

IT'S OUR HOUSE

TWENTIETH EDITION • FEBRUARY 2024



ALBERTA SET TO HOST MAJOR CURLING EVENTS IN 2024



Curling is a sport where stealing is not only encouraged, but actually celebrated. It can be *the* difference between victory and defeat, as demonstrated in the gold medal game of the Sentinel Storage Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts in St. Paul. With truly spectacular style, Team Sturmay stole in the ninth end and again in the tenth to defeat reigning Alberta champions, Team Skrlík. Winning the provincial championship has been the goal for the Saville Community Curling Centre-based team, skipped by Selena Sturmay, and accompanied by third Danielle Schmiemann, second Dezaray Hawes, lead Paige Papley, and Coach Ted Appelman. Sunday's win not only marks the first provincial title for the Sturmay rink but clinches their spot to compete at the prestigious Scotties Tournament of Hearts, coming to Calgary at the end of February. With the championship season underway, Alberta is gearing up to host several highly anticipated championships across the province this season.

Next on the championship slate is the flagship 2024 Alberta Boston Pizza Cup, presented by Best Western, February 7-11. Hosted by the beautiful Town of Hinton and the Hinton Curling Club, the

Bill Thomson Arena will welcome 12 of the province's top men's teams as they contend for the championship title and the opportunity to represent Alberta at the 2024 Montana's Brier in Regina. With the season unexpectedly interrupted in December because of issues with the chiller, the Hinton Curling Club is thrilled to have curling return to their town. Like many curling centres across Alberta, the Club is run by members who are passionate about their sport and their community. A remarkable group of people stepped up to volunteer their time and expertise, combined with many late nights and 42 old Milwaukee lights, to help make the necessary repairs and get the ice back in. Please support the Hinton Curling Club by purchasing 50/50 tickets each day of the championship. Funds raised will help the Club get back up and running so that members can return to the ice and the game they love.

Although tickets are selling fast, fans still have the opportunity to purchase full event packages, weekend passes, or tickets for single draws. To see the full schedule of events, the field of competitors, and to purchase tickets, please visit the Alberta Boston Pizza Cup [website](#).

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The world-renowned Scotties Tournament of Hearts returns to Calgary, February 16-25, at the WinSport Event Centre at Canada Olympic Park. 2024 marks the 64th anniversary of the Canadian women's curling championship, and fans will enjoy seeing their favorites live and up close. Under a single roof, in a remarkable facility, 18 elite women's teams will gather to compete for only one national title.

... continued on next page

The field is an exciting one, with familiar fan favorites Kerri Einarson, Jennifer Jones, Rachel Homan, and Kaitlyn Lawes. Some fresh faces will be making their Scotties debut including Team Yukon's Raelyn Helston, who represented Alberta at both the 2022 U-18 and U-21 national championships, as well as Alberta's newly crowned provincial champions, Team Sturmay. Adding to the excitement, the legendary Colleen Jones will return to the Scotties in the role of coach for Team Nova Scotia's Heather Smith. The 2024 Scotties Tournament of Hearts champion will wear the maple leaf as Team Canada at both the World Women's Curling Championship in Sydney, N.S. and the 2025 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Thunder Bay.

Fans from across Canada will be treated to some truly excellent curling and will enjoy off-ice activities that will entertain both the long-time curling buffs and those new to the game. Activities include Future Stars, Youth Engagement initiatives, and the chance to experience "curling's party place," the Original 16 Patch. Also marking its first appearance at the Scotties, the Patch will have a nonstop entertainment lineup of games from street curling to giant Jenga, to opportunities to meet the athletes at Up Close and Personal Sessions, and of course, live entertainment.

For all the details on the 2024 Scotties Tournament of Hearts or to purchase tickets, please visit Curling Canada's website at curling.ca/2024scotties.

From Calgary, the season of champions travels to MacDonald Island Park, Canada's largest recreation centre in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo. The Canadian Natural Arena 2 and the Oil Sands Curling Club will welcome the [2024 New Holland Canadian U-21 Men's and Women's Curling Championships](#), March 23-31. Canada's best U-21 teams will compete to represent Canada at the 2025 World Junior Curling Championships. Alberta is awarded two berths per gender to nationals based on podium performance in previous seasons. The first berth will be awarded to the new 2024 provincial champion, and the second to the team that places second. Alberta will name their 2024 champions, at the upcoming provincial championship in Drayton Valley March 5-10. Alberta is a strong contender in the U21 category, following the success of 2023's champions Team Plett, who won silver in the women's event and Team Tao, gold medalists on the men's side at the recent World Junior B event in Finland. Each will go on to represent Canada once again in Finland, at the World Junior A event in February. As defending Canadian national champions, we are look forward to a repeat championship appearance.

