

IT'S OUR HOUSE

NINETEENTH EDITION • NOVEMBER 2023

FORT MACLEOD CURLING CLUB MARKS MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY



Fort Macleod Curling Club celebrated the strong community that has been a hallmark of the organization over the past 125 years.

The club held its 125th anniversary celebration with displays of history, curling with top Alberta skips and a banquet.

"I just wanted to offer my congratulations on such a wonderful milestone achievement of reaching 125 years of curling," Curling Alberta Board of Directors President Jody Meli said. "What an accomplishment for all of you."

"It's something to truly celebrate."

Guests at the banquet included Shannon Kleibrink, a five-time Scotties Provincial Champion and Olympic medalist and local legend Jamie Bourassa, the 1989 Provincial Mixed Curling Champion who went on to become the ice technician for Curling Canada and the World Curling Federation.

Mayor Brent Feyter brought greetings on behalf of the Town of Fort Macleod.

"One hundred and 25 years," Feyter said. "That is no small thing."

Feyter noted that Fort Macleod was among the first communities in Alberta to start a curling club.

The mayor congratulated the club on its place in history and for its longevity in reaching the 125th anniversary.

"One thing I've been noticing is curling is all about fellowship and getting to know each other and hanging out together and that's a pretty amazing thing," Feyter said. "That's what makes community. We wish you many more years."

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Meli was also representing the Sandra Schmirler Foundation, having spent 10 years on the board.

"I have to tell you it's probably one of the best decisions I ever made in terms of volunteering and knowing what a worthwhile cause," Meli said. "I didn't know what I was getting myself into but it's something I am very proud to be involved with."

Sandra Schmirler was a Provincial, National, World Champion and Olympic gold medal curler. Schmirler and teammates Jan Betker, Jon McClusker and Marcia Guderelt won the hearts of Canadians.

"Part of their charm, and what I think everybody loved about them, was they were down-to-earth and fun-loving," Meli said. "And they were just Saskatchewan girls, but they were fierce competitors."

Schmirler died of cancer in 2000 at the age of 36, leaving her husband and two young daughters.

Upon her death, Schmirler's friends got together and formed the foundation to preserve her legacy.

"It was important to the founders that it was a cause that connected to Sandra," Meli said. "And what that was, was family."

Many families face the challenge of having a baby born too soon, too small or too sick.

The foundation raises money to buy needed life-saving equipment for neo natal intensive care units across Canada.

To date, the foundation has donated equipment with a value in excess of \$7.9-million across Canada.

The foundation always donates where the Scotties Tournament of Hearts is held. Alberta will receive another donation in February when the tournament is held in Calgary.

Lethbridge has received \$135,000 in grants. A total of \$187,000 was granted in Alberta in 2022.

The foundation also supports youth curling in the form of \$5,000 scholarships each year to six people.

"What makes the Sandra Schmirler Foundation so unique?" Meli said. "It's one of the few foundations that is focused on neo natal intensive care units across the country. But I believe the power really, truly is the curling community and the power of connections that we all have as curlers."

The Schmirler family, including her daughters and husband, is actively involved with the foundation.

"In the words of Sandra herself, dream big, fight hard," Meli said. "The Sandra Schmirler Foundation embodies those words."

The Fort Macleod Curling Club donated the \$1,800 proceeds from Curling with Rock Stars to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation.

On Friday and Saturday the club's history assembled by Judy Walde and Cathy Park was on display in the club.

At the banquet, a video of interviews with long-time club members was shown.

"The committee has done a tremendous amount of research into the decades of the curling club," master of ceremonies Cecilie Fleming said.

Club president Sherri Zoeteman and historian Cathy Park presented a scrapbook to long-time member and former draw master Harvey Bourassa.

"We are all here because we are part of a community but there was one individual who really grasps what our club is all about," Zoeteman said. "He is a life member and he was an ambassador for us at so many bonspiels."

On Friday, the Town of Fort Macleod and Westco Construction played a corporate challenge on inflatable rinks provided by Curling Alberta.

