

IT'S OUR HOUSE

THIRD EDITION • FEBRUARY 2019



RALLYING TO REBUILD: THE CARMANGAY CURLING CLUB SUCCESS STORY

Nestled in the heart of Southern Alberta, with a humble population of only 242, the village of Carmangay has rallied behind the local curling club to achieve what many would write off as an impossible feat. Faced with an aging curling club in need of significant repair to remain open, rather than throwing in the towel, the community decided to do whatever it would take to save it.

Originally built 60 years ago, like many other small community clubs across Canada, the three-sheet rink had deteriorated over the decades. But a new

journey for the facility began in October of 2014, and it has become a true and inspiring success story. The building has been given a new life, thanks to a renovation valued just under \$400,000, and is now reopened and serving as the hub of the community once again.

It was a blustery day in January, and I drove out to meet Laurie Lyckman, one of the key volunteers that drove the fundraising venture. I walked into the lobby of the quaint three-sheeter, and there stood Laurie, smiling and surrounded by her family, having had

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PLEASE LIKE US! 

Follow Curling Alberta on social media! If you haven't yet clicked on our Facebook page or Twitter Account, now is a great time. We post reminders, announcements, celebrations, stories, and photos all year round. Click those 'like' and 'follow' buttons on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) right now!

WE'RE ON INSTA!

SPREAD THE WORD! CURLING ALBERTA IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM

We'd like our account to capture a truly Albertan and community feeling, so please send us pictures from your leagues, bonspiels, and events and we'll get them posted or just tag our handle @CurlingAlberta.

To stay up-to-date with what's happening with curling in our province, don't forget that we're also on Twitter and Facebook. Help us boost our reach by inviting your friends to follow us too!



Follow us on
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SEND US PICTURES
info@curlingalberta.ca

TAG YOUR PHOTO
[@CurlingAlberta](https://www.instagram.com/CurlingAlberta)



DEADLINE REMINDER

2019 CURLING ALBERTA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS (FORMERLY TRAVELERS)

The deadline for Curling Alberta member clubs to enter any teams into the qualifying events leading into the Curling Club Provincial Championships has been extended until Wednesday, March 6th, 2019. Because many clubs are still in the process of crowning their league champions, please note that this is step only declares your club's intent to register a team. Specific team roster(s) for the provincial

qualifiers are due by March 13th, 2019. To declare your intent or ask any questions, please email Vicki Baird, one of our Competitions Coordinators at vicki.baird@curlingalberta.ca. This is a special event that is intended for true club-based teams. If you're not familiar, please click here for all the info.

[More Info](#)

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Curling Alberta is pleased to announce that Lee Smith has been hired as its Director of Operations and Community Curling Centre Development. Lee will be based in our Calgary satellite office, and his first day is February 19, 2019.

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In this new position, Lee will have significant focus on assisting to develop and lead club and community development initiatives. He'll help our

clubs and partners drive increased participation for all ages and abilities, and lead advocacy efforts to increase awareness and to influence policymakers to benefit our communities and our sport.

Lee has been working in the curling industry in Alberta for the past 13 years, holding positions at the Calgary Curling Club, the Southern Alberta Curling Association, and most recently as the Manager at the Garrison Curling Club in Calgary. And in addition to his experience as an administrator, but he has also been known to curl in a few leagues and bonspiels himself, is an accomplished level 2 ice technician, and is certified as a Competition Coach. In this breadth of experience, Lee has built a solid track record of accomplishments servicing a diverse membership base and volunteers in fast-paced and complex

environments. Notably, during his time as a club manager, Lee effectively managed a large-scale renovation and successfully developed an expanded range programs which boosted club membership. Lee holds a Bachelor of Applied Business and Entrepreneurship with a sports and recreation specialization from Mount Royal College and is due to complete his Master of Business Administration in 2020.

Outside of curling, Lee trains for triathlon and has completed an ironman distance race and several half ironman races. In November he completed the New York Marathon, and in June he will compete in the Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon. During the winter months, Lee spends as many days as possible skiing with his wife, Joanne, and their nine-year-old son, Atlin.

TEAM CAREY STEALS SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS VICTORY

Team Carey's incredible comeback at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Sydney, Nova Scotia during the gold medal game on Sunday, Feb 24 had viewers in awe.