Calgary also has the privilege of hosting a very special event this season. The Special Olympics Canada Winter Games 2024 will welcome over 4,000 athletes, parents, coaches and fans, February 27 to March 2. The North Hill Curling Club will serve as the host curling venue for 4 days of competitions, where Special Olympics

athletes will showcase their skills, talent, and love of the game. Cheryl Bernard and Jennifer Jones will help kick off the curling competition by participating in the Ceremonial first rock. [Click here](#) to read the full story on the upcoming Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Calgary 2024.

Alberta has a strong tradition of hosting world class championship events, thanks to our enthusiastic curling clubs, dedicated volunteers, and passionate curling fans. In our province, curling is more than just a much-loved Canadian pastime. It is a sport that creates opportunities and builds communities for players regardless of age or abilities. However, there is something about a championship that unites fans and community, with each sweep of the broom, each "hard" that echoes across the ice, and that somehow satisfying sound of curling stones colliding to make those incredible shots. It is experiencing first-hand the energy of the crowd, the joy of the victory celebration, the excitement of that epic comeback, those heartbreaking losses, or the nerve-wracking last rock of the final end to tie the game.

Championship season in Alberta, there is nothing like it.

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 SAIT's 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!



SAIT TROJANS

The 2019-20 season marked the return of SAIT Trojan's curling program to the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC), with a men's and a mixed team. Under the leadership of Head Coach, Olympic bronze-medalist, Shannon Kleibrink, a women's team was added to the roster the following season.

Last season was a stellar for SAIT's varsity curling athletes, where both men's and women's teams qualified for the Curling Canada College Championships in Sudbury, Ontario. The accolades did not stop there. Skip, Ben Helston led his men's team to a silver medal, and Shannon

Kleibrink was named the ACAC Curling Coach of the Year.

The Trojans are determined to keep the momentum going and will go for gold at this year's championships in Fredericton, New Brunswick in mid-March.

Each year, SAIT's varsity curling program welcomes curlers both experienced and new to the game. With an exceptional coaching and training program, the goal is to build and support curling teams that will be strong contenders at the local, provincial and national levels.

For more information about SAIT's varsity curling program, please visit their [website](#). If you have an interest in joining this rising star college curling team while pursuing your career, alongside a community of thinkers, creators and champions, complete the [Recruit Me contact form](#) or email Head Coach, Shannon Kleibrink at shannon.kleibrink@sait.ca.

OFFICIALS' CORNER

Our officiating team has been hard at work these past few months, with courses, qualifiers and is gearing up for the busy championship season.

Curling Alberta has offered two Level 2 Game Umpire courses so far this season, including one in November at the Grande Prairie Curling Centre facilitated by Christina Wards, followed by the second at the Calgary Curling Club in December, led by Brenda Rogers and Alex Desmarais. A combined twenty-one participants are now working on their practical component towards becoming Level 2 Game Umpire Certified, which includes serving 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. A sincere thank you to both the Grande Prairie Curling Centre and the Calgary Curling Club for hosting us.

Weather conditions unfortunately forced us to postpone the third Level 2 Game Umpire course that was scheduled January 14th at the Sherwood Park Curling Club. I hope when we reschedule it later this season, all of the participants who registered will consider taking the course.

To date, Curling Alberta has successfully hosted four Provincial Championships this season. Congratulations to those new teams who will be representing Alberta at upcoming national events. Thank you to all the timers and umpires who volunteered their time and energy to officiate the

championships, as well as to all the staff and volunteers that supported us. You are sincerely appreciated.

In the busy months ahead, our team is looking forward to officiating the provincial championships and seeing Alberta athletes shine.

If you require any rule clarifications or interpretations, please feel free to contact me at cheryl.minns@curlingalberta.ca. If you are interested in becoming involved as an umpire, timer or volunteer at a Curling Alberta sanctioned event please email info@curlingalberta.ca.

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

CURLING ALBERTA'S 50/50 SEASON HAS STARTED!

After a great first week at the Co-op Canadian Open Grand Slam of Curling event and the Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts, we are excited for the upcoming raffles!