Earlier in the day, Shannon Kleibrink and Casey Scheidegger skipped local curlers in the Curling with Rock Stars event.

Original article courtesy of Frank McTighe, Macleod Gazette

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.





UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE CURLING SPOTLIGHT

As part of Curling Alberta's new University and College Curling Spotlight section, we are pleased to feature the University of Alberta's prestigious curling program. We invite all of Alberta's college and university programs to submit an article or story that would showcase their achievements, application process, or anything else they would like featured in It's Our House to casey.thomas@curlingalberta.ca.

Youth curlers, check out [Curling Alberta's](#) page dedicated to post-secondary curling programs to find a curling program that is right for you!

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CURLING



The University of Alberta is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for our [Golden Bears](#) and [Pandas](#) Curling programs. These confidential applications are aimed towards prospective varsity curlers with an interest in attending the University of Alberta in September of 2024, or further into the future.

Golden Bears and Pandas Curling has a proud history of competitive success. Beginning in 2012, when our program began to take its current form, our teams

have won a total of 29 provincial or conference titles and 14 national titles between university and junior play. We have also represented Canada 10 times internationally over this same timeframe, and have come home with 8 medals (4 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze).

We are also very proud of the fact that several former Golden Bears and Pandas curlers have continued to wear the maple leaf to the highest level of our sport. This elite group includes Brendan Bottcher, Brad Thiessen, and Karrick Martin (2021 World Men's), Dana Ferguson and Rachel Brown (2019 World Women's), and Joanne Courtney (2017 Worlds Women's, 2017 World Mixed Doubles, and 2018 Olympics).

Golden Bears and Pandas Curling has a number of built-in attributes that make us attractive to prospective student-athletes, beginning with the fact that we are considered one of Canada's top universities. Our curlers also benefit from

top-notch coaching and sport science expertise, along with the state-of-the-art facilities and equipment at the Saville Community Sports Centre.

If you believe that you have the skills to curl for the University of Alberta, and are willing to strive for excellence both on the ice and in the classroom, we invite you to complete a no-obligation application form through the following Google forms links:

[Golden Bears \(Male\)](#) and [Pandas \(Female\)](#).

*Submitted by Rob Krepps
Head Coach, Golden Bears and Pandas Curling
Curling Canada's National Training and
Development Centre*

NORTHERN ALBERTA/BC CLUB TOUR

From the big cities to one-stoplight towns, curling is woven into the fabric of Canada.

And while top players such as Brad Gushue and Kerri Einarson get the spotlight during the winter, it is the curling clubs across the country that form the beating heart of the game.

It is a heart that needs to keep pumping, which is why Curling Canada has resumed a Strategic Planning Program to help clubs from coast to coast thrive well into the future.

Curling Canada determined over time that some clubs needed guidance in the planning department.

"It was surprising to us how few clubs operated with a plan," says Bobby Ray, Curling Canada's point man charged with facilitating total strategic planning with clubs. "I'm not saying they were operating poorly, but that there was no vision recorded for more than the immediate next-season."

The Strategic Planning Program is a service Curling Canada's Member Associations offer to clubs looking for a roadmap to a successful future, and works hand-in-hand with its Business Of Curling symposiums (designed to help curling clubs understand their responsibilities as small business operators).

After lying dormant for a few years, the Program is back up and running. This fall Ray has already taken the Program to clubs in Dawson Creek, B.C., Westlock, Alta., and Port Hawkesbury, N.S.

"We'll go anywhere where it is believed we can make a difference," says Ray.

Ray says the Program is a "vision-based" approach to strategy and involves a two-day workshop with an individual club. While the Business Of Curling symposiums involve multiple clubs at once with generic content, the strategic planning sessions are between the facilitator and the club.

"We ask that there be a minimum of a quorum so that 50 per cent of board members are present," says Ray. "Clubs can also invite other influential members of the club who they feel can contribute."

Help in planning could involve anything — from registration, food and beverage, ice rentals or ways to attract non-traditional curlers to the sport.

