonspiel is a great way to support a community and get to know some great people.

A lot of time and effort goes into maintaining these small rural clubs and by getting youth involved it really helps to ensure the rinks stay busy and will remain busy for many years to come."

Fifteen people participated during the event from a variety of communities including Amisk, Coronation, Cessford, Pollockville, Delia, Youngstown, Hanna and Consort.

"The clinic to 'teach the teachers' was meant to help people to learn how to teach youth to better develop their skills in the sport," said Stanger.

"Everyone who attended was super enthusiastic and passionate about growing the junior programs in their respective communities."

Topics covered during the clinic included safety on the ice, correct delivery and sweeping techniques (coaching tips, as well as, common mistakes), proper release of the rock for in and out turns, gameplay strategy, games to play to engage students, and orientation of the ice surface and curling facility.

"The curling clinic is one of many of the workshops Prairie Land school division is doing in a series of coaching workshops dedicated to the variety of sports being offered in the division's schools," said Stanger.

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"The goal is to provide support for teachers and coaches so they can, in turn, help develop their athletes to the best of their ability.

Sports play such an important role in many of our students' lives. We want to ensure the best experiences possible for coaches and athletes alike by providing these learning opportunities for the adults working with our students."

The idea of working with teachers and instructors to provide authentic curling experiences in school PE classes and community after-school programs is a new initiative from Curling Alberta.

Article from East Central Alberta Review, by Sara Baker

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Curling Alberta has a lot of exciting programs and events coming up!

### AWARD NOMINATIONS OPENING IN MARCH

### BUSINESS OF CURLING SYMPOSIUM

April 21-23rd in Red Deer, AB.

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING A PROVINCIAL QUALIFIER OR CHAMPIONSHIP

Coming Soon on the Curling Alberta website

## UPCOMING COURSES

**MAR 11-12  
CLUB COACH COURSE**  
(Lamont Curling Club)

**MAR 18-19  
CLUB COACH COURSE**  
(Huntington Hills Curling Club, Calgary)

**MAR 18  
ASSISTANT CURLING ICE  
TECHNICIAN COURSE**  
(Canmore Curling Club)

## SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS RETURNS TO CALGARY IN 2024



The curling spotlight will once again shine brightly on Calgary, as the 2024 Scotties Tournament of Hearts returns to the WinSport Event Centre at Canada Olympic Park. Canada's best women's teams will be showcased as they compete for the national title February 16-25.

As capacity at WinSport is limited, fans are encouraged to purchase their tickets early, to secure their spot to cheer on Canada's curling elite vie for the title of Team Canada.

"About a year from now, the best curlers in Canada will have arrived in Calgary to rock and roll in the beautiful Winsport Arena," said event Co-Chair, Amy Nixon, "Hurry and get your tickets to make sure you can live it live!"

Beginning February 23 at 10 a.m. MST, the following ticket packages go on sale:

Full Event Package (\$408-\$444):  
A single ticket to every draw of the 2024 Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

Championship Weekend Package (\$198-\$228): A single ticket to every draw from Friday, Feb. 22, to Sunday, Feb. 24.

Opening Weekend Package (\$108-\$132): A single ticket to all draws from Friday, Feb. 15, to Sunday, Feb. 17.

Weekday Package (\$60-\$69): A single ticket to all three draws on either Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

Tickets for these initial package offerings are only available online through Ticketmaster at <https://www.curling.ca/tickets/> as there is no on-site box office at WinSport prior to the event. Single-draw tickets will be released in October or November once television and draw schedules have been finalized. Any ticket inquiries can be emailed to

[tickets@curling.ca](mailto:tickets@curling.ca).

Fans wanting to enhance their Scotties Tournament of Hearts experience can sign up to the [Curling Canada Collective](#) for news and updates on volunteer opportunities and ticket sales.

Once the 2024 Scotties Tournament of Heart champion is crowned, they will move on to represent Canada at the World Women's Curling

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The Foundation provides Alberta curlers, 20 years of age or younger, with the financial opportunity to further expand and refine their curling abilities and accomplishments.

Applications must be received no later than May 31.

Visit **[CurlingAlberta.ca/hecgervais scholarship](https://CurlingAlberta.ca/hecgervais scholarship)**



*Scan me!*



## OFFICIALS' CORNER

We are more than half way through our Provincial playdowns and starting to send our champions to National events – we wish them all good luck!