Get your tickets online at curlingalberta.ca/raffle during the following dates:

FEBRUARY 6-11, 2024

Boston Pizza Cup – daily draws

FEBRUARY 16-25, 2024

Scotties Tournament of Hearts – daily draws

FROM NOW UNTIL MARCH 10

Brier Final Mega Jackpot of a guaranteed \$100,000!

FEBRUARY 11-25, 2024

Scotties Final – Mega Jackpot of \$50,000 guaranteed

MARCH 1-10, 2024

Montana's Brier – daily draws

Get your tickets now for your chance to support grassroots curling and win big!

AGLC Licence numbers: 660044, 671528, 666761, 666725, 671528, 666531



CURLING ALBERTA'S FIRST AND NEWEST CURLING BROADCAST, *THE HOME END*

Alberta's curling community is uniquely and foundationally Canadian curling. The diverse, traditional and historical characteristics that we closely hold as truly "*Alberta Curling*" are ingrained in the past and present identity of the people in our wonderful province who invest themselves into the sport. It is the members of this vast province who understand the fingerprint of our beloved sport in Alberta; one that connects us all back to the heart of curling.

We have the privilege and responsibility to engage and clarify the essence of grassroots curling as curling culture in the homes of those interested. As the landscape and demographic of our communities change, so does curling, and so must the way we think about accessing it, for new, current and former members. If we expect curling to exist and grow as it so desperately needs, we need to continue, if not increase, our conversations and actions at home and in our communities.

In our modern time, technology has advanced the way we access and interact with information and extend conversations. Consuming media, and fast media at that, is a significant part of our language and our culture. Curling at home, though enhanced by the use of livestream, is widely and solely reliant on modern media broadcasting. Established, larger media platforms currently share massive control of the narrative when it comes to portraying the curling landscape in our nation, each with their own perspective and diligence on what we consume as viewers. Curling Alberta has the responsibility, capacity, competency and resources to produce and maintain a platform where the narrative of our curling community can come right from the source. In return, having our neighbours be able to craft and take ownership of the way they reveal curling to others benefits the endorsement of curling as a viable and accessible sport for all age ranges at all points in sport development and life.

Accessibility to curling is fundamental for the sport to not only ensure indicators of growth but to also provide equity and inclusivity. Broadcasting is currently an untapped method of consumption for curling that is currently unexplored and underdeveloped in the province. **UNTIL NOW!** *Curling Alberta's The Home End* series is designed in mind and in delivery as a humble pathway to reveal the successes of people, clubs, events and communities as they embark in curling endeavors. Alongside the many ways our community's partner with Curling Alberta, *The Home End* is not intended as additional minutia—it is real people provided the chance to really talk curling.

To state that this is the best method or the sole entity that can change growth patterns of curling in our province would be hugely irresponsible. However, my hope is that we continue to inspire and allow the curling community to take ownership of curling back into the home. With a few clicks or taps on our devices we can model, teach and engage with a portion of our curling community about content, knowledge and understanding that has had very little opportunity, less clarity or an unidentified voice.

My hopes for you, for me and for *The Home End*:

1. Highlight the successes that people and communities in Alberta continue to achieve in the sport curling.
2. To engage with local dignitaries, athletes, developers and members that showcase a variety of events, initiatives and ideas about Alberta curling.
3. Encourage listeners and participants to share their curling stories, memories, experiences and perspectives about curling.
4. Extend invitation to social media platforms as another medium for curling consumption.

5. An accessible and safe platform to provide media experience and training for athletes across their development.
6. Reveal and reflect upon championships and local events in member clubs and areas.
7. A potential space for community partnerships.

As my last sentiment—the sport of curling has and will always be my passion. Part of that passion is to continue to grow and learn alongside others through perspectives and lenses I may never be able to see on my own. This work in growing perspective is true in nature— it is work. However, *The Home End* has already taught me that we all deserve a place in the curling community if we choose, but if we are looking to grow in the sport, then we have the responsibility to grow alongside one another in the most decent and truest way—to bring it home and invite others in.

The Home End's first episode featuring Team Sturmay, fresh from their win at the 2024 Sentinel Storage Alberta Scotties can be found on [Curling Alberta's YouTube channel](#). Through meaningful conversations and interactions with our engaged guests and curling communities, we offer you a humble insight and experience beyond the glass, off the sheets and into your homes!

