

# CURLING CONNECTION

## CANADIAN CHAMPIONS!

*BC's Team Sanders Wins The Canadian Senior Women's Curling Championship*



Pat Sanders, Cheryl Noble, Roz Craig and Christine Jurgenson from the Juan de Fuca Curling Club picked up at nationals last week where they left off at the provincial championship. The team went 7-0 in the **BC Senior**

**Women's Championship** round robin in Cowichan Lake and then defeated defending champion Kathy Smiley of Royal City 9-5 in the final with a pair of deuces in the eighth and ninth ends.

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## Canadian Senior Championship

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Sanders, a former world women's champion, then reeled off nine straight wins last week and finished the round robin 10-1 at the Canadian Seniors in Prince Albert, Sask.

A more surprising win came at the **BC Senior Men's Championship** in Grand Forks as Ralph Will of Sparwood, with teammates Gerry Kent, Glen Jaeb, and Ken McHargue throwing fourth rocks, came back from a 4-3 deficit after six ends against former men's world champion Rick Folk who had finished atop the round robin standings. They did it in precise textbook fashion, blanking the next three ends and taking two in the 10<sup>th</sup>.

With a 10-1 round robin record in Prince Albert, Sask., Sanders advanced to the final on Sunday, March 30, and defeated Ontario 7-5 to win the Canadian Senior Women's Championship.

## Nanaimo hosts national Masters this week

The **Canadian Masters Championships** are being played this week in Nanaimo, with Royal City's Rick Pughe, John Zwarych, Jack Finnbogason and Bob Byrne representing BC in men's competition after a low-scoring battle with Kamloops' Wayne Saboe in the provincial final at Revelstoke. Saboe blanked the first four ends before taking his first point. Pughe came back with two in the sixth and stole one in the eighth after another blank end for the 3-1 victory.

Maureen Bird, Ellen Mould, Thea Keating and Wendy Picco of Kelowna are representing BC in women's competition. With help from spare Arleen Sarsons, they defeated Marnie Devlin of Beaver Valley in the provincial semi-final and Comox's Gloria Sandberg in the final at Revelstoke. Bird had a 7-2 lead in the semi but Devlin took four in the sixth and stole one in the seventh to put the pressure on. But Bird got her point in the eighth for an 8-7 win. She started the final with a pair of threes and scored two in the seventh to seal a 9-5 win.

## Mixed thriller caps BC championship season

Royal City's Greg Monkman, with third Susan Allen, second Randie Shen and lead Anita Cochrane defeated clubmate Doug Meger 5-4 in 11 ends last weekend to win the **Williams Moving & Storage BC Mixed Championship** in Qualicum Beach and gain a berth in the Canadian Championship to be held next November in Iqaluit.

Monkman gave up the game's only deuce in the 8<sup>th</sup> end to lose his lead, blanked nine, took one in 10 to tie, and drew the four-foot for the winning point after a great takeout by Meger in 11. Meger had defeated former BC Mixed and Men's champion Deane Horning of Castlegar in the semi-final after Horning survived tie-breaker games with Bob Gallagher of Cowichan Lake and Royal City's Shellan Reed. All three teams had finished the round robin with 4-3 records. Monkman was 6-1 and Meger went 5-2.





## BC wins Canadian Wheelchair Championship

Congratulations to our Canadian Wheelchair champions! In Winnipeg, BC wheelchair curlers Jim Armstrong, Frank LaBounty, Vincent Miele, Jacqueline Roy and alternate Whitney Warren defeated Ontario 8-6 to win BC's first national title of the season.



Highly competitive fields and thrilling finishes were par for the course this year. An incredibly close final capped the **Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's Championship** in Penticton as Bob Ursel's 8-7 win over former world champion Greg McAulay required an 11<sup>th</sup>-end measurement. Both teams had finished the round robin at 6-3, just behind Tom Buchy at 7-2 and ahead of three teams at 5-4.

The intense competition stood Kamloops' Ursel, fourth-rock thrower Jim Cotter, Kevin Folk and Rick Sawatsky in good stead at the Brier where they overcame a tough start to win seven of eight games, defeat Olympic gold medallist Brad Gushue in a tie-breaker and then give defending champion Glenn Howard all he could handle in the 3-4 playoff game. Ursel and Sawatsky were named Brier all-stars at third and lead.

## Close finals decide the 2008 BC Men's & Women's Champions



The **BC Scotties Women's Championship** in Trail delivered another nail-biting finish as Allison MacInnes, Karla Sparks, Janelle Yardley and Amanda Brennan of Kamloops faced a 3-0 deficit after four ends in the final against Jodie Maskiewich of Royal City - a team that had given MacInnes her only round robin loss. The Kamloops foursome battled back to within one in the seventh, stole two in the eighth and traded singles in the last two ends for a 6-5 win.

