

HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP SOUVENIR PROGRAM

EXTRA END

PROGRAMME SOUVENIR DU CHAMPIONNAT CANADIEN DE DOUBLE MIXTE HOME HARDWARE



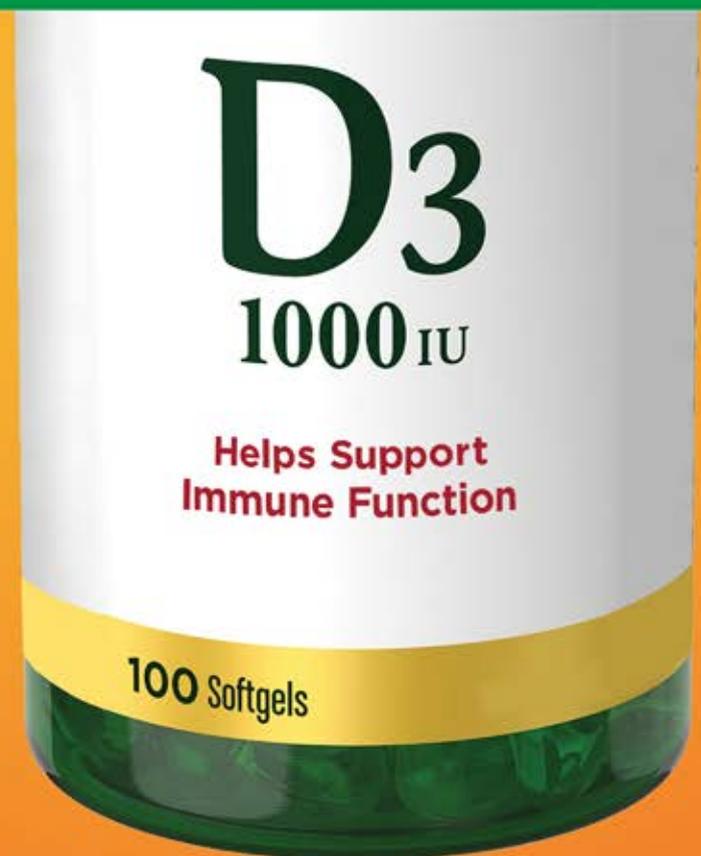
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Brett Gallant and Jocelyn Peterman are more than partners on the ice. They are partners in life, too, and the current Canadian champions are looking to defend their crown at the 2021 Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship, presented by Nature's Bounty, inside the Calgary bubble this year.

EXTRA END

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SEASON OF CHAMPIONS

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CANADA**

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GREETINGS FROM HOME HARDWARE STORES LIMITED

Welcome to the 2021 Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship. We are excited and proud to support this unique season of curling in the bubble at the Markin MacPhail Centre at Winsport's Canadian Olympic Park in Calgary as part of our title sponsorship.

The 2021 Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship is such an important event for these athletes, with Canada's Olympic hopes potentially riding on the winning team. As Canada's largest dealer-owned hardware, lumber, building materials and furniture home improvement retailer, we are honoured to support this year's elite field of 35 teams.

This bubble event would not be possible without the support of the Calgary community and its dedicated volunteers. I would also like to thank the organizers of the event and our valued partner, Curling Canada.

A final thank you goes to the many curling fans across the country. Although we all have to enjoy this season from our homes, we're undoubtedly in for some exciting action over the next week. Thank you for your support of this event, this sport, and our teams — we hope to see you safely back at the rink next year.

Best of luck to all teams and enjoy the 2021 Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship!

Kevin Macnab
President and Chief Executive Officer
Home Hardware Stores Limited

MOT DE BIENVENUE DE HOME HARDWARE STORES LIMITÉE

Bienvenue au championnat canadien de double mixte Home Hardware 2021! Nous sommes ravis et fiers de soutenir cette saison de curling unique dans la bulle au Centre Markin MacPhail du Parc olympique du Canada WinSport à Calgary, en Alberta, en tant que commanditaire en titre.

Le championnat canadien de double mixte Home Hardware 2021 est un événement tellement important pour ces athlètes, les espoirs olympiques du Canada reposant potentiellement sur l'équipe gagnante. En tant que plus grand groupe canadien de concessionnaires détaillants d'appareils ménagers, de bois, de matériaux de construction et d'ameublement, nous sommes honorés d'appuyer les 35 équipes de haut niveau en compétition cette année.

Cet événement dans la bulle ne serait pas possible sans le soutien de la communauté de Calgary et de ses bénévoles dévoués. Je tiens également à remercier les organisateurs de l'événement et notre précieux partenaire, Curling Canada.

Un grand merci également aux nombreux amateurs de curling de partout au pays. Bien que nous devions tous profiter de cette saison de la maison, il n'y a aucun doute que nous aurons droit une compétition enlevante tout au long de la semaine. Merci pour votre soutien à cet événement, à ce sport et à nos équipes; nous espérons vous revoir en toute sécurité à l'aréna l'année prochaine.

Bonne chance à toutes les équipes et profitez du championnat canadien de double mixte Home Hardware 2021!

Kevin Macnab
Président et chef de la direction
Home Hardware Stores Limitée



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Nature's Bounty Canada is thrilled to welcome you to the 2021 Home Hardware Mixed Doubles Championship! We are pleased to support Curling Canada & the Calgary community who has been working tirelessly to execute this event safely.

2020 proved to be a difficult year for many, and the wellness of Canadians is our top priority. For over 40 years, Nature's Bounty has been making vitamins and nutritional supplements with you & your family in mind. Whether it be tasty gummies, softgels, tablets or capsules there is something for everyone. Quality ingredients, extensive research and exceptional products are the core of Nature's Bounty.

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Nature's Bounty Canada est ravi de vous accueillir au championnat canadien de curling double mixte Home Hardware 2021! Nous sommes heureux de soutenir Curling Canada et la communauté de Calgary qui ont travaillé sans relâche afin d'organiser cet événement en toute sécurité.

L'année 2020 s'est avérée difficile pour plusieurs d'entre nous, et le bien-être des Canadiens est notre priorité absolue. Depuis plus de 40 ans, Nature's Bounty produit des vitamines et des compléments alimentaires en songeant à vous. Qu'il s'agisse de gélifiés, de gélules, de comprimés ou de capsules, il y en a pour tous les goûts. Des ingrédients de qualité, une recherche approfondie et des produits exceptionnels sont au cœur de ce que nous faisons chez Nature's Bounty.

Restez en santé, Canada!



MESSAGES



I AM PLEASED TO EXTEND MY

warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the 2021 Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship, being held at the Markin MacPhail Centre at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary.

Curling fans watching from home will no doubt be treated to a

remarkable display of precision, skill and strategy by some of our country's finest female-male tandems as they vie for this year's national title.

I would like to congratulate all of the teams who have qualified for this tournament and wish them the best of luck. It continues to be a challenging time for planning and hosting events. That is why I would also like to thank Curling Canada and the many volunteers for their hard work and dedication in organizing this year's championship, particularly in light of the extra precautions needed to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved.

Please accept my best wishes for an exciting and memorable experience.

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT

of Alberta, it is my pleasure to send greetings to the readers of *Extra End* magazine.

In these unprecedented times, we have all had to learn to do things differently. That includes sporting events, which have continued to provide welcome entertainment as we navigate the

challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Curling is a Canadian tradition and an iconic prairie pastime, and our province is proud to play host to the 2021 Hub City model in Calgary. I know fans everywhere are looking forward to seeing some of the best curlers in the country, and the world, competing in these events.

Thank you to WinSport and Curling Canada for working with all levels of government to make these championships possible. I appreciate the time and attention that have been committed to ensuring compliance with all public health requirements.

Good luck to all the curlers, and best wishes for safe and successful events!

The Honourable Jason Kenney
Premier of Alberta

JE SUIS HEUREUX DE PRÉSENTER MES

salutations les plus chaleureuses à toutes les personnes qui prennent part au Championnat canadien de double mixte Home Hardware 2021, au centre Markin MacPhail du parc olympique du Canada, à Calgary.

Les amateurs de curling qui assistent au tournoi à distance seront assurément servis par la précision, les habiletés et les stratégies des meilleurs tandems homme-femme au pays qui se disputent le titre national.

Je tiens à féliciter toutes les équipes qui se sont qualifiées pour ce tournoi et leur souhaiter la meilleure des chances. La planification et l'organisation d'événements demeurent difficiles en ce moment. C'est pourquoi je tiens à remercier Curling Canada et les nombreux bénévoles pour tout leur travail et leur dévouement à l'organisation du championnat de cette année, en particulier dans le contexte des précautions supplémentaires requises pour assurer la santé et la sécurité de tous les participants.

Recevez mes meilleurs vœux pour une compétition passionnante et mémorable.

Le très hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, C.P., député
Prime Minister of Canada

AU NOM DU GOUVERNEMENT DE L'ALBERTA, J'AI LE

plaisir d'offrir mes salutations aux lecteurs du magazine *Extra End*.

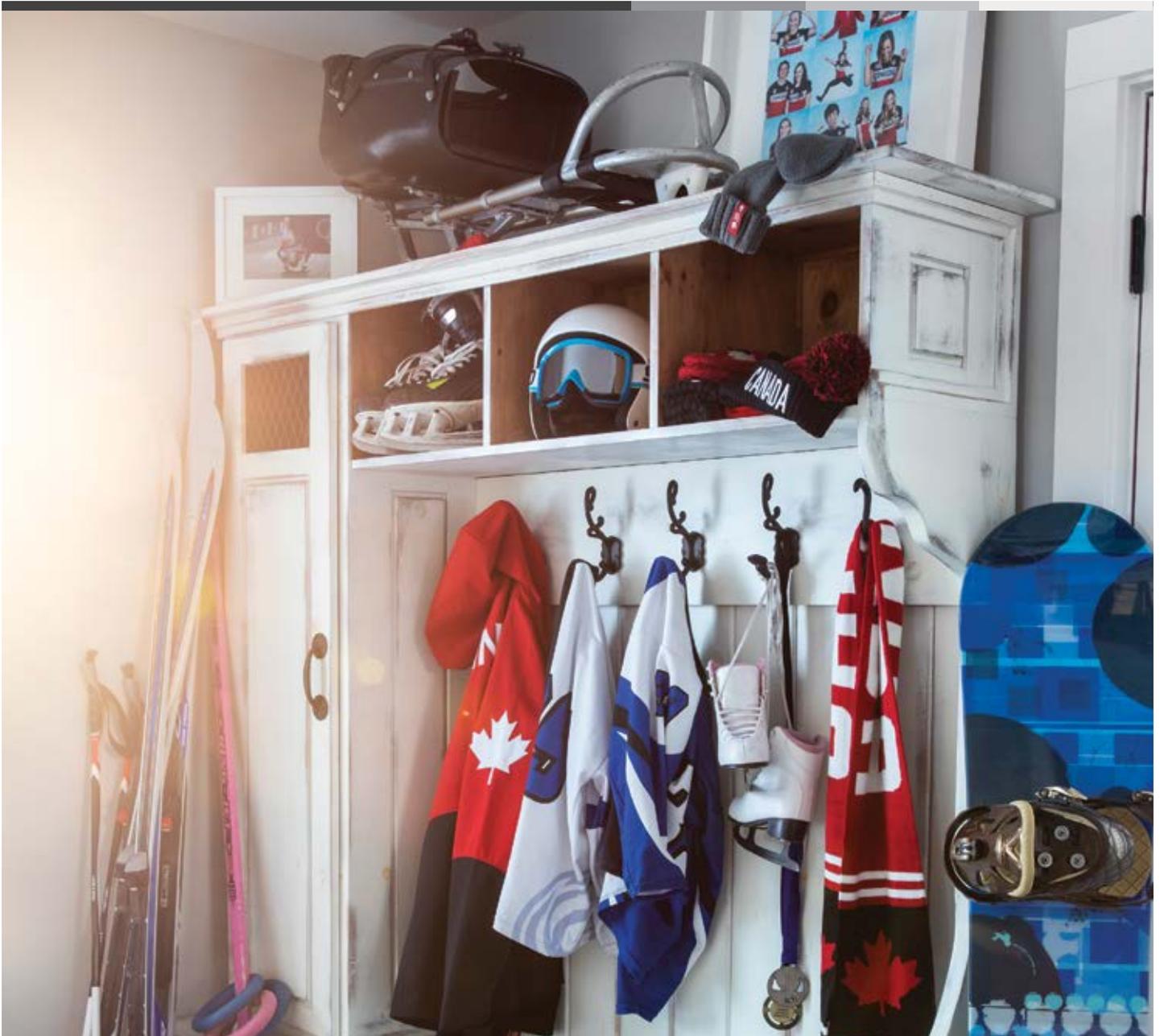
En cette période sans précédent, nous avons tous dû apprendre à faire les choses différemment. Cela inclut les événements sportifs, qui ont continué à offrir un divertissement fort apprécié pendant que nous affrontons les défis liés à la pandémie de COVID-19.

Le curling est une tradition canadienne et un passe-temps emblématique des Prairies, et notre province est fière d'accueillir le modèle de la ville bulle 2021 à Calgary. Je sais que les partisans de partout au pays ont hâte de voir certains des meilleurs joueurs de curling du Canada et du monde entier participer à ces événements.

Merci à WinSport et à Curling Canada d'avoir travaillé avec tous les paliers de gouvernement pour rendre ces championnats possibles. J'apprécie le temps et l'attention consacrés au respect de toutes les exigences de santé publique.

Bonne chance à toutes les joueuses et à tous les joueurs. Je vous souhaite de tout cœur des événements sécuritaires et couronnés de succès.