"Fair to say it's all of the above," says Ray. "They want more curlers, of course. They also feel they may be facing a volunteer crises. Also facilities. Our buildings are getting older. Some need new roofs, new rocks. Clubs are looking for help to put plans in place with a vision to the future."

The process can include:

- Identify vision, mission, values;
- Conduct a demographic scan and situational analysis;
- Determine strategic priorities;
- Set goals;
- Create an operations plan with immediate actions.

Ray is not alone on the Program. Recently he was joined by high-profile curlers

Shannon Kleibrink of Curling Alberta and Kim Dennis of Curl BC who are both learning to be facilitators. Curling Canada is hoping to have facilitators in various areas of the country.

Ray also welcomed the mentorship of Leslie Kerr who was one of the original Business Of Curling facilitators nearly 20 years ago.

Jeff Ginter, general manager of the eight-sheet Dawson Creek Curling Club, had the benefit of a Program visit and says "it was excellent."

Ginter says about 15 people participated in the event, spending 12 hours together, going over the club's vision. It also served as a valuable team-building exercise.

"We basically ended up with five pillars that we felt were our highest priority and we landed on three or four main goals for each of those pillars," says Ginter. "That's going to translate into a document here that is going to guide us as a strategic plan for the next three to five years. It will give us a great opportunity to be a little more focused."

"I would not hesitate for a second to recommend this for every single club that wants to be better in the future."

Clubs looking for planning help can contact their provincial or territorial association or business@curling.ca for pricing.

Original article courtesy of Curling Canada



2-PERSON STICK CURLING TAKING OFF AT ST. ALBERT CURLING CLUB

St. Albert Curling Club is continuing to grow the game of 2-person Stick curling. The club has expanded the number of stick leagues from nine to eleven, including three on Tuesdays and Thursdays, five on Fridays, and a dedicated women's league on Thursday mornings.

The leagues are split into the Fall session, running until December, followed by the Winter session from January to March. This allows 264 slots for individuals to play the game in each session or a total of 528 opportunities to play stick curling during the season, making St. Albert the largest Stick Curling Club in Canada.

At the beginning of each season, the St. Albert Curling Club holds two Stick Curling Clinics to teach individuals the fundamentals and how to play 2-person stick curling.

These daytime leagues generate significant revenue for the St. Albert Curling Club. If your club is interested in starting a 2-person stick curling league or hosting a bonspiel, please contact [Randy Olson](#), President of the Alberta Stick Curling Association.

This season, the St. Albert Curling Club will host the Alberta Stick Curling Championships, March 26-28, 2024, featuring three competition categories: Men's, Women, and Mixed. Winners of each division will advance to the Canadian Stick Curling Championships, to be held at the Leaside Curling Club in Toronto, April 19-22, 2024. Entries can be made at the [Alberta Stick Curling website](#).

The Alberta Stick Curling Association is pleased to announce the start of the Alberta Stick Curling Tour. To promote Stick Curling bonspiels in Alberta, any bonspiel registered with Alberta Stick Curling Association, will be eligible to have competitors earn points towards the Stick Curling Tour championship. If a minimum six bonspiels are registered, the team with the most points will be awarded



Promoting Stick Curling in Alberta

albertastickcurling.ca

2024 Alberta Stick Curling Championship

Presented by: Olson Curling

March 26-28, 2024

**Hosted by:
St. Albert Curling Club**

Entry fee: \$160/team

Deadline: March 16, 2024

Email Contact: randyolson@shaw.ca

Three divisions: Men, Women, Mixed
Players may only play in only one division
Enter Online: albertastickcurling.ca

Winners advance to:
Canadian Stick Curling Championship
Toronto, Ontario
April 18-22, 2024

Alberta Stick Curling Tour Events

See albertastickcurling.ca for details

Nov 4, 2023
Ellerslie Curling Club
Ron Currie Stick Bonspiel

Nov 12, 2023
St. Albert Curling Club

Dec 2, 2023
Leduc Curling Club

Dec 9, 2023
Crestwood Curling Club

Dec 27-28, 2024
Legal Curling Club

Jan 27, 2024
Grande Prairie Curling Club

a free entry to the Alberta Stick Curling Championships. The first bonspiel to register is the St. Albert Stick Bonspiel on November 12th. The points process and standings will be posted on the [Alberta Stick Curling website](#).