Carey overcame a 5-1 deficit that many thought had the Championship decided prior to the fifth end break. Ontario's Team Homan, the world's top-ranked team and championship favourite, came up short which allowed Carey to gain

momentum and head into the eighth 5-4. Keeping the pressure on Homan with a couple of steals, Carey forced an extra end. After a tough but rewarding battle, Team Carey finished with a 8-6 victory in the 11th.

This was Chelsea Carey's fourth Scotties appearance and second National Curling Championship title and first title for Wilkes, Ferguson and Brown.

Congratulations to Chelsea Carey and teammates, Sarah Wilkes (vice-skip), Dana Ferguson (second), Rachel Brown (lead) and Coach Dan Carey! Canada will be strongly represented at the LGT World Women's Curling Championship on March 19-24, 2019, in Silkeborg, Denmark. Visit the World Curling Federation website to follow Team Canada from home! Stay up to date with news, the broadcast schedule and scores [here](#).



Read more about the battle between Alberta and Ontario in Curling Canada's article [here](#) or visit Curling Canada's website.

... (CONT'D) RALLYING TO REBUILD: THE CARMANGAY CURLING CLUB SUCCESS STORY

just come off the ice from throwing a few rocks herself. We became acquainted as she toured me through the extensive rebuild. Although the renovation is not quite complete, the facility is now fully functional, has bonspiels scheduled, and is home to an impressive and growing junior program that introduces kids as young as eight to the game.



A part of their mission through the project, she explained, was to preserve some of the history of the building. They were able to save the original scoreboards, which are from an era when cigarette companies could advertise, and they reinstalled the original hand-made cigarette pots near the benches. I thought it was a great way to honour the roots of our sport and preserve the character of the building. I love the sense of nostalgia in our rinks!

The club also knew that having good ice would be necessary to the long-term success of the revitalized club, and so they enlisted the help of the world-famous ice technician, Jamie Bourassa, to train the volunteer ice makers. Now,

the ice runs a consistent 14.5 second draw, with about four and a half feet of curl, which is great for a volunteer run club. The club was also able to purchase proper equipment to help them keep the ice the way they like it.

Laurie's passion for curling, and especially the club in her hometown, was infectious. I admit that I felt a sense of awe and shared pride in the community's accomplishment, and listening to the story made me proud to be an Albertan. Laurie went on to tell me that the club is completely volunteer run, but that their success is thanks to and shared by everyone. "The whole community supported us, including people who don't even curl," Laurie told me. It took a lot of effort and brainstorming to raise the funds, which included contributions from grant sources, corporations, individuals, and even donated items to be sold at silent auctions.

Laurie and the group had to get creative to raise such a large amount of money. When they kicked off the fundraising effort, they also unveiled the club's new logo and visual identity. Locally designed and drawing on cues from the nearby historic train bridge, Laurie told me that this helped propel momentum and the desire for a successful fundraising campaign.

The group has also hosted four harvest dinners which included silent auctions, and in every month except August, they hosted a pancake breakfast at the club. They sent letters asking for donations to absolutely everyone. "There's no harm in asking," Laurie shared. "The worst they can do is say no." As it turns out, this approach was tremendously successful. The club was able to collect items for their silent auction from all over Alberta, and each harvest dinner has raised over \$20,000!

On the drive home, I was humbled. There were so many takeaways from my time with Laurie that could be valuable to clubs who are struggling to tackle a large project or renovation. It's important to reach out into the community, beyond the curling club, to get people involved; the generosity of your neighbours may be surprising to you. Ask for help from absolutely everyone, because people who have not been asked, have not been given the opportunity to say yes. It's also important to remember that contributions can come in many forms. Not everyone may be able to help with a cash donation, but they might be able to connect you to someone who can, offer up an in-kind service, or even give a few hours flipping pancakes at a fundraising breakfast.



I couldn't get one thing in particular that Laurie said out of my head. As we talked about what it took to get the job done, she explained to me, "there is no such thing as just a volunteer. We just couldn't do anything without them, and every one of them adds value." She was absolutely right. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our sport, and it cannot be overstated. Laurie's club, like so many clubs across the country, simply would not exist without the tireless dedication of its volunteers.

On behalf of the entire curling community, we offer our congratulations to everyone who contributed to the ongoing success of the Carmangay Curling Club. Thank you for rallying together to keep our sport alive in your community. We're so very proud of your shining example.