With my unwavering gratitude to you all, from now and furthermore.

Thank you.

Submitted by Evan Asmussen

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 8 following categories:

MIXED DOUBLES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

24 teams competed in an Open Provincial that was held in Lethbridge.

WHEELCHAIR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

3 teams are registered.

U20 MEN & WOMEN QUALIFIERS

Cancelled due to lack of entries. The 9 U20 Men's Teams and 9 U20 Women's teams will go directly into the Provincial Championship.

U15 QUALIFIERS

26 teams are registered.

MASTER MEN'S QUALIFIERS

20 teams are registered.

MASTER WOMEN'S OPEN PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

8 teams are registered.

SENIOR MEN'S QUALIFIERS

29 teams are registered.

SENIOR WOMEN'S OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

10 teams are registered.

Registration **remains open** for the following categories:

CURLING ALBERTA MIXED CHAMPIONSHIP

(open registration)

Registration Deadline:

February 21, 2024 at 12:00pm

CURLING ALBERTA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Clubs Declaration of Intent Deadline:

February 1, 2024

Team roster deadline: March 4, 2024

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](#).

UPCOMING COURSES

As a benefit of affiliation, Curling Alberta member clubs are able to book certified facilitators to deliver ice technician certification courses, coaching courses, and umpire courses.

If you have any questions about hosting an umpire or competition coach course at your club please contact: Jason Ginter at jason.ginter@curlingalberta.ca.

For information on hosting an Ice Tech or Club Coach course please contact: Shannon Kleibrink at shannon.kleibrink@curlingalberta.ca.

Keep your eye on our [website](#) and social media for updates to our upcoming course schedule.



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CHAMPIONS HIGHLIGHTS



While it may seem that the championship season has just gotten underway, we already have named eight Alberta representatives, and have two teams that represented Canada at the World Junior B Championships in Finland, bringing home a gold and silver medal. Before we recognize these remarkable athletic achievements, we wish to thank the curling

community, curling centres and sponsors for their unwavering support. Thank you to the umpires, community partners, ice techs, host committees, and volunteers, for hosting such successful events. We also extend a special shout out to all the fans, friends and families of our Alberta curlers, who continue to show up to cheer these athletes on.

Although we have many more provincial champions to celebrate, we congratulate the Alberta representatives that have been named and give details as to where you will see them next. As a result of Alberta's strong performance at previous championships, Curling Alberta is able to send a second team in certain categories who are considered Team Alberta 2.

2023/24 MIXED DOUBLES OPEN PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Team Alberta
Team Sluchinski/
Sluchinski



Photo credit: Jordan Cahoon

2024 CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

March 17-22, 2024

Fredericton, New Brunswick

More information – curling.ca/2024mixeddoubles

2024 WHEELCHAIR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Team Alberta
Team Purvis



Photo credit: Nashten Sanchez

Team Alberta 2
Team Kuchelyma



Photo credit: Nashten Sanchez

2024 CANADIAN WHEELCHAIR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

March 24-30, 2024

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

More information – curling.ca/2024wheelchair

2024 SENTINEL STORAGE ALBERTA SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT

Team Alberta
Team Sturmey



2024 SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS

February 16-25, 2024

Calgary, Alberta

More information – curling.ca/2024scotties

**2024 ALBERTA
OPTIMIST U18
GIRLS PROVINCIAL
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Team Alberta
Team Deschiffart



Photo credit: Chantelle Bowman,
Wildwood Imagery

Team Alberta 2
Team Whitbread



Photo credit: Chantelle Bowman,
Wildwood Imagery

**2024 CANADIAN UNDER-18
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

February 4-10, 2024

Ottawa, Ontario

More information – curling.ca/2024u18

**2024 ALBERTA
OPTIMIST U18
BOYS PROVINCIAL
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Team Alberta
Team Hlushak



Photo credit: Chantelle Bowman,
Wildwood Imagery

Team Alberta 2
Team Hiebert



Photo credit: Chantelle Bowman,
Wildwood Imagery

2024 CANADIAN UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIPS

February 4-10, 2024

Ottawa, Ontario

More information – curling.ca/2024u18

**WORLD JUNIOR B
CHAMPIONSHIP —
MEN**

Team Canada &
Gold Medalists
Team Tao



**WORLD JUNIOR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS
2024**

February 17-24, 2024

Lohja, Finland

More information – [worldcurling.org/events/
worldjuniors](https://worldcurling.org/events/worldjuniors)

