EXTRA END

2026 - 2027

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SEASON OF CHAMPIONS



GOLDEN TOUCH

Team Brad Jacobs and Team Mark Ideson deliver on curling's biggest stage as Canadians flex muscles at Olympics, Paralympics



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EXTRA END
The official publication of the Season of Champions

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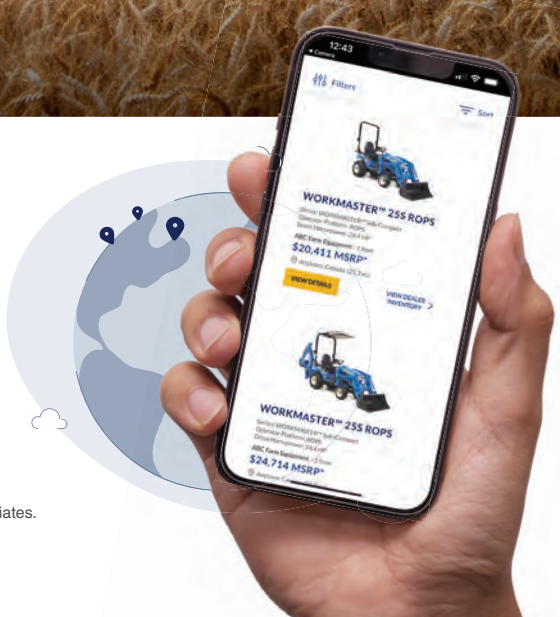
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Curling Canada 2026-27
BOARD OF GOVERNORS



KERRY TARASOFF
Chair

A NEW CHAIR FOR THE 2026-27 Season has been elected by Curling Canada's Board of Governors.

Kerry Tarasoff of Saskatoon, the former Chief Financial Officer for the City of Saskatoon and a former Board member, replaces outgoing chair Teri Palynchuk of Nanaimo, B.C., who completed her four-year term (2022-2026).

Meanwhile, three new faces will bring their perspectives to Curling Canada's Board following votes at its Annual General Meeting.

The national governing body for the sport of curling held its virtual AGM with Canada's 13 Member Associations along with invited guests speaking about the past season, in addition to conducting elections to finalize the Board of Governors for the new season.

The first-year governors will be Dale MacMillan of Ottawa, David Blair of Woodbridge, Ont., and Charlotte Wang of Toronto. MacMillan and Blair will take on four-year terms with the Board of Governors, while Wang will have a one-year term, taking the place of Roselle Gonsalves of Porters Lake, N.S., who is leaving the Board for her new position with the World Curling Board of Directors, to which she was elected earlier.

One other election saw Jennifer Howard of Courtice, Ont., re-elected to the Board for another four-year term.

Besides Gonsalves and Palynchuk, Ray Baker of Dauphin, Man., is departing the Board after completing his term.

Howard, MacMillan, Blair and Wang will join fellow Board members Rob Belliveau of Halifax, Jeremy Woo of Winnipeg, Scott Hindle of Ottawa, Jody Fisher Meli of Lethbridge, Alta., and Rémy St-Pierre of Québec City.

The Curling Canada Athlete Advisory Council (AAC) has determined its composition for the 2026-27 season, and will have input and a consultative role with Curling Canada's governors, as well as Curling Canada's Events and High Performance staff.

The AAC has representation at Board of Governors meetings and will be able to speak at meetings. Matt Dunstone will serve as AAC Chair, with Brett Gallant as Vice-Chair. Other members are Karl Allen, Shannon Birchard, Kim Bonneau, Brendan Bottcher, Jenna Campbell, Zoe Cinnamon, Jacques Gauthier, Owen Henry, Kayla MacMillan, Emma Miskew, Chrissy Molnar and Sam Mooibroek.

The AAC comprises team-nominated representatives from men's and women's four-player curling, mixed doubles, NextGen and wheelchair curling programs — all of whom must be members of Curling Canada's National Team Program.



ROB BELLIVEAU



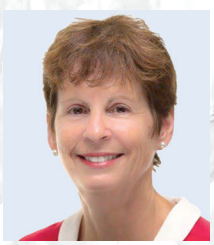
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PRIDE & GLORY *in a snow globe village*

Canada's curlers shine at the Olympics and Paralympics in Cortina

BY DON LANDRY



Canadian skip Brad Jacobs was filled with national pride while waving the Canadian flag following his team's gold-medal performance at the Olympics.

PHOTO: CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE / CANDICE WARD

WHEN BRAD JACOBS THINKS ABOUT his 2026 Olympic experience in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, the thrilling swirl of emotional snapshots from a gold-medal victory are all there.

So, too, is a vivid memory of a moment that came well before the celebrations.

"I really just felt comfortable and at peace with the venue," said Jacobs, recalling his first steps, last February, inside Cortina's historic Curling Olympic Stadium.

"I thought to myself, 'I have a really good feeling that we're going to do some good things here.'"

That they did.

Jacobs — along with teammates vice-skip Marc Kennedy, second Brett Gallant, lead Ben Hebert, alternate Tyler Tardi, team coach Paul Webster and national coach Jeff Stoughton — topped the podium at the 2026 Games with a 9-6 win over Great Britain's Bruce Mouat in the men's final.

Their victory was part of a Winter Games bounty for Canada, a haul that included bronze in women's curling, and then even more gold at the Paralympic Games in March.

Skip Rachel Homan and her two-time world champion crew of vice-skip Tracy Fleury, second Emma Miskew, lead Sarah Wilkes, alternate Rachelle Brown, team coach Heather Nedohin, and national coach Viktor Kjell won the women's bronze-medal game, 10-7, over the United States skipped by Tabitha Peterson.

Mark Ideson got his first Paralympic gold medal as a skip by leading Canada's mixed wheelchair curling team to a 4-3 victory over China, winning the Games title with teammates vice-skip Jon Thurston, second Ina Forrest, lead Collinda Joseph, alternate Gilbert Dash, and national coach Mick Lizmore.

Gallant, along with partner Jocelyn Peterman, narrowly missed the medal round in the mixed doubles competition, finishing fifth.

All in all, a very successful showing, an impressive flexing of Canadian muscle in an increasingly competitive curling world.

1. Mark Ideson got his first Paralympic gold medal as a skip by leading Canada's mixed wheelchair curling team to victory.

2. It takes hard work and plenty of muscle strength to get the job done at the Olympic Games, but Ben Hebert (left) and Brett Gallant showed they had plenty of both while brushing for Team Canada.

3. Canadians (L-R) Tracy Fleury, Sarah Wilkes, and Emma Miskew worked in harmony.

4. There are not many elite curlers who throw the stone from the port-side of the hack, but Canada's Marc Kennedy is surely one of them. His history of excellence as a left-hander is unparalleled.

5. Canadian women's skip Rachel Homan was on target in leading her team to a well-deserved bronze medal.

6. Canadian men's skip Brad Jacobs remarked how loud and supportive fans from his country were at the Games. "They were encouraging and right in our face," he said.

7. Canada's (L-R) Collinda Joseph, Jon Thurston and Ina Forrest made for a winning combination at the Paralympics.

8. Sarah Wilkes (left) and Emma Miskew had several joyous moments on their way to Olympic bronze.

9. Curling Canada was extremely proud of its curlers at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, including Brett Gallant and Jocelyn Peterman in mixed doubles.



















PHOTOS: CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE / CANDICE WARD; WORLD CURLING / ANGELA BURGER (1,7)



PHOTO: CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE / CANDICE WARD

It's a long, long road to achieve an Olympic gold medal in curling but the Canadian men (L-R) Tyler Tardi, Ben Hebert, Brett Gallant, Marc Kennedy, and Brad Jacobs accomplished the feat.



PHOTO: CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE / ANIL MUNGAL

The Canadian women rejoiced after a bronze-medal finish at the Cortina Games (L-R): Rachelle Brown, Sarah Wilkes, Emma Miskew, Tracy Fleury, and Rachel Homan.



PHOTO: WORLD CURLING / ANGELA BURGER

How great it must have felt to win gold for Canada in mixed team wheelchair curling at the Paralympic Games (L-R): Gilbert Dash, Collinda Joseph, Ina Forrest, Jon Thurston, and Mark Ideson.

For all three skips, last winter's triumphs were steeped in the satisfaction of the achievement. But not just that alone. That the wins came in such an idyllic, cozy winter wonderland seems to have made the memories even sweeter.

"'Magical' is the one word I would use, for a lot of reasons," said Ideson, looking back fondly at his time in Cortina. "The scenery, the village, the venue."

"It was a unique experience," remembered Homan of her third Games appearance since 2018. "It was really neat that it was such a small town and that everybody was there for the Olympics."

Nestled in the Dolomite Mountains in northeastern Italy, 4,015 feet above sea level, Cortina is a stunner.

Standing anywhere in the town of 7,000, a person can turn 360 degrees and see mountain tops all the way around, many of those peaks topping out at a little above 10,000 feet. A cobblestone, pedestrian-only street makes its way through the city centre, gently rising towards the curling arena. During the Games, a stroll would take you past charming cafes and shops on the way to the spot where the Olympic and Paralympic flames burned bright, just below Cortina's signature architectural feature, the magnificent bell tower.

"It was like you were living in this fairy tale dreamland of picturesque beauty," said Jacobs. "It almost felt like you were in a little village snow globe."

Within the Olympic Stadium itself, the players found a crackling atmosphere brimming with energy for every draw. The singing and chanting began early, during warm-ups, then continually tumbled down from the stands throughout each draw; even more so during the medal rounds.

"It was loud and exciting," said Ideson, who was chosen to be one of Canada's flag-bearers at the closing ceremonies.

National banners of all colours fluttered throughout the 2,500 seat arena, the red and white of the Maple Leaf popping up time and time again, waving vigorously in celebration of successful Canadian shots.

Jacobs couldn't help but notice, particularly during and after the gold-medal game. The Canadian supporters — outnumbered by Scottish fans showing their love for Great Britain's Team Mouat — did more than just hold their own when it came to the din they created.

"They were encouraging and right in our face," Jacobs remembered.

"Everyone was saying how proud they were," the two-time Olympic gold-medal skip added. "And getting on top of that podium and hearing the national anthem with the boys, that's something that we'll carry with us forever."

The thrill of winning an Olympic medal — claimed after her team reeled off five consecutive

wins to close the round robin and earn a spot in the semifinals — was made all the more fulfilling for Homan during the medal ceremony, where one moment stood above the others.

"Being on the podium and seeing my son in the stands, on my husband's shoulders," she said.

Ideson's win was the kind of stuff around which legends can be built. He released his final rock with less than three seconds remaining on his team's game clock, and with Canada apparently lying shot. Probably.

The four-time Paralympic medallist made sure of his second career gold medal with a perfect out-turn tap, turning 'probably' into 'definitely' and capping what he said was a chaotic but "fun" moment.

"Jon's (Thurston's) loud 'Marko!' gives me goosebumps every time I see it," said Ideson, whose team became the first to sail through a Paralympics curling competition with an undefeated record.

This past off-season, the skip noticed a distinct increase in the number of people wanting to talk to him about curling. His team's frenzied victory apparently left an indelible mark.

"Lots of people sharing stories and coming up and recognizing me, outside of a curling club," said Ideson, who resides in London, Ont. "At a mall. On the street. That stuff has not happened before. So there was definitely, I think, a national pride during these games for sure."

Examples of the lingering glow of that pride have not been limited just to Ideson's experiences. Homan and Jacobs say they've had their own summertime interactions with Canadian fans who want to talk about last winter's glories in Italy.

For Homan, an off-season of strangers congratulating her on her team's bronze-medal victory has given her a fresh perspective on the immediate, personal exhilaration she'd experienced last February, and an idea of just how important that game actually was to Canadians from coast to coast.

"I think there was maybe a little bit of an extra something playing the United States," said Homan, "with the politics and the scenes right now. I think a lot of Canadians were really cheering for us to get that last win."

"When you're so far away, you have your core group that came with you, and the phone calls from close friends and family," Homan added. "But then to hear how (curling fans) watched it and how they experienced it, it was just really cool to bring so many people together to cheer together."

"Coming back home to Canada," said Jacobs, "that's when it really hit how much pride we brought to, not just Canadian curling fans, but to Canadian sports fans and people who aren't even sports fans, but who did tune in and watch."





The scenery, the village and the venue in Cortina made the memories for Canada's curlers even more dazzling. They made for a cozy, winter wonderland that Canadian Paralympic curler Mark Ideson called "magical."

Last February, Jacobs stood in an empty curling arena in the magical, snow globe village of Cortina. And he felt there were possibilities.

Those possibilities became podium finishes for his team, and for Ideson's and for Homan's. Canadian curling stepped up at the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

They sure did some good things.

Don Landry served as a venue announcer at the Cortina Curling Olympic Stadium during the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.



Canada's performance at the 2026 Paralympic Games created a wave of momentum for wheelchair curling (L-R: Collinda Joseph, Ina Forrest, and Jon Thurston.

PHOTO: WORLD CURLING / ANGELA BURGER

Building ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

Investment behind Canadian wheelchair curling's rapid growth, popularity in the nation and success on the international stage

BY LARISSA SIMONE

WHAT A DIFFERENCE FOUR years can make.

At the beginning of the last quadrennial, much of the focus for wheelchair curling in Canada was on expanding and solidifying a national program and sport community that, like many parasports across Canada, was still recovering from the impact of the COVID pandemic.

Today, the focus is on how far that program and community can go.

Investment in athletes, coaches, and high-performance leadership has helped build a strong foundation for the wheelchair sport. As we begin to look towards 2030, the goal is to build on that foundation and take Canadian wheelchair curling to the next level.

When Collinda Joseph joined the national program in 2017, she remembers a much smaller group of athletes being considered to wear the Maple Leaf.

"When I started, the national program consisted of a small group of eight to 10 athletes," said Joseph. "Now the program has evolved in such a way that the development of the athletes that are coming up through the national championships and the provincial programs are being recognized and supported, which is really positive."

Today, the expanded Wheelchair Curling Pathway supports 41 athletes and several coaches across the Podium and Pursuit programs.

Not only does the expansion create a stronger community, but it also

establishes a robust pipeline to the national team while ensuring Canada's future success isn't dependent on only a handful of athletes. For Joseph, the expanded pathway has created a stronger competitive environment where athletes push one another and themselves to improve.

"More athletes enhance the program overall, because now we have more motivation from within," she said. "You're working harder to improve your own abilities by optimizing your strengths and reducing your weaknesses. So, when you see Team Canada competing at a world championship or Paralympic Games, know that the whole program and community pushed those athletes to be better, and the results will come because of that collective support."

The secret behind this continued growth? Investment. Since 2022, the program has seen four- to six-fold growth across several key measures, including coaching and support staff, program partners, funding, media exposure, and, of course, the number of athletes involved.

"The contribution that Kyle Paquette (Director, Wheelchair Curling at Curling Canada), Mick Lizmore (Head Coach, National Wheelchair Program), Dana Ferguson (Head Coach, Wheelchair Mixed Doubles and NextGen), Kyle Turcotte (Sport Science and Strength and Conditioning Lead), and the rest of the Integrated Support Team (IST) have committed to has made a massive difference in ensuring athletes feel that they are competing well internationally," said Joseph.

While the impact of that investment is felt by the athletes who have been part of the program for many years, it's also helping draw in and welcome new athletes into the sport.

After an accomplished career in para ice hockey, Billy Bridges found a new competitive and social outlet in curling following the 2022 Paralympic Games in Beijing. He already knew many of the athletes from his years sharing the Paralympic Village with them, but becoming a wheelchair curler himself gave Bridges a new perspective on the evolution of the Canadian program.

"Lines of communication are just wide open," said Bridges. "The staff have nothing but time for everyone in the program from the top six players all the way to the Pursuit Program. I certainly haven't seen that level of grassroots support in any of the other sports that I've been a part of."

In Bridges' eyes, now is the time to get involved. Participation numbers are steadily rising, and after the boost in attention from Team Canada's Paralympic gold-medal performance, wheelchair curling is becoming a hard sport to ignore.

"I really do try to encourage all my fellow athletes to go out and try because it is just so easy to be a part of, and it's a way to really find yourself in your own community, which I feel like we don't often get a chance to do as disabled athletes," said Bridges. "To also be a part of your own local community, play a role in the growth of an exploding sport, and be able to learn from the best right away is very special."

And 'exploding' is the perfect way to describe it.

While curling reaches a peak of attention every four years at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the goal now is to carry that interest, excitement, and participation through the entire four-year cycle.

Canada's performance at the 2026 Paralympic Games created a wave of momentum for wheelchair curling, bringing the sport to new audiences as millions of Canadians tuned in throughout the 10-day event.

"The ability of our athletes to throw the rock with the degree of precision and accuracy required to perform at such a high level really impressed the people that

"LINES OF COMMUNICATION ARE JUST WIDE OPEN. THE STAFF HAVE NOTHING BUT TIME FOR EVERYONE IN THE PROGRAM FROM THE TOP SIX PLAYERS ALL THE WAY TO THE PURSUIT PROGRAM. I CERTAINLY HAVEN'T SEEN THAT LEVEL OF GRASSROOTS SUPPORT IN ANY OF THE OTHER SPORTS THAT I'VE BEEN A PART OF."

— BILLY BRIDGES

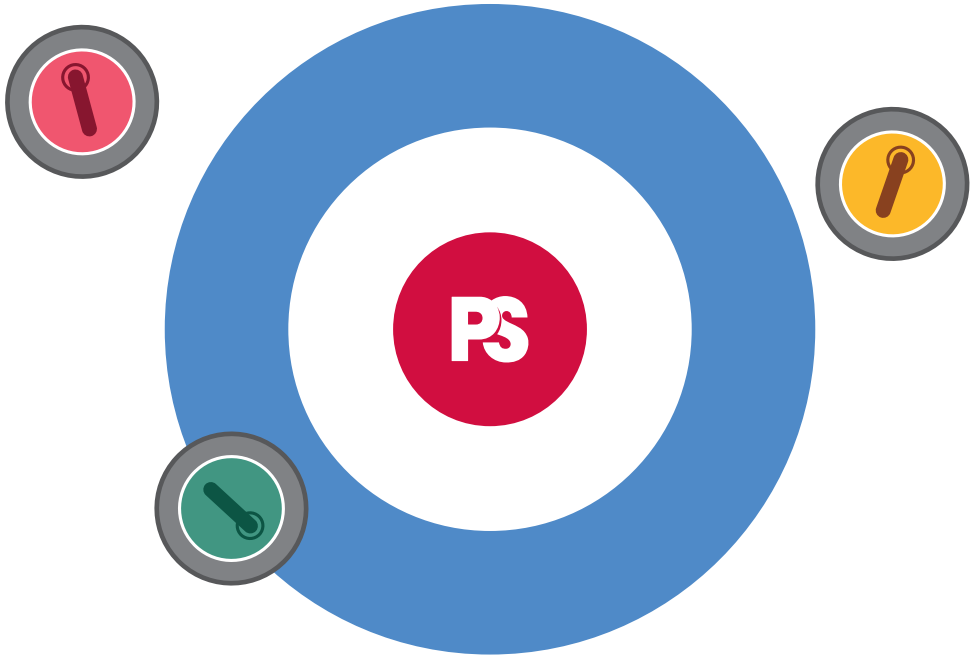


After an accomplished career in para ice hockey, Billy Bridges has found a new competitive home in wheelchair curling.