To learn more about 2-Person Stick Curling in Alberta, please visit the [Alberta](#)

[Stick Curling Association's website](#) or contact [Randy Olson](#).

*Submitted by Randy Olson
President, Alberta Stick Curling Association*



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2023-24 QUALIFIERS AND OPEN PROVINCIAL REGISTRATION



REGISTER NOW

Registration for all upcoming Curling Alberta competitions opened on September 1, 2023. Teams must be registered and prepaid prior to the registration deadline.

The registration deadline has ended for the 5 categories that are listed below:

ALBERTA WINTER GAMES

5 boys teams and 14 girls teams

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

2 boys teams and 2 girls teams

CURLING ALBERTA U18 QUALIFIERS

11 boys teams and 14 girls teams

CURLING ALBERTA WOMEN'S QUALIFIERS

20 teams (including Last Chance teams)

CURLING ALBERTA MEN'S QUALIFIERS

30 teams (including Last Chance teams)

Registration remains open for the categories listed below:

CURLING ALBERTA MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

(open registration)

Registration Deadline:

November 29, 2023 at 12:00pm

CURLING ALBERTA WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIP (open registration)

Registration Deadline:

December 13, 2023 at 12:00pm

CURLING ALBERTA U20 MEN & WOMEN QUALIFIERS

(all event locations)

Registration Deadline:

December 13, 2023 at 12:00pm

Please take note of the location change for the provincial championship. The 2024 U20 Provincial Championship, Presented by Hec Gervais will be held on March 5-10 at the Drayton Valley Curling Club.

CURLING ALBERTA U15 QUALIFIERS

(all event locations)

Registration Deadline:

December 20, 2023 at 12:00pm

CURLING ALBERTA MASTER MEN'S QUALIFIERS

(all event locations)

Registration Deadline:

December 27, 2023 at 12:00pm

CURLING ALBERTA MASTER WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

(open registration)

Registration Deadline:

December 27, 2023 at 12:00pm

CURLING ALBERTA SENIOR MEN'S QUALIFIERS

(all event locations)

Registration Deadline:

January 3, 2024 at 12:00pm

CURLING ALBERTA SENIOR WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

(open registration)

Registration Deadline:

January 3, 2024 at 12:00pm

CURLING ALBERTA MIXED CHAMPIONSHIP

(open registration)

Registration Deadline:

February 21, 2024 at 12:00pm

CURLING ALBERTA U21 MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

(open registration)

Registration Deadline:

March 6, 2024 at 12:00pm

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

Please ensure you are familiar with the previously released Summary of Key Changes to ensure you are up to date with all changes. Visit the [Curling Alberta website](#), or [click here](#).