I had the pleasure of working my first Arctic Winter Games in Fort McMurray, and as Chief Umpire, was able to invite Curling Alberta umpires to work the event. Thank you to Chery Minns, Andy Lessard, Larry Jensen and Karen Lavoie from Alberta, and Peggy Dorosz from Whitehorse. I have worked two Canada Winter Games and this event is very much similar as far as curling goes, but the additional sports are the exception. There are 21 events with 2,100 athletes and approximately 2,000 volunteers. We were able to watch Dene and Arctic Sports and attend the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. The Arctic Games are open to athletes North of the 55th parallel and includes Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavut, Alaska,

Greenland, Nunavik (Northern Quebec), northern Alberta, and the Indigenous people (Sami) of Norway, Sweden, and Finland.

We have introduced hosting a Zoom meeting with all umpires and championship coordinators one week in advance of each provincial championship. It has helped in coordinating schedules of the event and making sure all information is shared and accessible. These will continue for the remainder of the season and thank you to Britney and Michael for your set up, and umpires for attending.

Thank you to everyone for volunteering this season, some of you have been particularly busy for the Curling Alberta events and we really do appreciate your time!

Good Luck to all for the remainder of the season!



Please feel free to contact me at [brenda.rogers@curlingalberta.ca](mailto:brenda.rogers@curlingalberta.ca) if you require any rules interpretations.

Brenda Rogers, Chief Umpire, Curling Alberta



## CALGARY YOUTH CURLING ASSOCIATION JAM CAN BONSPIEL

The CYCA Jam Can Bonspiel has been around longer than the CYCA itself. It was originally an outdoor bonspiel with actual jam cans for rocks. There is an example of one in the Southern Alberta Curling Association Hall of Fame in the Calgary Curling Club. The CYCA took over running this bonspiel in the late 1980s and it has been a feature of our season ever since.

This year's event took place on February 4 at the Calgary Curling Club. Eighteen teams participated, representing a significant

increase in teams from last year. The bonspiel is for curlers who are under the age of 12 and is usually the first opportunity for most of these youngsters to curl outside their own club. We use the event to encourage these young up-and-coming curlers to think about joining our Sunday League and to also support recreational bonspiels for the under twelve group.

The event features both a lite rock and regular rock division with each team playing three 2-end games over two hours. In some cases, these curlers have never played in an actual game. It is a great opportunity to introduce them to game procedures and pace of play. We had a large number of volunteers to encourage the athletes to get into the hack quickly and coaches to help with strategy. I think some of the teams played faster than some of the teams in my Tuesday adult league.

Every participant receives a medal at the end of the day along with a gift from the CYCA and an opportunity to win door prizes. If you see a young curler with a red bag emblazoned with "CYCA", there's a good chance that they received it here.

It was a fun day for curlers, parents and volunteers. The Calgary Curling Club were excellent hosts and we hope to be invited back next year.

Submitted by Andy Jones



# CHAMPIONS HIGHLIGHTS



The curling season is an amazing thing. One minute it is August and we are eagerly waiting to reunite with our grippers and brooms, and the next minute it is March and we have named 23 Alberta representatives. Before we recognize the great athletic achievements that we have witnessed so far this season, we want to thank the curling community and curling centres for

their unwavering support. Thank you to the umpires, provincial sponsors, ice techs, host committees and chairs, curling centre managers, staff and Boards for putting on such successful events, and to the friends and families of the Alberta curlers for cheering these athletes on.

Although we have many more provincial champions to celebrate, we want to

congratulate the Alberta representatives that have been named and give details as to where you will see them next! As a result of great performance at previous championships, Curling Alberta has been given the opportunity to send a second team in certain categories who are considered Team Alberta 2.