L'honorable Jason Kenney
Premier ministre de l'Alberta



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MESSAGES



ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF Calgary and my City Council colleagues, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2021 Season of Champions Curling Events proudly operated by Curling Canada.

Calgary is especially excited to be the host city to the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, the Tim Hortons Brier, the Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship, the World Men's Curling Championship and two Grand Slam tournaments. Despite this being a time when we are often physically apart, it is important now, more than ever before, to find fun and creative ways to experience the exhilaration of the game together as participants and fans alike.

Many Canadians know of the time-honoured tradition of this vibrant and exciting game and are proud to be home to some of the best curlers in the world. I have no doubt that these events will highlight the tremendous talent we have across our country.

I commend all of the competitors for their hard work and dedication in reaching this level, and I wish all the teams the best of luck as they compete. I also extend a sincere thank-you to the organizers, sponsors and volunteers to ensuring these events are a huge success.

Congratulations!

Naheed K. Nenshi
Mayor of Calgary

AU NOM DES CITOYENS DE CALGARY ET DE MES collègues du conseil municipal, j'ai le plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue aux événements de curling de la Saison des Champions 2021 fièrement organisés par Curling Canada.

Calgary est particulièrement ravie d'être la ville hôte du Tournoi des Cœurs Scotties, du Brier Tim Hortons, du championnat canadien de curling double mixte, du championnat du monde de curling masculin et de deux tournois du Grand Chelem. Bien que nous traversions une période au cours de laquelle nous sommes souvent séparés physiquement, il est plus que jamais important de trouver des moyens amusants et créatifs de vivre l'exaltation du curling ensemble en tant que participants et partisans.

De nombreux Canadiens connaissent la tradition de longue date de ce sport dynamique et passionnant et sont fiers du fait que plusieurs des meilleurs joueurs de curling au monde sont originaires du Canada. Je suis convaincu que ces événements mettront en valeur le talent extraordinaire qui se trouve dans chaque région du pays.

Je félicite tous les joueurs et les joueuses pour le travail acharné et le dévouement qui fut nécessaire pour atteindre ce niveau, et je souhaite à toutes les équipes la meilleure des chances lors de ces compétitions. Je tiens également à remercier sincèrement les organisateurs, les commanditaires et les bénévoles qui feront de ces événements un énorme succès.

Félicitations!

Naheed K. Nenshi
Maire de Calgary

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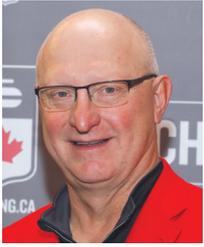


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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

THIS HAS BEEN A CURLING SEASON LIKE NO OTHER, but we can be thankful that we are in a position to enjoy curling's biggest events once again in Calgary.

It's my pleasure to offer greetings and the best of luck on behalf of Curling Canada's Board of Governors to everyone competing in this year's Scotties Tournament of Hearts, Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship, presented by Nature's Bounty, and the BKT Tires & OK Tire World Men's Curling Championship, presented by New Holland.

We must first express our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors who stood by us loyally as we charted our path to Calgary for these events. It's worth noting this will be a landmark edition of the Scotties — 40 consecutive years of sponsorship by Kruger Products, an achievement in which we all take pride. Thank you also to Tim Hortons, Home Hardware and BKT Tires and OK Tire for your ongoing support.

These events would not have been possible without significant support from the Province of Alberta, the City of Calgary and Tourism Calgary, as well as the host facility, the Markin MacPhail Centre at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park, and our colleagues at Curling Alberta, who co-ordinated the volunteer drive for these events.

We're also truly grateful for the contributions of Alberta Health with whom we worked closely to make sure that not only are our athletes and staff in a safe environment, but also that our host city of Calgary is not put at any risk.

To our Curling Canada staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that these events could be staged in a safe, responsible manner — you have represented our organization with grace, class and professionalism under the most trying of circumstances. Your dedication to curling is admirable and must be saluted.

These events would not have happened without the contributions of, and support from, the 14 Member Associations that comprise Curling Canada. Our sport continues to grow thanks to your efforts, and it's truly appreciated.

Finally, to our athletes. We know these have been challenging weeks and months leading up to the Calgary events. There have been sacrifices made by all of you in order to compete in the bubble, and we are thankful for that. You are Canadian curling at its very best, on and off the ice, and our pride and admiration for you knows no bounds.

I wish all of you good and safe curling.

Mitch Minken
Chair

LA SAISON DE CURLING ACTUELLE EST SANS PRÉCÉDENT, mais, heureusement, nous pourrions bientôt profiter à nouveau des plus grands événements de curling à Calgary.

J'ai le plaisir, au nom du Conseil des gouverneurs de Curling Canada, d'offrir mes salutations et de souhaiter la meilleure des chances à tous ceux et celles qui participent aux éditions 2021 du Tournoi des Cœurs Scotties, du Brier Tim Hortons, présenté par AGI, du championnat canadien de double mixte Home Hardware, présenté par Nature's Bounty, et du championnat du monde de curling masculin BKT Pneus et OK Pneus, présenté par New Holland.

Nous devons d'abord exprimer nos sincères remerciements à nos commanditaires qui nous ont soutenus loyalement alors que nous pavions la voie vers Calgary pour la tenue de ces événements. Il convient de souligner que le Tournoi des Cœurs Scotties est commandité par les Produits Kruger pour une 40e année consécutive, une réalisation dont nous sommes tous fiers. Merci également à Tim Hortons, Home Hardware, BKT Pneus et OK Pneus pour votre soutien continu.

Ces événements n'auraient pas été possibles sans un soutien important de la province de l'Alberta, de la ville de Calgary et de Tourisme Calgary, ainsi que de l'installation hôte, le Centre Markin MacPhail du Parc olympique du Canada WinSport, et de nos collègues de Curling Alberta, qui ont coordonné le recrutement de bénévoles pour ces événements.

Nous sommes également très reconnaissants de la contribution d'Alberta Health, avec qui nous avons travaillé en étroite collaboration pour nous assurer que non seulement nos athlètes et notre personnel se trouvent dans un environnement sécuritaire, mais également que notre ville hôte, Calgary, ne court aucun risque.

À notre personnel de Curling Canada qui a travaillé sans relâche pour veiller à ce que ces événements puissent être organisés de manière sécuritaire et responsable : vous avez représenté notre organisme avec grâce, classe et professionnalisme dans des circonstances extrêmement difficiles. Votre dévouement envers le curling est admirable et doit être salué.

Ces événements n'auraient pu avoir lieu sans la contribution et le soutien des 14 associations membres qui forment Curling Canada. Notre sport continue de croître grâce à votre travail et nous l'apprécions sincèrement.

Enfin, à nos athlètes. Nous savons que les semaines et les mois précédant ces événements à Calgary ont été difficiles. Vous avez tous fait des sacrifices pour participer aux compétitions dans la bulle, et nous en sommes reconnaissants. Vous représentez le meilleur du curling canadien, sur et hors de la glace, et notre fierté et notre admiration pour vous sont sans bornes.

Je vous souhaite à toutes et à tous de l'excellent curling en toute sécurité.

Mitch Minken
Président

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CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Willie O'Ree Place › Fredericton › March 19 to 24, 2019

Athletes who have won multiple

championships and earned numerous accolades may have a difficult time ranking their importance. The first win is always memorable, while a victory earned during the twilight of a career will be cherished equally but differently. But for Jocelyn Peterman (Winnipeg) and Brett Gallant (St. John's, N.L.), their 2019 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship victory in Fredericton, N.B., likely ranks near the top when it comes to mixed doubles moments played together.

The duo became the first team to win multiple Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship titles; however, it was the first time the team represented Canada at the world's event due to a scheduling conflict after winning their first title in 2016. That opportunity to finally don the Maple Leaf together as a team — and as a couple — meant the world to them.

“We really enjoy getting to play together and be on the same sheet of ice,” Gallant said. “Making the shots for each other is really satisfying. We get a lot out of that and it's going to be really special to wear the Maple Leaf together. It's going to be really, really special.”

Peterman and Gallant defeated Nancy Martin (Saskatoon) and Tyrel Griffith (Kelowna, B.C.) 9-6 in the final. The turning point occurred in the sixth end when Peterman threw a perfectly-executed double to score five and take complete control of the game with an 8-3 lead.

“I knew there was a lot on the line with that shot and I took my time,” Peterman said. “We knew what to expect with the ice and just threw it to make it.”

The pair outlasted 31 other teams, all grouped into pools of eight. After a seven-game round robin, the top three teams from each pool advanced into a single-knockout 12-team playoff bracket, with the top team in each pool receiving a bye into the quarter-finals. But Peterman/Gallant had to take the long way to the



Brett Gallant and Jocelyn Peterman became the first couple to win multiple Canadian Mixed Doubles championships when they captured their second title in Fredericton, N.B. The dynamic duo defeated Nancy Martin and Tyrel Griffith 9-6 in the final. The pair outlasted 31 other teams in the field.

final as their 6-1 round-robin record was second to Dezaray Hawes/Tyler Tardi. Other pool winners with a bye included Laura Walker/Kirk Muyres, Griffith/Martin and Jolene Campbell/John Morris.

Up first for Peterman and Gallant were the British Columbia representatives Catera Park and Cody Tanaka in a comforting and quick 12-3 win, followed by another confidence-building 9-1 win over Campbell/Morris. Peterman/Gallant surged forward to a 5-0 lead by the second end and managed to control the game from that point on.

“You never really feel comfortable

playing a team like that,” Peterman said of the early lead. “You know they're really good and sometimes it almost makes you feel a little more uncomfortable because you know they're going to come firing the next few ends.”

In the semifinal, the pair took on defending Canadian mixed doubles champions Walker and Muyres, another duo with high hopes of becoming the first team to win multiple mixed doubles titles at the national championship. But a pair of back-to-back scores of two in the middle ends of the semifinal elevated Peterman and Gallant to the final in Fredericton.



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Down by five after six ends, Nancy Martin and Tyrel Griffith fought back with three in the seventh but it proved to be too little too late.



After winning their second Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship, Brett Gallant and Jocelyn Peterman were off to the world championship in Stravanger, Norway, where they lost the final 6-5 to Anna Hasselborg and Oskar Eriksson of Sweden.

The victory in the final also launched Peterman into uncharted territory of her own. It was her eighth playoff victory in Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship history, one more than her partner Gallant (Peterman teamed with Derek Samagalski in 2018 and earned one playoff win), and the duo of Kalynn Park and Charley Thomas.

Peterman and Gallant represented Canada at the 2019 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in Stavanger, Norway, later that season. The pair earned silver after a 6-5 loss to Sweden's Anna Hasselborg and Oskar Eriksson in the final.

The 2020 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That means the 2021 Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship, presented by Nature's Bounty Vitamins, will be the nation's first opportunity to see Canada's best national mixed doubles pairings compete for the title since 2019.

FINAL

Jocelyn Peterman, Brett Gallant	*201	005	01	9
Nancy Martin, Tyrel Griffith	010	110	30	6

* Last-rock advantage

FINAL STANDINGS

Playoffs	Wins	Losses
Jocelyn Peterman, Brett Gallant	4	0
Nancy Martin, Tyrel Griffith	2	1
Laura Walker, Kirk Muyres	1	1
Kadriana Sahaidak, Colton Lott	2	1
Jolene Campbell, John Morris	0	1
Shannon Birchard, Catlin Schneider	1	1
Bobbie Sauder, Brendan Bottcher	1	1
Dezaray Hawes, Tyler Tardi	0	1
Jennifer Jones, Brent Laing	0	1
Kim Tuck, Wayne Tuck	0	1
Melissa Gordon, Kyle Kurz	0	1
Catera Park, Cody Tanaka	0	1

Round robin

Pool A	Wins	Losses
Dezaray Hawes, Tyler Tardi	6	1
Jocelyn Peterman, Brett Gallant	6	1
Catera Park, Cody Tanaka	5	2
Kristen Streifel, Steve Laycock	4	3
Emilie Desjardins, Robert Desjardins	3	4
Katie Cottrill, Shawn Cottrill	2	5
Ashley Groff, Kyle Doering	2	5
Alison Griffin, Ed MacDonald	0	7

Pool B	Wins	Losses
Laura Walker, Kirk Muyres	6	1
Bobbie Sauder, Brendan Bottcher	5	2
Shannon Birchard, Catlin Schneider	5	2
Chantele Broderson, Kyler Kleibrink	4	3
Chaelynn Kitz, Brayden Stewart	4	3
Leah Thompson, Charlie Sullivan	3	4
Karlee Jones, Bruce Everist	1	6
Charmaine Thom, Greg Thom	0	7

Pool C	Wins	Losses
Nancy Martin, Tyrel Griffith	6	1
Kadriana Sahaidak, Colton Lott	6	1
Jennifer Jones, Brent Laing	5	2
Jill de Gooijer, Garret Springer	4	3
Sherry Just, Dustin Kalthoff	3	4
Katharine Thomas, David Aho	2	5
Sophie Morissette, Pierre-Luc Morissette	2	5
Jenna Harvey, David Thomas	0	7

Pool D	Wins	Losses
Jolene Campbell, John Morris	6	1
Melissa Gordon, Kyle Kurz	5	2
Kim Tuck, Wayne Tuck	5	2
Kate Cameron, Reid Carruthers	4	3
Danielle Schmiemann, Jason Ginter	4	3
Rachel O'Connor, Ryan Abraham	2	5
Kira Brunton, Tom Leonard	1	6
Catherine Liscumb, Chris Liscumb	1	6

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A LOVE AFFAIR THAT ROCKS

Peterman, Gallant teammates both on and off the ice

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

They were teammates at the start, looking to make some noise in Mixed Doubles curling, but along the way to accomplishing their goals, something special happened. Brett Gallant and Jocelyn Peterman fell in love.