CURLING ALBERTA – 2023-2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS					
EVENT	DATES	LOCATIONS	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	PRE-QUALIFYING BY POINTS DEADLINE	CHAMPIONSHIPS
ALBERTA WINTER GAMES	Nov. 17-19 Nov. 24-26 Nov. 24-26	Grande Prairie CC Highwood CC Leduc CC	Nov. 1	N/A	Feb. 16-19 Grande Prairie
EXCEL CUP				N/A	Nov. 24-26 Okotoks
MIXED DOUBLES			Nov. 29	N/A	Dec. 27-31 Lethbridge CC
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES	Dec. 1-3	Grande Prairie CC	*Nov. 8	N/A	Mar. 10-16 Mat-Su, AK
ROCKFEST	Dec. 1-3 Feb. 9-11	High River CC Leduc CC	Nov. 17 Jan. 15	N/A	Mar. 12-17 Sherwood Park
U18	Dec. 7-10 Dec. 14-17 Dec. 15-17	Okotoks CC Granite CC Grande Prairie CC	Nov. 8	Nov. 27	Jan. 2-7 Sylvan Lake CC
WHEELCHAIR			Dec. 13	N/A	*Jan. 18-21 Springbank
WOMEN	Dec. 7-10 Jan. 4-7	Westlock CC Airdrie CC (Last chance)	Nov. 8	Nov. 27	Jan. 23-28 St. Paul
MEN	Dec. 7-10 Dec. 15-17 Jan. 4-7	Granite CC Grande Prairie CC Calgary CC (Last chance)	Nov. 8	Nov. 27	Feb. 6-11 Hinton
U20	Jan. 12-14 Feb. 1-4 Feb. 1-4 Feb. 1-4 Feb. 1-4	High Prairie CC (Men & Women) *Jasper Place CC (Men) Wetaskiwin CC (Women) Oilfields CC, Diamond Valley (Men) Innisfail CC (Women)	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Mar. 5-10 *Drayton Valley CC
U15	Jan. 18-21 Jan. 19-21 Feb. 1-4	Leduc CC Grande Prairie CC Sundre CC	Dec. 20	N/A	Feb. 27 – Mar. 3 Lacombe CC
MASTER	Jan. 25-28 Jan. 26-28 Feb. 8-11	Rocky CC (Men) Grande Prairie CC (Men) Lamont CC (Men)	Dec. 27	N/A	Feb. 27 – Mar. 3 Morinville CC
SENIOR	Feb. 2-4 Feb. 15-18 Feb. 15-18	Grande Prairie CC (Men) Brooks CC (Men) Beaumont CC (Men)	Jan. 3	N/A	Mar. 12-17 Calgary CC
MIXED			Feb. 21	N/A	Mar. 19-24 Grande Prairie CC
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS	Mar. 7-10 Mar. 7-10 Mar. 7-10 Mar. 7-10 Mar. 8-10	Thistle CC (Women) Leduc CC (Men) Hanna CC (Women) Airdrie CC (Men) Peace River CC (Men & Women)	Intent – Feb. 1 Roster – Mar. 4	N/A	Apr. 2-7 Airdrie CC
U21 MIXED DOUBLES			Mar. 6	N/A	Apr. 3-7 Lethbridge CC

Note: Changes to the previously released calendar have been identified with a asterisk (*)

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UPCOMING COURSES

COMPETITION COACH

Competition Coach is a two-day workshop. It is recommended that individuals have a good understanding of the game and technical skills from the perspective of working with Intermediate to Advanced-skilled teams. The Competition Coach will learn: Teaching & learning Strategies, Strategy & Tactics, Delivery & Brushing Skills, Skill Analysis, Practice Planning (including Safety & EAP) and Drills to Correct.

LOCATION	DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Drayton Valley Curling Club	January 13-14, 2024	January 10, 2024

Register by clicking on the course location.
Minimum age requirement – 16 years old.

UMPIRE

Timing Umpire (Previously Level 1) is now an online and FREE training course.

- Click [HERE](#) for the Time Clock Operator Training Manual
- Click [HERE](#) for the Observer Training Manual

Game Umpire (Previously LEVEL 2):

- Requirements: Certified Time Clock Operator/Observer
- Attend a Game Umpire technical course, successfully pass an open book officiating exam (minimum 70% grade required).
- Attend an in-person course as listed on our website
- Practical Requirements: must serve as a Game Umpire and/or Chief Timer at a Provincial Championship for a minimum

of **6 games** under the direction of a certified Chief Umpire Level 3 or higher. (Practical component form can be found [HERE](#).)

- Course fee is \$55 and includes a rule book and ice access
 - Note, anyone with Level 2 can attend for FREE to 'audit' the course as a refresher and no exam required.

Once the forementioned steps are completed, including the practical requirement, the Umpire will be entered into the provincial database and registered in the National Database at Curling Canada.

For information on becoming a Level 3 umpire or higher, please visit our website. Courses will be posted as they become available.

LOCATION	DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Game Umpire – Calgary Curling Club	December 10, 2023	December 5, 2023
Game Umpire – Sherwood Park Curling Club	January 14, 2024	January 10, 2024

Register by clicking on the course location.