## Curling in Cyberspace

Curl BC will be making some online changes during the off-season, migrating from the SPORG registration system for courses and competitions to Active Networks' Thriva system, and revising the Curl BC Website at [www.curlbc.ca](http://www.curlbc.ca). The development of an online club management system is an exciting move forward that promises to save club managers time and effort completing duties such as league registrations. Compete-At, a Maryland company with successful programs in other sports, is working with Curl BC to develop this program specifically for club managers.

Langley, Valley, and Williams Lake curling clubs are participating in a Pilot Project at this time. The online program will make it easier for clubs to identify their members by groups or leagues - allowing for effective targeted communication. Managers will be able to set up league schedules and results or register curlers for bonspiels. The program will also streamline the exchange of information between clubs and Curl BC. "The Pilot Project should be completed by early June," said outgoing Executive Director Ian Hennigar. At that point, Curl BC will offer the online program province-wide or ask for further refinements based on the experience of the club managers in those three clubs. If your club or club manager is interested in the development of the Compete-At club management system or would like to join the Pilot Project, please contact Brian Parsons at Compete-At: 240-497-0037, extension 204.



## WHEELCHAIR CURLING



Eight teams had a great time in Victoria March 15 and 16 at a bonspiel event that involved two-person wheelchair teams from the Island and Lower Mainland, including members of the BC championship squad that went on to win the Canadian title two weeks later in Winnipeg. "Everyone had an awesome time," said Corinne Jensen, Curl BC's Island Wheelchair Curling Representative.

Wheelchair curling will gain visibility this week at the **Bear Mountain Arena Curling Classic**, where elite able-bodied teams from BC and the rest of Canada will be battling for \$81,000 in cash prizes from Thursday, April 3 to Sunday, April 6. Corinne Jensen, Roy Crawford, Gary Cormack and Darryl Neighbour have challenged a top team from the bonspiel to a six-end exhibition wheelchair match at 2:30 p.m. Saturday. A wheelchair curling demonstration is also scheduled between the bonspiel semi-finals and final on Sunday.

"Have a Go" Day in Quesnel is set for Oct. 25, 2008. The event provides an opportunity for novice and potential wheelchair curlers to try out the sport and have fun. For more information, contact Dave Plant at the Quesnel Curling Club: 250-992-5813 or [qcurling@quesnelbc.com](mailto:qcurling@quesnelbc.com).



## Trail Curling Club hits century mark

The Trail Curling Club - which did a great job hosting this year's provincial Scotties Tournament of Hearts - is turning 100 next year. Celebrations are being planned, and organizers are looking for historical documents or ideas about what other clubs have done to celebrate their longevity and promote their events. If you can help, please contact Terry Bublitz in Trail: [Terry.Bublitz@teckcominco.com](mailto:Terry.Bublitz@teckcominco.com)

## Pacific International Cup on tap at Richmond

Club champions who emerge from the six regional BC Club Challenge events will join teams from Alaska, California, Arizona, Texas and even Australia as they vie for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Pacific International Cup at the Richmond Curling Club from April 16 to 20. Twenty men's teams and 16 women's teams are expected. "The PIC is said to be the catalyst for the growth of grassroots curling in several states in the U.S., and there is great competition to gain a spot in the event," said Bev Oldham, a Curl BC director and strong supporter of the event. "We encourage spectators at all draws. We have a casino and auction 'Fun Night' on Saturday (April 19), and the final games for both the Men's and Women's events take place on Sunday." More information is available at <http://www.picup.ca>

## Curlers' Accolades Well-deserved

Last month, they were named this province's sports team of the year. Next month, they'll be inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame, and with good reason. It was a remarkable run for Kelly Scott, Jeanna Schraeder, Sasha Carter, Michelle Allen and coach Gerry Richard of Kelowna as the team curled their way to two straight Canadian women's championships and capped it off with the world title in 2007. Two other deserving curlers, Stephanie Jackson and Darryl Neighbour, were the 2008 BC Premier's Athletic Awards recipients.



## Annual General Meeting

The Curl BC Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Richmond Curling Club. The agenda will include discussions of a revised affiliation fee format for BC curling clubs. Regional and club representatives are strongly encouraged to attend the AGM in person or by teleconference. Meetings of the outgoing and incoming Board will be held before and after the AGM - from Friday, June 6 through Sunday, June 8.

## 2008-2009 Playdown and Provincial Dates

### Host clubs needed for Seniors Provincial Championship and Men's Coast Championship

**The Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's Championship** next season will be held at the Golden Ears Winter Club from Feb. 9 to 15. **The Scotties Women's Championship** is slated for Parksville from Jan. 20 to 25.