Partnering for most couples in something as

casual as a few hands of bridge, a game of Password or a set of doubles out on the local tennis court is liable to get the squabbling started.

So imagine you and a significant other teaming up with the inherent pressure and prestige of a world championship hanging in the balance.

Welcome to the world of Canadian curlers Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant.

“Actually,” muses Peterman, “we got together because of curling in the first place. It’s because we got along so well on the ice that we decided to begin dating. We get along great. So, all good. It’s really cool for us to be able to spend time together and chase curling goals together, along with the goals for our men’s and women’s teams.”

And what teams they are. Peterman plays second on the decorated Manitoba women’s team skipped by Jennifer Jones while Gallant, also a second, is a mainstay on Brad Gushue’s three-time national-champion powerhouse Newfoundland/Labrador team.

The Peterman-Gallant tandem has flourished from the outset. They started out as a competitive duo in style, trimming Laura Crocker and Geoff Walker 12-6 in Saskatoon to collect the first of two national Mixed Doubles championships in 2016. Sadly, because of scheduling conflicts with their foursomes that year, they didn’t get to wear the Maple Leaf for Canada at the world championship. But they made up for that in 2019 when they won their second Canadian crown in Fredericton, N.B., earning a trip to the world event in Stavanger, Norway, where they won silver. They also qualified for the 2018 Canadian Olympic Trials, losing in the semi-finals.

Symbiotic on the ice. Simpatico away from it. So much so that last summer they stopped being simply an item and got engaged.

“We were teammates before we became a couple,” reminds Gallant. “We learned how to play together first. That may have helped us to get started and now as we get to know each other better, it’s helped us be stronger teammates, how to get the most out of each other and us as a team, what to do in certain situations and what not to do.

“We can also have pretty good, open, frank discussions. That’s been to our benefit, for sure. I don’t know if I’d recommend it for everyone...”

And with the 2021 Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles championship, presented by Nature’s Bounty, scheduled for March 18-25 at the Markin MacPhail Centre at WinSport’s Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, the curling component of the relationship will be rebooted after the stop-start of the pandemic-impacted curling season.

The pair are bound to both be acutely familiar with the routine of the Calgary bubble by mid-April. They also have other pressing duties in Cowtown besides their Mixed Doubles assignment. Jones will be in search of her seventh Scotties Tournament of Hearts title while Gushue will be defending his Brier title won last year in Kingston, Ont.

“I’m thrilled to be getting a chance to compete, to get back to these major events again,” says Gallant. “Jocelyn is, too. I know it’s not going to be the same, there are still lots of restrictions, and there’s a reason. Everybody’s going to have to do their part to keep things safe. All the protocols being put in place by Curling Canada, I’m really grateful for them.

“So looking forward to getting back on the ice. I guess in a way we have a title to defend and that gets me excited, as well.”

Given their provincial curling alliances, Peterman, Calgary born, and Gallant, a product of Charlottetown, P.E.I., reside in Winnipeg and St. John’s, respectively: 4,790 kilometres, three time zones or a four-hour, 31-minute flight apart.

It’s a difficult arrangement trying to find quality together time, to hone their curling allegiance or deepen their soon-to-be-lifelong bond. Even in a non-COVID-19 landscape.

“I’m not going to complain,” emphasizes Peterman. “This pandemic has been challenging

After a long layoff due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant will get a chance to show off their skills in Calgary.



PHOTO: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant won their second Canadian Mixed Doubles crown in Fredericton, N.B., earning a trip to the 2019 world event in Stavanger, Norway, where they won silver.



for so many people on so many levels this past year. But, yeah, we kind of realize how difficult our long-distance relationship is, competing with teams in two different provinces at a time when inter-provincial travel isn't recommended.

"So it has definitely been a bit more complicated than before, but we're making it work."

Gallant agrees on the challenges.

"Planning has been almost impossible," he says. "You create a plan and in two weeks everything can change because of restrictions. We were going to try and play a couple of Mixed Doubles events this winter and they were both cancelled. So it's been a while since we were on the ice in a competition together.

"But I tend to look at it this way: put in your practice and your training. If you keep your head down and keep working hard, then at some point you're going to make opportunities for yourself to get back to that stage.

"I've been lucky enough to wear the Maple Leaf the last five years, one way or the other. That's through the hard work of not only Jocelyn and I but the people around us. So that's kind of my attitude, more than getting expectations too high and just hoping for the best."



PHOTO: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Jocelyn Peterman loves what Mixed Doubles has to offer. Besides being fun and fast, it presents different challenges.



Brett Gallant says if you keep your head down and keep practising, training and working hard, good things will happen on the ice.

"We were teammates before we became a couple. We learned how to play together first. That may have helped us to get started and now as we get to know each other better, it's helped us be stronger teammates, how to get the most out of each other and us as a team, what to do in certain situations and what not to do."



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PHOTO: NATACHA PISARENKO, ASSOCIATED PRESS

How sweet it is! Kaitlyn Lawes and John Morris celebrate their gold-medal victory for Canada at the 2018 Winter Olympics. They will be back in action at this year's Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship, but not with each other.

For Peterman, the shift from playing front end for Jones and the unique format of Mixed Doubles has proven a sizable intake of fresh air.

"I like to think I kinda get the best of both worlds," she reckons. "With my ladies team I'm sweeping a lot, challenging myself more physically. In Mixed Doubles I get to play a bit more of a skip role which takes me back to my junior days. I have the opportunity to spend more time in the house, figuring out the ice, where to put the broom. Those sorts of things. So it's a totally different challenge for me. I really like getting the balance of both. I like the pace of the (Mixed Doubles) game. It's fast and fun."

More fun, it seems, when the person standing close by on the ice is uniquely special to you.

"I see how hard he works on the ice and off of it, and that really motivates me to have success with him," says Peterman. "To have the opportunity to represent our country together at the world level has been so cool."

Because of the myriad of cancellations owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 World Mixed Doubles Championship, at a location yet to be determined, is scheduled to be the first event of



PHOTO: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Brett Gallant and teammate Mark Nichols work the brushes for Team Canada. The pair, mainstays on Brad Gushue's Newfoundland and Labrador team, along with lead Geoff Walker, were in action in the Calgary bubble in defence of their Brier title. They made it to the championship round but eventually bowed out.



PHOTO: ANDREW KLAVER © KRUGER PRODUCTS

It's been a busy time in the bubble for Jocelyn Peterman (right). Beside combining with Kaitlyn Lawes and the other teammates on Team Manitoba at the recent Scotties Tournament of Hearts, she now has to settle in to her Canadian Mixed Doubles duties with partner Brett Gallant.

the 2022 Winter Olympic Qualification process.

Since Mixed Doubles joined the global curling stage in 2008, Canada has not been able to reach the gold-medal summit (although Kaitlyn Lawes and John Morris did win gold at the 2018 Olympics). Peterman and Gallant were close in 2019, losing the final 6-5 on a last-rock draw to the four-foot on the eighth and final end to the talented Swedish tandem of Anna Hasselborg and Oskar Eriksson.

Peterman and Gallant, it goes without saying, would enjoy nothing more than to rectify that bit of unfinished business. Firstly, though, there's the matter of defending their title in Calgary.

"That was two years ago. The sting (of losing) the last one dissipates a little and the team we lost to is very strong," Gallant reasons. "You know you're not going to win every battle with them. Of course, at the same time, we do feel there's some unfinished business to attend to. We want to get back and represent Canada again and hopefully take it the one step further."

George Johnson is a Calgary-based freelance writer



2020 SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS CHAMPIONS: MANITOBA



2020 TIM HORTONS BRIER CHAMPIONS: NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR



2020 NEW HOLLAND CANADIAN JUNIORS CHAMPIONS: MANITOBA



2019 HOME HARDWARE CANADA CUP CHAMPIONS: ONTARIO



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The Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship takes over the Markin MacPhail Centre in Calgary.

BY PAUL WIECEK

PANDEMIC FORCES TRIAL BY FIRE

Pfeifer faces huge challenge taking over Canadian mixed doubles program



He has been one of the most prolific players in Canadian men's curling, but now Scott Pfeifer faces a new challenge: taking on leadership of Canada's mixed doubles program which comes with high expectations.

He's won just about everything there is to win in competitive curling.

Two Canadian junior championships. A world junior championship. Four Briers in five years, as second on the legendary Edmonton foursome skipped by Randy Ferbey. Another three world men's championships with the Ferbey Four, not to mention another Brier and world title — and a trip to the 2018 Winter Olympics — as alternate for Kevin Koe.

Years from now when they close the book on Scott Pfeifer, he will be remembered as one of the greatest — and maybe the greatest — second in the history of Canadian curling.

So what could possibly be left for a guy like that to accomplish in curling?

Well, how about taking over the fledgling Canadian mixed doubles program in the middle of a worldwide pandemic, and trying to make sure our curlers are somehow game-ready when they light the Olympic torch in Beijing less than a year from now?

“Along with a repeat gold-medal performance at the 2022 Olympics, I want to see the profile of mixed doubles continue to increase both on the national stage and at the grassroots level.”

There is taking on a challenge. And then there is taking on a hand grenade that has had the pin pulled like Pfeifer did last summer, when Curling Canada announced he was taking over the mixed doubles program from another Canadian legend, Jeff Stoughton.

“I would say it’s felt like trial by fire,” Pfeifer, 44, said in an interview. “It would’ve been great to have at least a year under my belt as Mixed Doubles National Team Coach before everything got flipped upside down.

“The biggest challenge we’re all facing this year is how the pandemic has created havoc with the regular routines of all our high-performance athletes, and how we’re able to help properly prepare them for upcoming national and international competitions during the rest of this Olympic quadrennial.”

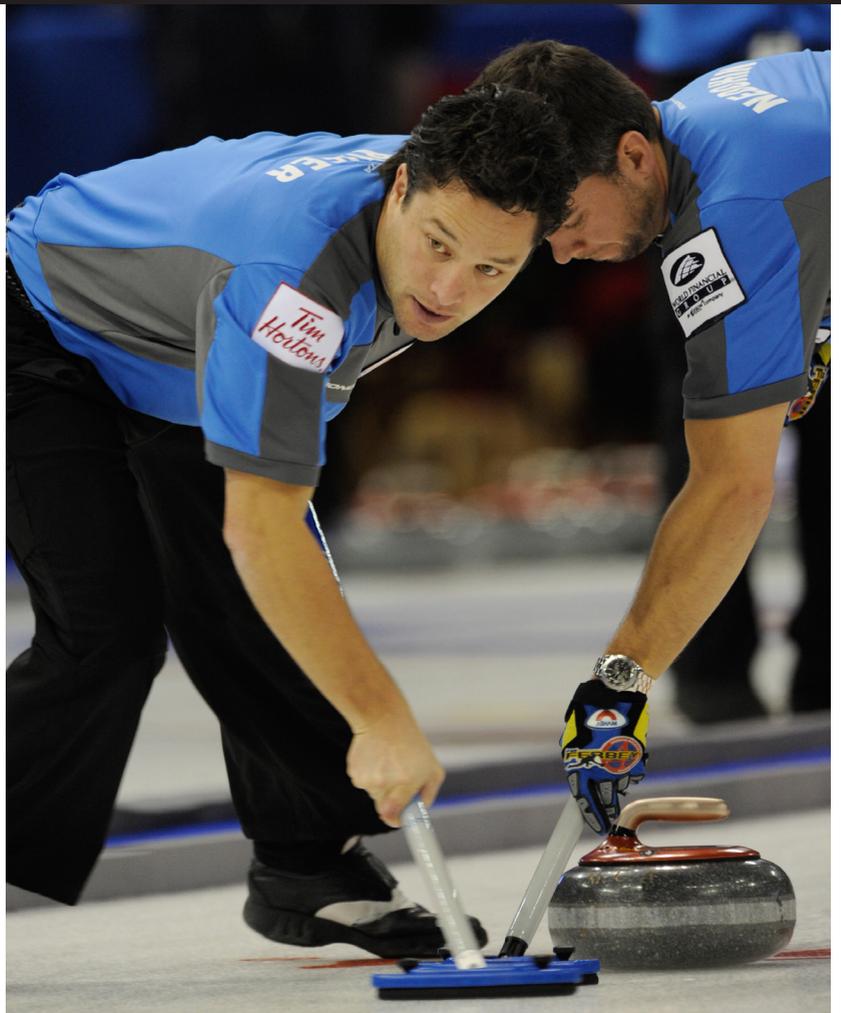
Alas, you go to war — or the Olympics — with the team you have, not the one you wish you had. And for Pfeifer that has meant finding ways to somehow make sure that whoever Canada sends to the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, they will be ready to defend the gold won in Pyeongchang in 2018 by Kaitlyn Lawes and John Morris in what was the debut of mixed doubles curling as a full medal Olympic sport.

Stoughton, who led both the men’s program and mixed doubles for Curling Canada during the last quadrennial, laughed when asked to describe the challenge facing Pfeifer.

“Staying on top, lol,” said Stoughton. “The rest of the world is now using our template, using their men’s and women’s world representatives and combining them to compete in mixed doubles championships.

“The challenge is to keep our top teams engaged and to develop mixed doubles-only competitors to reach their potential.”

That’s been a tall order in a year in which two people aren’t supposed to stand within six feet of each other, much less go about everything involved in attempting to build and compete as a mixed doubles team.



And so it is that Pfeifer’s best-laid plans for this winter have mostly come to not.

“Scott had big plans this year with both training and competition with the intent of getting Canada Olympic-ready,” said Gerry Peckham, the high-performance director for Curling Canada. “However, he was handcuffed by COVID, and all that would have happened was either cancelled or postponed.”