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## 2023 ALBERTA BOSTON PIZZA CUP

Team Alberta & Provincial Champions - Team Koe  
Wild Card - Team Bottcher  
Wild Card - Team Sturmay

2023 TIM HORTONS BRIER™  
March 3-12, 2023  
Budweiser Gardens, London, Ont.  
More information - <https://www.curling.ca/2023brier/>

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## 2023 WHEELCHAIR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Team Alberta & Provincial Champions - Team Smart  
Team Alberta 2 - Team Kychelyma

2023 CANADIAN WHEELCHAIR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP  
Mar. 20-24, 2023  
Moose Jaw Curling Centre, Moose Jaw, Sask.  
More Information - <https://www.curling.ca/2023wheelchair/>

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## 2023 ALBERTA BEST WESTERN MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

Team Alberta - Team Kalk/MacAlpine

2023 CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP  
Mar. 21-26, 2023  
Sudbury, Ont.  
More information - <https://www.curling.ca/2023mixeddoubles/>

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## 2023 ALBERTA HEC GERVAIS U20 MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

Team Alberta Women's - Team Plett  
Team Alberta Men's - Team Ballance

2023 NEW HOLLAND CANADIAN JUNIOR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Aréna Glencore du Centre Dave-Keon and the Club de Curling Noranda, Rouyn-Noranda, Qué.  
Mar. 25-Apr. 2, 2023  
More information - <https://www.curling.ca/2023under21/>

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## 2023 TEAM ALBERTA 2 REPRESENTATIVES AT U20 NATIONALS

Team Alberta 2 Women's - Team Booth  
Team Alberta 2 Men's - Team Tao

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## 2023 KANANASKIS NORDIC SPA ALBERTA MASTERS MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

Team Alberta Women's - Team Santos  
Team Alberta Men's - Team White

2023 CANADIAN MASTERS CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP  
April 2-8, 2023  
Saint John, NB  
More information - <https://masterscurling.com/>

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## 2023 CURLING ALBERTA MIXED PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

Team Alberta - Team Van Amsterdam

2023 CANADIAN MIXED CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

More information - <https://curlingcanada.ca>

## 2023 CURLING ALBERTA U21 MIXED PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

Team Alberta - Team Gray-Withers/Macaulay

## 2023 SENTINEL STORAGE ALBERTA SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS

Team Alberta & Provincial Champions - Team Skrlik finished the 2023 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Kamloops, BC with a 4-4 record  
Wild Card 2 - Team Scheidegger finished the 2023 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Kamloops, BC with a 3-5 record

## 2023 CURLING ALBERTA OPTIMIST U18 PROVINCIAL

Team Alberta & Provincial Champions  
Girl's - Team Plett (2023 Canadian Under-18 Girls Curling Gold Medalists)  
Boy's - Team Hiebert

## 2023 TEAM ALBERTA 2 REPRESENTATIVES AT U18 NATIONALS

Girl's - Team DeSchiffart  
Boy's - Team Davies (2023 Canadian Under-18 Boys Curling Gold Medalists)

## 2023 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Team Sonnenberg (Gold Medalists)  
Team Young (Silver Medalists)

## 2023 CANADA WINTER GAMES

Girl's - Team Plett (Silver Medalists)  
Boy's - Team Heibert  
Mixed Doubles - Team Crough/Raniseth (Gold Medalists)

# LOCAL YOUTH GETTING INTRODUCED TO THE SPORT OF CURLING

The Pidherney Centre in Red Deer is on a mission to introduce local youth to the sport of curling.

On Feb. 6, Grade 4 students at St. Elizabeth Seton School in Red Deer had the chance to learn all about it and give it a try in the school's gymnasium.

Lynne Entz, a member of the Pidherney Centre Board of Directors, says they began their initiative in January and are visiting one school at a time.

"The objective is to introduce the sport to the kids in the community and let them know that it is available and it's out there for kids to join. Any kids from the ages of nine to 18 are welcome to join the program. It's on Monday nights from about 5:00-6:30 p.m.," she explains. "This season is almost finished



Grade 4 students at Red Deer's St. Elizabeth Seton school were introduced to the sport of curling on Monday, Feb. 6, 2023. (rdnewsNOW/Sheldon Spackman)