ALBERTA SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (ASAA) UPDATE

The [ASAA](#) welcomes you to another season of high school curling! Please note the following important information:

- No-Tick Rule:** This new rule is geared towards the most competitive teams and at this time is not in the best interest of high school curling. A tick shot is rarely called and this new rule would penalize curlers who are still learning the game. Therefore, the ASAA

will continue using the traditional free guard zone rules and will not implement the no tick rule for the ASAA's 2023/24 season.

- The deadline for schools to register teams in the [Sport Registration System](#) is January 22, 2024; schools have until February 8 to make additions or changes to their roster.

- ASAA Provincial Championships will be held on February 22-24, 2024 in Drayton Valley.

For further information, please Contact Brad Van Raalte at brad@asaa.ca

Submitted by Brad Van Raalte

ST. PAUL EAGER TO WELCOME THE ALBERTA SCOTTIES TO THEIR “PEOPLE KIND OF PLACE.”



The Ice Technicians are making their plans, from that first fine-level mist to installing the hacks, to those final steps in crafting top notch championship ice. Behind the scenes, the host committee is working on all those finer details to make the athletes, officials and fans feel right at home. In curling clubs across the province, Alberta's top women's teams are amping up their game to chase the goal of winning the **2024 Sentinel Storage Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts**.

This season, the St. Paul Curling Club and the Town of St. Paul, alongside their event sponsors and community, are very excited to host the **2024 Sentinel Storage Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts**, from January 23 - 28, at the Clancy Richard Arena.

“Curling has been a part of the St. Paul community since 1941, and we are extremely proud to have the opportunity to host this event,” said Troy Bohn, President, and Host Committee Chair. “Over the past years, the St. Paul Curling Club has hosted several events including, Alberta High School provincials, Ladies Alberta Playdowns, **Haying in the 30's**, cancer fundraisers, and the latest addition, our **3-Wheeler bonspiel**.”

With a population of approximately 5700, not including several surrounding communities, curling has a special place in St. Paul. As a “People Kind of Place,” the community takes pride in hosting events that bring people together, whether it be the LRA Rodeo Finals or the Centerfield Music Festival. This will be the first curling event to be held in the Clancy Richard Arena, and both the town and host committee are looking forward to seeing the transformation. “We are

eager to showcase the best women curlers from across Alberta, Canada and potentially the world in our small rural community,” said Host Committee Vice-Chair, Andrea Austin.

Tickets are now available with options of purchasing a full event pass or individual draws during the round robin and playoffs. Tickets also include access to the Ice Lounge, where fans can enjoy a drink and a front-row seat to the best curling in the province. To purchase tickets and see event details, please visit abscotties.ca. Tickets will also be available at the door and will be available soon at the St. Paul Curling Club.

Volunteers are the key to success at events like the **2024 Sentinel Storage Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts**. There are still many opportunities available to help out in a variety of positions. If you would like to get involved, please sign up [here](https://abscotties.ca).

Come experience the thrill of seeing some of Alberta's most talented curling athletes battle on the ice to earn the championship title. It is an experience like no other to sit in the stands, cheer on your favorite team, and to feel the energy in the air. St. Paul and the St. Paul Curling Club can't wait to welcome you to the **2024 Sentinel Storage Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts**.



SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

SANDBAGGER

Welcome to Curling Alberta's newest partner and official hard seltzer, [Sandbagger Hard Seltzer](#)!

Sandbagger's story begins with bar owner William (Bill) Rowan, who enjoyed his favourite gin cocktail in the clubhouse following a game of golf. His special Sandbagger concoction became popular in local area bars and clubhouses, and his idea to trademark the Sandbagger name became a reality. His son continues to honor his legacy, by growing Bill's dream into a business now serving Alberta, Nova Scotia, and New York state. With

each can inscribed with his dad's initials, Sandbagger Hard Seltzer pays tribute to an idea that stemmed from a drink enjoyed with friends after a game.