There are still opportunities for a club to host the combined Seniors Provincial Championship from Feb. 24 to March 1, 2009 and for a Lower Mainland club to host the Men's Coast Championship Jan. 22-25, 2009. Sparwood will host the Men's Interior Championship on the same dates.

Clubs interested in these opportunities may call Thomas Friesen at Curl BC, 604-333-3619, or email [compandcommunications@curlbc.ca](mailto:compandcommunications@curlbc.ca).

Details for the following events are being finalized.

- Kelowna to host the combined BC Juniors Provincial Championship Dec. 27 to 31
- North Shore Winter Club for the Masters March 5 to 8, 2009
- Winfield for the Juvenile/Wheelchair March 8 to 12
- Invermere for the Mixed March 24 to 28.

### Playdown Schedule

Juniors Interregionals: Nov. 27 to 30, 2008

Women's Coast Playdown and Men's Coast Open Bonspiel: Dec. 4 to 7

Women's Interior Interregionals and Coast Back Door: Jan. 2 to 5, 2009

Men's Regional and Interregional Playdowns: Jan. 8 to 11

Seniors Combined Coast Playdown: Jan. 15 to 18

Seniors Combined Coast Back Door and Interior Interregionals: Feb. 5 to 8

Juvenile Zone Playdowns: Feb. 6 to 8

Combined Masters Playdowns: Feb. 13 to 15

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## Coaching Classes Set for Fall 2008

Dates and locations are confirmed for the following courses and workshops. Additional events can be scheduled at any time by contacting the Curl BC office Member Services Coordinator at [memberservices@curlbc.ca](mailto:memberservices@curlbc.ca) or 1-800-667-2875 or 604-333-3620.

The Annual **Learning Facilitators** Seminar is scheduled at the Richmond Curling Club Sept. 12-13.

### Club Coach Youth Workshops

Victoria Curling Club - September 28

Marpole Curling Club - October 4

### Club Coach Workshops

Howe Sound Curling Club - Sept. 27-28

Kelowna Curling Club - October 4-5

Nanaimo Curling Club - October 18-19

Kamloops Curling Club - November 1-2

Peace Arch Curling Club - November 8-9

Cranbrook Curling Club - November 22-23

### Level 2 Technical Coaching Courses

Kelowna Curling Club - October 4-5,

Kamloops Curling Club - November 1-2

Nanaimo Curling Club - November 7-9

Cranbrook Curling Club - November 22-23

### Level 3 Technical Coaching Course

Osoyoos International Curling Club - Sept. 5-7.

### Level 1 Officiating Course

Golden Ears Winters Club - Jan. 17-18, 2009

*(in preparation for the Canadian Direct Insurance Men's Provincial Championship)*

Check the Curl BC website for details and new course offerings as dates and locations are finalized.

Revised and updated "Let's Rock" booklets, the popular guide for new curlers, will be available soon. Please contact the Curl BC office for your supply.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Executive Director Position - Application Deadline April 4, 2008**

Curl BC is accepting applications until 5 p.m. Friday, April 4, for an Executive Director. The starting date is expected to be May 15 or as negotiated with the successful candidate. More information about this exciting, challenging position is available on the Curl BC website. Applications with supporting documentation may be sent to Curl BC President Terry Vandale at [tvandale@telus.net](mailto:tvandale@telus.net).

### **Award Nominations – Deadline April 30th**

The deadline for this year's Curl BC Award nominations is April 30. If you know an outstanding curler, club, team or volunteer deserving of recognition, please let us know. You can find all the categories, criteria and nomination forms on the Curl BC Website awards page at [www.curlbc.ca](http://www.curlbc.ca), as well as listings of previous winners.

### **Yearbook Deadline June 1<sup>st</sup> / Membership List Deadline Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>**

The deadline for curling clubs to submit their Yearbook advertisements and bonspiel dates is June 1, 2008. Contact Office Assistant Suzanne Newsome for details: Call 604-333-3618 or email [assistant@curlbc.ca](mailto:assistant@curlbc.ca). The deadline to submit membership list forms was Feb. 15. Clubs that have not already done so should send their lists to the Curl BC office at their earliest convenience.

### **Olympic Volunteers**

People interested in volunteer positions for the 2010 Olympics can find the information they need or start the application process by visiting [workopolis.com](http://workopolis.com) or [vancouver2010.com](http://vancouver2010.com). The direct links are:

<http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/Participation/VolunteerOpportunities>

<http://promotions2.workopolis.com/content/promotions/volunteer/index.html?>