Indeed, one of the only mixed doubles events that didn’t get cancelled this winter is the most important of them all, the 2021 Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship, presented by Nature’s Bounty.

A total of 35 teams from across the country will compete March 18-25 at Markin MacPhail Centre at WinSport’s Canada Olympic Park in Calgary as part of the ‘bubble’ Curling Canada has set up this winter.

The same bubble has also been site of the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts and Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, and will also host the world men’s curling championship, April 2-11.

It’s an extraordinary setting for an extraordinary event. Competitors at the Mixed Doubles will look for a share of the record-setting \$150,000 in purse money, with \$50,000 going to the winner, \$30,000

Scott Pfeifer, a world-class curler, knows what it takes to win. Now it’s up to him to transfer that knowledge to the next wave of Canadian mixed doubles curlers.



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Left: Manitoba's Jeff Stoughton has led both the men's and mixed doubles programs for Curling Canada during the last quadrennial. He says the ultimate challenge is to remain on top.

Right: Gerry Peckham, high-performance director for Curling Canada, thinks Scott Pfeifer is the right man for a difficult job at a difficult time. COVID-19 has made things very difficult for training and planning.

to the runner-up, \$20,000 to the third-place team and \$10,000 for fourth place. Fifth through eighth place will earn \$6,500, while ninth through 12th will take home \$3,500.

Put it all together and it is by far the most money mixed doubles curlers have ever competed for, in Canada or anywhere else. And that's by design, as the program under Pfeifer tries to increase exposure of the discipline, which until now has been regarded by most competitive curlers in Canada as an add-on to their first priority, men's and women's competition.

"Along with a repeat gold-medal performance at the 2022 Olympics," says Pfeifer, "I want to see the profile of mixed doubles continue to increase both on the national stage and at the grassroots level.

"The increased television exposure, \$150,000 prize purse and the field we've been able to assemble for this year's championship is an excellent start in that direction."

Although he will forever be best known for his accomplishments as a member of the Ferbey Four, Pfeifer was actually present for what is regarded as the birth of mixed doubles, the 2002 Continental Cup in Regina, at which an early version made its debut.

"In the first year of mixed doubles, they had designated sweepers who only swept rocks for the entire game. That was not very fun at all!" recalls Pfeifer.

"The next couple years of the Continental Cup, I played a couple games of mixed doubles with (U.S. skip) Deb McCormick and really enjoyed the new mixed doubles format. Front-enders don't usually get to experience all the pressure of a last rock thrower, so it was great to be in a different position and mindset with the Continental Cup mixed doubles format. Unfortunately there was no

separate Canadian mixed doubles championship to compete in while I was curling competitively with Team Ferbey."

Pfeifer also assisted Stoughton in running the mixed doubles program as a consultant to Curling Canada during the last quadrennial, setting up an event that ran alongside the Canada Cup.

"The players loved it," says Stoughton, "and appreciated the opportunity to mingle with the Canada Cup participants."

Pfeifer continues to partner with Stoughton, as both men do their best in difficult circumstances to make sure Canada is ready for Beijing.

Although he's now yielded control over the mixed doubles program to Pfeifer so he can focus on leading Canada's men's program, Stoughton says the two men remain in constant consultation with one another.

"What Scott and I are doing is being the support person for each other's program," says Stoughton. "He's the helper and someone to bounce ideas off for the men's program, and I'm the helper and someone to bounce ideas off for the mixed doubles program. So, we are working together to make each program better by being partners."

Peckham lists the attributes he thinks make Pfeifer the right man for a difficult job at a difficult time.

"Instant credibility and integrity," he says. "A tremendous amount of experience, along with being an ardent student of the game. He is very interested in the younger athletes that are showing promise and is working diligently to establish that critical trust factor. He is an excellent communicator, problem solver and is simply an authentic, likeable guy."

Paul Wiecek is a Manitoba-based freelance writer



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HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES PLAYER PROFILES



ALBERTA

THE GLENCOE CLUB & AIRDRIE CURLING CLUB, CALGARY/AIRDRIE



BRITTANY TRAN



AARON SLUCHINSKI

BRITTANY TRAN

Age: 28 **Occupation:** Program analyst, Emission Reduction Alberta **Highlights:** Played second for N.W.T. at 2019 Hearts, lead for Wild Card 3 in 2021. Won gold at 2012 Canadian juniors as third for Alberta

AARON SLUCHINSKI

Age: 34 **Occupation:** Account manager, Strike Group **Highlights:** Skipped Alberta at 2008 Canadian juniors

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VICTORIA CURLING CLUB



STEPHANIE JACKSON-BAIER



COREY CHESTER

STEPHANIE JACKSON-BAIER

Age: 34 **Occupation:** Administrative assistant, Federal Government **Highlights:** Played third for B.C. at 2014 Hearts. Played third for B.C. at 2007 Canadian mixed. Played second for B.C. at 2001, '02, '05 Canadian juniors and third in '06, '07.

COREY CHESTER

Age: 29 **Occupation:** Financial analyst, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy – B.C. Provincial Government **Highlights:** Played third for B.C. at 2012 and '13 Canadian juniors

MANITOBA

WEST ST. PAUL CURLING CLUB



KRYSTEN KARWACKI



DEREK SAMAGALSKI

KRYSTEN KARWACKI

Age: 29 **Occupation:** Owner/social media marketer, The Kreative Co. **Highlights:** Played lead for Manitoba at 2010 and '11 Canadian juniors; won bronze in '11

DEREK SAMAGALSKI

Age: 36 **Occupation:** Superintendent, Carberry Sandhills Golf Course **Highlights:** Played lead for Manitoba at 2012 Brier, second in '15, '18 and '19 and for Wild Card in '20, for Wild Card 1 in '21; won bronze in '12. Played in 2016 and '18 Canadian mixed doubles

HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES **PLAYER PROFILES**

NEW BRUNSWICK

CAPITAL WINTER CLUB, FREDERICTON



MELISSA ADAMS



ALEX ROBICHAUD

MELISSA ADAMS

Age: 43 **Occupation:** National operations specialist, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Highlights: Played third for New Brunswick at 2018 Hearts, skip in '21 and played third at '17 pre-qualifier. Skipped New Brunswick at 1996, '97 and '98 Canadian juniors; won gold in '98. Won gold for Canada as skip at 1998 world juniors

ALEX ROBICHAUD

Age: 25 **Occupation:** Communications director, Office of Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick

Highlights: Played in 2016 and '18 Canadian mixed doubles. Skipped New Brunswick at 2016 Canadian juniors

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

RE/MAX CENTRE, ST. JOHN'S CURLING CLUB & BALLY HALY COUNTRY CLUB



MACKENZIE MITCHELL



GREG SMITH

MACKENZIE MITCHELL

Age: 19 **Occupation:** Student, Memorial University of Newfoundland **Highlights:** Skipped N.L. at 2020 Canadian juniors

GREG SMITH

Age: 24 **Occupation:** Curling co-ordinator and instructor, Bally Haly Country Club **Highlights:** Skipped N.L. at 2018 and 2021 Briers. Skipped N.L. at 2015 and '16 Canadian juniors

NORTHERN ONTARIO

PORT ARTHUR CURLING CLUB, THUNDER BAY



OYE-SEM WON



TREVOR BONOT

OYE-SEM WON

Age: 38 **Occupation:** Math Consultant Teacher, CSDC des Aurores boréales **Highlights:** Played in 2015 and '16 Canadian mixed for Northern Ontario as third; won bronze in '16.

TREVOR BONOT

Age: 35 **Occupation:** Financial Advisor, Edward Jones **Highlights:** Skipped Northern Ontario at 2017 and '19 Canadian mixed; won gold in '17. Won silver for Canada at 2017 World mixed. Played in 2018 Canadian mixed doubles

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

YELLOWKNIFE CURLING CLUB



ELIZABETH KING



LANDON KING

ELIZABETH KING

Age: 36 **Occupation:** Manager of Data Reporting and Evaluation, Government of the Northwest Territories

LANDON KING

Age: 39 **Occupation:** Federal government employee

HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES **PLAYER PROFILES**

NOVA SCOTIA

HALIFAX CURLING CLUB



KARLEE JONES



BRYCE EVERIST

KARLEE JONES

Age: 29 **Occupation:** Pharmacist, IWK Health Centre
Highlights: Played in 2018 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles. Won silver at 2019 Canadian mixed as Nova Scotia lead

BRYCE EVERIST

Age: 34 **Occupation:** Industrial engineer, Nova Scotia Power **Highlights:** Played in 2018 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles. Won silver at 2019 Canadian mixed as Nova Scotia second

NUNAVUT

IQUALUIT CURLING CLUB



ANGELA DALE



PETER VAN STRIEN

ANGELA DALE

Age: 42 **Occupation:** Operations — Local area manager Nunavut, Canada Post Corporation
Highlights: Skipped Nunavut at 2015 Canadian curling club championships

PETER VAN STRIEN

Age: 38 **Occupation:** Finance officer — Utilities, City of Iqaluit

COACH: Gayle Salter-Kennedy

ONTARIO

UNIONVILLE CURLING CLUB



LAUREN WASYLKIW



SHANE KONINGS

LAUREN WASYLKIW

Age: 30 **Occupation:** Recreational therapist
Highlights: Played second for N.L. at 2013 Hearts. Played in 2014 Canadian mixed doubles. Played lead for N.L. at 2016 Canadian mixed

SHANE KONINGS

Age: 30 **Occupation:** GIS data engineer, LightBox

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

SILVER FOX CURLING CLUB, SUMMERSIDE



LAUREN MACFADYEN



ALEX MACFADYEN

LAUREN MACFADYEN

Age: 24 **Occupation:** Teacher, Bloomfield Elementary

ALEX MACFADYEN

Age: 22 **Occupation:** Education student, University of Prince Edward Island **Highlights:** Skipped P.E.I. at 2018 Canadian juniors, played second in '19

HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES **PLAYER PROFILES**

QUEBEC

GLENMORE CURLING CLUB/DOLLARD-DES ORMEAUX



LAURIE ST-GEORGES



FÉLIX ASSELIN

LAURIE ST-GEORGES

Age: 23 **Occupation:** Journalism student, Université de Québec à Montréal **Highlights:** Skipped Quebec at 2021 Hearts. Skipped Quebec at 2016, '18 and '19 Canadian juniors; won silver in '18. Won bronze at 2019 Canadian mixed as Quebec third

FÉLIX ASSELIN

Age: 26 **Occupation:** Geologist, Wesdome Gold Mines **Highlights:** Played third for Quebec at 2018 Brier, second in 2021. Played in 2017 Canadian mixed doubles. Won bronze at 2019 Canadian mixed as Quebec skip. Skipped Quebec at 2012, '13, '15 and '16 Canadian juniors

SASKATCHEWAN

SUTHERLAND CURLING CLUB, SASKATOON



ASHLEY QUICK



MIKE ARMSTRONG

ASHLEY QUICK

Age: 31 **Occupation:** Certified sports nutrition consultant, Contest-prep coach, Pre-and-postnatal specialist, Owner of Quick Fit Nutrition **Highlights:** Played in 2013, '14, '15, '16 and '17 Canadian mixed doubles; won bronze in 2014. Won silver at 2008 Canadian juniors as Saskatchewan second

MIKE ARMSTRONG

Age: 31 **Occupation:** Teacher **Highlights:** Played lead for Saskatchewan at 2012 Brier. Played in 2013, '14, '15, '16 and '17 Canadian mixed doubles; won bronze in 2014. Skipped Saskatchewan at 2009 Canadian juniors

YUKON

WHITEHORSE CURLING CLUB



BAYLY SCOFFIN



WADE SCOFFIN

BAYLY SCOFFIN

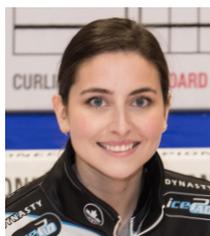
Age: 18 **Occupation:** Student, Yukon University **Highlights:** Skipped Yukon at 2020 Canadian juniors. Skipped Yukon at 2018 Canadian U-18s

WADE SCOFFIN

Age: 54 **Occupation:** Occupational Therapist **Highlights:** Played third for Yukon at 2002, '08 Briers and '15 pre-qualifier. Played in 2017 Canadian mixed doubles. Skipped N.W.T/Yukon at 2008 and '10 Canadian mixed, played second for Yukon in 2013, '15, '16 and '20

BIRCHARD/SCHNEIDER

CHARLESWOOD CURLING CLUB, WINNIPEG/HIGHLAND CURLING CLUB, REGINA



SHANNON BIRCHARD



CATLIN SCHNEIDER

SHANNON BIRCHARD

Age: 26 **Occupation:** Bookkeeper, self-employed **Highlights:** Played third for Manitoba at 2018 Hearts, second in '20, and '19 Wild Card pre-qualifier, Canada in '21; won gold in '18, '20 and '21; won gold at '18 world championship. Played in 2017 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles. Skipped Manitoba to silver at 2012 and '13 Canadian juniors (threw third rocks in '12)

CATLIN SCHNEIDER

Age: 29 **Occupation:** Project engineer, Prairie Sun Solar **Highlights:** Played third for Saskatchewan at 2017 Brier, second in '20; won bronze in '20. Played in 2016, '17 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles

HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES **PLAYER PROFILES**

COURTNEY/MOULDING LACOMBE CURLING CLUB



JOANNE COURTNEY



DARREN MOULDING

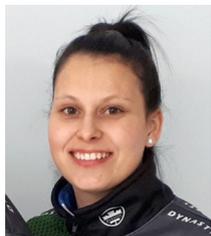
JOANNE COURTNEY

Age: 32 **Occupation:** Registered nurse, Alberta Health Services **Highlights:** Played second for Canada at 2018 Olympics. Played third for Alberta at 2014 Hearts, second for Canada in '15 and Ontario in '17, '19 and '20, lead for Ontario in '21; won gold in '17, silver in '14, '19, '20 and '21, bronze in '15. Won gold at 2017 worlds as second for Canada. Played in 2016, '17 and '18 Canadian mixed doubles; won gold in '17, bronze in '18. Won silver at 2017 world mixed doubles. Played lead for Alberta at 2007 Canadian juniors

DARREN MOULDING

Age: 38 **Occupation:** Head ice technician, Lacombe and Bentley Curling Clubs/business owner, Pinpoint Roofing **Highlights:** Played third for Alberta at 2017, '18, '20 and '21 Briers, Wild Card in '19; won silver in '18, '19 and '20. Won gold at 2014 Canadian mixed as skip. Skipped at 2000 and '03 Canadian juniors; won silver in '03

DESJARDINS/DESJARDINS CLUB DE CURLING, CHICOUTIMI



ÉMILIE DESJARDINS



ROBERT DESJARDINS

ÉMILIE DESJARDINS

Age: 21 **Occupation:** Student, Club de Tennis Arvida/Student, remedial teaching program/Pharmacy employee **Highlights:** Played in 2016, '17, '18 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles

ROBERT DESJARDINS

Age: 51 **Occupation:** Grade 9 math teacher, Commission scolaire des Rives-du-Saguenay **Highlights:** Played third for Quebec at 2011 Brier, skipped in '12. Played in 2013, '14, '16, '17, '18 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won gold in '13. Won silver as skip at 2018 Canadian mixed

EINARSON/GUSHUE GIMLI CURLING CLUB/RE/MAX CENTRE, ST. JOHN'S CURLING CLUB



KERRI EINARSON



BRAD GUSHUE

KERRI EINARSON

Age: 33 **Occupation:** Rehabilitation assistant, Betel Home Foundation **Highlights:** Skipped Manitoba at 2016 and '20 Hearts, Wild Card in '18 and '19 Wild Card pre-qualifier, Canada in '21; won gold in '20 and '21, silver in '18. Played third for Manitoba at 2010, '13, '15 and '17 Canadian mixed

BRAD GUSHUE

Age: 41 **Occupation:** Owner, OrangeTheory Fitness **Highlights:** Won 2006 Olympic gold medal throwing fourth rocks for Canada. Skipped N.L. at 2003, '04, '05, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13, '14, '15, '16, '17 and '20 Briers, Canada in '18, '19 and '21; won gold in '17, '18 and '20, silver in '07 and '16, bronze in '11. Won gold at 2017 worlds, silver in '18. Skipped at 1996, '98, '99, 2000 and '01 Canadian juniors, played second in '95; won gold in '01, silver in 2000. Won 2001 world juniors

GRANDY/JANSSEN OSHAWA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



CLANCY GRANDY



PATRICK JANSSEN

CLANCY GRANDY

Age: 30 **Occupation:** Kinesiologist/Performance specialist, Complete Performance Centre **Highlights:** Played in 2014 and '15 Canadian mixed doubles. Skipped Ontario at 2011 Canadian juniors

PATRICK JANSSEN

Age: 38 **Occupation:** Industrial engineer, Syncreon Canada **Highlights:** Won bronze at 2018 Brier as Ontario second. Played in 2014 and '15 Canadian mixed doubles

HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES **PLAYER PROFILES**

HAWES/TARDI

KELOWNA CURLING CLUB/LANGLEY CURLING CLUB



DEZARAY HAWES



TYLER TARDI

DEZARAY HAWES

Age: 24 **Occupation:** Administrative assistant, MNP LLP **Highlights:** Played second for British Columbia at 2020 and '21 Hearts. Played second for British Columbia at 2016 and '17 Canadian juniors; won silver in '16. Played in 2013, '15 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles

TYLER TARDI

Age: 22 **Occupation:** Online motion graphic design student (School of Motion) **Highlights:** Played in 2013, '15 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles. Skipped British Columbia at 2016, '17, '18 and '19 Canadian juniors; won gold in '17, '18 and '19, bronze in '16. Skipped Canada to gold at 2018 and '19 world juniors. Skipped British Columbia to bronze at 2017 Canadian U-18's

JONES/LAING

ALLISTON CURLING CLUB



JENNIFER JONES



BRENT LAING

JENNIFER JONES

Age: 46 **Occupation:** Motivational speaker/lawyer **Highlights:** Won 2014 Olympic gold as skip for Canada. Skipped Manitoba at 2002, '05, '07, '08, '12, '13, '15, '18 and '21 Hearts, Canada in '06, '09, '10, '11, '16 and '19, Wild Card in '20; won gold in '05, '08, '09, '10, '15 and '18, silver in '06, '11 and '13, bronze in '07, '12, '16 and '20. Skipped Canada to gold at 2008 and '18 worlds, silver in '15, bronze in '10. Played in 2017 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won bronze in '17. Played third at 1991 Canadian juniors, skipped in '93, '94 and '95; won gold in '94, silver in '91

BRENT LAING

Age: 41 **Occupation:** Entrepreneur, World Financial Group **Highlights:** Played second for Canada at 2018 Olympics. Played second for Canada at 2017 Brier, second for Alberta in '15 and '16, second for Ontario in '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12 and '13, lead in '02, '20, '21 and second in '19 Wild Card pre-qualifier; won gold in '07, '12 and '16, silver in '02, '06, '08, '10, '11 and '17, bronze in '09 and '13. Won gold at 2007, '12 and '16 worlds. Played in 2017, '18 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won bronze in '17. Won 1998 and '99 Canadian and world juniors as lead

KITZ/KLEIBRINK

NUTANA CURLING CLUB, SASKATOON/THE GLENCOE CLUB, CALGARY



CHAELYNN KITZ



KYLER KLEIBRINK

CHAELYNN KITZ

Age: 24 **Occupation:** Kinesiology graduate, University of Saskatchewan **Highlights:** Played second for Saskatchewan at 2021 Hearts. Played in 2018, '19 Canadian mixed doubles

KYLER KLEIBRINK

Age: 25 **Occupation:** Applications specialist, CNRL **Highlights:** Played in 2019 Canadian mixed doubles

LAWES/LAWES

ST. VITAL CURLING CLUB, WINNIPEG/THE CURLING CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD



KAITLYN LAWES



CONNOR LAWES

KAITLYN LAWES

Age: 32 **Occupation:** Self-employed **Highlights:** Won Olympic gold as third for Canada's 2014 four-player team and '18 mixed doubles. Played third for Canada at 2011, '16 and '19 Hearts, Manitoba in '12, '13, '15 and '21, Wild Card in '20; won gold in '15, silver in '11 and '13, bronze in '12, '16 and '20. Won gold at 2018 worlds as third for Canada, silver in '15. Played in 2014 and '17 Canadian mixed doubles. Skipped Canada to bronze at 2008 world juniors, silver in '09

CONNOR LAWES

Age: 24 **Occupation:** Administrative clerk, Ontario Provincial Police **Highlights:** Played in 2014 Canadian mixed doubles. Played second for Northern Ontario at 2015 Canadian juniors

HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES **PLAYER PROFILES**

MARTIN/GRIFFITH

NUTANA CURLING CLUB, SASKATOON/KELOWNA CURLING CLUB



NANCY MARTIN



TYREL GRIFFITH

NANCY MARTIN

Age: 48 **Occupation:** Public servant **Highlights:** Played third for Saskatchewan at 2021 Hearts. Played in 2013, '14, '15, '16, '17, '18 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won silver in '13 and '19

TYREL GRIFFITH

Age: 35 **Occupation:** Golf operations manager/PGA of Canada golf professional (Black Mountain Golf Club) **Highlights:** Played second for British Columbia at 2012, '14, '15, '16, '17 and '19 Briers; won silver in '14. Won silver at 2019 Canadian mixed doubles. Skipped at 2005 and '06 Canadian juniors, played second in '02; won silver in '06

MEILLEUR/NICHOLS

PETERSFIELD CURLING CLUB/RE/MAX CENTRE, ST. JOHN'S CURLING CLUB



BRIANE MEILLEUR



MARK NICHOLS

BRIANE MEILLEUR

Age: 29 **Highlights:** Played lead for Manitoba at 2020, '21 Hearts and '19 Wild Card pre-qualifier; won gold in '20 and '21. Played third for Manitoba at 2010 and '11 Canadian juniors; won bronze in '11

MARK NICHOLS

Age: 41 **Occupation:** Owner/personal trainer, OrangeTheory Fitness **Highlights:** Won 2006 Olympic gold medal as third for Canada. Played third for N.L. at 2003, '04, '05, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '15, '16, '17 and '20 Briers, Canada in '18, '19 and '21, lead for Manitoba in '13, second in '14; won gold in '17, '18 and '20, silver in '07, '13 and '16, bronze in '11. Won gold at 2017 worlds, silver in '18. Won 2005 Canadian mixed as skip for N.L. Played in 2016 Canadian mixed doubles. Played third for N.L. at 1999, 2000 and '01 Canadian juniors; won gold in '01, silver in 2000. Won 2001 world juniors

MISKEW/FRY

OTTAWA CURLING CLUB/LEASIDE CURLING CLUB, TORONTO



EMMA MISKEW



RYAN FRY

EMMA MISKEW

Age: 32 **Occupation:** Industrial and graphic designer **Highlights:** Played third for Canada at 2018 Olympics. Played third for Ontario at 2011, '13, '17, '19, '20 and '21 Hearts, Canada in '14 and '15; won gold in '13, '14 and '17, silver in '19, '20 and '21, bronze in '15. Won bronze at 2013 worlds as third, silver in '14, gold in '17. Played in 2016 Canadian mixed doubles. Won silver at 2009 Canadian juniors as third for Ontario, gold in '10. Won silver at 2010 world juniors as third for Canada

RYAN FRY

Age: 42 **Occupation:** Curler **Highlights:** Won 2014 Olympic gold as third for Canada. Played third for Northern Ontario at 2013, '15, '16, '17, '18 and '19 Briers, second for N.L. in '09, '10 and '11, third in '12, third for Manitoba in '07, third for Ontario in '20 and '21; won gold in '13, silver in '15, bronze in '07, '11, '16 and '19. Played in 2016 and '17 Canadian mixed doubles. Skipped Manitoba at 1996 and '97 Canadian juniors; won silver in '96

NJEGOVAN/CARRUTHERS

EAST ST. PAUL CURLING CLUB/WEST ST. PAUL CURLING CLUB



SELENA NJEGOVAN



REID CARRUTHERS

SELENA NJEGOVAN

Age: 29 **Occupation:** Owner, Selena Njegovan Virtual Solutions **Highlights:** Played third for Manitoba at 2016 and '19 Hearts, Wild Card in '18 and '20 Wild Card pre-qualifier, Wild Card 1 in '21; won silver in '18. Won silver at 2012 Canadian juniors as fourth for Manitoba

REID CARRUTHERS

Age: 36 **Occupation:** Substitute teacher, Louis Riel School Division **Highlights:** Skipped Manitoba at 2015 and '18 Briers, played lead in '14, second in '11 and '13, third in '19, Wild Card in '20 and Wild Card 1 in '21; won gold in '11, silver in '13, bronze in '14. Won gold at 2011 worlds. Played in 2016, '17, '18 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won gold in '17, bronze in '18. Won silver at 2017 world mixed doubles. Skipped at 2008 Canadian mixed and '03 Canadian junior

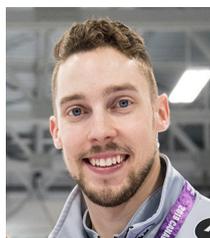
HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES **PLAYER PROFILES**

PETERMAN/GALLANT

ST. VITAL CURLING CLUB, WINNIPEG/RE/MAX CENTRE, ST. JOHN'S CURLING CLUB



JOCELYN PETERMAN



BRETT GALLANT

JOCELYN PETERMAN

Age: 27 **Occupation:** Curler **Highlights:** Played second for Alberta at 2016 Hearts, Canada in '17 and '19, Wild Card in '20 and '18 Wild Card pre-qualifier, Manitoba in '21; won gold in '16, bronze in '17 and '20. Played in 2014, '16, '18 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won gold in '16 and '19. Won silver at 2019 world mixed doubles for Canada. Won gold at 2012 Canadian juniors as skip for Alberta

BRETT GALLANT

Age: 31 **Occupation:** Curler **Highlights:** Played third for N.L. at 2013 and '14 Briers, second in '15, '16, '17 and '20, Canada in '18, '19 and '21; won gold in '17 and '18, silver in '16. Won gold at 2017 worlds, silver in '18. Won gold at 2016 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles. Won silver at 2019 world mixed doubles. Skipped P.E.I. at 2012 Canadian mixed. Skipped P.E.I. at 2004, '06, '07, '08, '09 and '10 Canadian juniors; won gold in '09, silver in '07. Won silver at 2009 world juniors

SAHAIDAK/LOTT

WINNIPEG BEACH CURLING CLUB, MANITOBA



KADRIANA SAHAIDAK



COLTON LOTT

KADRIANA SAHAIDAK

Age: 21 **Occupation:** Optometric Assistant, Oakley Vision Centre **Highlights:** Played in 2018 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won silver in '18, bronze in '19

COLTON LOTT

Age: 25 **Occupation:** Carpenter, Open Country Carpentry **Highlights:** Played in 2018 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won silver in '18, bronze in '19. Played third for Manitoba at 2012, '13 and '16 Canadian juniors; won gold in '13 and '16. Won bronze as Canada third at 2013 and '16 world juniors

SAUDER/BOTTCHER

SAVILLE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE, EDMONTON



BOBBIE SAUDER



BRENDAN BOTTCHER

BOBBIE SAUDER

Age: 44 **Occupation:** Realtor, eXp Realty **Highlights:** Competed at 2019 Canadian mixed doubles

BRENDAN BOTTCHER

Age: 29 **Occupation:** Application specialist, Spartan Controls Limited **Highlights:** Skipped Alberta at 2017, '18, '20 and '21 Briers, Wild Card in '19; won silver in '18, '19 and '20. Played in 2017 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles. Skipped Alberta at 2010 and '12 Canadian juniors; won gold in '12. Won gold at 2012 world juniors

SCHMIEMANN/MORRIS

SAVILLE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE, EDMONTON/CANMORE GOLF & CURLING CLUB



DANIELLE SCHMIEMANN



JOHN MORRIS

DANIELLE SCHMIEMANN

Age: 24 **Occupation:** Acupuncture student, MacEwan University **Highlights:** Played in 2017 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles. Won gold as third for Alberta at 2015 Canadian juniors. Won gold as Canada third at 2015 world juniors.