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"IT'S BEEN INTERESTING TO TALK TO ABLE-BODIED CURLERS AND TO SEE HOW IMPRESSED THEY WERE WITH THE SPORT OVERALL. HOPEFULLY THAT WILL HELP TO EXPAND THE REACH OF WHEELCHAIR CURLING AND ITS CONTINUED INTEGRATION INTO THE BROADER SPORT LANDSCAPE."

— COLLINDA JOSEPH

watched," said Joseph. "I'm hoping that will trickle down to the wheelchair-user community and the Paralympic community, and that people are willing to come out to try wheelchair curling.

"It's been interesting to talk to able-bodied curlers and to see how impressed they were with the sport overall. Hopefully that will help to expand the reach of wheelchair curling and its continued integration into the broader sport landscape."

From the 2025 Grand Slam of Curling AMJ Masters to the 2026 Scotties Tournament of Hearts and the inaugural Rock League, wheelchair curling continues to find more opportunities to share the ice and the spotlight with the bigger curling community.

For Paquette, the results at the Cortina Games in Italy were evidence of what sustained investment can produce.

"Entering the Paralympic Games, we were among a group of four or five teams with a strong chance of winning a medal, and not only did we win, but more importantly we did it in a way that captured people's attention and put Canadian wheelchair curling in the spotlight," said Paquette.

But success can create expectations. The program is stronger. The athlete pool is deeper. The investment is greater. Canadian wheelchair curling has more eyes on it than ever before. And with that, for some, comes the expectation to keep winning.

"Being a leading nation in wheelchair curling and taking the sport to the next level isn't just about winning more medals," said Paquette. "It's about expanding the community and supporting a pathway and program that people across the country see themselves being part of. We want to keep growing the number of athletes, coaches, and communities involved while continuing to perform at the highest level internationally."

That vision is already taking shape. The 2027 Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championship will include a new Wheelchair Curling Summit, while the 2028 championship is set to pilot a new format featuring three disciplines — mixed team, doubles, and mixed doubles — designed to support the championship's mission of promoting sport development, increasing participation, and elevating high performance.

The next chapter isn't just about getting Canadians excited when Team Canada is on the ice. It's about getting them invested in the entire pathway, from local participation to provincial and national championships and beyond.

Because while the success of Team Canada at world championships and Paralympic Games is important, it wouldn't be possible without the people and the moments behind the scenes.

After years of building its foundation, wheelchair curling in Canada is entering a new quadrennial with the depth, investment, and momentum to take the sport to the next level.

Larissa Simone is the Communications Coordinator at Curling Canada



Collinda Joseph along with Curling Canada coach Mick Lizmore hope to see their sport expand and further integrate into the broader sports landscape.

PHOTO: WORLD CURLING / ANGELA BURGER



Kyle Paquette, Director, Wheelchair Curling for Curling Canada, says success isn't just about winning more medals. It's also about expanding the community and supporting a pathway and program that people across the country see themselves being part of.

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WOMEN IN CURLING

2025-2026

Season Review



After much heartbreak in major finals, Team Manitoba skip Matt Dunstone finally broke through to win the 2026 Montana's Brier, touching off an emotional gathering with his teammates.

PHOTO: CULRING CANADA/ANDREW KLAVER

PointsBet Invitational

WINSPORT EVENT CENTRE ✻ CALGARY, ALBERTA ✻ OCTOBER 1 TO 5, 2025



PHOTOS: CURLING CANADA

It was a huge payday for Team Homan (from left): skip Rachel Homan, vice-skip Tracy Fleury, second Emma Miskew, and lead Sarah Wilkes at the 2025 PointsBet Invitational in Calgary after it rolled through the competition undefeated.

It was a case of something old, something new at the 2025 PointsBet Invitational in Calgary.

Team Rachel Homan completed an undefeated run to win the women's title, defeating Team Corryn Brown of Kamloops, B.C., 6-2 in the final at the WinSport Event Centre.

The title-run marked a PointsBet Invitational three-peat for the Ottawa Curling Club outfit, rounded out by vice-skip Tracy Fleury, second Emma Miskew, lead Sarah Wilkes, and coach Heather Nedohin, who were also crowned champions in 2023 in Oakville and 2024 in Calgary.

Meanwhile, Team Matt Dunstone of Winnipeg finally got over the hump in the men's event, taking down the reigning Montana's Brier champions Team Brad Jacobs of Calgary 6-4 in a wild final.

The win proved that a third time can be the charm, as it was Team Dunstone's first ever PointsBet Invitational crown after dropping finals in 2022 and 2023.

Winning never gets boring and it surely wasn't for Homan and her team, who at the end of the season would win an Olympic bronze medal. "Super excited to win this event," said Homan. "It was really big for us. Maybe a couple of tricky spots, but we banded together and grinded that one out."

It was a surprising four-point win for Team Homan, which had thoroughly scouted Team Brown and knew it would have to be at its best to compete.

"They were playing great all week," said Homan. "We were watching them on TV and they were making everything. We knew we were going to have to bring our A-game today. It was just one shot here or there and they kept making us blank or force."

Dunstone was pumped after securing his first PointsBet win.

"We were due to win this one," said Dunstone. "Lost two finals prior to it, so it was nice to finish one off."

The game was repleat with stellar shot-making and momentum swings aplenty.

"That was a wild game," said Dunstone. "Two heavyweights going at it, throwing haymakers at each other. That's what you want to see. I have a funny feeling you'll be seeing a little bit more of it moving forward."

Calling the tilt a heavyweight battle is arguably a modest summary. Team Dunstone, completed by vice-skip Colton Lott, second E.J. Harnden, lead Ryan Harnden and coach Caleb Flaxey, faced Team Jacobs in the 2025 Montana's Brier final in Kelowna, B.C., with Team Jacobs earning a 5-3 victory over the Manitobans for the Canadian title.

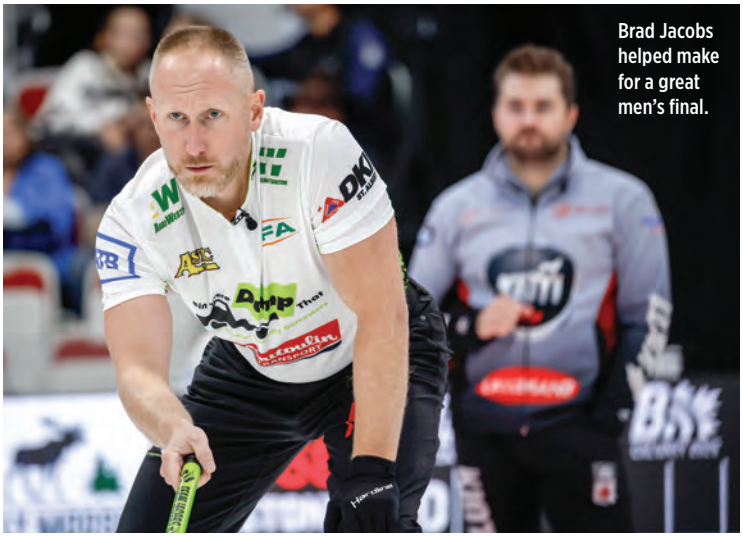
And while downing Team Jacobs may have felt like a win, Dunstone didn't feel the victory evened the tally between the two juggernauts.



Corryn Brown of Kamloops, B.C., made a number of great shots during the event to advance to the women's championship final.



Members of Team Dunstone were all smiles after winning the men's event at the 2025 PointsBet Invitational. The new champs (from left): skip Matt Dunstone, vice-skip Colton Lott, second E.J. Harnden, and lead Ryan Harnden.



Brad Jacobs helped make for a great men's final.

"Nah, that's in the past," said Dunstone.

There were highs and lows for Team Dunstone throughout the PBI final. Dunstone himself had a flat miss in the third end, where Dunstone was chasing a shot Jacobs stone, but was wide and heavy, missing the target entirely. Team Jacobs would have a chance at a multiple score, but Jacobs' offering was tight and light, perhaps finding a fresh path, and Jacobs would settle for a single.

By contrast, in the eighth, E.J. Harnden made a precision draw-tap shot that found a seam through a swath of corner guards, the result of which changed the momentum of the end and resulted in having Jacobs forced to a single.

"My eyes went cross on me," said Dunstone of the line call on E.J.'s draw. "I wasn't sure what was going on. It was pandemonium. Tight hole. Incredible shot. That eighth end was a turning point in this game as well."

It marked the third time a Manitoba-based team has won the PointsBet Invitational title, (Reid Carruthers; 2022, 2023).

Both winning teams cashed cheques of more than $42,000.

WOMEN'S FINAL

Team Homan*	001	110	201	x	—	6
Team Brown	000	001	010	x	—	2

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

Team Homan		Team Brown	
Sarah Wilkes	69	Samantha Fisher	92
Emma Miskew	83	Sarah Koltun	72
Tracy Fleury	75	Erin Pincott	71
Rachel Homan	86	Corryn Brown	78
Team Totals	**78**	**Team Totals**	**78**

WOMEN'S ROUND-ROBIN STANDINGS

POOL A	W	SOW	SOL	L	P
Team Rachel Homan+	4	0	0	0	12
Team Beth Peterson	2	0	0	2	6
Team Kaitlyn Lawes	2	0	0	2	6
Team Myla Plett	1	0	0	3	3
Team Christina Black	1	0	0	3	3

POOL B	W	SOW	SOL	L	P
Team Corryn Brown+	4	0	0	0	12
Team Kerri Einarson	3	0	0	1	9
Team Selena Sturmay	2	0	0	2	6
Team Kate Cameron	1	0	0	3	3
Team Kayla Skrlik	0	0	0	0	0

+ —TEAMS TO FINAL

MEN'S FINAL

Team Jacobs*	001	010	010	1	—	4
Team Dunstone	000	201	003	0	—	6

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

Team Dunstone		Team Jacobs	
Matt Dunstone	88	Brad Jacobs	94
Colton Lott	90	Marc Kennedy	90
E.J. Harnden	98	Brett Gallant	95
Ryan Harnden	96	Ben Hebert	98
Team Totals	**93**	**Team Totals**	**94**

MEN'S ROUND-ROBIN STANDINGS

POOL A	W	SOW	SOL	L	P
Team Brad Jacobs+	3	0	0	1	9
Team John Epping	2	1	0	1	8
Team Brad Gushue	2	0	1	1	7
Team Kevin Koe	2	0	0	2	6
Team Calan MacIsaac	0	0	0	4	0

POOL B	W	SOW	SOL	L	P
Team Matt Dunstone+	3	0	0	1	9
Team Mike McEwen	3	0	0	1	9
Team Jordon McDonald	3	0	0	1	9
Team Rylan Kleiter	1	0	0	3	3
Team Sam Mooibroek	0	0	0	4	0

+ —TEAMS TO FINAL

Home Hardware Canadian Curling Pre-Trials

ANDREW H. McCAIN ARENA * WOLFVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA * OCTOBER 20 TO 26, 2025

It took three hard-fought games but teams skipped by Jordon McDonald and Selena Sturmay got the job done at the 2025 Home Hardware Canadian Curling Pre-Trials in Wolfville, N.S.

The two teams were crowned champions — Winnipeg's McDonald was the best of eight men's teams, and Edmonton's Sturmay was tops among eight women's sides — as they punched their tickets to the 2025 Montana's Canadian Curling Trials in Halifax.

It was a monumental win for both teams, even though both came up short at the Trials. Their wins will provide them with great confidence as they further their careers on the ice.

"It's unbelievable," said McDonald who scored an 8-5 win over Team Braden Calvert (Winnipeg) in Game 3 of a best-of-three men's final. "I feel like this team really deserved that win. We worked really hard. We didn't have quite the start of the season that we wanted, but we stayed patient and did a really good prep for this event. It finally clicked.

"I really wanted to win this event," added McDonald. "It just feels like this is such a big win early in my career, and I hope that I can build off this win and continue to do some good things in this sport."

The Assiniboine Memorial Curling Club squad was rounded out by vice-skip Jacques Gauthier, second Elias Huminicki, lead Cameron Olafson, and coach Bryan Miki.

At 22 years old, McDonald is the youngest skip in Canadian history to qualify for the Montana's Trials. Team McDonald is also part of Curling Canada's National U-25 NextGen Program, and



PHOTOS: CURLING CANADA/PETER OLESKEVICH

Team Jordon McDonald punched its tickets for the Montana's Canadian Curling Trials in Halifax as the men's winners of the 2025 Home Hardware Canadian Pre-Trials. Front row (from left): skip McDonald, vice-skip Jacques Gauthier, second Elias Huminicki, and lead Cameron Olafson; back row coach Bryan Miki.

McDonald himself is a For the Love of Curling Scholarship recipient in 2021.

McDonald's said that all the off-season training and preparation starting to pay dividends:

"Last year was a big stepping-stone year for us. We almost got into the Trials directly. We were really close, so we wanted to come in strong for the pre-trials and really get our spot. It helped a lot, and we've worked really hard over the last couple of months. This was a big season for us, and we wanted to continue what we had started last year."

Sensing the scope of the prize awaiting the winner, both teams came out swinging.

It wasn't until the ninth end when McDonald made a through-a-port hit for two to go up by three and create some separation on the scoreboard. Team Calvert did not go quietly, however, forcing McDonald to make a soft double in the 10th to cement the win.

McDonald won the opening game 10-5 only to see Calvert's foursome out of Winnipeg's Fort Rouge club pushed the men's final to a third game by winning the second 8-5.

Sturmay also needed a third game to dispatch Team Kayla MacMillan 9-4 in the best-of-three women's final. The Saville Community Sports Centre outfit, completed by vice-skip Danielle Schmiemann, second Dezaray Hawes, lead Paige Papley and coach Ted Appelman, who are part of Curling



Skip Jordon McDonald had the benefit of an excellent front end (Cameron Olafson and Elias Huminicki) who played their positions well.



A big win deserves a joyous photo. The women's gold-medal winners (from left): skip Selena Sturmay, vice-skip Danielle Schmiemann, lead Paige Papley, second Dezaray Hawes, and coach Ted Appelman.

Canada's National U-25 NextGen program, looked at the win as a continuation of its evolution.

"This definitely was one of our big goals when forming this team," said Sturmay. "We started really good our first year, then a little bit of a lull our second year, but I do finally see all that hard work paying off. We've put a lot of effort in doing what we do, so it's nice to see that coming to fruition."

MEN'S ROUND-ROBIN

STANDINGS	W	L
Team Braden Calvert**	5	2
Team Jordon McDonald*	5	2
Team Scott Howard*	4	3
Team Jayden King	4	3
Team Jean-Michel Ménard	4	3
Sam Mooibroek	3	4
Team Owen Purcell	3	4
Team Mark Kean	0	7

** — QUALIFIED FOR FINAL; * — QUALIFIED FOR SEMIFINAL

MEN'S SEMIFINAL

Team McDonald*	020	000	011	1	—	5
Team Howard	002	101	000	0	—	4

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

MEN'S GOLD-MEDAL FINAL (GAME 1)

Team Calvert*	102	010	10x	x	—	5
Team McDonald	030	201	04x	x	—	10

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

TEAM CALVERT		TEAM McDONALD	
Braden Calvert	72	Jordon McDonald	95
Corey Chambers	81	Jacques Gauthier	92
Kyle Kurz	73	Elias Huminicki	88
Brendan Bilawka	95	Cameron Olafson	92
Team Total	**80**	**Team Total**	**92**

MEN'S GOLD-MEDAL FINAL (GAME 2)

Team Calvert	011	020	121	x	—	8
Team McDonald*	000	302	000	x	—	5

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

TEAM CALVERT		TEAM McDONALD	
Braden Calvert	87	Jordon McDonald	64
Corey Chambers	85	Jacques Gauthier	86
Kyle Kurz	78	Elias Huminicki	81
Brendan Bilawka	89	Cameron Olafson	91
Team Total	**84**	**Team Total**	**81**

MEN'S GOLD-MEDAL FINAL (GAME 3)

Team Calvert	020	010	020	x	—	5
Team McDonald*	202	000	202	x	—	8

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

TEAM CALVERT		TEAM McDONALD	
Braden Calvert	82	Jordon McDonald	90
Corey Chambers	89	Jacques Gauthier	91
Kyle Kurz	80	Elias Huminicki	85
Brendan Bilawka	98	Cameron Olafson	85
Team Total	**87**	**Team Total**	**88**

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Selena Sturmay was not to be denied in her quest for a berth in the Montana's Canadian Curling Trials.

The win marks the first-ever Montana's Trials berth for the no. 15 CTRS-ranked women's team, which carried a 5-2 record through round-robin play, earning the top seed and a bye to the best-of-three final en route to the pre-trials title.

MacMillan lost the first match in their playoff 8-5 but rallied to defeat Sturmay 10-9 in the second match, forcing the event finale.

MacMillan scored an opening single but it was all the Albertans after that. Sturmay was up 6-1 after five ends in Game 3 after stealing four straight points. MacMillan shook hands after eight ends.

"I think the past four games, we've always been in control," said Sturmay. "It's always been us in the driver's seat. Our (best-of-three final) loss was one unfortunate miss where the path keened up. I honestly feel like we were in control the whole time."

Sturmay credited her team's strength as the difference-maker in securing the win.

"My team, they all curled great," she said. "I think all of us were number one, if not number two on the leaderboards this week. I think that, and our communication and our shot plan, we totally understand what we need from each other and that's what really helped us succeed."

WOMEN'S ROUND-ROBIN

STANDINGS	W	L
Team Selena Sturmay**	5	2
Team Kayla MacMillan*	5	2
Team Ashley Thevenot*	4	3
Team Danielle Inglis	4	3
Team Myla Plett	3	4
Team Krista Scharf	3	4
Team Nancy Martin	2	5
Team Beth Peterson	2	5

** — QUALIFIED FOR FINAL; * — QUALIFIED FOR SEMIFINAL

WOMEN'S SEMIFINAL

Team MacMillan*	002	001	201	x	—	6
Team Thevenot	000	020	020	x	—	4

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

WOMEN'S GOLD-MEDAL FINAL (GAME 1)

Team Sturmay*	010	210	301	x	—	8
Team MacMillan	002	002	010	x	—	5

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

TEAM STURMAY		TEAM MACMILLAN	
Selena Sturmay	73	Kayla MacMillan	71
D. Schmiemann	83	Brittany Tran	65
Dezaray Hawes	81	Lindsay Dubue	70
Paige Papley	74	Sarah Loken	89
Team Total	**78**	**Team Total**	**74**

WOMEN'S GOLD-MEDAL FINAL (GAME 2)

Team Sturmay*	201	020	012	1	—	9
Team MacMillan	010	202	500	0	—	10

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

TEAM STURMAY		TEAM MACMILLAN	
Selena Sturmay	71	Kayla MacMillan	83
D. Schmiemann	84	Brittany Tran	80
Dezaray Hawes	84	Lindsay Dubue	76
Paige Papley	89	Sarah Loken	84
Team Total	**82**	**Team Total**	**81**

WOMEN'S GOLD-MEDAL FINAL (GAME 3)

Team Sturmay	021	120	30x	x	—	9
Team MacMillan*	100	001	02x	0	—	4

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

TEAM STURMAY		TEAM MACMILLAN	
Selena Sturmay	83	Kayla MacMillan	56
D. Schmiemann	86	Brittany Tran	73
Dezaray Hawes	81	Lindsay Dubue	78
Paige Papley	84	Sarah Loken	86
Team Total	**84**	**Team Total**	**73**

Montana's Canadian Curling Trials

SCOTIABANK CENTRE ✻ HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA ✻ NOVEMBER 22 TO 29, 2025

One gold was in the bank, but little did Brad Jacobs and his Calgary team know at the time that another, more prestigious gold, would be coming in the near future.