**WORLD JUNIOR B
CHAMPIONSHIP —
WOMEN**

Team Canada &
Silver Medalists
Team Plett



**WORLD JUNIOR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS
2024**

February 17-24, 2024

Lohja, Finland

More information – [worldcurling.org/events/
worldjuniors](https://worldcurling.org/events/worldjuniors)

The Alberta Winter Games are only weeks away, with the Arctic Winter Games following in March. Eight teams from each gender will compete February 16-19, 2024, in Grande Prairie. For a complete guide to the games, please visit the [AWG website](#). One boys team and one girls team will represent Team Alberta North and travel to the Mat-Su 2024 Arctic Winter Games in Alaska, March 10-16, 2024. For all the details about this international event that celebrates communities within the Circumpolar North, visit the official Arctic Winter Games [website](#). To all our young athletes competing at both the Alberta Winter Games and the Arctic Winter Games, we wish you good curling and hope you will experience the event of a lifetime. Go Alberta!



ALBERTA WINTER GAMES

GIRLS:

Zone 3A (Team Roa)

Kaitlyn Sali, Rachel Sipka,
Brenna Guglielmin, Kieran Roa
Coach – Joey Roa

Zone 3B (Team Nelson)

Kaitlyn Castle, Lauren Senneker,
Nora Moore, Brighetta Nelson
Coach – Katherine Senneker

Zone 3C (Team Sipka)

Kimberly Duncan, Kingsley Bachek,
Molly Weber, Katherine Sipka
Coach – Travis Weber

Zone 5 (Team Bohning)

Ashlee Androschuk, Kamryn Zanolli,
Ella Landry, Sophia Bohning
Coach – Michael Landry

Zone 6A (Team Kennedy)

Kendra Koch, Camryn Adams,
Molly Whitbread, Julia Kennedy
Coach – Glen Kennedy

Zone 6B (Team Couprie)

Natalie Kennedy, Isabella Barner,
Sadie Stelmach, Ella Couprie
Coach – Scott Couprie

Zone 7 (Team McMillan)

Bristol Green, Raynelle Leggett,
Kaycee Johnston, Charlie McMillan
Coach – Greg Leggett

Zone 8 (Team Doecker)

Nathalie Lucas, Alli Grant, Brylie Pellerin,
Kyra Doecker
Coach – Chad Doecker

BOYS:

Zone 2 (Team Bachek)

Max Ingram, Dylan Miller,
Andrew Southworth, Kesler Bachek
Coach – Don Bachek

Zone 3 (Team Clark)

Sam Weber, Keelun Boucher,
Rowen Fougere, Evan Clark
Coach – Margo Weber

Zone 4A (Team Dick)

Gavin Siemens, Braxten Szerve,
Daniel Whitbread, Calder Dick
Coach – Steven Dick

Zone 4B (Team Klimec)

Eli Barker, Josiah Steeves, Carson Frank,
Reid Klimec
Coach – Sheri Harink

Zone 5 (Team Landry)

Bryce Hynes, Reagan Hynes, Jake Weber,
Walker Landry
Coach – Morgan Hynes

Zone 6 (Team Smith)

Ben Hildebrand, Ethan Chapman,
Jack Odeen, Logan Smith
Coach – Linda Smith

Zone 8A (Team Myker)

Dieter Helmrich, Rolynd Helmrich,
Hyden Helmrich, Kale Myker
Coach – Robert Sibbeston

Zone 8B (Team Phillips)

Colin Sandboe, Zach Phillips,
Lenox Maksymetz, Hayden Phillips
Coach – Delia DeJong

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES - TEAM ALBERTA NORTH

GIRLS:

Siobhan McGriskin, Kaily Sparks, Lola Rasi,
Hayden Young

BOYS:



Varyk Doecker, Robert Nelson,
Kris Mitsopoulos, Ryan Gartenburg

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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 (*)



THANK YOU

**For your continued support to our community
and your neighbourhood Boston Pizza!**

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POWER OF SPORT AND CURLING COMMUNITY WILL BE ON FULL DISPLAY AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA WINTER GAMES CALGARY 2024

In the early 1980s in the small town of Gimli, nestled on the shores of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba, a group of passionate individuals gathered with a shared vision to create opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to experience the joy of sports, camaraderie, and competition.