JOHN MORRIS

Age: 42 **Occupation:** Firefighter, Chestermere and Rockyview Fire County Service **Highlights:** Won Olympic gold as third for Canada's 2010 four-player team and '18 mixed doubles. Skipped

Ontario at 2002 Brier, third for Alberta in '07, '08, '09, '11 and '13, skipped British Columbia (third rocks) in 2014 and '17, skip/third for Canada in '15, third in '16, second for Wild Card 2 in '21; won gold in '08, '09, '15, silver in '02, '15. Won gold at 2008 worlds, silver in '09, bronze in '15. Played in 2014, '17 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won silver in '17, bronze in '14. Skipped Ontario at 1997, '98 and '99 Canadian juniors; won gold in '98 and '99, silver in '97. Won gold at 1998 and '99 world juniors

COACH: Al Hackner

HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES **PLAYER PROFILES**

SWEETING/KENNEDY

SAVILLE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE, EDMONTON



VAL SWEETING



MARC KENNEDY

VAL SWEETING

Age: 33 **Occupation:** Case processing agent, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada
Highlights: Skipped Alberta at 2010, '14 and '15 Hearts, third for Manitoba in '20 and '19 Wild Card pre-qualifier and Canada in '21; won gold in '20 and '21, silver in '14 and '15. Played in 2018 Canadian mixed doubles. Played third for Saskatchewan at 2007 Canadian juniors

MARC KENNEDY

Age: 39 **Occupation:** Played second for Canada at 2010 Olympics and second in '18; won gold in '10. Played third for Alberta at 2015 and '16 Briers, second in '07, '08, '09, '11 and '13, third for Canada in '17, third for Northern Ontario in '20 and '21; won gold in '08, '09 and '16, silver in '17. Won gold at 2008 and '16 worlds, silver in '09. Played second at 1998 Canadian juniors, third in '99 and 2001; won silver in '98

TUCK/TUCK

ST. THOMAS CURLING CLUB



KIM TUCK



WAYNE TUCK

KIM TUCK

Age: 46 **Occupation:** Sales & marketing, Canada Curling Stone Co. **Highlights:** Played in 2014, '15, '16, '17, '18 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won gold in '14. Played third for Ontario at 2002, '09, '17, '19 and '20 Canadian mixed; won bronze in '02 and '17, silver in '09

WAYNE TUCK

Age: 44 **Occupation:** Curling stone technician, Canada Curling Stone Co. **Highlights:** Played in 2014, '15, '16, '17, '18 and '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won gold in '14. Skipped Ontario at 2002, '09, '17, '19 and '20 Canadian mixed; won bronze in '02 and '17, silver in '09

WALKER/MYRES

SAVILLE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE, EDMONTON/HIGHLAND CURLING CLUB, REGINA



LAURA WALKER



KIRK MUYRES

LAURA WALKER

Age: 30 **Occupation:** Mortgage broker, Mortgage Design Group **Highlights:** Skipped Alberta at 2020 and '21 Hearts; won bronze in '21. Won gold at 2018 Canadian mixed doubles, silver in '16, bronze in '19. Won bronze for Canada at 2018 world mixed doubles. Played second for Ontario at 2010 and '11 Canadian juniors; won gold in '11. Won silver at 2011 world juniors as second for Canada

KIRK MUYRES

Age: 30 **Occupation:** Mortgage broker, Kirk Muyres Mortgages **Highlights:** Skipped Saskatchewan at 2019 Brier, played third in '14, '15 and '16, second in '21; won bronze in '15. Played in 2018, '19 Canadian mixed doubles; won gold in '18, bronze in '19. Won bronze at 2018 world mixed doubles. Won gold at 2011 Canadian juniors as third

WEAGLE/EPPING

OTTAWA CURLING CLUB/LEASIDE CURLING CLUB, TORONTO



LISA WEAGLE



JOHN EPPING

LISA WEAGLE

Age: 36 **Occupation:** Curler **Highlights:** Played lead for Canada at 2018 Olympics. Played lead for Ontario at 2011, '13, '17, '19 and '20 Hearts, Canada in '14 and '15, Manitoba in '21; won gold in '13, '14 and '17, silver in '19 and '20, bronze in '15. Won bronze at 2013 worlds as lead, silver in '14, gold in '17. Played in 2016 and '17 Canadian mixed doubles

JOHN EPPING

Age: 38 **Occupation:** Consultant, Epping Consulting **Highlights:** Skipped Ontario at 2018, '20, '21 Briers and '19 Wild Card pre-qualifier. Played in 2016, '17 and '18 Canadian mixed doubles. Skipped at 2006 and '07 Canadian mixed; won gold in '06. Skipped at 2004 Canadian juniors

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HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES OFFICIAL DRAW



DATE	DRAW	LOCAL TIME	ET TIME	SHEET A	SHEET B	SHEET C	SHEET D
Thursday, March 18	1	8:30 am	10:30 am	S/L vs G/J	C/M vs P/G	D/D vs J/L	YT vs E/G
	2	11:30 am	1:30 pm	M/N vs N/C	PE vs M/G	M/F vs B/S	S/K vs S/B
	3	2:30 pm	4:30 pm		H/T vs W/E	S/M vs NL	NO vs L/L
	4	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	C/M vs NU	AB vs NB	ON vs QC	D/D vs T/T
	5	8:30 pm	10:30 pm	PE vs W/M	BC vs K/K	NS vs NT	M/F vs MB
Friday, March 19	6	8:30 am	10:30 am	W/E vs SK	B/S vs S/B		NL vs H/T
	7	11:30 am	1:30 pm	J/L vs E/G	ON vs YT	P/G vs G/J	M/G vs N/C
	8	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	D/D vs QC	S/M vs L/L	AB vs S/L	C/M vs NB
	9	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	M/F vs NT	NS vs S/K	BC vs M/N	PE vs K/K
	10	8:30 pm	10:30 pm	YT vs J/L	G/J vs NU	E/G vs T/T	
Saturday, March 20	11	8:30 am	10:30 am	S/M vs NO	NL vs SK	L/L vs H/T	S/L vs P/G
	12	11:30 am	1:30 pm	S/K vs B/S	N/C vs W/M	S/B vs MB	M/N vs M/G
	13	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	E/G vs ON	QC vs T/T	NB vs NU	G/J vs AB
	14	5:30 pm	7:30 pm		W/E vs S/M	NL vs NO	H/T vs SK
	15	8:30 pm	10:30 pm	S/B vs NS	NT vs MB	K/K vs W/M	N/C vs BC
Sunday, March 21	16	8:30 am	10:30 am	NU vs AB	S/L vs C/M	YT vs D/D	J/L vs QC
	17	11:30 am	1:30 pm	M/G vs K/K	M/N vs PE	S/K vs M/F	B/S vs NT
	18	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	NO vs H/T	E/G vs D/D	SK vs L/L	W/E vs NL
	19	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	P/G vs NB		G/J vs C/M	T/T vs ON
	20	8:30 pm	10:30 pm	W/M vs BC	S/B vs M/F	N/C vs PE	MB vs NS
Monday, March 22	21	8:30 am	10:30 am	T/T vs YT	P/G vs AB	J/L vs ON	NU vs S/L
	22	11:30 am	1:30 pm	L/L vs NL		NO vs W/E	W/M vs M/N
	23	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	MB vs S/K	M/G vs BC	B/S vs NS	SK vs S/M
	24	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	ON vs D/D	NB vs G/J	QC vs E/G	AB vs C/M
	25	8:30 pm	10:30 pm	NS vs M/F	K/K vs N/C	NT vs S/B	BC vs PE
Tuesday, March 23	26	8:30 am	10:30 am		SK vs NO	H/T vs S/M	L/L vs W/E
	27	11:30 am	1:30 pm	NB vs S/L	T/T vs J/L	NU vs P/G	QC vs YT
	28	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	K/K vs M/N	MB vs B/S	W/M vs M/G	NT vs S/K
	Round of 16	6:30 pm	8:30 pm	5 th vs 12 th	6 th vs 11 th	7 th vs 10 th	8 th vs 9 th
Wednesday, March 24	Qualifying Round	10:30 am	12:30 pm	2 nd vs W of 7 th vs 10 th	1 st vs W of 8 th vs 9 th	3 rd vs W th of 6 vs 11 th	4 th vs W of 5 th vs 12 th
	Page Seedings	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	W of 2 nd vs W of 3 rd		W of 1 st vs W of 4 th	
	Page Games	6:30 pm	8:30 pm	Page 3 vs Page 4		Page 1 vs Page 2	
Thursday, March 25	Semifinal	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	L Page 1/2 vs W Page 3/4			
	Final	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	W Page 1/2 vs W of SF			

POOL A

Peterman/Gallant
Dale/Van Strien (NU)
Sahaidak/Lott
Adams/Robichaud (NB)
Grandy/Janssen
Tran/Sluchinski (AB)
Courtney/Moulding

POOL B

Jones/Laing
Tuck/Tuck
St-Georges/Asselin (QC)
Einaron/Gushue
Wasylkiw/Konings (ON)
Desjardins/Desjardins
Scoffin/Scoffin (YT)

POOL C

Martin/Griffith
Walker/Muyres
Meilleur/Nichols
Kitz/Kleibrink
Njegovan/Carruthers
Jackson-Baier/Chester (BC)
MacFayden/MacFayden (PE)

POOL D

Birchard/Schneider
Karwacki/Samagalski (MB)
Sweeting/Kennedy
King/King (NT)
Sauder/Bottcher
Jones/Everist (NS)
Miskew/Fry

POOL E

Won/Bonot (NO)
Quick/Armstrong (SK)
Lawes/Lawes
Weagle/Epping
Hawes/Tardi
Schmiemann/Morris
Mitchell/Smith (NL)

HOME HARDWARE CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES PLAYOFF BRACKET



PLAYOFF RANKING

Winners of Pools A through E ranked 1 through 5

How to determine the winner of Pools A through E winners

- 1) Win-Loss record
- 2) If two teams tied, head to head results
- 3) If tiebreaking formula cannot be solved by #2; last stone draw ranking used to break tie

How to rank teams #1 through #5 from different pools

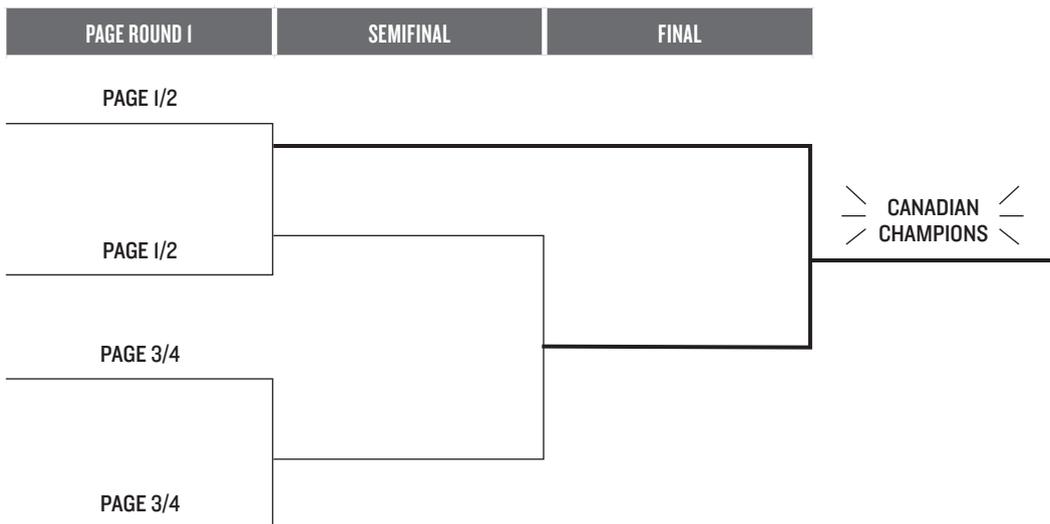
- 1) Win-Loss record
- 2) Teams with same win-loss record; last stone draw ranking used to break tie

Playoff ranking of teams 6 through 12

Determined by the next 7 best records, regardless of Pool

Tiebreaking formula (Note - NO TIEBREAKERS)

- 1) Win-Loss record
- 2) Teams with same win-loss record; last stone draw ranking used to break tie



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CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES RECORDS & STATISTICS



Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant were an instant hit in 2016.



First-time winners 2013: Isabelle Néron and Robert Desjardins.