The first was special. Team Brad Jacobs earned gold at the 2025 Montana's Canadian Curling Trials in Halifax, winning the eight-team men's competition and earning a coveted spot at the Olympics Games in Milano Cortina, Italy.

The team was joined as Canada's standard-bearers at the Games by Team Rachel Homan who prevailed in the eight-team women's event.

The win was the culmination of four long, hard years of work for both teams preparing for the battle and, as expected, winning members were overcome with joy and relief.

"Very exciting, I'm extremely glad this event is over, and we won," said Jacobs who downed Team Matt Dunstone of Winnipeg in two straight games in the best-of-three final and earned the right to be nominated to the Canadian Olympic Committee to represent Canada at the 2006 Games. "This is hard, this is a grind," Jacobs said. "We knew it was going to be that way against Team Dunstone. You know they're going to battle hard, and they did … I'm just so proud of my teammates for how they performed here this week."

Jacobs and Co. went on to capture the gold medal in Italy, making it a surreal season for the men from the Glencoe Club in Calgary.

Skip Jacobs, vice-skip Marc Kennedy, second Brett Gallant, lead Ben Hebert, alternate Mike Caione and coach Paul Webster found their turning point in the eighth end of Game 2, after winning the opener 9-8. Leading by two, but unable to control the scoreboard, Jacobs called and made a difficult double, forcing Team Dunstone to a single point.

In the ninth end, Team Jacobs chose to



PHOTOS: CURLING CANADA / ANDREW KLAVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Ben Hebert (left) and Brett Gallant were instrumental in the success of Team Brad Jacobs' gold-medal victory at the Trials.



To the victors go the spoils. Skip Rachel Homan (right) dons her Canadian Olympic jersey along with her teammates after winning the women's Trials in Halifax over Team Christina Black.



Matt Dunstone's team reached the final before falling short to Team Brad Jacobs in the final.

give up a steal of one to retain the hammer for the final frame. In the 10th, Jacobs made a lightweight hit to secure the game-winning point in a 6-5 victory to clinch the Trials berth.

"Truthfully, on that last shot, if you were to take my heart rate, I don't think it would have been much over a hundred," Jacobs said. "I was very excited for the shot, loved the fact that we had a shot for the win, and was super confident that we could make that as long as I threw the right weight and hit the broom with our brushing."

Homan's two-time reigning Canadian and world champions completed a sweep of the women's Trials final, defeating Team Christina Black of Halifax 12-3. They won the opener 5-4.

With the victory, Homan, vice-skip Tracy Fleury, second Emma Miskew, lead Sarah Wilkes, alternate Rachelle Brown and coach Heather Nedohin headed to the Olympics where they won bronze.

MEN'S ROUND-ROBIN

STANDINGS	W	L
Team Brad Jacobs**	6	1
Team Mike McEwen*	5	2
Team Matt Dunstone*	4	3
Team Brad Gushue	4	3
Team John Epping	3	4
Team Kevin Koe	3	4
Team Rylan Kleiter	2	5
Team Jordon McDonald	1	6

** — QUALIFIED FOR FINAL; * — QUALIFIED FOR SEMIFINAL

MEN'S SEMIFINAL

Team McEwen*	102	010	010	0	—	5
Team Dunstone	010	203	002	1	—	9

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

MEN'S GOLD-MEDAL FINAL (GAME 1)

Team Jacobs*	120	202	000	2	—	9
Team Dunstone	002	040	002	0	—	8

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

TEAM JACOBS		TEAM DUNSTONE	
Brad Jacobs	79	Matt Dunstone	78
Marc Kennedy	91	Colton Lott	86
Brett Gallant	84	E.J. Harnden	80
Ben Hebert	95	Ryan Harnden	96
Team Totals	**87**	**Team Totals**	**85**

MEN'S GOLD-MEDAL FINAL (GAME 2)

Team Jacobs*	110	100	200	1	—	6
Team Dunstone	002	001	011	0	—	5

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

TEAM JACOBS		TEAM DUNSTONE	
Brad Jacobs	91	Matt Dunstone	91
Marc Kennedy	88	Colton Lott	89
Brett Gallant	81	E.J. Harnden	85
Ben Hebert	96	Ryan Harnden	96
Team Totals	**89**	**Team Totals**	**90**

WOMEN'S ROUND-ROBIN

STANDINGS	W	L
Team Rachel Homan**	6	1
Team Kerri Einarson*	6	1
Team Christina Black*	4	3
Team Selena Sturmay	4	3
Team Kaitlyn Lawes	4	3
Team Kayla Skrlik	2	5
Team Kate Cameron	1	6
Team Corryn Brown	1	6

** — QUALIFIED FOR FINAL; QUALIFIED FOR SEMIFINAL

WOMEN'S SEMIFINAL

Team Einarson*	010	010	100	x	—	3
Team Black	100	101	003	x	—	6

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

WOMEN'S GOLD-MEDAL FINAL (GAME 1)

Team Homan*	011	101	001	0	—	5
Team Black	000	010	110	1	—	4

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

TEAM HOMAN		TEAM BLACK	
Rachel Homan	74	Christina Black	74
Tracy Fleury	86	Jill Brothers	83
Emma Miskew	85	Jenn Baxter	76
Sarah Wilkes	86	Karlee Everist	89
Team Totals	**78**	**Team Totals**	**80**

WOMEN'S GOLD-MEDAL FINAL (GAME 2)

Team Homan*	204	120	21x	x	—	12
Team Black	020	001	00x	x	—	3

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

TEAM HOMAN		TEAM BLACK	
Rachel Homan	95	Christina Black	58
Tracy Fleury	86	Jill Brothers	78
Emma Miskew	88	Marlee Powers	81
Sarah Wilkes	95	Karlee Everist	92
Team Totals	**91**	**Team Totals**	**77**



The facial expression of Team Black's Karlee Everist (front), suggests all was not well on the ice.



The cream rises to the top and it certainly did at the Montana's Canadian Curling Trials in Halifax where Brad Jacobs and Rachel Homan, two of the most decorated skips in the country, prevailed by guiding their teams to two straight wins in their respective men's and women's best-of-three finals.

It was a third Olympics for Homan, who competed with Miskew at the 2018 Winter Games in South Korea, and played mixed doubles with John Morris in 2022 in Beijing. It was the a first trip to the Olympics for Fleury, Wilkes and Brown, and especially satisfying for Fleury, who lost in the 2021 Trials final in an extra end to Team Jennifer Jones.

It was a different Team Homan on the ice for Game 2 than the one who was pushed to the limit in the opener. The combination of being on the verge of an Olympic berth and ice conditions that improved dramatically due to the cooler, drier weather clearly had a positive effect.

Homan scored four points in the third end to take a 6-2 lead, and never looked back, clinching the win in front of fans at Scotiabank Centre.

"Pretty surreal," marvelled Fleury. "I can't believe (it); we've finally won enough games to stop curling. That was a grind; they're such an amazing team. Everyone on the field — we had to bring our best every game."



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Scotties Tournament of Hearts

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JANUARY 23 TO FEBRUARY 1, 2026



PHOTOS: ANDREW KLAVER © KRUGER PRODUCTS

A late-game comeback etched Canada's Team Kerri Einarson into Scotties Tournament of Hearts history in Mississauga, Ont. Team Canada skip Kerri Einarson captured a fifth career Scotties title after defeating Team Manitoba-Lawes 4-3 in the gold-medal final. The victory marked a record-tying six Scotties titles for second Shannon Birchard. She won her first playing third for Manitoba's Jennifer Jones in 2018, then added five more with Team Einarson. She is tied with Jones, Colleen Jones and Jill Officer for most titles. The Gimli, Man.-based team of (L-R): Einarson, vice-skip Val Sweeting, Birchard, and lead Karlee Burgess went on win silver at the BKT World Women's Championship.



Manitoba's Kaitlyn Lawes was right into body language after thowing her stone at the Tournament of Hearts.

Hail Mary throws are part of sports.
Down to a last gap, individuals and teams have used them on rare occasions to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Skip Kerri Einarson can tell you all about it when she describes her victory at the 2026 Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

While her desperation throw didn't win the gold-medal game outright, it had a lot to do with her Team Canada's 4-3 extra-end win over Manitoba's Team Kaitlyn Lawes in front of a Mississauga, Ont., crowd of 4,008 at Paramount Foods Centre.

Down one in the 10th, Einarson was forced to make a long angle-raise takeout with her last to tie. Canada clipped a quarter of its red stone, sitting three feet above the house, sending it into Manitoba's counter on the button to force an extra frame.

Suddenly, Einarson, supported by vice-skip Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard, lead Karlee Burgess, alternate Krysten Karwacki and coach Reid Carruthers of Gimli, Man., was back in the fray, and one end later had stolen the championship that nobody thought they could win.

"I just thought, do this for your teammates, Kerri, they need you here, and we'll take this to an extra and go from there," Einarson said. "It was amazing — called amazing, thrown great, and the girls just swept it."

In the extra end, Canada earned a steal after slipping a stone behind centre guard and forcing Team Lawes into a tough thin double-raise attempt. Lawes made contact, but couldn't spill the Canadian stone far enough.

"She saved us," said Birchard. "We needed that. If she didn't make that, we lost. That was clutch and then we put together a great extra end."

There was heartbreak on one side, and jubilation on the other after a riveting, all-Manitoba Scotties Tournament of Hearts final.

"We all tried our best and you can't really ask for shots back," said Lawes, who entered the final unbeaten. "It's just, what could we do differently if we were to keep going? I'm super proud of my teammates — they played incredible. I wish I could have made that last shot for them.

"I had about a half inch of the rock and had to throw it in hope. I had to make my first one, and it was just a little bit short."

The victory marked a record-tying six Scotties titles for Birchard. She won her first playing third for Manitoba's Jennifer Jones in 2018, then added five more with Team Einarson. She is tied with Jones, Colleen Jones and Jill Officer.

"To get one in my career would have been a dream come true, and this is absolutely mind-blowing," Birchard said. "To be among legends of the sport, people I've looked up to my whole life, is just unbelievable."



You couldn't blame skip Kerri Einarson for being a bit giddy after winning her fifth Canadian women's curling championship. Einarson's needed to make a Hail Mary long angle-raise takeout with her last rock of the 10th end to tie, then steal a single in the extra end to get the job done.

GOLD-MEDAL FINAL

Manitoba-Lawes (Kaitlyn Lawes)*	000	002	100	00	—	3
Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)	010	100	000	11	—	4

* LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

Team-Manitoba-Lawes		Team Canada	
Kaitlyn Lawes	78	Kerri Einarson	81
Selena Njegovan	94	Val Sweeting	93
Laura Walker	91	Shannon Birchard	82
Kristin Gordon	94	Karlee Burgess	91
Team total	**89**	**Team total**	**87**

SEMIFINAL

Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)*	030	202	005	x	—	12
Alberta (Selena Strurmay)	001	020	110	x	—	5

*— LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

ROUND-ROBIN STANDINGS

POOL A	W	L
Manitoba-Lawes (Kaitlyn Lawes)+	8	0
Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)+	7	1
Nova Scotia (Taylour Stevens)+	6	2
Ontario (Hailey Armstrong)	5	3
Saskatchewan (Jolene Campbell)	3	5
British Columbia (Taylor Reese-Hansen)	3	5
Northwest Territories (Nicky Kaufman)	2	6
Québec (Jolianne Fortin)	2	6
Yukon (Bayly Scoffin)	0	8

POOL B	W	L
Manitoba (Beth Peterson)+	8	0
Nova Scotia-Black (Christina Black)+	6	2
Alberta (Selena Sturmay)+	6	2
Northern Ontario (Krista Scharf)	5	3
Alberta-Skrlik (Kayla Skrlik)	5	3
Prince Edward Island (Amanda Power)	2	6
New Brunswick (Mélodie Forsythe)	2	6
Newfoundland/Labrador (Mackenzie Mitchell)	1	7
Nunavut (Julia Weagle)	1	7

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

PAGE 1-2 QUALIFIERS

Team Manitoba (Beth Peterson)*	010	100	201	0	—	5
Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)	102	010	020	2	—	8
Manitoba-Lawes (Kaitlyn Lawes)*	201	002	100	2	—	8
Nova Scotia-Black (Christina Black)	020	200	020	0	—	6

PAGE 3-4 QUALIFIERS

Nova Scotia-Black (Christina Black)*	410	220	20x	x	—	11
Nova Scotia (Taylour Stevens)	002	002	02x	x	—	6
Manitoba (Beth Peterson)*	200	001	01x	x	—	4
Alberta (Selena Sturmay)	023	310	10x	x	—	10

PAGE PLAYOFFS

1 V. 2

Manitoba-Lawes (Kaitlyn Lawes)*	402	111	01x	x	—	10
Team Canada (Kerri Einarson)	010	000	10x	x	—	2

3 V. 4

Nova Scotia-Black (Christina Black)*	011	000	200	0	—	4
Alberta (Selena Sturmay)	000	111	031	1	—	8

It was the fifth Scotties title for both Einarson and Sweeting, and the first for Burgess. Burgess had played in the previous three finals, claiming silver each time — once with Jones in 2023, and twice with Einarson in 2024 and 2025.

"All the heartbreak, all the work. We've put so much into this. It feels incredible to win my first one with these girls," Burgess said. "I don't want to swear, but it's...awesome."

For Lawes, vice-skip Selena Njegovan, second Laura Walker and lead Kristin Gordon, it was a devastating loss. The team was just one win away from becoming the fifth squad to go perfect to win the Scotties since the playoff era started in 1979.

Team Lawes started with hammer but couldn't capitalize early. In the second, Einarson nailed a hit-and-roll to hide, and Lawes was light on a draw to give up the steal. In the fourth, Manitoba attempted a runback for two but over-curled, handing over another steal. Ends one, three and five were blanked, including a neat double-and-roll-out by Team Lawes following back-to-back raise takeouts from Team Einarson.

In the sixth, Lawes converted a deuce after a rare Einarson miss. Canada's last rock flashed, leaving Lawes an open draw for two to tie it up. Manitoba built on that momentum in the seventh. Canada tried to clear two staggered Lawes stones on the wing and roll out for a blank. Sweeting swept a Manitoban stone behind the tee-line, but it stopped just before the back line, catching a piece of the house for the steal.

"We battled so hard all week and I'm so proud of my teammates and for sticking in there with me," Einarson said. "I was really mad at myself in seven when I gave up the steal and I just told them hang in there. In 10, I had to come in with a clutch shot. I just told them stay patient, stay with me."

Burgess, Birchard and Sweeting seemed to make everything in the extra end, getting the eventual winning rock behind cover. Lawes was just light on a draw on her first shot in the 10th and then couldn't produce a miracle on last rock.

Team Einarson would go on to represent Canada at the 2026 BKT World Women's Curling Championship at WinSport Event Centre in Calgary, earning a silver medal.



(L-R) Kelsey Calvert, Selena Njegovan, Michaela Robert, and Karlee Burgess.



Kayla Skrlik was a popular winner of the Marj Mitchell Award.

ROBIN WILSON FIRST ALL-STAR TEAM

Skip: Kelsey Calvert, Manitoba-Peterson
Vice-skip: Selena Njegovan, Manitoba-Lawes
Second: Michaela Robert, Ontario
Lead: Karlee Burgess, Canada

SECOND ALL-STAR TEAM

Skip: Kerri Einarson, Canada
Vice-skip: Danielle Schmiemann, Alberta-Sturmay
Second: Laura Walker, Manitoba-Lawes
Lead: Sarah Potts, Northern Ontario

CURLING CANADA HONOURED ROBIN WILSON WHOSE WORK BEHIND THE SCENES FROM DAY ONE WAS INTEGRAL IN MAKING THE SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS A SUCCESS. BEGINNING WITH THE 2024 SCOTTIES, THE FIRST ALL-STAR TEAM WILL CONTINUE TO BE CALLED THE ROBIN WILSON FIRST ALL-STAR TEAM IN HER HONOUR.

MARJ MITCHELL AWARD

Alberta skip Kayla Skrlik won the Marj Mitchell Award for best embodying the spirit of curling at the 2026 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. The award is named in memory of Marj Mitchell who skipped Canada to its first world title in 1980. In 1983, shortly after the second Hearts, Mitchell died of cancer at the age of 35. The winner is selected each year in a vote by all players at the tournament.

SANDRA SCHMIRLER AWARD

Presented in the name of the late Sandra Schmirler, the MVP award was given to Team Canada skip Kerri Einarson after she was chosen the Most Outstanding Player in the 2026 Scotties Tournament of Hearts playoffs.



Kerri Einarson receives her award from Curling Canada's Board Chair Teri Palynchuk.

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Montana's Brier Presented by AGI

MARY BROWN'S CENTRE * ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR * FEBRUARY 27 TO MARCH 8, 2026



Manitoba skip Matt Dunstone won his first Canadian Men's Curling Championship after knocking hard on the door in recent years. Dunstone's team from the Granite Club in Winnipeg defeated four-time champion Kevin Koe of Alberta 6-3 in the final in St. John's, N.L. The winners (from left): Dunstone, vice-skip Colton Lott, second E.J. Harnden, and lead Ryan Harnden. They went on to win silver at the LGT Men's World Curling Championship in Ogden, Utah.

His third time was the charm, and Matt Dunstone will be the first to tell you it was worth the wait.

The 30-year-old skip popularly known as the Sheriff, who'd lost in two previous Montana's Brier finals, took his long-desired step to the top level of the medal podium at the Mary Brown's Centre in St. John's, N.L., as his Manitoba team from Winnipeg won the 2026 Montana's Brier, presented by AGI.

Dunstone, backed up by vice-skip Colton Lott, second E.J. Harnden (who retired from competitive curling after the season), lead Ryan Harnden, alternate Jacob Horgan and coach Caleb Flaxey, defeated Alberta's Team Kevin Koe from Calgary 6-3 to set off a wild celebration with friends and family in the stands.

After six ends of close-to-the-vest curling and trailing 2-1, Dunstone, who lost gold-medal games in 2023 at London, Ont., and last year in Kelowna, B.C., scored a game-turning three in the seventh end that all but locked down his first national men's championship and a trip to Ogden, Utah, for the 2026 LGT World Men's Curling Championship.