Among these pioneers was a dedicated group of sport leaders from Special Olympics Canada – an organization committed to enriching the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through the power of sport.

The town had a strong tradition of curling, a sport that involved sliding heavy stones on a sheet of ice towards a target area that is segmented into four concentric circles. Inspired by the inclusivity and teamwork inherent in curling, they saw an opportunity to introduce this beloved Canadian pastime to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

In 1986, the first Special Olympics Canada National Winter Games took place in Banff, Alta, and curling made its debut as an official sport in the multi-sport event. Athletes from across the country, each with their own story of determination and resilience, took to the curling sheets to showcase their skills and passion for the game.

Over the years, the sport became a symbol of unity, breaking down barriers and proving that the love for competition

knows no bounds. The athletes, with their infectious enthusiasm and unwavering spirit, inspired communities to embrace the principles of inclusion and acceptance.

As the years passed, Special Olympics Canada continued to expand its reach, fostering a sense of belonging for individuals with intellectual disabilities through sports like curling. The organization's commitment to creating opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability, laid the foundation for a legacy of inclusion that echoed through every sweep of the curling broom and the satisfying thud of the stones colliding.

On February 28, curling will once again be one of eight sports featuring 800 athletes that will take centre stage at the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Calgary 2024.

Two of Canada's Olympic medal-winning skips will help kick off the curling competition by participating in the Ceremonial First Rock. Games Co-Chair, Cheryl Bernard and Jennifer Jones will team up with Darby – one of five Special Olympics Athlete Ambassadors presented by Pembina – along with a representative from Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP – sponsors of the four-day competition that will take place at the North Hill Curling Club.

"All sport has the extraordinary power to unite people, break down barriers, and most importantly foster inclusion," said Cheryl Bernard. "It transcends differences and creates a level playing field where everyone can participate, compete, and belong. Through sport, we build a more inclusive society that celebrates diversity and empowers individuals to reach their full potential. That value of sport will be on full display in Calgary this winter."

Back in the heart of Gimli and communities across Canada, Special Olympics curlers continue to make history. They forge friendships on the ice, celebrate victories, and overcome challenges, proving the true essence of sports lies not just in



Photo credit: Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Calgary 2024

competition but in the shared joy of the game. The history of curling with Special Olympics Canada is a testament to the transformative power of sports in building a more inclusive and compassionate society.

*Submitted by Trish Zimmerman
Sports and Venues Manager, Special Olympics
Canada Winter Games Calgary*

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA WINTER GAMES CALGARY 2024

Calgary is ready to welcome the nation Feb. 27 to Mar. 2, 2024, for the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Calgary 2024. Over 4,000 visitors, including athletes, coaches, and officials, along with their families and friends, will gather in Canada's winter sport capital.

Participants who qualified through their Provincial and Territorial Games, will compete in eight sports at seven venues throughout Calgary. The Games are a qualifying event for Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025. Together, we will create an experience of a lifetime for these deserving athletes!

For more information about the Games, please visit calgary2024.specialolympics.ca or follow us on our social channels.



Photo credit: Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Calgary 2024

STURLING: THE EVOLUTION OF CURLING FOR ALL



In the picturesque town of Didsbury, Alberta, in 1998, Brian Dingman and Carson Schultz co-invented the two-person team sport of curling, initially dubbed "Stick" curling. It later transformed into "Sturling" with the addition of Garry Sherman to the team. The innovation stemmed from a realization that players using the stick could compete on equal footing with traditional slide curlers, eliminating the need for divisive rules. Sturling, a fusion of 'S'tick or 'S'lidle delivery, 'T'wo-person team, c'URLING,' offers a more inclusive and vibrant alternative.

Sturling embraces a diverse range of participants, accommodating those with physical limitations, advanced age, or disabilities. The game allows for both stick and slide deliveries, fostering an environment where individuals can play together regardless of their preferred technique. The benefits of Sturling are numerous, making it a game-changer in the curling community.

KEY ADVANTAGES OF STURLING:

Allows the Preferred Delivery

Technique: Sturling permits individual team members to choose their preferred delivery, stick or slide, promoting camaraderie among players.

Involves More People: By offering a choice of stick or slide delivery, Sturling increases participation, leading to larger

bonspiels and more extensive leagues without sacrificing competitive balance.

Promotes Harmony Between Groups:

Inclusive of both stick and slide deliveries, Sturling reduces animosity between groups, fostering a friendly and fun atmosphere.