... continued on page 10





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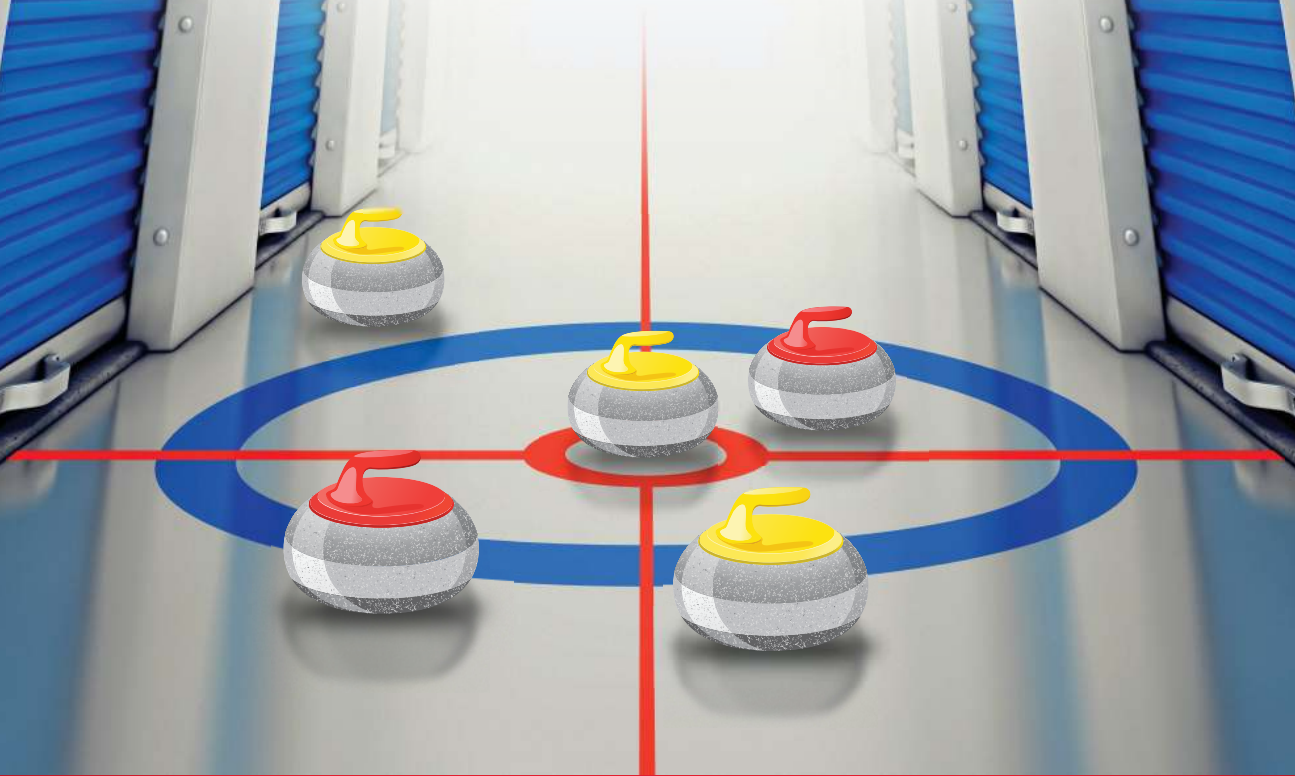
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SENTINEL STORAGE ALBERTA SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS

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... continued from page 7



Some students at St. Elizabeth Seton School in Red Deer had to Hurry Hard!, on Monday. (rdnewsNOW/Sheldon Spackman)

but we're introducing this to the kids so they can join for next September and the season goes from about October until March."

Entz says she and a group of volunteers from the Pidherney Centre bring two bags of "Floor Curl" rocks to the schools and 10 brooms from the broom room at the rink. She says since they can't take the granite ones from the rink, they take two bags of rubber rocks with three bearings on the bottom so they wheel across the gym floors.

"We're just spreading our love of the game and showing the kids that it's fun, it's something to do with friends, it's a way to come and meet new people, it's something

different," says Entz. "It's important to reach out to our youth because with most sports and COVID, we lost a lot of those kids and some of them grew up and they're older than 18, so we're trying to get back out to the community and try to build our program up."

Entz says they have 14 schools signed up, with four visited so far and 10 more to go. She says it is her goal to have these floor rocks touch the hands of about 5,000 kids in the community.

"I hope they see that it's a lot of fun. I hope they see that they can join by themselves and meet new people or if they have a buddy that wants to join a smaller team,

if they just want to go do something on a Monday night and hang out, go to the curling rink. Dinner is included this year," adds Entz.

She further points out that curling is one of the more affordable sports you can play.