**Submitted by Curtis Fairhurst,
President of Curling Alberta**

2019 NEW HOLLAND CANADIAN JUNIORS



Selena Sturmay, Abby Marks, Kate Goodhelpsen, Paige Papley, Amanda St-Laurent
Desmond Young, Dustin Mikush, Jacob Libbus, Gabriel Dyck, Bernie Panich

Curling Alberta was strongly represented at the 2019 New Holland Canadian Juniors by Team Sturmay and Team Young in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on January 19th – 27th. Making up the Junior Women's lineup was Selena Sturmay (skip), Abby Marks (vice-skip), Kate Goodhelpsen (second), and Paige Papley (lead). Representing Alberta in the Junior Men's division from skip to lead was Desmond Young, Dustin Mikush, Jacob Libbus, and Gabriel Dyck. Both teams are part of Curling Alberta's U21 Excel Program.

Team Young battled hard at the 2019 New Holland Canadian Juniors to land themselves in the championship round. After claiming victory in a tiebreaker against Ontario with a 5-4 win, Young headed to the playoff. Needing an extra end, Young kept his team in the running with a 10-9 win over Nova Scotia. Team Young finished fifth overall.

Team Young's second, Jacob Libbus, and vice-skip, Dustin Mikush, were recognized at the Junior Awards Banquet

following the Championship in the Fair Play category.

Team Sturmay clinched a spot in the 2019 New Holland Canadian Juniors gold medal game before playing their last game in the championship pool by maintaining a perfect record. The winning streak continued in the final pool draw against Saskatchewan, where they won 9-4 and moved on to the final game. Sturmay put pressure on British Columbia early in the championship game and didn't let off to win the gold medal game 9-6 against British Columbia. Sturmay joined the short-list of six other skips that have gone undefeated since the inaugural event in 1971.

Scoreboard *(Junior Championship)*

[Junior Women](#)

[Junior Men](#)

Team Sturmay had an amazing run representing Canada in the 2019 World Junior Curling Championships February 16-23 in Liverpool, N.S. Curling Alberta is proud of these determined, young female

athletes. Returning home with silver medals is incredible and Team Sturmay should feel very proud of their success. If you didn't have a chance to follow the scores visit WJCC website or click [here](#) to review all the details. To learn more about Team Canada's podium results, read the article on Curling Canada's news section of their [website](#).



To add to the exciting year that Selena Sturmay (skip, Team Sturmay) and Dustin Mikush (vice-skip, Team Young) have already had, they both received the **'2018 FOR THE LOVE OF CURLING SCHOLARSHIP'**.

[More Info](#)

ATTRACTING YOUTH INTO CURLING - HAVING FUN AT THE HUNTINGTON HILLS LITTLE ROCK PROGRAM

The old adage “start them young” most certainly applies to the introduction of kids to physical activity and sport. Allowing your children to participate in youth sports is a fantastic way for children to explore and develop lifelong healthy habits and skills. Youth sports not only play a role in exercise, but it promotes mental and psychological advances as well. It is extremely well documented that participation can build teamwork and leadership skills, qualities of perseverance, reduce childhood obesity rates, build self-esteem, promote academic success, and the list goes on. Children are simply never to young to be active and fall in love with sport... any sport.

A positive experience and fun are the most important parts the equation when introducing kids to sport. If it's not enjoyable, if they're not having laughs with friends and feeling confident in their ability to succeed, they'll quit. Mic drop.

For youth sports to be a positive experience it takes special instructors, volunteers, and a commitment from the parents themselves to understand and support their children's needs and desires at this stage of development. Barb Dickson, Manager at the Huntington Hills Curling Club in Calgary, is doing it right. She's been running a “Little Rocks Program” at her club for over 10 years. More kids than she can count have graduated from the program and have turned into successful competitive curlers, and more importantly, have turned into curlers for life. Many of the young adults that have come up through the program even return to help as instructors to help inspire the next generation; a great testament to the impact Barb and her program have had on the lives of so many young people.

The Little Rocks Program is the only one in Calgary that is open to kids as young

as five, and the program is bursting at the seams. So how does she do it? She makes it a positive experience by making sure the kids are and feel safe, being encouraging and enthusiastic, and providing individual attention and feedback. The activities are designed to encourage opportunities for the kids to make friends, where they have team responsibilities to be successful. The club also has appropriate equipment, lighter rocks and temporary hacks mid sheet to make sure that the game is scaled down to their size. There's also a play-practice-play balance, so the kids aren't doing drills for the sake of drills; but drills leading to play. By the end of the few months program, the confidence in these kids has grown tremendously!

each lesson is to have fun and improve. Watching from the warm side of the glass, parents can see high-fives, smiles and hugs, team huddles, and they can hear cheering and shouts of laughter. At the end of the hour on the ice, the kids always shake hands, then line up at the t-line and take a bow for all the fans watching in the gallery.