If you could ever say a team was due — taking into account those Montana's Brier final losses as well as a loss to Team Brad Jacobs in November at the Montana's Canadian Curling Trials in Halifax — it was this one.

"It's been a lot of heartbreak, you know, over this quadrennial, losing two of these, and then the Trials," said Dunstone

"It's a very special moment for this group. We've put a lot of work into what we do, obviously. This moment feels way more incredible than I ever would have imagined that it would."

It was a nailbiter for much of the evening, as the teams kept things tight and waited for mistakes that rarely happened.

The first end, though, could have swung the early momentum as Koe took on a risky soft-weight raise double-takeout, trying to split his shooter onto the rings, although being off target would have resulted in a steal of two for Manitoba. In the end, he was able to get his single and take the early lead.

Koe made a double takeout in the second that snuffed out a chance at multiple points for Team Dunstone, who was forced to draw for a single, and, after a blanked third, the favour was returned two ends later when Koe needed to make a draw for one looking at three Manitoba counters.

Dunstone needed to make tough shots to remove partially buried stones for blanks in the fifth and sixth, but finally got his opportunity to pounce in the seventh and made the best of it when Koe



PHOTOS: CURLING CANADA / ANDREW KLAVER © KRUGER

Team Manitoba skip Matt Dunstone was overcome with emotion after claiming his first Montana's Brier championship.



It was a final, heartfelt wave goodbye to Newfoundland and Labrador fans — and to Canadian curling fans everywhere — as skip Brad Gushue bowed out of his final Montana's Brier in front of the hometown fans in St. John's.

was light on his freeze attempt to limit Team Dunstone to a deuce.

"Yeah, massive, huge shift in the game," said Dunstone, who is the fourth man in Canadian curling history to skip a Canadian junior men's champion (2013, 2016) and a Montana's Brier champion — all three times with Lott as his vice-skip. "I thought we controlled most of the game, most of the front half of the game. And, eventually we got our opportunity and capitalized on it."

After holding Team Koe to a single in the eighth, Dunstone delivered the knockout blow with a wonderful slash double takeout for a deuce to complete the scoring. In the 10th, he sunk to his knees in relief and jubilation when he ran Team Koe out of rocks.

"I feel very honoured, very blessed to be able to go and represent Canada on the world stage, especially after seeing Team Jacobs go and do what they did (winning gold at the Winter Olympics in Cortina last month). It was very inspirational. I feel very fortunate and just can't wait to do the same."

For E.J. Harnden, who was named the winner of the Hec Gervais Award as the playoff Most Valuable Player, it meant an extension to his competitive curling career that has seen him win the Montana's Brier five time.

The Canadians would go on to win the silver medal at the world men's championship in Ogden, Utah.

The team will also return as Team Canada at the 2026 Montana's Brier in Saskatoon.

The gold-medal game attracted a sellout crowd of 6,201, bringing the total for the 2026 Montana's Brier to 143,100.

GOLD-MEDAL FINAL

Alberta (Kevin Koe)*	100	100	010	x	—	3
Manitoba-Dunstone (Matt Dunstone)	010	000	302	x	—	6

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

Manitoba-Dunstone		Alberta-Koe	
Matt Dunstone	94	Kevin Koe	86
Colton Lott	88	Tyler Tardi	80
E.J. Harnden	88	Aaron Sluchinski	84
Ryan Harnden	90	Karrick Martin	90
Team Totals	90	Team Totals	85

ROUND-ROBIN STANDINGS

POOL A	W	L
Newfoundland/Labrador-Gushue (Brad Gushue)**	8	0
Team Canada (Brad Jacobs)**	7	1
Ontario (Jayden King)**	5	3
Québec (Jean-Michel Ménard)	5	3
Prince Edward Island (Tyler Smith)	3	5
Saskatchewan (Kelly Knapp)	3	5
Newfoundland/Labrador-Young (Nathan Young)	3	5
Nova Scotia (Kendal Thompson)	2	6
Nunavut (Derek Samagalski)	0	8

POOL B	W	L
Alberta (Kevin Koe)**	8	0
Manitoba-Dunstone (Matt Dunstone)**	7	1
Manitoba (Braden Calvert)**	5	3
Saskatchewan-McEwen (Mike McEwen)	5	3
New Brunswick (James Grattan)	5	3
Northwest Territories (Jamie Koe)	2	6
Northern Ontario (Dustin Montpellier)	2	6
Yukon (Thomas Scoffin)	1	7
British Columbia (Cody Tanaka)	1	7

** — TOP THREE TEAMS IN EACH GROUP ADVANCE TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

HAMPIONSHIP ROUND

PAGE 1-2 QUALIFIERS

Alberta (Kevin Koe)*	101	000	301	1	—	7
Team Canada (Brad Jacobs)	010	002	010	0	—	4
Nfld/Labrador-Gushue (Brad Gushue)*	020	101	010	0	—	5
Manitoba (Matt Dunstone)	001	020	100	3	—	7

PAGE 3-4 QUALIFIERS

Nfld/Labrador-Gushue (Brad Gushue)*	102	200	304	x	—	12
Ontario (Jayden King)	010	021	020	x	—	6
Team Canada (Brad Jacobs)	100	201	101	1	—	7
Manitoba (Brayden Calvert)	011	000	010	0	—	3

PAGE PLAYOFFS

1 VS. 2

Alberta (Kevin Koe)*	030	200	101	02	—	9
Manitoba-Dunstone (Matt Dunstone)	102	010	020	10	—	7

3 VS. 4

Nfld/Labrador-Gushue (Brad Gushue)*	100	010	201	0	—	5
Team Canada (Brad Jacobs)	002	003	010	1	—	7

SEMIFINAL

Manitoba-Dunstone (Matt Dunstone)*	010	100	020	3	—	7
Team Canada (Brad Jacobs)*	001	011	000	0	—	3

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

FINAL STANDINGS

PLAYOFFS	W	L
Manitoba-Dunstone (Matt Dunstone)	3	1
Alberta (Kevin Koe)	2	1
Team Canada (Brad Jacobs)	2	2
Newfoundland/Labrador-Gushue (Brad Gushue)	1	2
Manitoba (Braden Calvert)	0	1
Ontario (Jayden King)	0	1

Ontario's Jayden King (left) and Manitoba's Braden Calvert showed they're the next wave of Canadian stars.







HEC GERVAIS MVP AWARD

The Hec Gervais MVP award was presented to Team Manitoba-Dunstone second E.J.Harnden after he was chosen the most outstanding player in the 2026 Montana's Brier playoffs in St. John's, N.L. Harnden, who announced that he was retiring at the end of the season, was a mainstay for Team Manitoba-Dunstone at the Montana's Brier. The award, named after Gervais, the legendary skip from Alberta, is voted on by members of the media at the Montana's Brier. Making the presentation was Curling Canada CEO Nolan Thiessen.



(L-R) Kevin Koe, Colton Lott, Brett Gallant, and Geoff Walker

FIRST TEAM ALL-STARS

Skip: Kevin Koe, Alberta-Koe
Vice-skip: Colton Lott, Manitoba-Dunstone
Second: Brett Gallant, Team Canada
Lead: Geoff Walker, N.L.-Gushue

SECOND TEAM ALL-STARS

Skip: Brad Gushue, N.L.-Gushue
Vice-skip: Marc Kennedy, Team Canada
Second: E.J. Harnden, Manitoba-Dunstone
Lead: Ryan Harnden, Manitoba-Dunstone



ROSS HARSTONE AWARD

Sheldon Wettig (vice-skip, Nunavut) was the winner of the 2026 Ross Harstone Award whose recipient is selected by the players. The award is presented to the curler who best combines playing ability and sportsmanship.

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Olympic Winter Games Mixed Doubles

CORTINA OLYMPIC STADIUM ✻ CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, ITALY ✻
FEBRUARY 4 TO 10, 2026

Their Olympic dream that was 10 years in the making had a bittersweet ending for Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant.

The Team Canada mixed doubles curling duo finished their Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games experience together with an 8-4 victory over Switzerland's Briar Schwaller-Hürlimann and Yannick Schwaller. The Canadian husband-and-wife team from Chestermere, Alta., finished the 10-team round robin with a 4-5 record, the same as the Swiss. Both teams finished out of the playoffs, with the Canadians ranked fifth overall.

South Korea's 9-5 victory the previous day was the Canadians' fifth consecutive defeat and knocked them out of contention.

It marked the second Olympics in a row Canada missed the podium in mixed doubles after Rachel Homan and John Morris fell short in 2022. Kaitlyn Lawes and Morris won gold for Canada in mixed doubles when the event made its Olympic debut in 2018.



PHOTOS: CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE / CANDICE WARD

Canada's Jocelyn Peterman and husband Brett Gallant came into the Olympic competition for mixed doubles with high hopes and were off to the races with three quick wins, but finished just short of the playoffs at the end of the round robin.



PHOTO: WORLD CURLING / RALEIGH EMERSON

Rasmus and Isabella Wranå of Sweden came through in the clutch to snatch the gold medal in Olympic mixed doubles curling.

Isabella and Rasmus Wranå, Sweden's first-ever team of siblings at the Winter Olympics, won gold, beating U.S. pair Cory Thiesse and Korey Dropkin.

The Wranås persevered through a nailbiter of a championship game in front of a spirited, pro-U.S. in Cortina and pounced after the Americans left an opening in the last end. Isabella threw her final stone and hunched close to the ice, watching her brother sweep until their stone knocked out the Americans' counter for a 6-5 victory.

"It's a perfect shot for me to have, a takeout," Isabella Wranå said. "But of course you're nervous. It's the last shot and you know if you make it, it's an Olympic gold. But I felt like we kept the calm. We talked about how we're going to throw it and I knew that I had a really strong sweeper."

The Swedish pair had just squeezed into the four-team playoff round with a 5-4 record. They started their Olympic bid on stumbly legs, losing three games in a row in the round robin. But they managed to turn it around and won most of their remaining matches.



Canada's Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant left the mixed doubles competition with some smiles and the consolation of departing their Olympic experience in Italy on a winning note.

Italy's Stefania Constantini and Amos Mosaner won bronze, defeating Britain 5-3.

It was a face-saving result for the Italians, the defending Olympic and reigning world champions whose fans packed the stands throughout the round robin in hopes to see a repeat. But it was devastating result for the Brits, Jennifer Dodds and Bruce Mouat, who were expected to make the final after finishing atop the round-robin standings with an 8-1 record.

The lack of a medal was an immense letdown for the Canadians.

"It hurts," Gallant said. "Yes, it's an accomplishment to make it here but that wasn't our goal. We wanted more."

They were happy to finish with a pick-me-up win.

"It's good to end on a good note," Gallant said of the final game. "We played really well today. It's just a good feeling because we were pretty deflated after yesterday. It was a tough day. Didn't get the best sleep last night, so to come out this morning with energy and play really well, quite proud of that."

"It's tough reflecting on the week," said Peterman. "We battled hard, we fought to the end. We really worked hard to figure out the ice and try to figure out how to make shots on it. We were close in a lot of games and just not quite there."

In sharp contrast to their previous five games, Peterman and Gallant finished with a 90 per cent team shooting percentage and 100 per cent on 10 hits. The hits had been a major issue for the previous several games.

"You never want to dog it or not bring your best when you're wearing the Maple Leaf," said a smiling Peterman. "So, we wanted to do that today and finish on a win. Proud of that."

GOLD-MEDAL GAME

Sweden (Wranå/Wranå)	020	101	02	—	6
USA (Thiesse/Dropkin)*	101	010	20	—	5

* LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

Sweden		USA	
Isabella Wranå	97%	Cory Thiesse	73%
Rasmus Wranå	74%	Korey Dropkin	72%
Team totals	**83%**	**Team totals**	**73%**

BRONZE-MEDAL FINAL

Great Britain (Dodds/Mouat)*	010	010	10	—	3
Italy (Constantini/Mosaner)	101	101	01	—	5

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

ROUND-ROBIN

STANDINGS	W	L
Great Britain (Jennifer Dodds/Bruce Mouat)*	8	1
Italy (Stefania Constantini/Amos Mosaner)*	6	3
USA (Cory Thiesse/Korey Dropkin)*	6	3
Sweden (Isabella Wranå/Rasmus Wranå)*	5	4
Canada (Jocelyn Peterman/Brett Gallant)	**4**	**5**
Norway (Kristin Skaslien/Magnus Nedregotten)	4	5
Switzerland (Briar Schwaller-Hürlimann/Yannick Schwaller)	4	5
Czech Republic (Julie Zelingrová/Vít Chabičovský)	3	6
South Korea (Kim Seon-yeong/Jeong Yeong-seok)	3	6
Estonia (Marie Kaldvee/Harry Lill)	2	7

* TOP FOUR TEAMS QUALIFY FOR PLAYOFFS.

FINAL STANDINGS

PLAYOFFS	W	L
Sweden (Isabella Wranå/Rasmus Wranå)	2	0
USA (Cory Thiesse/Korey Dropkin)	1	1
Italy (Stefania Constantini/Amos Mosaner)*	1	1
Great Britain (J. Dodds/Bruce Mouat)	0	2

— WON BRONZE-MEDAL GAME AGAINST JAPAN 8-5

What began as curling friends became mixed doubles teammates and grew into husband and wife and parents. They worked on their game and their family life with one goal — play in the Olympics as teammates.

They began the Games riding an emotional high for two days when they began with three straight victories. Unfortunately for them, that was followed by three days of on-ice frustration and confusion as their game and their hopes slipped away through five consecutive losses.

After defeating Italy 7-2, the Canadians suffered a difficult loss to the United States. The pinpoint accurate shooting pair began their struggles on the third day of play when ice conditions changed and they never adjusted to the faster, straighter surfaces of the Cortina Olympic Stadium.

But they left the mixed doubles competition with some smiles and the consolation of departing on a winning note.

Olympic Winter Games Men/Women

CORTINA OLYMPIC STADIUM ✻ CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, ITALY ✻
FEBRUARY 11 TO 22, 2026



PHOTOS: CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE / CANDICE WARD

It takes a commited team to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games, and Canada surely had that in Italy. The Canadian winners in men's team play (L-R): alternate Tyler Tardi, lead Ben Hebert, second Brett Gallant, third/vice skip Marc Kennedy, and skip Brad Jacobs, from the Glencoe Club in Calgary.



Were Canadians Ben Hebert (left) and Brett Gallant thrilled with their gold-medal win? You better believe it!

Canada's men's and women's teams accomplished what they came to do at the Olympic Games: wins medals. Together they added two medals to the country's tally at the 2026 Winter Olympics. Team Brad Jacobs captured gold while Team Rachel Homan secured bronze at the Cortina Curling Olympic Stadium.

Jacobs captured his second Olympic men's curling gold medal in 12 years, defeating top-ranked Bruce Mouat and Great Britain 9-6 in a tightly contested game.

The result sparked celebrations for skip Jacobs, third/vice-skip Marc Kennedy, second Brett Gallant, lead Ben Hebert, alternate Tyler Tardi, coach Paul Webster, and national coach Jeff Stoughton.

Homan, meanwhile, finally won her first Olympic medal.

After failing to make the playoffs in two previous appearances — 2018 as the women's team skip and 2022 in mixed doubles — she guided Team Canada to a stressful 10-7 victory over the United States, skipped by Tabitha Peterson, to win the bronze.

"I'm really just proud. Proud to be Canadian. Proud to step back on the top of that podium once again," said Jacobs, who won his first Olympic gold medal in 2014. "It's been 12 years. It's been a long time. Curling is Canada's sport, and I think we just proved that again here today."

Gallant was super joyous after the win.

"It's amazing. We assembled this team with this one goal in mind, and every time we hit the ice, our main focus is on that team dynamic and supporting one another



Canadian skip Brad Jacobs dropped two games in the round robin, but he put things into high gear once the playoff round commenced and took home the gold medal.

and doing the little things that, if you do all those things right, it usually ends up in these wins and just these huge moments. I'm just proud that we did all that today because that was the hardest game I think I've ever curled, just one of the hardest opponents in curling, the number one team in the world. But it was that team dynamic, it was that team unity and that support that led to the gold medal."

With this win, Jacobs became the only male curler to win two Olympic golds as skip. He was also the last Canadian men's skip to win Olympic gold when he topped the podium at the 2014 Games in Sochi, Russia.

Jacobs knew he was chasing history in the game.

"I knew that Annette Norberg (Sweden) is the only skip to win two gold medals and no male skip had done that before. I certainly wanted to win that game."

It's also the second Olympic gold medal for teammates Hebert and Kennedy, who won gold at the Vancouver Games in 2010, and Gallant's first after winning bronze in 2022.

Mouat and Jacobs are considered two of the best skips in the world, and they played a match for the ages in the final.

Trailing by two heading into the 10th end, Team Mouat tried a double

MEN'S GOLD-MEDAL GAME

Great Britain (Bruce Mouat)	020	102	010	0	—	6
Canada (Brad Jacobs)	***102**	**010**	**103**	**1**	**—**	**9**

* LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

Great Britain		**Canada**	
Bruce Mouat	80%	Brad Jacobs	84%
Grant Hardie	86%	Marc Kennedy	93%
Bobby Lammie	75%	Brett Gallant	78%
Hammy McMillan Jr.	99%	Ben Hebert	98%
Team totals	**85%**	**Team totals**	**88%**

BRONZE-MEDAL FINAL

Switzerland (Yannick Schwaller)	*031	000	023	x	—	9
Norway (Magnus Ramsfjell)	000	010	000	x	—	1

* LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

MEN'S ROUND-ROBIN

STANDINGS	**W**	**L**
Switzerland (Yannick Schwaller)*	9	0
Canada (Brad Jacobs)*	**7**	**2**
Norway (Magnus Ramsfjell)*	5	4
Great Britain (Bruce Mouat)*	5	4
United States (Daniel Casper)	4	5
Italy (Joël Retornaz)	4	5
Germany (Marc Muskatewitz)	4	5
Czech Republic (Lukáš Klíma)	3	6
Sweden (Niklas Edin)	2	7
China (Xu Ziaoming)	2	7

* TOP FOUR TEAMS ADVANCED TO THE PLAYOFFS

FINAL STANDINGS

PLAYOFFS	**W**	**L**
Canada (Brad Jacobs)	**2**	**0**
Great Britain (Bruce Mouat)*	1	1
Switzerland (Yannick Schwaller)	1	1
Norway (Magnus Ramsfjell)	0	2

* WON BRONZE-MEDAL GAME AGAINST SWITZERLAND 9-1



PHOTO: CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE / ANIL MUNGAL

It was a joyous bunch of Canadian women after securing the bronze medal at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Italy. Proud to show off their hardware were (L-R): alternate Rachelle Brown, lead Sarah Wilkes, second Emma Miskew, third/vice skip Tracy Fleury, and skip Rachel Homan, from the Ottawa Curling Club.



Anna Hasselborg of Sweden is now a two-time Olympic gold-medallist in curling.

PHOTO: WORLD CURLING/CELINE STUCKI

on near-frozen stones to tie the score, but managed to remove only one.

Switzerland's Yannick Schwaller won the bronze medal, defeating Norway's Magnus Ramsfjell 9-1.