"To join the program this year, it was about \$220 to curl from October until March," explains Entz. "We had Olymel step up and sponsor. They have sponsored the food side of things for dinner after. But we also had the Red Deer Optimist Club step up and donate money and that covered shoe rental and broom rental for the kids, so the fees were just to cover the ice."

Entz encourages anyone who hasn't curled before, to give it a try.

"You never know if you'll love it," she points out. "I started when I was a kid and I still play today. We have all ages of volunteers and it's honestly a sport that anybody can play."

Entz says interested kids can sign up on their own or bring friends to play with them. The time commitment is one night a week.

Registration for next year will start in the summer.

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Article from rdnewsNOW, by Sheldon Spackman

## CLASSIFIEDS & 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 [Bonspiels](#) section on Curling Alberta's website under Competitions, 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.



# COMPETITION UPDATES

2022 - 23 Qualifiers and Open Provincial Qualifiers Registration  
Registration for all Curling Alberta competitions opened up September 1, 2022. Teams must be registered and prepaid prior to the registration deadline.

Curling Alberta U15 Provincial Qualifiers (all event locations)  
Qualifiers cancelled due to low registration. Teams invited to register for an Open Provincial. Registration deadline was February 1, 2023 at 12:00pm, 18 teams will compete on March 8-12 at the Grande Prairie Curling Centre.

Curling Alberta Seniors Open Provincial Registration deadline was February 22, 2023, at 12:00pm. 25 men's teams and 9 women's teams will compete at the Red Deer Curling Centre on March 21-26, 2023

Curling Alberta Curling Club Championship Provincial Qualifiers Registration deadline for Clubs to declare intent was on February 1, 2023. 51 men's teams and 36 women's teams will compete in qualifiers located throughout the province.

For a complete listing of Curling Alberta's provincial qualifiers and championships, or to register, please visit the [Curling Alberta](https://curlingalberta.ca) website.

EVENT	DATES	LOCATION	DEADLINE	PRE QUALIFIER POINTS	PROVINCIALS
LEGEND CUP	Oct 11-13	Edmonton C.C.	Aug 15	Open 17	Jan 3-5 Spartan Curling Centre
USC	Oct 8-11 Oct 11-13 Oct 14-16 Oct 16-18	Spokane C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane)	N/A	Nov 29	Jan 3-5 Spartan Curling Centre
WOMEN	Dec 8-11 Jan 5-8	Edmonton C.C.	Nov 9 Last Qualifier Dec 13	Nov 29	Jan 10-12 Wassenaar Curling Centre
MEN	Dec 8-11 Jan 5-8	Edmonton C.C.	Nov 9 Last Qualifier Dec 13	Nov 29	Jan 10-12 Wassenaar Curling Centre
ASSTIC WINTER GAMES	Dec 15-18	Edmonton C.C.	N/A	N/A	Jan 31 - Feb 1 Spartan Curling Centre
USD	Dec 28-Jan 1 Dec 29-Jan 1 Dec 30-Jan 1 Jan 10-15 Jan 15-18	Spokane C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane)	Nov 30	Jan 2	Feb 1-3 Spartan Curling Centre
MIXED DOUBLES	Jan 28-29 Jan 30-31 Feb 2-5	Edmonton C.C.	Dec 28 Nov 30	Jan 9	Feb 1-3 Spartan Curling Centre
MASTERS	Open	N/A	Dec 1	N/A	Feb 1-3 Spartan Curling Centre
WHITEFLYMAN	Open	N/A	Jan 25	N/A	Feb 1-3 Spartan Curling Centre
MIXED	Feb 9-12 Feb 9-12 Feb 13-15	Edmonton C.C.	Jan 11	N/A	Feb 1-3 Spartan Curling Centre
USC	Open	N/A	Feb 22	N/A	Feb 1-3 Spartan Curling Centre
SENIORS	Open	N/A	Feb 1	N/A	Feb 1-3 Spartan Curling Centre
LEGEND DOUBLES	Open	N/A	Feb 1	N/A	Feb 1-3 Spartan Curling Centre
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS	Mar 3-12	Edmonton C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane) Spokane C.C. (Spokane)	Feb 15	N/A	Mar 3-12 Spartan Curling Centre
NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS	Open	N/A	Feb 15	N/A	Mar 3-12 Spartan Curling Centre

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS



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