“
I love the kids- they're so much fun to teach,” Barb says with happy tears. “I've been doing this for over 10 years, and nothing is more rewarding.
”



Watching Barb and her instructors out on the ice is truly inspirational. There are rules and boundaries that the kids need to follow to make sure everyone is safe, but there is no doubt the goal of

The highlight of the program, for both Barb and the kids, is by far the annual Noel Spiel. This past season, in the beginning of December, 96 kids between the ages of five and 12 flooded into the club to compete for fun, eat pizza, play



board games, win prizes, and most importantly, meet Santa!

Yes, the Noel Spiel is a big deal. While the kids are being piped in, there isn't a dry eye in the house. It can be an emotional experience for the families,

seeing their littles proudly march down the ice, united with their teams, professional nameboards waving up high. "The kids love the bagpipes. They're in the spotlight, and I think it makes them feel important," Barb shares. "This event is so fun, and we get teams from all over to coming to play. Today is not about winning- it's about having fun and making friends. It's a special day all about them. This is the stuff childhood memories are made of."

However, in one sense, it is unfortunate that Barb's story is so unique. Compared to other sports, curling is seriously lagging behind in recruiting young kids. A recent study, presented at the Curling Canada National Curling Conference last September, showed that only 2% of children who had participated in organized sports over the past twelve months had curled. To lend a bit of perspective, over 60% of the children surveyed have been exposed to soccer and swimming, over 50% were exposed

to skating, over 30% to dance, over 20% to skiing, basketball and baseball, over 10% to golf and hockey.

That dismal 2% may or may not be shocking to you, but hopefully we can all agree that it's a tremendous opportunity for growth. In our next newsletter, we'll explore in a bit more detail how families, clubs, and our sport system can appropriately guide a positive experience in sport for youth to help boost that number. For now, bravo, Barb. As we mature as an amalgamated organization over the coming seasons, Curling Alberta will work hard to follow suit, helping to make sure our kids are healthy and active!

**Submitted by Curtis Fairhurst,
President of Curling Alberta**

SAVE THE DATE FOR CURLING CANADA'S BUSINESS OF CURLING SYMPOSIUM!

Open up your calendar and mark down that you'll be in Canmore from June 20th to 22nd for Curling Canada's Business of Curling Symposium!

Topics at the symposium include club operations, youth feeder system, sponsorship, infrastructure funding, demographics, advocating, adult learn to curl, volunteering, helmets, risk management, ice & stones, food & beverage, refrigeration, social media, and more... Click here to check out the schedule and the noteworthy list of presenters!

The \$600 registration fee includes three nights' accommodation, breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon breaks, closing banquet, course materials, and opening ceremony.

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON!

[More Info](#)

[Danny Lamoureux](#), Curling Canada
613.878.3682

CURLING CANADA PRESENTS

BUSINESS OF CURLING SYMPOSIUM

JUNE 20-22, 2019

COAST CANMORE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE
Canmore, Alberta

Topics.....club operations, youth feeder system, sponsorship, infrastructure funding, demographics, advocating, adult learn to curl, volunteering, helmets, risk management, ice & stones, food & beverage, refrigeration, social media, and more.....

CONTACT
DANNY LAMOUREUX
danny@curling.ca or 613.878.3682

TEAM WHITE AND TEAM BAKKER TAKE ALBERTA TITLE AT SENIOR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Spruce Grove Curling Club hosted a spectacular Senior Provincial Championship event on the Family Day long weekend where Team Bakker and Team Kleibrink battled it out in the final game. Team Bakker earned the gold with a close score of 6-5.

For the men, Team White once again took home the Alberta title scoring four in the final end to bring the tie game to a 10-6 victory. Cheer these two Alberta teams on at nationals in Chilliwack, B.C. March 22 to 28, 2019.