Reduces Physical Requirements:

Sturling accommodates individuals with physical limitations by allowing stick deliveries, making the game less physically demanding without compromising challenge.

Provides Continuous Action: Sturling's format minimizes downtime, keeping players engaged and delivering 18 rocks per game, two more than a regular 8-end game, in less than an hour.

Establishes a More Even Competitive Level: Sturling levels the playing field, emphasizing skill over delivery technique and enhancing overall competition.

Removes Gender or Age Restrictions: Sturling is inclusive, allowing men and women of all ages to compete on an equal footing, creating a superior social atmosphere.

Eases Learning the Game: The simplified delivery in Sturling accelerates the learning process, allowing new curlers to focus on strategy and basic skills sooner.

Boosts Camaraderie: Sturling's two-person team format encourages socializing among all players, offering a unique and enjoyable experience for participants.

Contributes to Health and Well-being: Particularly beneficial for retirees, Sturling provides moderate activity, mental stimulation, and social interaction.

Enhances Bonspiels: Sturling's one-day format improves the efficiency of bonspiels, attracting more participants and diversifying the club's activities

The largest of which is hosted in Airdrie, AB. 32 teams are guaranteed 3 games each resulting in 48 games being played in 7 hours using the progressive draw format.

STURLING BEYOND BORDERS:

Sturling has not only taken root in Canada but has also gained international recognition. Wetzikon, Switzerland, is set to host its 11th annual Sturling spiel, showcasing the global appeal of this innovative version of curling.

Both of the Alberta and British Columbia Seniors 55+ organizations have adopted Sturling into their winter games.

The first Alberta Sturling Championship was hosted in Didsbury in 2004 and has since been hosted; as far north as Spirit River, Fairview, across to St Paul, east to Wainwright, west to Rocky Mountain House and south to Pincher Creek

and throughout many more communities.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sturling has evolved beyond its traditional roots, incorporating variations such as Doubles and Skins, adding new dimensions to the game. As the sport continues to grow, Sturling.net remains the hub for curling enthusiasts to learn more and participate in events.

JOIN THE STURLING REVOLUTION:

For those eager to experience the thrill of Sturling, visit Sturling.net for information on rules, events, and more. Sturling isn't just a game; it's a community where games are played, and friends are made.

Submitted by **Carson Schultz**
Promoter of Sturling.net



Sturling celebrates
25 years of the
2-person team sport
of curling



THE OFFICIAL HARD SELTZER OF CURLING ALBERTA



SANDBAGGER
HARD SELTZER



**CURLING
ALBERTA**



AN ADVENTURE OF MIXED DOUBLES WHEELCHAIR CURLING

This is a story about life, about challenges, and possessing the attitude to never give up, but to adapt and persevere. It matters not about age, or how difficult we *think* the challenge is, but about applying the abilities we have to our highest potential. It is about rising up to a challenge, seizing an opportunity, and utilizing every tool at our disposal to achieve the goal.

Six individuals did exactly that on December 6 through December 9, 2023. Their adventure started months earlier, and even involved one wheelchair curler joining forces with another from Nova Scotia. Starting third from the left with her stick in hand is Marie Laframboise, Ron Minor, Mike McMullan, Edie Lloyd of Nova Scotia. In the second row, wearing gold and blue jackets, are Emma Nagel and Don Kuchelyma. Marie, Ron, Mike, Emma, and Don are part of the Edmonton Rock Wheelchair Curling Association who travel to rural curling centres such as Lacombe during the winter. They also play a bit of shuffleboard together during the summer, along with an occasional Association get together.

This amazing group of individuals came together to social network, support each other, help other wheelchair curlers succeed, and to become more inclusive within their communities. This group that became a team, continues to not only build friendships with all, but to help others overcome all things.

Together, they have discovered just how inclusive the sport of curling can be. Ron, Mike, Don and some of our other members, curl in weekly leagues in the Edmonton area. While most are members of the Avonair Curling Club, you will also find them at the Garrison Curling Club, St. Albert Curling Club, Saville Community Curling Centre, and the Leduc Curling Club. Every time we visit each of those facilities, we are welcomed as if we had always been a part of their curling families. We frequently exchange advice on curling, curling equipment recommendations, and stories with the Able Body and Stick League Curlers. Is that not what being treated equally is about? Mutual respect for each other as individuals, as well as our unique abilities and talents. We see and experience this virtually every week at the curling clubs.