Jacobs' victory capped off a memorable day for Canadian curling at the Olympics. Team Canada's Homan celebrated after defeating the U.S. to win bronze.

Team Homan delivered two three-enders to claim Canada's first women's curling medal at the Olympics since 2014.

"I'm just so proud to be Canadian. To have the fight that we did this week, and our story of how we got here and how we got an Olympic medal. I'll forever be proud of that," Homan said.

The bronze is a significant achievement for skip Homan, third/vice-skip Tracy Fleury, second Emma Miskew, lead Sarah Wilkes, alternate Rachelle Brown, team coach Heather Nedohin, and national coaches Viktor Kjell and Renée Sonnenberg. After starting the round robin 1-3, they battled back with five consecutive wins to reach the playoffs.



Skip Rachel Homan came for gold, but a bronze medal still made her proud after a gritty performance at the Winter Olympics in Italy. It was her first medal showing in three Olympic experiences representing Canada.

PHOTO: CANDICE WARD/CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

A hit for three in the sixth end gave Canada a two-point cushion. The United States responded with a deuce, but Canada answered with another three in the eighth. The U.S. attempted a triple to limit the damage but could only remove one, allowing Team Homan to draw for three.

On their final shot in the 10th, the United States ticked a guard, leaving Canada's with the win for bronze.

"It's such an incredible feeling, and yeah, of course, you don't want to focus on the outcome and earning medals and all of that," Wilkes said. "You want to focus on the process on your way there, but for that process to be rewarded with an Olympic medal with this incredible group that we have here is just fantastic. It's incredible and it just feels so rewarding."

WOMEN'S GOLD-MEDAL GAME

Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	*200 010 110 1 — 6
Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	000 102 002 0 — 5

* LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

Sweden		Switzerland	
Anna Hasselborg	84%	Alina Pätz	80%
Sara McManus	80%	Silvana Tirinzoni	79%
Agnes Knochenhauer	81%	Carole Howald	75%
Sofia Scharbach	85%	Selina Witschonke	98%
Team totals	**83%**	**Team totals**	**83%**

WOMEN'S BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

Canada (Rachel Homan)	**010 103 030 2 — 10**
United States (Tabitha Peterson)	*101 010 202 0 — 7

* LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

Canada		United States	
Rachel Homan	78%	Tabitha Peterson	76%
Tracy Fleury	91%	Cory Thiesse	84%
Emma Miskew	90%	Tara Peterson	81%
Sarah Wilkes	98%	Taylor-Anderson-Heide	75%
Team totals	**89%**	**Team totals**	**79%**

WOMEN'S ROUND-ROBIN

STANDINGS	W	L
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)*	7	2
United States (Tabitha Peterson)*	6	3
Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)*	6	3
Canada (Rachel Homan)*	**6**	**3**
South Korea (Gim Eun-ji)	5	4
Great Britain (Sophie Jackson)	5	4
Denmark (Madeleine Dupont)	4	5
Japan (Sayaka Yoshimura)	2	7
Italy (Stefania Constantini)	2	7
China (Wang Rui)	2	7

* TOP FOUR TEAMS ADVANCED TO THE PLAYOFFS

FINAL STANDINGS

PLAYOFFS	W	L
Sweden (Anna Hasselborg)	2	0
Switzerland (Silvana Tirinzoni)	1	1
Canada (Rachel Homan)#	**1**	**1**
U.S.A. (Tabitha Peterson)	0	2

WON BRONZE-MEDAL GAME AGAINST U.S.A. 10-7

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Paralympic Winter Games Wheelchair Mixed Team

CORTINA OLYMPIC STADIUM ✻ CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, ITALY ✻ MARCH 4 TO 14, 2026



PHOTOS: WORLD CURLING / ANGELA BURGER

Canadians celebrate their gold-medal finish (from left): Gil Dash, Collinda Joseph, Ina Forrest, Jon Thurston, and Mark Ideson. It marked the fourth time Canada won the gold medal in wheelchair curling since it became a Games sport in 2006. Canada is the first team to go through the entire Paralympic tournament undefeated, finishing with an 11-0 record.

Canada returned to the top of the podium in wheelchair curling for the first time in 12 years after defeating China 4-3 in a nailbiting and chaotic final at the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games.

On his last throw, skip Mark Ideson of London, Ont., was in a tight situation with the game clock running out and uncertainty on whether the Canadian or Chinese rock was closest to the button.

The game came down to the last three rocks and tension in the air. Staring down a threatening Chinese stone, Ideson made a draw that appeared to just slightly outcount his opposition. After a missed tapback by Chinese skip Haitao Wang, the Canadians thought the gold was theirs.

With no definitive answer and the Canadian clock running down, Ideson opted to throw his final rock. Per World Curling rules, a team forfeits the game if it doesn't deliver all their stones by the





Canadian curling fans got a great kick — and some smiling photos, too — watching Team Canada members win the wheelchair mixed team gold medal at the Paralympic Games, where Ina Forrest (left) was again a standout performer.



Victory — sweet victory — was written all over the face of Team Canada's Jon Thurston after winning the gold medal in wheelchair mixed curling at the 2026 Paralympics in Italy.

PHOTO: CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE / DAVE HOLLAND

GOLD-MEDAL FINAL

Canada (Mark Ideson)*	**010**	**101**	**01**	**—**	**4**
China (Wang Haitao)	001	010	10	—	3

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

BRONZE-MEDAL FINAL

South Korea (Yang Hui-tae)	002	000	20	—	4
Sweden (Viljo Petersson-Dahl)*	010	202	02	—	7

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

ROUND-ROBIN

STANDINGS	W	L
Canada (Mark Ideson)+	**9**	**0**
China (Wang Haitao)+	8	1
Sweden (Viljo Petersson-Dahl)+	5	4
South Korea (Yang Hui-tae)+	5	4
Norway (Jostein Stordahl)	4	5
Italy (Egidio Marchese)	4	5
Latvia (Ojārs Briedis)	3	6
Slovakia (Radoslav Ďuriš)	3	6
United States (Sean O'Neill)	3	6
Great Britain (Hugh Nibloe)	1	8

+ — QUALIFIED FOR PLAYOFFS

SEMIFINALS

Canada (Mark Ideson)*	**200**	**110**	**13**	**—**	**8**
South Korea (Yang Hui-tae)	022	003	00	—	7
China (Wang Haitao)*	110	103	01	—	7
Sweden (Viljo Petersson-Dahl)	003	010	20	—	6

FINAL STANDINGS

PLAYOFFS	W	L
Canada (Mark Ideson)	2	0
China (Wang Haitao)	1	1
Sweden (Viljo Petersson-Dahl)#	1	1
South Korea (Yang Hui-tae)	0	2

— WON BRONZE-MEDAL GAME AGAINST SOUTH KOREA 7-4.

end of the clock. There were three seconds left after the stone left Ideson's stick, but his tapback was perfect and made the win clear to everyone watching.

The win completed an undefeated run at the Games for Ideson, vice-skip Jon Thurston, second Ina Forrest, lead Collinda Joseph, fifth Gilbert Dash, and coaches Mick Lizmore and Dana Ferguson.

It was Ideson's fourth Paralympic medal (two gold, two bronze) while Forrest now has three golds and two bronze medals. Thurston and Joseph are now two-time medallists, adding gold to their 2022 bronze, while Dash is Paralympic champion in his first Games appearance.

Canada is the first nation to finish the tournament undefeated, and the only country to have won a wheelchair curling medal at all six Paralympic Winter Games since the sport was introduced — now four gold and two bronzes.

After the game, Ideson said, "It was a lot of confusion. We weren't 100 per cent sure if we were shot rock or not, and the clock was running down and rather than leave it up to chance, we had to make the shot."

Thurston admitted it was a nerve-wracking finish to the game.

"It was really hard to communicate with a time crunch and the noise of the venue," he said. "But thankfully, Mark threw a pistol and was able to tap us in to make sure we were shot to win the gold. Mark just did it all week for us. He was a great leader, and I'm super proud of him and this whole team, and it's super special."

The game went into the eighth end tied at 3-3. Trouble with the ice for the first few stones left a Canadian-dominated crowd at the Cortina Curling Olympic Stadium on the edge of their seats.

"It was definitely a tight game with everybody wanting it over each other and only getting one point an end," said Forrest, who became the most decorated wheelchair curler in history. "We knew that any one shot could be the breakout shot. It could be a score of more than one, which makes it a little bit difficult with such a good team as China, who are such great hitters."

Team China finished the round robin with an 8-1 record; its only loss was at the hands of the Canadians who won 9-4 in seven ends in a very strong performance.

"It's validating for all the hard work that's gone in the last 12 years," said Ideson. "Not just by the members on the team but also the staff behind the scenes and friends and family that have sacrificed lots of time for us to be on the road. It's tough, but it's all worth it for this moment."

Team Canada was supported all week by team leader Kyle Paquette; team physiotherapist Sari Shatil; team physician Dr. Steven Macaluso; performance science lead Kyle Turcotte; family and friends coordinator Wendy Morgan; and countlessfriends, family, and fans.

Ideson was selected to be one of two flag bearers representing Canada at the closing ceremony.

BKT World Women's presented by Pharmasave

MARKIN MacPHAIL CENTRE ✻ CALGARY, ALBERTA ✻ MARCH 14 TO 22, 2026

Though it wasn't the result they wanted, Canada's Team Kerri Einarson upgraded its medal colour at the 2026 BKT World Women's Curling Championship, presented by Pharmasave.

Switzerland's Team Xenia Schwaller defeated Canada 7-5 in the gold-medal game at Calgary's WinSport Arena.

The silver is the best-ever world championship finish for the Manitoba team out of the Gimli Club of skip Einarson, vice-skip Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard, lead Karlee Burgess, alternate Krysten Karwacki, coach Reid Carruthers and national coach Viktor Kjell, who previously claimed bronze in 2022 and 2023.

"It's pretty amazing to medal on the world stage, and it's an upgrade from our previous bronze, so it does still feels very special," Einarson said.

Down by one without hammer in the 10th end, Team Einarson attempted to go around a close centre guard and tap Switzerland's shot stone far enough to count. The Canadians made contact, but couldn't push it far enough away to extend the game.



Skip Xenia Schwaller and her teammates from Switzerland played well above their tender years to win the final of the 2026 BKT World Women's Curling Championship 7-5 over Team Canada's Kerri Einarson in Calgary. Skip Schwaller and her team celebrate with their gold medals (L-R): Schwaller, third Selina Gafner, second/vice-skip Fabienne Rieder, and lead Selina Rychiger.



PHOTOS: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Team Canada's Shannon Birchard (left) and Karlee Burgess were clearly focused on the job at hand.

The young Swiss team — skip Schwaller, third Selina Gafner, second/vice-skip Fabienne Rieder, lead Selina Rychiger — won the World Junior Curling Championship just two years ago and played well beyond their years throughout the event alongside coach and Canadian John Epping. On her final shot, Schwaller eliminated Canada's shot stone with a runback to seal the win.

"I don't know (how we did it)," Schwaller said, still in shock at what just happened in her post-game interview with the media. "Just hard work, I have the best coaching staff, my dad and (coach John Epping), they're amazing."

After dropping their first game to Japan, the 2024 world junior champions rattled off 11 straight wins to top the 13-country standings.

Canada ranked second at 10-2 with a pair of extra-end losses, including one to Team Schwaller.

Team Schwaller controlled the opening half, converting every hammer opportunity and keeping Team Einarson in check. Canada made attempts to wrestle back control, but Switzerland held the momentum for much of the game.

The Canadians had a chance to tie in the ninth on a runback for two, but the stone they drove into the house rolled too far, leaving them trailing by one without hammer heading into the final end.

Schwaller continues Switzerland's long tradition of excellence in women's curling, becoming the fifth different skip to win the world title since 2012, joining Mirjam Ott, Binia Feltscher, Alina Paetz and Silvana Tirinzoni.



It's a good thing Kerri Einarson has a clear, strong voice. It comes in handy when calling for the brushers.

"I think it just showed us that we need to work a lot to achieve the same thing," Schwaller said. "We have tough competition back home, and I think it helped us and pushed us even more to work harder and get here."

Canada and Switzerland have now met in three straight gold-medal games. Since 2014, only teams from Canada and Switzerland have won the gold medal at this event.

Canada's Rachel Homan defeated Switzerland's Silvana Tirinzoni twice for gold, but before that Tirinzoni won a historic four titles in a row from 2019-2023 (the tournament was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Earlier, Sweden's Team Isabella Wranå won the bronze-medal game against Japan's Team Satsuki Fujisawa.

FRANCES BRODIE AWARD

Chinami Yoshida, who throws third stones for Team Japan, was awarded the Frances Brodie Award at the 2026 BKT World Women's Curling Championship. The award winner is selected annually by competitors in the World Women's Curling Championship as the player who best combines playing ability with sportsmanship. The award was named in honour of Scotland's Frances Brodie, one of curling's pioneering women. Brodie helped establish the women's world championship and chaired the first event in Perth, Scotland, in 1979.



Chinami Yoshida accepted her award from Curling Canada's chief umpire Brett Waldroff.

GOLD-MEDAL FINAL

Switzerland (Xenia Schwaller)*	020	020	020	1	—	7
Canada (Kerri Einarson)	**000**	**201**	**101**	**x**	**—**	**5**

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

Team Canada		**Team Switzerland**	
Kerri Einarson	80	Xenia Schwaller	84
Val Sweeting	85	Selina Gafner	85
Shannon Birchard	81	Fabienne Rieder	91
Karlee Burgess	96	Selina Rychiger	93
Team total	**86**	**Team total**	**88**

BRONZE-MEDAL FINAL

Sweden (Isabella Wranå)	010	110	050	x	—	8
Japan (Satsuki Fujisawa)*	101	001	002	x	—	5

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

ROUND-ROBIN

STANDINGS	**W**	**L**
Switzerland (Xenia Schwaller)+	11	1
Canada (Kerri Einarson)+	**10**	**2**
Japan (Satsuki Fujisawa)+	9	3
Sweden (Isabella Wranå)+	8	4
South Korea (Gim Eun-ji)+	8	4
Turkey (Dilşat Yıldız)+	7	5
China (Wang Rui)	6	6
Italy (Stefania Constantini)	5	7
Norway (Torild Bjørnstad)	4	8
Scotland (Fay Henderson)	4	8
Denmark (Madeleine Dupont)	3	9
United States (Delaney Strouse)	2	10
Australia (Helen Williams)	1	11

+ —TOP SIX TEAMS IN ROUND-ROBIN MAKE THE PLAYOFFS

PLAYOFFS

QUALIFICATION

Sweden (Isabella Wranå)*	010	220	110	2	—	9
South Korea (Gim Eun-ji)	001	002	002	0	—	5
Japan (Satsuki Fujisawa)*	102	000	300	1	—	7
Turkey (Dilşat Yıldız)	010	003	010	0	—	5

SEMIFINALS

Canada (Kerri Einarson)*	**302**	**200**	**31x**	**x**	**—**	**11**
Japan (Satsuki Fujisawa)	010	011	99x	x	—	3
Switzerland (Schwaller)*	102	003	020	x	—	8
Sweden (Isabella Wranå)	020	010	101	x	—	5

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

FINAL STANDINGS

PLAYOFFS	**W**	**L**
Switzerland (Xenia Schwaller)	2	0
Canada (Kerri Einarson)	**1**	**1**
Sweden (Isabella Wranå)#	2	1
Japan (Satsuki Fujisawa)	1	2
Turkey (Dilşat Yıldız)	0	1
South Korea (Gim Eun-ji)	0	1

— WON BRONZE-MEDAL GAME AGAINST JAPAN 8-5

LGT World Men's

WEBER COUNTY ICE SHEET ✻ OGDEN, UTAH ✻ MARCH 27 TO APRIL 4, 2026

It's hard to beat a legend and Canada's Matt Dunstone and his team from Winnipeg learned that firsthand at the World Men's Curling Championship in Ogden, Utah.

Dunstone came up against Swedish skip Niklas Edin in the final, and while it was interesting for a while the Great Swede and his elite team prevailed 9-6 in the gold-medal final.

It was Edin's eighth world title.

"They were just making everything under the sun and we were chasing the whole game," said Dunstone.

"We were very disappointed after the Olympics, so I feel we had a monkey on our backs going into this week," said Edin, who finished ninth at the Olympics in Cortina, Italy. "We had to prove to ourselves that we can still curl at a high level. I think we played amazing, keeping our cool and staying ahead in these two playoff games.

"I'm super proud of this team. I think we found our groove and confidence again."

Dunstone said the result was "unfortunate."

"We wanted to put a little more pressure on them. It just wasn't meant to be for us today.

"We battled out there and we beat two great teams in the playoffs to get to the final. I'm just proud of this group and proud of the results we put together and the way we carried ourselves."

Dunstone said he will look at his first appearance at the world men's championship as a learning experience.

"We totally just want to get back and finish one step better," said Dunstone, whose team was rounded out by vice skip Colton Lott, second E.J. Harnden, lead Ryan Harnden, alternate Geoff Walker, team coach Caleb Flaxey and national coach Jeff Stoughton. "We ran into a buzzsaw today; I mean, they threw everything they had at us and unfortunately we couldn't find enough answers for it."



PHOTOS: WORLD CURLING / STEPHEN FISHER

Say cheese! Team Sweden was back on top the gold-medal podium after its victory over Team Canada's Matt Dunstone at the 2026 LGT World Men's Curling Championship. It was skip Niklas Edin's record eighth world banner. Celebrating the achievement in Ogden, Utah (from left): alternate Simon Olofsson, second Rasmus Wranå, Edin, vice-skip Oskar Eriksson, lead Christoffer Sundgren, and coach Alexander Lindström.

The Swedes never trailed in the game. They manufactured a first-end deuce, and had Canada chasing the rest of the afternoon. Dunstone's team chased hard.

After being forced to one in the second end, Dunstone had to make a tough double-takeout in the third to avoid giving up three; Sweden still managed a deuce to go up 4-1.

After a blanked fourth, Dunstone made a precise double-raise takeout for a pair in the fifth, and added a raise double-takeout for two in the seventh.

But each time the Canadians scored two, the Swedes responded in kind with deuces of their own, and then forced Canada to one in the ninth to snuff out any comeback hopes

"I thought today we played well," said E.J. Harnden. "They (Sweden) were just phenomenal. Nik showed today why he's



One shot had Canada's Matt Dunstone jumping for joy.



PHOTOS: WORLD CURLING / SARAH BOEKE

Team Canada's Matt Dunstone and his partners were thrilled to bring home a silver medal after a tremendous performance at the worlds.

one of the best to ever play and unfortunately he did it against us in the world final."

Edin announced at the end of the season he was retiring from the competitive game.

The 40-year-old retires with his eight world championships, eight European championships, and a full set of Olympic medals under his belt across five appearances.

"Which leads me to make a tough and scary decision," Edin noted on social media. "To quit while ahead and have time to enjoy what else is out there."