Most appearances

- 7 – Dustin Kalthoff of Saskatoon in 2013, '14, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19
- 7 – Nancy Martin of Saskatoon in 2013, '14, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19
- 6 – Robert Desjardins of Chicoutimi, Que., in 2013, '14, '16, '17, '18, '19
- 6 – Kim Tuck of Strathroy, Ont., in 2014, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19
- 6 – Wayne Tuck of Strathroy, Ont., in 2014, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19
- 5 – Mike Armstrong of Regina in 2013, '14, '15, '16, '17
- 5 – Sherry Just of Prince Albert, Sask., in 2015, '16, '17, '18, '19
- 5 – Kalynn Park of Edmonton in 2014, '15, '16, '17, '18
- 5 – Ashley Quick of Saskatoon in 2013, '14, '15, '16, '17
- 5 – Bob Smallwood of Whitehorse in 2013, '14, '15, '16, '18
- 5 – Jody Smallwood of Whitehorse in 2013, '14, '15, '16, '18
- 5 – Charley Thomas of Calgary in 2014, '15, '16, '17, '18
- 4 – Reid Carruthers of Winnipeg in 2016, '17, '18, '19
- 4 – Katie Cottrill of Belgrave, Ont., in 2016, '17, '18, '19
- 4 – Shawn Cottrill of Belgrave, Ont., in 2016, '17, '18, '19
- 4 – Émilie Desjardins of Chicoutimi, Que., in 2016, '17, '18, '19
- 4 – Hugh Murphy of Mississauga, Ont., in 2015, '16, '17, '18

- 4 – Janet Murphy of Mississauga, Ont., in 2015, '16, '17, '18
- 4 – Jocelyn Peterman of Calgary in 2014, '16; of Winnipeg in '18, '19

Highest score, one team

- Jenna Loder/Josh Heidt, 15, vs. Marta Moir/Ian Moir, 5, in 2013
- Bobbie Sauder/Brendan Bottcher, 15, vs. Charmaine Thom/Greg Thom, 0, in 2019
- Melissa Gordon/Kyle Kurz, 15, vs. Kira Brunton/Tom Leonard, 1, in 2019

Lowest score, one team

- Caroline Boily/Daniel Grégoire, 0, vs. Clancy Grandy/Patrick Janssen, 8, in 2014
- Lauren Wasylkiw/Cory Ewart, 0, vs. Colleen Hannah/Bryan Kedziora, 12, in 2014
- Patty Wallingham/Robbie Doherty, 0, vs. Sarah Potts/Jordan Potts, 11, in 2015
- Mallory Kean/Mark Kean, 0, vs. Jennifer Jones/Brent Laing, 9, in 2017
- Sabrina Smith/Kyle Holland, 0, vs. Rachel Homan/John Morris, 12, in 2017
- Jennifer Baxter/Mark Dacey, 0, vs. Joanne Courtney/Reid Carruthers, 6, in 2017
- Lauren Ferguson/Calvin Smith, 0, vs. Marliese Kasner/Dustin Kalthoff, 11, in 2018
- Charmaine Thom/Greg Thom, 0, vs. Bobbie Sauder/Brendan Bottcher, 15, in 2019
- Charmaine Thom/Greg Thom, 0, vs. Shannon Birchard/Catlin Schneider, 11, in 2019
- Sophie Morissette/Pierre-Luc Morissette, 0, vs. Jill de Gooijer/Garret Springer, 4, in 2019
- Charmaine Thom/Greg Thom, 0, vs. Leah Thompson/Charlie Sullivan, 11, in 2019

Highest score, two teams combined

- 24 – Lauren Mann/Don Bowser, 14, vs. Kim Tuck/Wayne Tuck, 10, in 2015

Lowest score, two teams combined

- 4 – Jill de Gooijer/Garret Springer, 4, vs. Sophie Morissette/Pierre-Luc Morissette, 0, in 2019

Highest single-end score

- 6 – Jody Smallwood/Bob Smallwood vs. Colleen Ackerman/Jason Ackerman in 2013; Kalynn Park/Charley Thomas vs. Leah Thompson/Ryan Freeze in 2014; Chantal Lalonde/Connor Duhaime vs. Shannon Kee/Chris Jay in 2014; Ashley Quick/Mike Armstrong vs. Jody Smallwood/Bob Smallwood in 2014; Heather Smith/John Morris vs. Mallory Buist/Mark Kean in 2014; Carly Howard/Glenn Howard vs. Sheena Moore/Tony Moore in 2015; Dawn McEwen/Mike McEwen vs. Michelle Kruk/Jason Gunnlaugson in 2016; Jocelyn Peterman/Brett Gallant vs. Emma Miskew/Ryan Fry in 2016; Joanne Courtney/Reid Carruthers vs. Helen Strong/Wade Scoffin in 2017; Danielle Schmiemann/Jason Ginter vs. Karen Pigeau/Dean Pigeau in 2017; Nancy Martin/Tyrel Griffith vs. Jenna Harvey/Davis Thomas in 2019

Most extra-end games, one event

- 13 – 2013

Fewest extra-end games, one event

- 5 – 2017



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Biggest comeback, one game

- 5 — Marie Christiansen/Adam Casey vs. Jody Smallwood/Bob Smallwood in 2014. Down 6-1 after five ends, Christiansen/Casey win 9-6 in eight ends.
- 5 — Chantal Lalonde/Connor Duhaime vs. Shannon Kee/Chris Jay in 2014. Down 5-0 after two ends, Lalonde/Duhaime win 13-5 in seven ends.
- 5 — Tess Bobbie/Scott Howard vs. Mary-Anne Arsenault/Tom Sullivan in 2014. Down 6-1 after five ends, Bobbie/Howard win 9-8 in eight ends.

- 5 — Rachelle Vink/Travis Fanset vs. Clancy Grandy/Patrick Janssen in 2014. Down 7-2 after five ends, Vink/Fanset win 9-8 in eight ends.
- 5 — Lauren Mann/Don Bowser vs. Kim Tuck/Wayne Tuck in 2015. Down 7-2 after four ends, Mann/Bowser win 14-10 in nine ends.
- 5 — Katie Cottrill/Shawn Cottrill vs. Ashley Groff/Kyle Doering in 2019. Down 5-0 after four ends, Cottrill/Cottrill win 8-5 in seven ends.

Undefeated records

Joanne Courtney/Reid Carruthers — 10-0 in 2017

Two-time winners

Brett Gallant of St. John's, N.L., in 2016, '19
Jocelyn Peterman of Calgary in 2016;
of Winnipeg in '19

Most games

52 — Nancy Martin of Saskatoon

Most wins

37 — Charley Thomas of Calgary
37 — Kalynn Park of Edmonton

Top records

10-0 — Joanne Courtney/Reid Carruthers in 2017
10-1 — Jocelyn Peterman/Brett Gallant in 2019
9-1 — Laura Crocker/Kirk Muyres in 2018
9-1 — Jocelyn Peterman/Brett Gallant in 2016
9-1 — Kalynn Park/Charley Thomas in 2015
9-1 — Kim Tuck/Wayne Tuck in 2014
9-2 — Nancy Martin/Dustin Kalthoff in 2013

Championships hosted (including 2021)

	NUMBER	LATEST
Alberta	3	2021
Saskatchewan	2	2017
Ontario	2	2015
New Brunswick	1	2019

Canadian Mixed Doubles Champions

2020	N/A
2019	Jocelyn Peterman, Brett Gallant
2018	Laura Crocker, Kirk Muyres
2017	Joanne Courtney, Reid Carruthers
2016	Jocelyn Peterman, Brett Gallant
2015	Kalynn Park, Charley Thomas
2014	Kim Tuck, Wayne Tuck
2013	Isabelle Néron, Robert Desjardins

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ON THE ROCKS

BY AL CAMERON

MANY TIMES OVER THE PAST 11 MONTHS, I'VE found myself reflecting on what has to be described as the most unique — and, yes, scary — period in the history of curling.

I think back now to the last live curling event I attended, the gold-medal game of the 2020 Tim Hortons Brier at the sold-out Leon's Centre in Kingston, Ont., where Brad Gushue added another page to his Hall of Fame-worthy book of accomplishments.

And then I think that just five days later, I was stepping off a plane in Prince George, B.C., just minutes before the World Curling Federation announced the cancellation of the 2020 World Women's Championship.

That started us on the path that brings us to Calgary and a lengthy stay inside the bubble, where we will keep athletes and staff safe, and also keep our amazing host city safe at the same time.

That path, as you all know, had some significant twists and turns — first, second and third waves, raised and then dashed hopes, and, one might hope as we stage these bubble events, a tantalizing glimpse at the light at the end of the COVID tunnel as vaccinations start having an effect.

So, yes, there was a significant amount of work done by my Curling Canada colleagues, as well as our dedicated partners at the provincial and territorial Member associations, to make the Calgary bubble possible.

But I have to admit — I'm tired of looking back. The past 11 months have been, in a word, a bummer. A drag. And, too often, tragic. I'm done with thinking about it, and I'm sure you are, too.

So instead, let's think forward to this time next year.

We'll be arriving in Thunder Bay, Ont., getting ready for the 2022 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, and knowing that it will be a Scotties for the ages, on and off the ice.

Not long after that, we'll be heading back west to Lethbridge, Alta., and the 2022 Tim Hortons Brier. Upon reflection, I've probably seen more national and world championship-level curling games at the ENMAX Centre in Lethbridge than any other building in the world, and it makes me excited to know I'll be returning in 13 months' time to that great city.

Meanwhile, we will be savouring fond memories of the first major championships of the 2021-22 season — the Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings, presented by

AGI, in Saskatoon, followed by the Canadian Mixed Doubles Trials.

And, oh yes, around a year from now, we'll be anticipating the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, and looking forward a few weeks later to the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Paralympics.

Ideally, there will be four Canadian teams (men's, women's and mixed doubles at the Olympics, wheelchair curling at the Paralympics) chasing gold in Beijing.

We'll be waving our Maple Leaf flags, wearing our Team Canada T-shirts, and cheering every shot at the repurposed Ice Cube arena.

A year from now, curling clubs will have been opened for a couple months, and bursting at the seams, as curlers across Canada make their long-awaited return to the ice, and, yes, the lounge.

And, thanks to the success of programs such as Egg Farmers Rocks & Rings, presented by Curling Canada, and Hit Draw Tap, presented by Tim Hortons, as well as the introduction of new competitions that focus on the Under-15 age group, youth participation will continue to increase.

New styles of play such as singles and triples (you can't call mixed doubles new anymore!) will be embraced at the club level, giving curlers the chance to enjoy our game in ways they never thought possible.

Twelve months down the road, we'll be able to reflect on all the good things that were accomplished during the pandemic — the way communities rallied behind front-line health workers and first responders who put themselves in harm's way, regardless of the risks.

And 12 months from now, we may even be shaking an opponent's hand after an extra-end tussle in the Monday night open league, and heading upstairs for a round.

So, yes, please enjoy these next two months of curling in the Calgary bubble. Raise a toast to all of the people who made it possible. Salute the athletes and coaches who made the sacrifices to be here. Tweet a public 'thank you' or two to @TSNcurling for their work behind the scenes to broadcast the bubble events.

And then sit back, relax, and breathe a sigh of relief. We're gonna get through this. See you at the rink next season.

Al Cameron is Curling Canada's director of communication and media relations

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PLANNING FOR LIFE IN A BUBBLE A 'HERCULEAN' TASK

Curling Canada faced unprecedented challenges organizing safe, secure championships in midst of a pandemic

BY SCOTT CRUICKSHANK

Curling Canada knows the well-grooved winter routine by now.

The sports federation's representatives, capable and keen, waded into the competitive curling schedule and roll up their sleeves. It's a task that is cross-country and considerable and complicated, but wholly do-able as they manage to prove annually.

"We have a staff, a pretty extensive staff, that puts on probably 19 events a year," says Katherine Henderson, CEO of Curling Canada. "We're like the travelling circus — we go coast to coast. We are doing Briers and Scotties and Canada Cups and Olympic-level things and juniors and seniors and mixed. We're



all over the place. But we've got people who are very experienced in doing things a very particular way.

"We parachute in. We know exactly what it is we need to do."

Which, without fail, the organization does year in and year out, much to the delight of the country's appreciative fans.

But this upcoming 2021 undertaking?

"Without hyperbole," Henderson says, "this is Herculean." Because, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Curling Canada intends to showcase its premier events — and elite athletes — by presenting them in one bubble in Calgary.

The international-sized ice surface that will be used at the Markin MacPhail Centre at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park will be a bonus. It buys extra room on the walkways between sheets.

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Lined up for the Markin MacPhail Centre at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park:

- Scotties Tournament of Hearts, Feb. 19-28.
- Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, March 5-14.
- Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship, March 18-25.
- BKT Tires & OK Tier World Men's Championship, presented by New Holland, April 2-11.

Looks straightforward, doesn't it? Book the sheets, make the ice, build the draws, polish the rocks, turn on the cameras.

But don't be misled. This is a new beast to wrangle for Curling Canada, an unprecedented challenge in unprecedented times.

"There's no template," says Henderson. "Just putting on this set of events is probably harder work than what we traditionally do. And there's an intense level of scrutiny as well.

"Every single thing that we do, we have what we think is going to happen: here's Plan B, here's Plan C, here's Plan D, here's Plan E. And you have to go through each one of those things very thoroughly.

"You can't make it up as you go along."

Curling Canada devoted countless hours to drafting pages and pages of appropriate protocols, detailing every contingency, from transportation to bubble entry, from mask-wearing to temperature-monitoring, from test-taking to participant-quarantining.

"It's based on public health ... on best practices," says Henderson. "All the professional sports to date have shown that you can deliver the games with competitive integrity that's safe for the athletes and doesn't impact the public health."