As an individual that has been part of the curling community for over fifty great years, in the world's greatest sport, this brings me to one of my most exciting times as a curler myself. I have been involved with Edmonton Rocks for over seven years, however, all the members make me feel like I have always been part of the Edmonton Rocks family. Now, let's get to the heart of this story, December 6 to December 9, 2023.

Look again at the picture.

There are more people included in this picture beyond members of Edmonton Rocks. Representing wheelchair curlers

from across North America, are members of Team Canada and Team United States, some of whom are the current World Medalists. Yes, we curled against them. Did we win every game? No. Did we win some games? Yes. Were we competitive in most of them? Yes. Such a great effort, curlers, however, this is only the top of the mountain if you say it is. Why? Because only you can determine whether you have reached that mountaintop or not. No one else.

People can achieve their goals by either lowering their expectations, or raising them through simply believing in, depending on, and nurturing their abilities. Combining forces with others who share similar goals and beliefs, enables each individual to realize those goals more successfully together. That is exactly what the members of Edmonton Rocks Wheelchair Curling Association do best – build friendships, support and help others strengthen their abilities to become better.

Come and experience what the [Edmonton Rocks Wheelchair Curling Association](#) is about. Be part of an inclusive group of people and a sport that allows you to socialize, compete, grow your abilities, all while being fun! It is the only sport where you can throw rocks at houses, and where timing is everything when it comes to cleaning house!

*Submitted by Richard (Rick) Jenkyns
Coach, Edmonton Rocks Wheelchair Curling Association*

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



The [Hec Gervais Academic & Curling Scholarship Foundation](#) is honored to be part of the upcoming St. Albert Curling Club's 75th anniversary celebration. Hec, along with his father, helped build the curling club back in 1948, and he would eventually call it his home club during his incredible curling career. The club is hosted [Funspiel](#) on February 1-3, 2024, to commemorate 75 years of curling excellence and fun, in the city of St. Albert.

The celebrations will also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the St. Albert Curling Club holding a triple crown, when the club represented Alberta in the 1974 Canadian Women's, Men's and Mixed Championships:

WOMEN:

**Marilyn Johnson, Elaine Souness,
Irene Fielder, Marie Schultheiss**

MEN:

**Hec Gervais, Ron Anton, Warren
Hansen, Darrel Sutton**

MIXED:

**Marv Porowski, Bernice Porowski,
Roger Comeau, Darlene Clark**

To top off the festivities, the Hec Gervais Academic & Curling Scholarship Foundation is celebrating its 25 anniversary of supporting post-secondary Alberta curlers committed to their education, competitive curling and community leadership. Since its inception in 1999, the Foundation has awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships to Alberta curlers. Hec's legacy is not just curling's "Friendly Giant" but also through the scholarship which has been awarded to many successful Alberta curlers, some of whom have become Canadian, World and Olympic champions and arguably most importantly, community leaders. For further details about the Hec Gervais Academic & Curling Scholarship Foundation and how to apply, please visit their [website](#).

As part of the celebrations, the Hec Gervais Academic & Curling Scholarship Foundations held onsite 50/50 raffles throughout the club's 75th Anniversary Funspiel. All funds raised will contribute to the Foundation's longevity of supporting Alberta's future curling and community champions.

Congratulations to the St. Albert Curling Club for 75 years of good curling and here's to the next 75!

THANK YOU TO ALL
OUR PARTNERS



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ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS



BY W.O. MITCHELL DIRECTED BY CHRISTIAN GOUTSIS

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 10, 2024

Hurry hard to get tickets to this hilarious, smash-hit play!

Wullie MacCrimmon is in for the match of his life... and potentially afterlife. When Wullie MacCrimmon, a shoemaker in the 1930s foothills town of Wild Rose, muses aloud that he would give anything to skip his curling team in the MacDonald Brier, the Devil (a travelling salesperson who deals in wholesale souls and retail sin) suddenly appears and makes him an offer. Wullie makes a counter offer, and one of the greatest matches in curling history is on – the Black Bonspiel! When the Devil appears with her curling team—Judas Iscariot (lead), Lizzie Borden (second), and Macbeth (third)—Wullie and his team are in for one hell of a match.

"Thank heaven for this wonderful and witty play about Satan, soles and souls..." – Prince George Free Press

"... a sure-fire crowd-pleasing comedy." – Prairie Dog Magazine

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