COLLIE CAMPBELL MEMORIAL AWARD

Wilhelm Naess of Team Norway was the winner of the 2025 Collie Campbell Memorial Award. The award winner is selected annually by competitors in the BKT Tire World Men's Curling Championship as the player who best combines playing ability with sportsmanship. The award was instituted in 1979 to honour the memory of Colin A. Campbell who served as president of the International Curling Federation (now World Curling) from 1969 until his death in 1978. Presenting the award was World Curling head official Michele Gower.



GOLD-MEDAL FINAL

Sweden (Niklas Edin)*	202	002	020	1	—	9
Canada (Matt Dunstone)	**010**	**020**	**201**	**0**	**—**	**6**

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

PERCENTAGES

SWEDEN		**CANADA**	
Niklas Edin	95	Matt Dunstone	78
Oskar Eriksson	86	Colton Lott	89
Rasmus Wranå	79	E.J. Harnden	83
Christoffer Sundgren	99	Ryan Harnden	98
Team total	**91**	**Team total**	**87**

BRONZE-MEDAL FINAL

U.S.A. (John Shuster)	020	210	010	x	—	6
Scotland (Ross Whyte)*	302	000	204	x	—	11

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

ROUND-ROBIN

STANDINGS	**W**	**L**
Sweden (Niklas Edin)+	10	2
Scotland (Ross Whyte)+	10	2
Canada (Matt Dunstone)+	**10**	**2**
Switzerland (Marco Hösli)+	9	3
U.S.A. (John Shuster)+	8	4
Italy (Stefano Spiller)+	8	4
China (Xu Xiaoming)	6	6
Japan (Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi)	5	7
Germany (Marc Muskatewitz)	4	8
South Korea (Kim Chang-min)	3	9
Czech Republic (Lukáš Klíma)	3	9
Poland (Konrad Stych)	2	10
Norway (Andreas Hårstad)	0	12

+ — QUALIFIED FOR PLAYOFFS

PLAYOFFS

QUALIFICATION

Switzerland (Marco Hösli)*	102	003	002	00	—	8
U.S.A. (John Shuster)	010	200	220	11	—	9
Canada (Matt Dunstone)*	**010**	**102**	**020**	**3**	**—**	**9**
Italy (Stefano Spiller)	003	010	201	0	—	7

SEMIFINALS

Scotland (Ross Whyte)*	200	102	020	0	—	7
Canada (Matt Dunstone)	**002**	**010**	**302**	**1**	**—**	**9**
Sweden (Niklas Edin)*	020	102	010	02	—	8
U.S.A. (John Shuster)	002	010	101	10	—	6

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

FINAL STANDINGS

PLAYOFFS	**W**	**L**
Sweden (Niklas Edin)	2	0
Canada (Matt Dunstone)	**2**	**1**
Scotland (Ross Whyte)**	1	1
U.S.A. (John Shuster)	1	2
Switzerland (Marco Hösli)	0	1
Italy (Stefano Spiller)	0	1

** — WON BRONZE-MEDAL GAME AGAINST U.S.A 11-6.

New Holland Canadian Under-20

GERRY MCCRORY COUNTRYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX ✻ SUDBURY, ONTARIO ✻
MARCH 28 TO APRIL 4, 2026

Quebec skip Jolianne Fortin knows that patience is a virtue.

And that patience paid off big as Fortin led her Québec #2 team to the female gold-medal victory at the 2026 New Holland Canadian Under-20 Curling Championships in Sudbury, Ont.

The young skip had been knocking on the door of a Canadian championship for years, and this time she finally kicked it in.

"After five years, working for this, and finally achieving our goals, it's incredible," said Fortin, who defeated Team Manitoba's Shaela Hayward 8-7 in the final. "We've been in three finals between U-18 and U-20, and we were starting to wonder when it was going to be our turn."

Patience paid off in the final as the Québec team stole two for the win in the eighth end. The team from Kénogami Curling Club — Jolianne Fortin, Emy Lafrance, Mégan Lafrance, Megane Fortin (and coach Brandon Lafrance) – trailed by one without last rock, but forced Manitoba skip Hayward into a tough draw against two. It rubbed a guard, and Québec claimed the championship.

Québec opened with two and stole the second end to take an early 3-0 lead. It could have been a bigger score, but Hayward made a clutch draw against four to force the single in the second. After that, it was all Manitoba for several ends. The team from Carmen, Man. outscored Québec 7-1 in the next four ends.

"After five ends, who would have thought we could come out of it with the win?" said Fortin, of the mid-game momentum shift. "We just had to be patient. We knew it wasn't happening like we wanted it to, but we knew we would have an opportunity at some point."

The male final wasn't nearly as tight.

"I actually have no words," said Ontario skip Evan MacDougall of his team's 8-3 win over Alberta #1's Peter Hlushak in the gold-medal final. "It's unreal."



Year after year she competed hard at the national level but finally perseverance paid off for skip Jolianne Fortin who guided her Team Québec #2 to the top of the podium at the 2026 New Holland Canadian Under-20 Curling Championships. The Jonquière-based squad, silver-medallists last year and Quebec reps at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, capped off its great week by edging Manitoba's Shaela Hayward 8-7 to win the female gold medal. The team features two sets of sisters (from left): skip Fortin, third Emy Lafrance, second Mégan Lafrance, and lead/vice skip Mégane Fortin. The team is coached by Brandon Lafrance (rear), Emy and Mégan's father.

Alberta conceded after a steal in the seventh end.

The team from Fergus, Ont. — MacDougall, Dylan Stockton, Evan Madore, and Carson Kay — blanked the first, before putting four on the scoreboard in the second. With a big lead, they just had to patiently work their way to the finish line.

"Honestly, it's a bit scary getting up early on a team like that," said MacDougall. "You know they're going to be going hard for the rest of the game, and if we weren't careful, that's how they get big scores right back. Getting four was nice, but we knew we had to stay focused for the next few ends to win it … and we were able to do it."

Alberta was threatening for a steal of two or three in the fourth end, when MacDougall made a double runback-double takeout to score one. That restored a four-point lead going into the second half of the game.



PHOTOS: CURLING CANADA

Alberta #2 teammates Rosie Mears (left) and skip Sierra Androschuk had a sensational week and enjoyed every minute of it together.

"There was a different shot for one in that end, but that's the one I was seeing,"



Team Ontario #1 skipped by Evan MacDougall started strong and kept rolling to the end to claim the gold medal at the 2026 New Holland Under-20 Canadian male championship in Sudbury, Ont. The team from Fergus (from left): lead Carson Kay, second Evan Madore, vice-skip Dylan Stockton, and MacDougall, emerged 8-3 winners over Alberta #1's Peter Hlushak in the gold-medal final. The Ontario team is supported by alternate Ryne Fisher and coach Jordan Thin (not pictured). The quartet will represent Canada at the 2027 World Junior Championships.



Alberta was well represented in the male competition. Peter Hlushak skipped Alberta #1 to the silver medal while Jaxon Hiebert (below) and Alberta #2 went 7-1 in the round-robin before losing 7-2 to Hlushak in the semifinals.

UNDER-20 FEMALE GOLD-MEDAL FINAL

Québec #2 (Jolianne Fortin)*	210 010 22 — 8
Manitoba (Shaela Hayward)	003 202 00 — 7

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

BRONZE-MEDAL FINAL

Nova Scotia #1 (Cassidy Blades)	012 010 20 — 6
Alberta #2 (Sierra Androschuk)*	200 101 01 — 5

SEMIFINALS

Alberta #2 (Sierra Androschuk)	011 010 0x — 3
Québec #2 (Jolianne Fortin)*	100 302 2x — 8
Nova Scotia #1 (Cassidy Blades)	200 210 000 — 5
Manitoba (Shaela Hayward)*	001 002 112 — 7

QUARTERFINALS

Manitoba (Shaela Hayward)	020 201 1x — 6
Newfoundland/Labrador (Cailey Locke)*	000 020 0x — 2
Québec #2 (Jolianne Fortin)*	032 020 2x — 8
Nova Scotia #2 (Rebecca Regan)	000 101 0x — 2

FINAL STANDINGS

PLAYOFFS	W	L
Québec #1 (Jolianne Fortin)	3	0
Manitoba (Shaela Hayward)	2	1
Nova Scotia #1 (Cassidy Blades)+	1	1
Alberta #2 (Sierra Androschuk)	0	2
Newfoundland/Labrador (Cailey Locke)	0	1
Nova Scotia #2 (Rebecca Regan)	0	1

+ — DEFEATED ALBERTA #2 6-5 IN THE BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

RROUND-ROBIN STANDINGS

POOL A	W	L
Nova Scotia #1 (Cassidy Blades)**	7	1
Québec #2 (Jolianne Fortin)**	7	1
Newfoundland/Labrador (Cailey Locke)**	6	2
New Brunswick (Mya Pugsley)	5	3
British Columbia #2 (Hannah Bartlett)	3	5
Alberta #1 (Emma DeSchiffart)	3	5
Saskatchewan (Chloe Semeniuk)	3	5
Ontario #2 (Charlotte Wilson)	2	6
Northern Ontario #1 (Claire Dubinsky)	0	8

POOL B	W	L
Alberta #2 (Sierra Androschuk)**	7	1
Manitoba (Shaela Hayward)**	6	2
Nova Scotia #2 (Rebecca Regan)**	5	3
Ontario #1 (Dominique Vivier)	5	3
British Columbia #1 (Erin Fitzgibbon)	5	3
Québec #1 (Summer St-James)	4	4
Northwest Territories (Sydney Galusha)	2	6
Prince Edward Island (Sophie Gallant)	1	7
Northern Ontario #2 (Rhya Baker)	1	7

** — TOP THREE TEAMS FROM EACH POOL ADVANCED TO THE PLAYOFFS. BRITISH COLUMBIA ADVANCED ON TIEBREAKER SYSTEM

said MacDougall. “The guys gave me confidence, and I was able to throw it well, and make it. I felt comfortable throwing it.”

The Ontario team is supported by alternate Ryne Fisher and coach Jordan Thin.

UNDER-20 MALE GOLD-MEDAL FINAL

Alberta #1 (Peter Hlushak)	001 020 0x — 3
Ontario #1 (Evan MacDougall)*	040 102 1x — 8

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

BRONZE-MEDAL FINAL

Alberta #2 (Jaxon Hiebert)	020 001 00 — 3
Québec (Raphaël Tremblay)*	100 000 21 — 4

* — LAST-ROCK ADVANTAGE

SEMIFINALS

Ontario #1 (Evan MacDougall)*	000 102 011 — 5
Québec (Raphaël Tremblay)	000 030 100 — 4
Alberta #2 (Jaxon Hiebert)	000 020 0x — 2
Alberta #1 (Peter Hlushak)*	120 201 1x — 7

QUARTERFINALS

Ontario #2 (Tyler MacTavish)	002 000 xx — 2
Québec (Raphaël Tremblay)*	220 411 xx — 10
Alberta #1 (Peter Hlushak)*	210 011 0x — 5
British Columbia (Harrison Hrynew)	000 300 0x — 3

FINAL STANDINGS

PLAYOFFS	W	L
Ontario #1 (Evan MacDougall)	2	0
Alberta #1 (Peter Hlushak)	2	1
Québec (Raphaël Tremblay)+	2	1
Alberta #2 (Jaxon Hiebert)	0	2
British Columbia (Harrison Hrynew)	0	1
Ontario #2 (Tyler MacTavish)	0	1

+ — DEFEATED ALBERTA #2 4-3 IN THE BRONZE-MEDAL GAME

ROUND-ROBIN STANDINGS

POOL A	W	L
Alberta #2 (Jaxon Hiebert)**	7	1
Ontario #2 (Tyler MacTavish)*	7	1
British Columbia (Harrison Hrynew)**	5	3
Northern Ontario #1 (Riley Winters)	4	4
Nova Scotia #1 (Zach Atherton)	4	4
New Brunswick (Austen Matheson)	3	5
Manitoba #1 (Evan Boulet)	3	5
Saskatchewan #2 (Ethan Robinson)	2	6
Yukon (Nolan Floyd)	1	7

POOL B	W	L
Ontario #1 (Evan MacDougall)**	7	1
Alberta #1 (Peter Hlushak)**	6	2
Québec (Raphaël Tremblay)**	6	2
Newfoundland/Labrador (Simon Perry)	6	2
Saskatchewan #1 (Rogan Snow)	5	3
Manitoba #2 (Nash Sugden)	3	5
Nova Scotia #2 (Elex Lockhart)	2	6
Northern Ontario #2 (Jacob Curtis)	1	7
Prince Edward Island (Connor Bruce)	0	8

** — TOP THREE TEAMS FROM EACH POOL ADVANCED TO THE PLAYOFFS; QUÉBEC ADVANCED ON TIEBREAKER SYSTEM

“We’re all best friends off the ice, and we know what everybody needs to play their best,” said MacDougall. “It was just a lot of fun out there, and I think that’s made the difference.”

Both champions will represent Canada at next year’s World Junior Championships.

Earlier in the day, Hayward was trailing 5-1 after five ends, but scored two in the sixth and stole in the seventh, eighth, and ninth end to deny Nova Scotia’s Cassidy Blades a trip to the final. Meanwhile, Fortin’s Quebec squad defeated Alberta #2’s Sierra Androschuk, 8-3, in the semifinal.

BALANCE PLUS FAIR PLAY AWARDS

UNDER-20 MEN
Skip: Simon Perry
Third: Nicholas Codner
Second: Luke Butler
Lead: Miles Reed
Coach: Glenn Goss

UNDER-20 WOMEN
Skip: Jolianne Fortin
Third: Olivia McDonah
Second: Ashley Fenton
Lead: Ella McKinley
Coach: Michael Landry

THE BALANCE PLUS FAIR PLAY AWARD WINNERS ARE SELECTED BY THE JUNIOR MEN’S AND WOMEN’S OFFICIALS.

ASHAM NATIONAL COACHING AWARD





The 2026 Asham National Coaching Awards went to Ken Krause of British Columbia (left) and Brandon Lafrance of Quebec #1.

The 2026 Asham National Coaching Award recipients are British Columbia’s Ken Krause (male) and and Brandon Lafrance, Quebec #2 (female). The award winners at the New Holland Canadian Under-20 are chosen by coaches who are asked to select an opposing team coach who best exemplifies the attributes of coaching.



Ken Watson Award winners for 2026 (left to right): Mathis Arsenault, Lewis MacDarmid, Kacey Gauthier, and Hayley Gushue.

KEN WATSON SPIRIT AWARD

The 2026 female winners of the Ken Watson Award are Hayley Gushue, Newfoundland/Labrador (Pool A) and Kacey Gauthier, Prince Edward Island (Pool B), while the male winners were Lewis MacDarmid, Saskatchewan #2 (Pool A) and Mathis Arsenault, Québec (Pool B). The awards are voted on by the players and presented to the curlers who best combine playing ability with sportsmanship.

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- ***U-15 RockFest Prairies***
  Humboldt, SK
  February 12-14, 2027
  Manitoba and Saskatchewan
- ***U-15 RockFest Atlantic***
  Saint John, N.B.
  March 25-27, 2027
  Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador and Prince Edward Island
- ***U-15 RockFest West***
  Okotoks, AB
  April 14-16, 2027
  British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Alberta

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A salute to 2026

CANADIAN WHEELCHAIR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP



PHOTO: CURLING CANADA

It was celebration time for Team Québec in Boucherville after winning the national title in their home province. From left: skip Carl Marquis, vice-skip Sébastien Boisvert, lead Johanne Mathieu, coach Germain Tremblay, alternate Noémie Gagné, and second François Lacourse.

CHAMPIONS

WORLD MIXED DOUBLES



PHOTO: WORLD CURLING / JAMES ROBERTS

Team Canada earned a well-deserved bronze medal at the championship in Geneva, Switzerland. The team (L-R): Kadriana Lott, Colton Lott, and coach Scott Pfeifer.

CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES



PHOTO: CURLING CANADA / AMANDA WONG

Serena Gray-Withers and Victor Pietrangelo needed a dramatic, late-game comeback to rise to the top at the 2026 championship.

U SPORTS-CURLING CANADA UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS



PHOTOS: CURLING CANADA / CALVIN HUI

The men's winners from the University of Calgary (L-R): skip Kenan Wipf, third Ky Macaulay, second Ethan Drysdale, lead Spencer Else, and coach Mickey Pendergast.



The 2026 women's champs from Memorial (L-R): skip Cailey Locke, third Hayley Gushue, second Emily Neary, lead Sitaye Penney, and coach Jeff Thomas.

WORLD JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES



PHOTO: WORLD CURLING / EAKIN HOWARD

Team Canada's Owen Henry (centre) and Brooklyn Ideson (right) are joined by team leader Laura Walker after winning a silver medal at the highly-contested mixed doubles championship in Edmonton.

CANADIAN MIXED CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP



PHOTO: CURLING CANADA

Team New Brunswick needed to make a challenging last rock in the final end to secure the gold medal (L-R): skip Rene Comeau, vice-skip Jennifer Fenwick, second Alex Robichaud, and lead Katie Vandenborre.

PAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



PHOTO: WORLD CURLING / STEPHEN FISHER

Celebrating their impressive win were (front row, L-R): skip Brad Jacobs, vice-skip Marc Kennedy, second Brett Gallant, and lead Ben Hebert; (back row, L-R): coach Paul Webster, alternate Tyler Tardi, and coach Jeff Stoughton.



PHOTO: WORLD CURLING / LOGAN HANNIGAN-DOWNS

Team Canada, 2025 women's silver-medallists. Front row (L-R): skip Rachel Homan, vice-skip Tracy Fleury, second Emma Miskew, lead Sarah Wilkes, and alternate Rachelle Brown. Back, coach Viktor Kjell.

CANADIAN CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS



PHOTOS: CURLING CANADA / CONNIE LALIBERTE

From left, skip Lindsay Thorne, vice-skip Melissa Gannon, second Emily Kelly, and lead Mychelle Zahab of the Rideau Curling Club in Ottawa.



From left, skip Mitch Young, third/vice-skip Steve Tersmette, second Blair Jarvis, lead Kevin Hoglund, alternate Matthew Reynolds, and coach Chris Summers.

CANADIAN SENIOR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



PHOTO: CURLING CANADA / STEPHEN AU

The 2025 Canadian Senior Curling Championship gold medallists, Saskatchewan's Team Bruce Korte and Ontario's Team Sherry Middaugh. From left: lead Rory Golanowski, second Kory Kohuch, alternate Arlen Hall, third/vice-skip Darrell McKee, skip Korte, skip Middaugh, third/vice-skip Karri-Lee Grant, second Melissa Foster, coach Wayne Middaugh, and lead Jane Hooper-Perroud.

WORLD SENIOR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



PHOTO: WORLD CURLING / JAMES ROBERTS

Led by skip Sherry Middaugh, Team Canada won the women's bronze medal at the 2026 World Senior Curling Championships in Geneva, Switzerland. Team members (L-R): Sherry Middaugh, third/vice-skip Karri-Lee Grant, second Melissa Foster, lead Jane Hooper Perroud, and coach Wayne Middaugh.



PHOTO: WORLD CURLING / ANSIS VENTINS

Skip Bruce Korte brought home bronze for Canada at the 2026 World Senior Men's Curling Championship in Geneva, Switzerland. The Canadian team (L-R), from Saskatoon: Korte, vice-skip Darrell McKee, second Kory Kohuch, lead Rory Golanowski, and alternate Arlen Hall.