And, in case anyone doubted Curling Canada's sincerity, consequences for ignoring in-bubble regulations are severe — immediate disqualification, loss of national-team funding. And? Suspensions that may even include the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing.

A recent media report outlined the governing body's stiff punishment. Curiosity piqued, Henderson couldn't help herself, so she scrolled to the reader comments.

"To see what the general public's reaction was," says Henderson. "It was so positive — 'Good for Curling Canada.' We were sort of worried about looking like authoritarian ogres. That's not the intent. The intent is to provide a super-clean playing experience for all the athletes. We can't compromise that, and we won't compromise it."

Those in the field of play — players, officials, ice-makers, select media rights holders — are under the strictest of orders. Considered to be part of the 'Green Zone', which is the tightest of three designated bubble grades, these folks will number up to 145 for each of the four events.

"We took over a whole hotel for the entire time — just curling people at this hotel," says Nolan Thiessen, director, broadcast, marketing, innovation and event presentation and athlete liaison for Curling Canada. "There's a parking lot that is only for Green Zone athletes. There's an entrance that's only for Green Zone athletes and officials (and ice-makers) ... that leads straight out onto the ice."

Legwork in the lead-up had been substantial.



CEO Katherine Henderson says Curling Canada devoted countless hours to drafting pages of appropriate protocols to assure curlers will be safe inside the bubble.

After all, it's one thing to brainstorm a bunch of restrictions during a series of Zoom calls, but it's quite another to put them into practice.

"We'd say, 'OK, how do we logistically make this possible?'" says Thiessen. "On paper, we can say that only field-of-play athletes and officials are allowed in this area, but what does that mean for the building? We have to set up the building so people aren't crossing paths."

One bonus is the international-sized ice surface that will be used. Fifteen feet wider than a typical rink, it buys extra room on the walkways between sheets.

The nature of the sport itself helps, too. It's not football.

"It's much easier to do physical distancing in curling ... you're not going to have that face-to-face physical contact that you would when an offensive tackle and a defensive end engage," says Dr. Bob McCormack, the Canadian Olympic Committee's medical director consulted by Curling Canada. "But there's longer exposure in curling. If you're working hard with the broom, breathing hard, and you're right beside someone else, there's a more sustained contact. Every sport, indeed, is a little bit different."

No matter the athletic pursuit, one of the keys to safety is the non-negotiable implementation of masks.

Officials, ice-makers, field-of-play television crew and non-competing teams (including alternates and coaches) must put on face coverings. Competing on-ice teams are not required to wear masks, but they can.

The hub-city approach, as everyone knows by now, works.

"Without impacting the public health, that's an important part of this," says McCormack. "Not only keeping our own athletes and support staff healthy, but making sure we don't cause a super-spreader event or an outbreak that stresses the local health resources."

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“We’ve taken what professional leagues that are many, many, many millions of dollars bigger than we are, and have so much more capacity ... what our group has been able to achieve, it’s pretty mind-boggling.”

Curling Canada created a checklist to find a city that could best provide the bubble and found it in Calgary. It provides the perfect cocktail of amenities, including the very modern Markin MacPhail Centre, situated close to a hotel used exclusively by the curlers and officials.

The NBA, because of the coronavirus outbreak, shut down March 11, 2020. The NHL followed suit the next day.

The World Women’s Curling Championship, ready to open in Prince George, B.C., that weekend, was cancelled.

“We weren’t sure if things were going to end or what was going to happen,” says Henderson. “The very beginning of the pandemic was spent really trying to understand the potential impact to the system rather than the events.”

Soon, though, the NHL and NBA were making public their intentions to resume play in bubbles, by restricting competitors, officials and team staffers to hubs.

Everything was being considered by Curling Canada, including putting everything on hold until the arrival of a vaccine. That plan, however, would put into jeopardy this year’s Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings Olympic Trials, Nov. 27 to Dec. 5, in Saskatoon.

“So for anything to happen in February, March, April of 2021... the only way is if we planned to do it in a bubble with no fans,” says Thiessen. “That ended up being our Scenario C, D, or E. Then it ended up being our only scenario.”

For potential sites, Curling Canada created a checklist, including items such as proximity to an international airport, availability of ice and nearby hotels.

“Calgary was really the perfect cocktail of the right things to make this a very, very good hub city,” says Henderson, noting the productive partnership with the Alberta government, the City of Calgary, Calgary Tourism, and WinSport. “That group of people really coalesced beautifully together.”

Next, Curling Canada began to engage with local public-health officials. How could this be pulled off? Consulted, too, were the stars.

“We really needed to have those personal, deep, intimate conversations with players,” says Henderson. “Were they eager to

play? Was this important to them? What are you worried about? Would you feel comfortable if we did this? What would make you uncomfortable? What are your no-go areas?”

“We found the athlete input really important.”

The undertaking is significant. In addition to Herculean, Henderson describes it as “intense.” For obvious reasons, the stakes, she says, are “higher.”

And Curling Canada, Henderson assures, is prepared.

“You really are having to take responsibility for health and safety of a huge group of people,” she says. “While we have concussion protocols and safety protocols, you’re not really doing it in the middle of a pandemic. It creates uncertainty and scrutiny and pressure.

“We’ve taken what professional leagues that are many, many, many millions of dollars bigger than we are, and have so much more capacity ... what our group has been able to achieve, it’s pretty mind-boggling.

“I’m super-proud of the work that they’ve done. It’s unbelievably well thought-through.”

Curling Canada points appreciatively to the work of the NHL and its Stanley Cup bubble. Noted, too, is the success of the World Junior Hockey Championship hubs in Red Deer and Edmonton.

“They did have hiccups at the very beginning,” says Henderson. “But what they really showed us, if you do the responsible right thing early on, bubbles are safe. You can keep the general public safe. Lots of integrity and they kept everyone safe.

“That really encouraged us that we’d be able to do the same thing, that you can pull this off.”

Scott Cruickshank is a Calgary-based freelance writer



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Manitoba's Kerri Einarson won last season's Scotties Tournament of Hearts at Mosaic Place in Moose Jaw, but it wasn't easy. She needed a draw to the four-foot with her final rock of an extra end to defeat Ontario's Rachel Homan 8-7. She defended her title this year in Calgary and will represent Canada at the world women's championship.

PHOTO: ANDREW KLAVER © KRUGER PRODUCTS

NO CHEERING, NO PATCH, NO MATTER CURLING IS BACK!

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

Game's best players thrilled to be back on ice, despite pandemic protocols

Out at Camp Morton Provincial Park, perched on the western shore of Lake Winnipeg, roughly six kilometres north of Gimli, Man., Kerri Einarson has adapted.

That's where the reigning Canadian Scotties Tournament of Hearts champion resides with her husband and two children. Her parents recently built a house by the lake itself, only a stone's throw away.

Throwing stones is, of course, something Einarson has more than a passing interest in.

"Our friends in Camp Morton," she reports delightedly, "actually made a curling rink for me, right there on the lake. Then my dad drilled a two-by-four into the ice to use as a hack, to push off from.

"I've got a few sets of stones. I actually was out there the other day and it felt good. Weather's been good, too.

"Trying to kind of get in a few reps. Make it at least seem like curling.

"Probably not the best curl in the ice, I'll grant you, but..."

But in extraordinary times, you adjust, you improvise, as best possible. Even — no, especially — during a pandemic.

Only a year has passed since the dramatic and redemptive 11th-end draw to the four-foot ring against two Rachel Homan rocks provided Einarson, vice-skip Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard and lead Briane Meilleur with a pulsating 8-7 national title-claiming victory in Moose Jaw, Sask.

The feel of the COVID-19 bubble/hub at Markin MacPhail Centre at Canada Olympic Park when the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts gets underway on Feb. 19 in Calgary is going to feel decidedly different than the one inside Moose Jaw's Mosaic Place, though.

There will be no competitive prep time to fine tune.



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Since 2018, more than \$2.4 million was distributed through the Community Gaming Grants program to support curling clubs throughout B.C.



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No cowbells. No gasping. No cheering. No (silent and not-so-silent) cursing. No Patch.

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Curling is back.

The Scotties is scheduled to be followed at the Markin MacPhail facility by the Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, March 6-14, the Home Hardware Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship, March 18-25, and the BKT Tires and OK Tire World Men's Championship, April 3-11, as the curling fraternity launches itself back into a state of semi-normalcy.

"Oh, it's going to be different," Einarson acknowledges. "We're going to have to adjust to not having any fans or friends or families out there watching us. But safety is the first priority.

"Just the excitement of being able to curl again — being together again and doing what we love — will light a fire."

That fire, such a part of the competitive DNA in athletes, is what they've been missing these past several months.

"I like to think I have kind of an idea of how the bubble's going to work," reckons Ontario Brier skip John Epping out of Toronto. "It's going to be pretty simple: hotel to rink, rink to hotel.

Brad Jacobs, skip of the 2014 Olympic gold-medal winners, says curling is a big part of his life and he was thrilled to get back on the ice for this year's Tim Hortons Brier, even though it meant playing inside a bubble with strict protocols.



PHOTO: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

"One thing Curling Canada, TSN and Rogers Sportsnet have going for them is that this format has already been done by the NHL, the NBA, other leagues and tournaments so they'll be able to learn from them and see that this bubble happens safely. I do feel very confident in that, and in our peers, too. A lot of people I'm going to see in the bubble I've known for years. You trust in each other to show up, follow the rules, follow the protocols to be sure that this event happens safely.

"The only thing that's different for us is maybe going out to restaurants between games. But it's not as if we go all over town doing a bunch of sightseeing anyway.

"We're there to to curl."

The challenges of such a unique situation presented the past months — the stops and starts, wild, emotional swings, Zoom calls, in-home conditioning — have made things "look different" for Emma Miskew, vice-skip of Homan's lavishly decorated Ontario team. "That's okay. We realize that everybody's dealing with something. Not only athletes.

"We know what the weeks leading in are going to look like: self isolate, stay home. We need a test before leaving and once after we get there, head straight to testing. So we know. We're getting good information on everything.

"Once we're there it's pretty locked down until everybody's had their tests. So it seems they're taking every possible precaution. Until then, you can't control everything. We still need to go get groceries and do the everyday things of life, but we need to minimize exposure. That's a top priority. Curling Canada, the organizers, can only do so much at their end.

"The fact that all this hard work has gone on behind the scenes to allow competition at all is really exciting. There's a lot of gratitude.

"It's all we've talked about for the last couple of months."

Teams are, naturally, starting these events on even terms. Competitive rust will be a common theme. By mid-January, for example, Epping hadn't thrown a rock for more than two months.

"We're also trying to do our workouts as best we can from home," he says. "We've all set up makeshift gyms to keep the body in shape. That's one thing we can't talk about going into the bubble — fatigue. Usually by the time a Brier rolls around we're 20 events in and the body's feeling it.

"Still, you can train at home in a gym but until you play two games in a day and sweep for 20 ends ... it's just different, the recovery.

"The front ends, especially, are going to be impacted. There's a chance of playing three games

Janelle epitomizes the true meaning of a curling club volunteer in a small community. Originally serving as a Dawson Creek Curling club participant and junior curling instructor, Janelle moved into her role as club Board member playing an integral role in implementing the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.



Nancy has devoted countless hours to the community of Osoyoos, serving in numerous capacities for more than 10 years. Despite team curling being paused due to COVID-19, Nancy ensures members are able to reserve safe practice time to sharpen their skills in preparation for re-opening.



Derrell is the president of the Armstrong Curling Club Senior Leagues. With his master of detail and dedication to keeping his fellow curlers safe, Derrell has played an integral part in keeping the club curling during this COVID-19 period.



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“I want to curl. I want curling on TV. I want our supporters and our fans across the country to be able to enjoy this during the pandemic. I know that a lot of people are going through curling withdrawal. In Ontario, a lot of clubs haven’t opened their doors for months. A lot of people are starving for curling.”



PHOTO: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Ontario skip John Epping felt confident going into the Tim Hortons Brier that the bubble environment would be safe and he trusted his fellow competitors would follow the strict protocol rules. They did.

in a day and we haven’t done that in a couple a years.”

For 2014 Olympic gold medallist Brad Jacobs and his Northern Ontario crew from Sault Ste. Marie, the opportunity is all that matters.

“As athletes in the curling world we’re very grateful that it’s come to the point we can bubble and compete in a very safe environment,” says Jacobs, who’s endeavoured to keep curling “top-of-mind” during the enforced idleness. “We’re confident in our governing bodies, that they’re taking all the necessary measures that the ice crew and whatever volunteers are participating in the event — and, of course, we athletes — remain safe and healthy.

“We’ve had discussions about what to expect. This experience, though, will be new to everyone. We’re trying to plan what we think it’s going to be like, to feel like. Obviously we won’t know fully until we’re in the environment.

“But you’ve got to keep things in perspective.

“Curling has been a huge part of all of us, of our lives, since we were teenagers. Now we’re in our mid-to-late 30s and this is the first time we haven’t

been able to compete for so long. So, it’s a weird feeling. At the same time we’ve been trying to look on the bright side, staying in shape physically and mentally while we’re not able to compete, waiting for the day when we can.”

That day has at last arrived.

The Calgary bubble awaits. It is, at long last, go time.

Epping speaks for everyone involved in the sport, up-and-comer or former national champ, man or woman, on-ice participant or family-room sofa spectator, when he says:

“I want to curl. I want curling on TV. I want our supporters and our fans across the country to be able to enjoy this during the pandemic. I know that a lot of people are going through curling withdrawal. In Ontario, a lot of clubs haven’t opened their doors for months.

“A lot of people are starving for curling.

“As long as we do this in a safe way, and we will, I — and a lot of others — are pretty pumped to get this going.”

George Johnson is a Calgary-based freelance writer

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