"Sandbagger is thrilled to be an official partner of Curling Alberta. We believe the fun, competitive and social elements of curling mix perfectly with our hard seltzers" said Steve Zmudczynski, Executive Vice President of Sandbagger. "This partnership furthers our goal to expose our brands to a wider audience through sport and community involvement."

Their grassroots history, combined with a strong commitment to family and their craft, makes Sandbagger Hard Seltzer a valuable addition to our curling community," said Jill Richard, Executive Director of Curling Alberta. "We look forward to seeing our partnership grow in the seasons ahead and invite you to try their innovative seltzers."

To learn more about Sandbagger's history and offerings, visit their [website](#) and keep an eye out for their tasting booth at legal age provincial championships near you.

CURLING ALBERTA'S 50/50 RAFFLE IS BACK!

Curling Alberta's 50/50 raffles are back for the season and the Brier Final Mega Jackpot 50/50 is now live! [Get your tickets now](#) for your chance to win a minimum prize of \$50,000 (AGLC License #660044). Alongside our Brier Final Mega Jackpot, we have multiple events with daily prizes coming up in the new year. Proceeds from all of our raffles help support grassroots curling initiatives and junior curling across Alberta, which is the very heart of our sport. For more details and to purchase your ticket, please visit [Curling Alberta's website](#).

Tickets for the 50/50 raffles will be available at the following events:

DAILY DRAWS

- Grand Slam of Curling Co-op Canadian Open: Red Deer, January 16th to 21st, 2024
- Sentinel Storage Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts: St. Paul, January 23rd to 28th, 2024
- Boston Pizza Cup, Presented by Best Western: Hinton, February 6th to 11th, 2024
- Scotties Tournament of Hearts: Calgary, February 16th to 25th, 2024
- Montana's Brier: Regina, March 1st to 10th, 2024

GUARANTEED MEGA JACKPOTS

- Scotties Tournament of Hearts Championship Final: Tickets on sale January 23rd to February 25th, 2024
- Montana's Brier Final: Tickets on sale November 6th, 2023 to March 10th, 2024

*Raffle licenses pending for all other dates





Optimist
INTERNATIONAL



OFFICIALS' CORNER

The 2023-24 season is underway and has been busy for everyone so far.

I would like to thank all of the umpires that responded to the survey with their availability for events. I am thankful for our growing database of umpires and their continued support. Curling Alberta and I recognise that these umpires are volunteers and may not be available for the entire event. We welcome those that are able to give any amount of time that they may have available and encourage those interested in being mentored as an umpire to reach out.

Curling Alberta hosted two umpire orientation meetings this fall, one in Edmonton and the other in Calgary. I was pleased to see a number of umpires attended either in person or virtually. The aim of these meetings was to regroup our active umpires to communicate changes

to rules and competitive policies for the coming season. I hope everyone found these meetings to be a useful tool as they prepare for the upcoming season.

We currently have three Level 2 Umpire courses planned. The first one will be held on November 26th at the [Grande Prairie Curling Centre](#), the second is scheduled for December 10th at the [Calgary Curling Club](#), and the third at the [Sherwood Park Curling Club](#) on January 14th. I encourage anyone that is a Certified Timer to consider taking one of the courses offered and advance to Game Umpire. To register or learn more about these courses, please visit the [Curling Alberta website](#).

There have been a few changes this season. Two of note are the NO TICK rule and the introduction of No Tie-Breaker games at round robin events. Information regarding these and all the other changes

are available on the Curling Alberta website under the [Competitor's Guide and Policies](#) section, and we encourage curlers to become familiar with them ahead of competition.

The topic of "recruitment and retention" of umpires has opened up some very interesting conversations. To date some very good suggestions have been brought forward and we look forward to continuing discussion throughout the season. I encourage everyone to put some thought into this and I welcome all suggestions/ comments/concerns. If you have ever considered becoming an umpire, but have experienced a barrier, please let the Curling Alberta office or myself know so we can look into it.

*Submitted by Cheryl Minns
Head of Officials, Curling Alberta
cheryl.minns@curlingalberta.ca*

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS



**CURLING
ALBERTA**

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