CCAA-CURLING CANADA COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



PHOTOS: CURLING CANADA / KELVIN HUI

The Humber Hawks men's team captured the 2026 CCAA Curling Canada championship at the Callie Curling Club in Regina. The champs and their support members (L-R): lead Matthew Moretto, second Matthew Abrams, skip/third stones Noah Garner, fourth stones Jacob Horgan, alternate Liam Murphy, and coach Sean Turriff.



Skip Cassidy Blair guided her Red Deer Polytechnic Queens team to the 2026 women's championship. The team (L-R): coach Brad Hamilton, alternate Danielle Taylor, lead Reegan Cox, second Sofia Bascello, vice-skip Kaily Sparks, skip Blair, and coach Eldon Raab.

CANADIAN UNDER-18 CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Skip Renée Wood promises to keep pushing forward in the game after leading her team to the female gold medal at the 2026 Canadian Under-18 Curling Championships in Timmins, Ont. The team, from the Sutherland Club in Saskatoon, includes (L-R): Wood, third/vice-skip Edie Jardine, second Amelia Whiting, lead Winnie Morin, alternate Abby Hogeboom, and coach Dwayne Yachiw.



PHOTOS: CURLING CANADA / ANDREW DENNY

It was a first-ever male gold-medal performance by a Québec team at a Canadian Under-18 Curling Championships and Québec #1 skip Raphaël Tremblay couldn't be more pleased and proud of his team from the Grand-Mère Curling Club in Grand-Mère. The winning team (L-R): Tremblay, vice-skip Louis-François Brassard, second Nathan Beaudoin-Gendron, lead Olivier St-Pierre, and coach Yves Tremblay.

CANADIAN MASTERS CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



PHOTOS: GRANDE PRAIRIE CURLING CENTRE

Bryan Cochrane (left) and his Ontario team from the Russell Curling Club (L-R) vice-skip J.P. Lachance, second John Wilson, lead Ken Sullivan, and alternate Ken Wilson won the 2026 Canadian Masters men's championship with a 7-6 victory over Greg Balderston and his Alberta team in Grande Prairie, Alta.



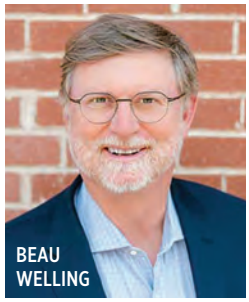
Ontario skip Mary Chilvers and her team from the Whitby Curling Club were near perfect in capturing the 2026 Canadian Masters Women's curling Championship. The team includes (L-R): alternate Deb McPhadden, lead Christine Loube, second Kristin Turcotte, vice-skip Colleen Madonia, and skip Chilvers.

in the NEWS

American Welling will carry on for another term as president of World Curling

World Curling president Beau Welling has won reelection as president of the global curling organization.

The 55-year-old golf architect defeated a challenge from former two-time World Curling vice-president Hugh Millikin of Australia at the World Curling Congress vote in Bratislava, Slovakia.


BEAU WELLING

Welling replaced President Kate Caithness CBE in 2022 at the conclusion of her 12-year term of office.

Welling is the 11th president of World Curling and is the second president from the U.S., following Dr. Donald F. Barcome from 1988–1990.

He is credited with lifting mixed doubles into prominence at the Olympic Games.

Welling is the Founder and CEO of Beau Welling Design, a golf course design and land-planning firm based in Greenville, S.C.

Canada's Roselle Gonsalves was elected as a World Curling director at the Congress.

Meanwhile, a new rule on double-touching a delivered curling stone has been adopted. World Curling now explicitly says touching the granite at any time after the stone is put into play will result in it being removed.

The new rule will come into effect starting this season.

Curling Canada announced it will fully align itself with the new standards after a reduction in key differences between the organizations over the last few years.

The timing is right, according to Curling Canada Chief Executive Officer Nolan Thiessen, noting that the number of principal differences between Canadian and World regulations has shrunk.

"I think for us it was just a situation where we said, 'Look, there's not a lot of benefit to us trying to do this on our own,' " said Thiessen.

The double-touch rule will apply to four-player teams. Starting this season, four-player teams will need to be exactly that, with new, stricter regulations insisting that each team start with four players at the beginning of a game, and if they cannot, the match is forfeited.

Teams must continue as a foursome throughout the game, with an exception — if one of the four needs to leave the game at any time, the affected team can play as three for up to two full, consecutive ends. After that, the exiting player would need to return or an alternate would have to be pressed into action or, again, the game would be forfeited.

There were developments away from the rules committees, too. Eight-time world men's champion skip Niklas Edin of Sweden dropped a bombshell when he announced he is stepping away from the game while on top. The 40-year-old future Hall of Famer captured an Olympic gold medal of every colour, winning bronze in 2014, silver in 2018 and gold in 2022.

He plans to remain active in the sport.

Teams were in the break-up mode in Canada because it's that time of year again. Post Olympics, several teams head back to the drawing board and start planning for the next Olympic cycle.

Just five days after winning silver at the 2026 World Women's Curling Championship, Kerri Einarson of Gimli, Man., shook up her team lineup.

Longtime third Val Sweeting is out, along with alternate Krysten Karwacki and coach Reid Carruthers.

Sweeting eventually joined forces with Victoria-based Team Kayla MacMillan.

Two-time Olympic gold-medal winner Kaitlyn Lawes of Winnipeg also announced she is stepping away from the game for one year, at least. Lawes returned to skipping in 2022 after spending 12 years as vice-skip for Jennifer Jones, winning an Olympic gold and a world championship. She also won an Olympic gold with John Morris in mixed doubles.



Sweden's Niklas Edin has decided to step away from the game after a brilliant career on the ice.

PHOTO: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

It was also announced in September that Canadian curling greats Glenn Howard and Team Randy Ferbey are heading into the World Curling Hall of Fame.

Howard, 64, won gold in all four of his appearances at the world men's championship, twice as vice-skip for his brother, Russ, a 2015 Hall inductee, and twice as a skip.

The Edmonton-based Ferbey Four won four Brier championships in five years and three world titles during a dominant run in the early 2000s.

Vice-skip David Nedohin, second Scott Pfeifer and lead Marcel Rocque will join skip Ferbey, who was inducted individually in 2014, with the foursome becoming just the sixth complete team to enter the Hall.

It was a season to remember for Ontario curlers, and it resulted in historic results.

Curling Ontario swept all three of Curling Canada's annual Member Association season-long Cup competitions — the MA Cup, Governors' Cup and For the Love of Curling Cup — the first time it's happened since the awards were established.

Each of the 14 Member Association earns points based on the performance of its respective provincial/territorial championship-winning teams from the 15 national championship events that are either operated by, or sanctioned by, Curling Canada.

Those include the Montana's Brier; the Scotties Tournament of Hearts; the New Holland Canadian Under-20 Men's and Women's Championships; the Canadian Under-18 Championships; the Canadian Senior Men's and Women's Championships; the Canadian Curling Club Men's and Women's Championships; the Canadian Mixed Championship; the Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship; the Canadian Wheelchair Championship; and the Canadian Masters (60 and over) Men's and Women's Championships.

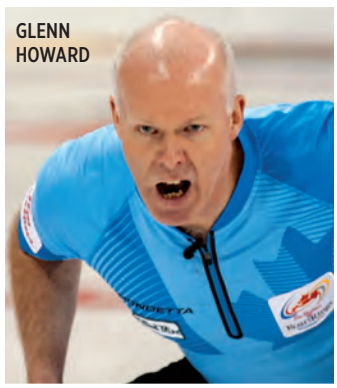
Graham Zapf, the longtime audio engineer with TSN, was awarded the 2026 Paul McLean Award. A resident of Abbotsford, B.C., Graham's mastery of story-telling through sound has been a crucial element of the success of TSN curling. The award is presented to a person behind the scenes who has made a significant contribution to the sport of curling and is named after their highly-respected producer and executive producer who passed away to cancer at the age of 39 in December, 2005.

On a sad note, Curling Canada, the National Wheelchair Curling Program, and the curling community mourn the loss of a wheelchair curling inspiration.



PHOTOS: CURLING CANADA

Curling Ontario Board Chair Tim McChesney (left) and Chief Executive Officer Matt Allen (right) are joined by Curling Canada CEO Nolan Thiessen during the National Curling Congress where Ontario's curling success was celebrated.

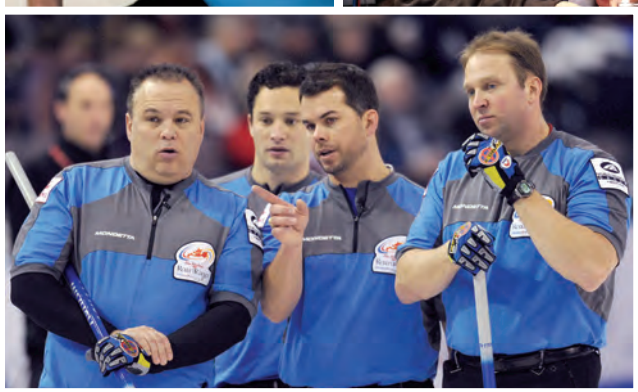


GLENN HOWARD



TSN'S Scott Higgins presents the Paul McLean Award to Graham Zapf.

PHOTO: CURLING CANADA / ANDREW KLAVER



Randy Ferbey is already a member of the World Curling Hall of Fame, and now his longtime teammates get to join him. The team, known as the Ferbey Four, consisted of (L-R): Ferbey, Scott Pfeifer, Dave Nedohin, and Marcel Rocque.



DARRYL NEIGHBOUR

Canadian, world and Paralympic champion Darryl Neighbour died in August at the age of 78 in Richmond, B.C.

Neighbour was part of one of Canada's most dominant strings of success in wheelchair curling, earning gold in international competition for three consecutive years, as vice-skip for skip Jim Armstrong. Neighbour won gold for Canada at the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver and at the world championships in 2009 and '11.

U-15 FestiPierre

LE FESTIPIERRE EST DE RETOUR EN 2027!

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- ***FestiPierre U-15 Est***
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  5 au 7 février 2027
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  Humboldt, Sask.
  12 au 14 février 2027
  Manitoba, Saskatchewan

- ***FestiPierre U-15 Atlantique***
  Saint John, N.B.
  25 au 27 mars 2027
  Nouveau-Brunswick, Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Nouvelle-Écosse, Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador

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POUR L'AMOUR DU CURLING

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Curing Canada wants to make its sport more welcoming to Black and other racialized players.

PHOTO: CURLING CANADA / CALVIN HUI

Making room *in the* house

The question of how to make curling more inclusive has been a driving force behind the scenes at Curling Canada

BY JOLENE LATIMER

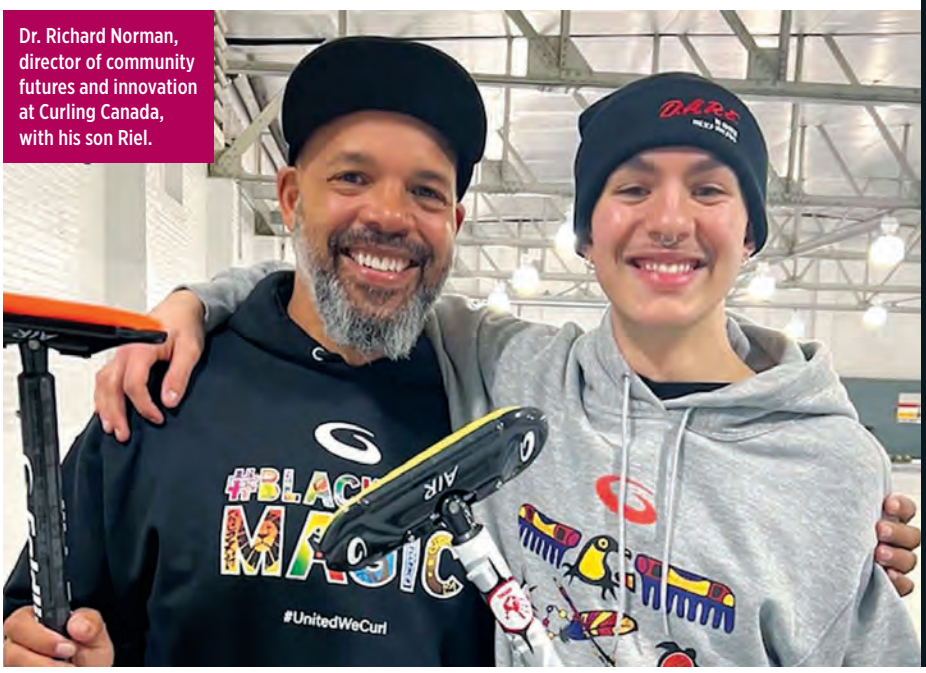
GROWING UP IN THE ONLY BLACK FAMILY in his Prince Edward Island town, Andrew Paris heard a common refrain in curling clubs: You're a really good curler for a Black person.

"Almost every time someone said that to me, they meant it in a complimentary way," he said.

"But we have the conversation that that's actually a micro-aggression."

While the comment used to bother him, over time he's grown to accept those uncomfortable moments as educational opportunities. Through his Black Rock Initiative, Paris works to make curling more welcoming to Black and other racialized curlers by creating opportunities for conversation, education and participation.

"It's not about doing anything special or performative. It's about having conversations, being



Dr. Richard Norman, director of community futures and innovation at Curling Canada, with his son Riel.

"Every sport is susceptible to these ideas that it has a certain culture. When you don't necessarily fit that mold, how do you penetrate it? Especially something like curling that has such a deep, rich tradition.

The curling community is very self-aware. They know it's going on and want it to change and are trying different things."

— DR. RICHARD NORMAN

curious and not judgemental, and it's about being kind, which curlers are for the most part. But kindness is not automatically inclusion," he said.

Paris shared his experiences as a Black person in curling through the "Changing the Face of Curling" symposium in 2022, where leaders from across the country gathered to discuss diversity, inclusion and the future of the sport at the grassroots level.

Many years ago, Dr. Richard Norman was invited to a charity pro-am bonspiel. He had no idea the event would change the course of his life.

"I didn't know anything about curling. I had never curled before," he said.

He was rubbing elbows with curling legends such as Kevin Martin, Rachel Homan, and Eve Muirhead. Norman found himself curling — for the first time — with Scotland's Anna Sloan as his skip.

"I had an amazing time. I managed to curl pretty well. I didn't even know what a draw was," he said.

After the game, he was enjoying drinks with his teammates and competitors when something struck him.

"I was the only Black person playing," he said.

It wasn't a totally new experience — he's been in many rooms where he's the only person of colour. But it had an impact on him.

"There doesn't seem to be that reflection of the broader society within the sport. It's intriguing to me. What's going on here? It's seemingly welcoming but what is really happening?," said Norman, who is the director of community futures and innovation at Curling Canada. That question became part of his doctoral research. His recently published graphic novel "(re)Pebbling: A Story of Blackness and Curling" is now available through the University of Regina Press and presents his findings.

"Every sport is susceptible to these ideas that it has a certain culture. When you don't necessarily fit that mold, how do you penetrate it? Especially something like curling that has such a deep, rich tradition," he said.

That question of how to make curling more open has been the driving force behind much of the work that followed the symposium four years ago.

Through a research project called Partners Transforming Curling, researchers began by interviewing curling leaders across the country about how the sport has navigated change in the past. Curling has adapted before, from the evolving role of women in the sport to changing rules around smoking in clubs. The researchers wanted to understand what allowed those changes to happen and what leaders needed to make them successful.

The project then turned its attention



PHOTO: CURLING CANADA

Andrew Paris (second from right) shared his experiences as a Black person in curling at a symposium in 2022 where leaders from across the country discussed diversity and inclusion. Dr. Richard Norman (left) was among them.

to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives already underway at partner organizations, evaluating their impact before moving into a third phase focused on sharing what had been learned.

"The curling community is very self-aware. They know it's going on and want it to change and are trying different things," Norman said.

A future symposium would represent the culmination of that work, but organizers don't see it as an endpoint.

"A (future) symposium is the final stage of that part of the work, where we really want to share what this has been about, but we're thinking about it increasingly as an open door to what's next," said Dr. Heather Mair, a professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo.

For Mair, that next step matters not only to the future of curling, but to the role curling clubs can play in their communities. At a time when social isolation is an increasing concern, she sees curling clubs as places where people can find both belonging and connection.

"We're in an era of social isolation. But I also think we need places where people feel they belong," she said.

Creating that sense of belonging may require clubs to rethink what it means to welcome someone through their doors.

Ray learned through Partners Transforming Curling experts the distinction as the difference between telling newcomers, 'Come on in, you're welcome to do what we do here,' versus asking what a club could do differently to serve them.

That shift will be part of the conversation when leaders reconvene in the future.

"We want to convene as many leaders in the sport as possible," said Dr. Simon Barrick, an associate professor at Cape Breton University. "We'll be revisiting the conversations we had in 2022, talking about what's changed, what's evolved, and leaders from the national, provincial, territorial, and community levels in the same room to have conversations about what we should be celebrating about what curling does well and where there are gaps and how to meaningfully address them."

Barrick said the willingness to change is already there among the vast majority of leaders in the sport. What they may lack is the knowledge, resources or capacity to turn that willingness into sustainable programs, particularly when addressing racial barriers faced by Black, Indigenous and other racialized Canadians.

For curling clubs trying to grow their membership, those conversations are becoming increasingly difficult to separate from the business of keeping a club viable.

"Canada is one of the most diverse countries in the world. When we're planning with clubs, we're saying, if you want to be successful and want growth, they need to entertain the demographics in their community," Ray said.

"I think there's a good business case to be made for doing so, but it's also the right thing to do because that's the kind of country we are."

The challenge now is turning that awareness into action. But Norman believes curling already possesses one of the things it needs most: a culture built around bringing people together.

"Part of the reason I've stayed in the space is the community itself," Norman said. "In this day and age, when connection is so challenging, we have this Canadian institution — curling — which is designed around social connection. If we can tap into that, it becomes a different kind of conduit to make people feel like they can be part of something."



Another rising young star in the Black curling community is Jayden King who skipped Team Ontario at the 2026 Montana's Brier.

PHOTO: CURLING CANADA / ANDREW KLAVER



Sitaye Penny is a rising star at the St. John's Curling Club whose passion for curling is matched only by her dedication to increasing diversity in the sport.

Jolene Latimer is an Emmy-winning sports journalist and serves on the Women in Curling executive.

NO REST FOR THE WEARY

Curling Canada pushes full steam ahead to build on impressive Olympic and Paralympic performances with a renewed focus on making its high-performance athletes the best they can be

BY MELISSA MARTIN

AS THE LAST CURLING SEASON CAME to a close, many might have guessed that Curling Canada's High-Performance Director, David Murdoch, finally had time to rest. The 2026 Winter Olympics were over. A new quadrennial was beginning. Surely, as so much of the sport's high-performance calendar is oriented towards building for the Olympics every four years, the breath of time after one is finished would be a little more relaxed.

In fact, Murdoch says, it's "quite the opposite." Yes, the 2025-26 season was busy, and exhausting; but no sooner had it ended than it was time for Curling Canada and Canadian sport funding officials to launch their quadrennial review of those efforts. Then, they had to launch the selection process for the newly-refreshed National Team Program (NTP), which now sees 15 top teams given access to comprehensive training and performance support.

"We had to go and reflect very quickly about what has happened, what's been the result, what should some of our recommendations be to start the next quadrennial, and ultimately apply for our funding straight away at the end of April," Murdoch says. "It comes really quickly, so there has been huge amounts of work just to be ready for this season in some respects."

Still, Murdoch and others at Curling Canada had a bit of a chance to pat themselves on the back. Looking back, the last quadrennial started from a difficult place. The world was struggling to pick itself up after the massive disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. The interruption impacted some of Canada's up 'n' coming curlers the most significantly; many rising young athletes lost critical development time, and some drifted away from



Brad Jacobs' gold-medal victory at the Cortina Olympics was the end product of Curling Canada's push to achieve success, every four years.

PHOTOS: CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE / CANDICE WARD

the sport. But by the end of the 2025-26 season, the recovery seemed well underway.

"We saw the world and especially the sporting world change, and lost a lot of athletes along the way," says Helen Radford, Curling Canada's NextGen manager. "I think we're starting to now see the resurgence, we're starting to see the growth. And I think that's been a really important thing over the last four years."

On the high-performance side, Murdoch, a two-time world champion skip from Scotland, had joined Curling Canada halfway through the last quadrennial; it wasn't time to be making major changes. Nor did the program need it, he thought. As a sport, curling in Canada was strong, with a deep well of world-class athletes. Still, he had started to observe where Curling Canada could help support those curlers with more consistent, modern and professionalized coaching and technical information. Other countries are ramping up, he says, and Canada needs to be ramping up, too.

"We certainly wanted to get the direction going in terms of our culture, and our thinking about the future," he says, of the focus during the back half of the last quad. "We started to do some things differently, and I think we looked at that in a good way. We didn't push athletes into changing things too quickly. We had a timeline to make some changes."

In the end, some of those efforts paid off. After some disappointments in the 2018 and 2022 Olympics, Canadian curling fans were eager to see the Maple Leaf rise again. At the end of the last quad, they got it: the 2026 Olympic Games brought a gold medal for Team Brad Jacobs, a fiercely-battled bronze for Team Rachel Homan, and a Paralympic gold for the wheelchair curling team skipped by Mark Ideson.

"From that lens, in some ways, it's mission accomplished," Murdoch says. "We achieved something that was extremely hard to attain. For us to deliver on a big stage in a lot of the games at the end of the quad is magnificent. It's a credit to the athletes, and our staff, and everyone involved to be able to achieve that."

Now, Murdoch's attention moves to how to build on that success over the next four years. On the top of his wish list: taking a cutting-edge approach to fine-tuning performance. What Curling Canada wants to do, Murdoch says, is be able to get as much technical information to the elite athletes as possible. They'd started to make some of those changes over the last two seasons, meeting with teams to find out what they needed most, doing what Murdoch calls "huge amounts of video analysis," testing out new technologies, and overall just figuring out what teams need to throw their rocks even better.

The revamped NTP will be a big part of that plan. Announced in August, the program will now see Curling Canada select five men's teams, five women's, and five mixed



Rachel Homan's team has bought into Curling Canada's efforts to promote new ideas and push the boundaries of the sport a little bit more.

"We saw the world and especially the sporting world change, and lost a lot of athletes along the way. I think we're starting to now see the resurgence, we're starting to see the growth. And I think that's been a really important thing over the last four years."

— HELEN RADFORD, NEXTGEN MANAGER, CURLING CANADA





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doubles pairs each season. The teams will receive extensive, holistic support from Curling Canada's roster of experts, in areas ranging from coaching to physiotherapy and performance planning. One of each category's five spots is devoted for a development team, to help bridge the often-difficult transition between junior success and elite world competition.

"What are we doing every day that makes us better?" Murdoch says. "That's been a bit of a mantra for us. When you start to look at what an athlete has to do to be the best in the game, that's a huge amount of work. It's physical training, mental training, on-ice training. There are so many components. Injury prevention, nutrition, psychology. So we were looking at that going, 'OK, how do our athletes make a plan, and what does their daily training environment look like?"

For the 2026-27 season, the women's NTP selections include Team Homan, Team Kerri Einarson, and Team Taylor Reese-Hansen, with Team Serena Gray-Withers as the development team. On the men's side, Team Jacobs, Team Matt Dunstone, Team Tyler Tardi and Team Brendan Bottcher, as well as developmental Team Jordon McDonald. For mixed doubles, the pairings of Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant, Kadriana Lott and Colton Lott, Homan and Bottcher, Gray-Withers and Victor Pietrangelo will receive national team support, as well as Kira Brunton and Jacob Horgan in the development spot.

Among those teams are some of the world's most elite and experienced curlers. Every team has their own system, one that has worked for them for years, and changing ingrained habits and approaches isn't always easy. But as Murdoch and other Curling Canada coaches and support staff spoke with the athletes, all were open and eager to tweaking their approaches to reflect emerging information about best practices in the sport.

"That's the growth mindset that we're looking for, and our athletes have that," Murdoch says. "We saw that with Brad and Rachel. They took on things that were new, so credit to them. And I think that's what we're trying to build a culture of in our entire pathway, our NextGen and our current NTP. We need to be curious. We need to be listening to information that's being provided, or ideas to really enhance what we're doing, and try and push the boundaries a little more. So credit to everyone for taking that on board."

Now, going forward, Curling Canada aims to spread that spirit of celebrating growth and focusing on the nuts and bolts of performance through all levels of the sport. At Curling Canada's NextGen program, Radford envisions a new quad where rising young athletes are building their game with the same framework, the same basic information as that used by Jacobs or Homan.

"With David Murdoch coming in, there was a huge focus on technical excellence, and doing a bit of a blitz of 'OK, let's just learn to be better curlers,'" Radford says. "Let's get into the technical pieces, and let's share it all through the pathway so that whether you're 15 or 50 years old, everybody is learning essentially the same key principles. Whether it's delivery, or whether it's brushing, we're really starting to see a bit more of a Team Canada approach where everybody is learning the same technical foundation. And I think that's really going to benefit us in the next quad."

On the developmental side, much of the anticipation for the next four years surrounds mixed doubles. In May 2025, World Curling debuted its U21 mixed doubles championship, giving young athletes a second opportunity to represent Canada on the world stage. The discipline is fast, Radford points out, and one needs to be quite fit; it's also more flexible than a fours team. All of those factors can make it especially suitable for young athletes juggling studies or other responsibilities. Recently, team enrolment at junior mixed doubles events has been "exploding," Radford says.

"There is a lot of excitement with that," Radford says. "One of the nice things about moving forward is the opportunity for young curlers to see mixed doubles as an exciting discipline for them to focus on, and now they have some pretty big carrots. They can go to the World Juniors, they could go to the World University Games."

Melissa Martin is a reporter-at-large at the *Winnipeg Free Press*

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Growing Canada's next generation of curlers — and strengthening curling centres across the country

BY SHERI BLOCK

CURLING CANADA'S U-9 AND U-12 RockStars program is giving kids across the country a chance to develop their skills in a fun and engaging way while helping curling centres grow their youth development initiatives.

Designed for young curlers who have completed one year of a Learn-to-Curl program, RockStars builds on curling basics through two structured 12-week lesson plans: FUNdamentals (for ages nine and under) and Learn to Train (for ages 12 and under). The lessons cover everything from throwing a rock and sweeping to communication and strategy.

It's proving to be a hit among young curlers and curling centres alike.

"It was quite well received, and I've already had certain parents reach out to me to ask about it for next season," says Samantha Watson, board member and youth curling co-ordinator at the Durham Curling Club.

The club, located in the rural community of Durham, Ont., offered RockStars during the 2025/2026 season with between 12 and 16 kids registered each week. It's an impressive turnout for a club with only around 120 members.

Kortni Eckhardt's two daughters Delilah, 13, and Georgia, 10, both took part in the program at the Durham Curling Club and had an absolute blast.

"They loved it from the first time," says Eckhardt. "They really like the challenge. They like the strategy behind the game. Georgia really likes sliding, and she was given a chance to be the skip later in the season, so she really enjoyed that. Delilah really likes the strategy behind it as well and she ended up skipping a few games, too."

Eckhardt would recommend the program to others who are looking to get their kids into curling.

"It's a really friendly environment, just the sport etiquette and supportive families. It was fun to go to bonspiels, and it felt like people were acknowledging that everyone's learning."

Delilah and Georgia had so much fun they both want to curl again this season. Eckhardt and her husband, as well as the girls' grandparents also curl at the club, so they are happy to see Delilah and Georgia follow in their footsteps.

"That's the goal, that hopefully they'll want to curl with us sometime."

RockStars helps young curlers build confidence and develop their technical, tactical, physical, mental, and social skills, aligned with Curling Canada's Long-Term Curler Development framework. The program includes full lesson plans with objectives and activities to ensure curlers and instructors have a consistent learning path. It also includes clear guidelines on how to do a skills assessment at the end of the program that is shared with the curler and their parents/guardians.

The comprehensive nature of the program resources was appealing to



The Shaunavon Curling Club RockStars celebrate another day on the ice.

Watson, who restarted the youth curling program at her club during the 2024/2025 season and was looking for additional supports and resources.

As a high school teacher, she also appreciated how easy the lessons were to follow. It allowed her and the program's coach to focus on the fundamentals without having to spend time lesson planning.

"There was a full three-part lesson for each week. It was step-by-step and walked you right through it," says Watson.

"Curling season is extremely busy for me, so this was very helpful in not having to also lesson plan for the 12 weeks," echoed another RockStars instructor.

Watson saw firsthand how the kids at the Durham Curling Club progressed each week — and so did they.

"The program allowed them to see things like, 'Before you couldn't slide on one foot at all, and now you're sliding.' Working on just the progression of skill was really good to see in the kids," says Watson.

Watson adds she heard from both the kids and their parents/guardians how much they enjoyed the RockStars program.

"They always kept asking, 'Can we do this drill that we did? Can we do this game that we did?'"

The kids also enjoyed the RockStars branded bag tags and stickers, which allowed them to mark their progress as they moved through the program.

"Once the kids master a certain level, they get a little star sticker to put on their bag tag that attaches to their curling bags. That was a nice giveaway for the kids to get them more invested in the program. It has really good resources that can be used repeatedly," says Watson.

"Our youth program is growing, and the kids really enjoyed the bag tags and being evaluated on their progress. It makes the program more meaningful and legitimate," says another RockStars instructor.

There are currently more than 180 curling clubs in Canada offering the U-9 and U-12 RockStars program.

"We are thrilled to see the enthusiasm for the RockStars program from curling centres across the country," says Brodie Bazinet, Curling Canada's Director of Philanthropy & Youth Impacts. "RockStars is about much more than just developing curling skills, it's about young curlers challenging themselves, experiencing success, and building confidence. We're creating reasons for young curlers to keep coming back, to foster a lifelong love of curling, and that's a win-win for young people, clubs, and our sport."



Above: the Durham Curling Club RockStars take to the ice for their final practice of the season. Inset: RockStars hit the ice for some practise at the Durham Curling Club.

Thanks to support from the curling community, the U-9 and U-12 programs are offered to clubs at an affordable one-time fee, with free digital updates as they are available.

"I think it's definitely a worthwhile investment in the lesson plans to provide more, knowledge and resources to help develop a fulsome program. If you have a good functioning program, hopefully more people will want to join," says Watson.

Watson hopes to build off the momentum of this past season and offer the RockStars program again during the 2026-27 season, allowing past participants to continue to progress as well as recruit new young athletes.

She says it's important to get young people involved in the sport at an early age, which is also good for curling clubs.

"Being able to introduce the kids early allows them to develop some new skills, to learn a new sport and to hopefully have a love of that sport that will continue on throughout their lives," says Watson.



All smiles for a young RockStar at her first bonspiel.

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Fans devoted connection to our sport a big reason to celebrate curling's future

BY AL CAMERON



IN MANY WAYS, the season after an Olympic and Paralympic quadrennial concludes is a logical time to look back.

This coming season, of course, will provide many opportunities to do just that — not just on the four seasons that preceded Canada's successes during the 2026 Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics in Cortina, but also on the previous century that brings us to celebrating the 100th anniversary of the world's most famous men's national curling championship, the Montana's Brier, presented by AGI.

Specific to the quadrennial, this past off-season, and much of this coming season, will be devoted to reflection on everything that went right and, yes, what went wrong in every aspect of the process that led our teams to the Olympics and Paralympics. Coaches and athletes alike will offer their input, and their input will play a profound role in determining how Canada prepares for the 2030 Winter Olympics and Paralympics in France.

The 100th anniversary of the Montana's Brier, meanwhile, will be more about celebrating ALL that has gone right for an event that stands alone in men's curling, and tells a wonderful story of how our sport has evolved since the inaugural 1927 Brier in Toronto.

Curling, it has to be said, is in a unique position in Canadian sport, and all of you are a major reason why.

No other sport has such a connection between its fans and its major stars — not just because of how approachable and down-to-earth Canadian high-performance curlers are, but also because so many of you participate in the sport at the club level and can appreciate the skill-set that these athletes bring to the table when they're competing at national championship events.

So many moments from this past curling season are relatable, but the one that hit home most profoundly for many took place March 14 at the Cortina Olympic Stadium.

Television viewers across the country were transfixed as they watched the final few ends of the Paralympics wheelchair curling gold-medal final between China and Canada.

The on-ice quartet of Mark Ideson, Jon Thurston, Ina Forrest and Collinda Joseph, with alternate Gil Dash and coaches Mick Lizmore and Dana Ferguson offering support from behind the sheet, were under pressure to deliver Canada's first Paralympics gold medal in more than a decade.

And in the eighth and final end, with the time clock ticking scarily down to single-digits and the team maybe — or maybe not — sitting shot stone for the gold medal, a decision had to be made quickly — Ideson could throw his last stone away and assume that Canada already had the winning point, or he could play a risky shot to bump the Canadian stone enough to remove all doubt, but also potentially bump it too FAR and give China a winning steal.

In the end, Ideson made the best shot of his life, and made it look like he was doing it in a Tuesday night league game. He was, by far, the coolest man on the ice, and it showed.

Here's the thing — ALL curlers have had to make a tough shot like that, and can identify with the butterflies Ideson had to be feeling internally, even if he wasn't showing them externally.

It's that connection that separates curling fans from other sports, and is as big of a reason to celebrate our sport as any other, and it's why we as an organization are so excited about the near future as well as the next 100 years.

The 100th Anniversary Montana's Brier will be a great opportunity to reflect on our history, but it also will be an opportunity to look forward — not just for the Brier, but for all of our national championship events.

At the same time, we can learn from our history and find ways forward at all levels — most importantly, at the grassroots.

While our championships are the most visible aspect of our operations, it's worth noting that we expend just as much of our energy and resources on growing the game for ALL Canadians. Our club development initiatives continue to expand to support our country's curling centres, and we will continue to focus on finding new ways to support them, on and off the ice.

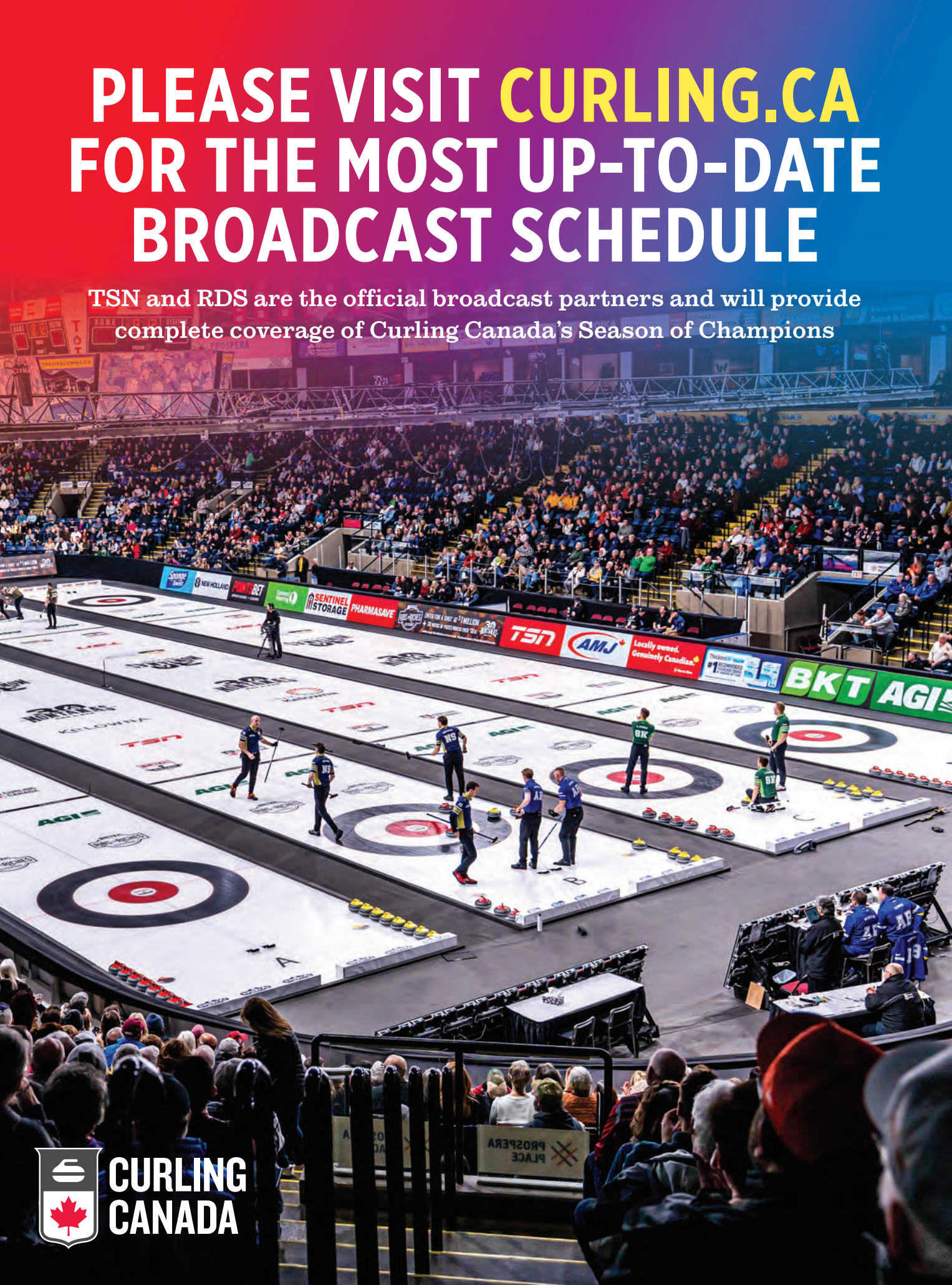
So, it's time for a new curling season. We've learned from the past, and we will continue to move forward.

Thanks for being part of our journey.

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

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