Skip - Glenys Bakker | Third - Shannon Nimmo
Second - Lesley McEwan | Lead - Dianne McNalli



Skip - Wade White | Third - Barry Chwedoruk
Second - Dan Holowaychuk | Lead - George White

INAUGURAL MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPION TITLE GOES TO TEAM KLEIBRINK/BRODERSON

Representing the Glencoe Curling Club and the Saville Sports Community Centre, Team Kleibrink/Broderson had an amazing undefeated performance at the 2019 Curling Alberta Mixed Doubles Provincial Championship in Dawson Creek, BC earlier this month.

Kyler Kleibrink and teammate, Chantele Broderson, defeated Team Schmiemann/Ginter 11-5 in 7 ends. Both teams were undefeated leading up to the final game.

Follow Team Alberta at Nationals in Fredericton, N.B. March 19 to 24.

ADDING TO THE TEAM ALBERTA ROSTER, TEAM SEITZ AND TEAM PENDERGAST

The Rose City Curling Club in Camrose, Alberta hosted the 2019 Curling Alberta Masters Provincial Championships last weekend. Competition was fierce and rising to the top in the women's category were Teams Foster and Seitz in the gold medal game. Seitz secured the win with an amazing seven-ender in the seventh end. For the men, Teams Goodman and Pendergast played off for the Team Alberta title with Pendergast taking the gold with a 7-2 score. Both teams will travel to Saskatoon to compete for the Canadian crest.



Kyler Kleibrink | Chantele Broderson



Skip - Mickey Pendergast | Third - Robert Armitage
Second - Randy Ponich | Lead - Kevin Pendergast



Skip - Susan Seitz | Third - Judy Pendergast
Second - Barb McDonald | Lead - Karen Ruus

TEAM SMART TAKES THE INAUGURAL WHEELCHAIR CHAMPION TITLE

Representing the Garrison Curling Club, Team Smart beat Team Kuchelyma in the final game to become the inaugural Curling Alberta Wheelchair Provincial Champions. Kuchelyma went undefeated against the four other qualifying teams in the round-robin at the Avonair Curling Club on February 9-10, but fell to Smart in the gold medal game.

Team Smart will face Canada's top wheelchair curling teams on April 26th – May 1st in Boucherville, Quebec for the 2019 Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championship. Cheer them on!

[Follow the Scores](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM SMART AND GOOD LUCK AT NATIONALS!



UPCOMING PROVINCIAL QUALIFIER & CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS

Mixed | Mar. 7-10

Rose City CC, Camrose, Black Diamond

Club Championships | Mar. 21-24

Leduc, Fairview, Huntington Hills

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Masters | Feb. 20-24

Rose City CC, Camrose

U18 | Mar. 14-17

Medicine Hat CC

Mixed | Mar. 27-31

Shamrock CC, Edmonton

Club Championships | Apr. 10-14

Calgary CC

BANTAM

District Qualifier | Mar. 1-3

Okotoks CC

Championship | Mar. 8-10

Cochrane CC

Interested in hosting a Provincial Qualifier? Contact us!

[South Calgary](#) office: 403-246-9300

[North Edmonton](#) office: 780.440.4270

ALSO IN OUR PROVINCE...



presented by
Service Experts
CORPORATE SOLUTIONS



The **2019 Pioneer Hi-Bred World Men's Curling Championship**, presented by Service Experts, is right around the corner on **Mar. 30 - Apr. 7, 2019** in Lethbridge. Don't miss out on this international event right in our own backyard! Check out their website for all the event and ticket details.

[More Info](#)

The **2019 Canada Cup** will be held in our province at the Leduc Recreation Centre, **Nov. 27 - Dec. 1, 2019**. Be sure to visit their event website to get your tickets, sign up to volunteer and more.

Take advantage of the \$199 early bird offer - on sale now and with only 400 full event packages available, don't delay!

[More Info](#)

UPCOMING COURSES

Level 2 Ice Tech Course

Gibbons, Alberta
March 29-31

Registration deadline

March 20, 2019

[More Info](#)

Looking to host a coaching, ice technician, officiating course in the fall? To book your dates or to ask for more information, please contact [Shanelle Goudreau](#), Curling Alberta's Technical Coordinator,.

CURLING ALBERTA AGM AND ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

Mark June 8th in your calendars, and start thinking about someone you know who has made a special contribution to our sport.

At Curling Alberta's very first awards celebration, to be hosted in Edmonton this year, we'll honour our champions as well as the players, coaches, officials, ice technicians, partners, and volunteers who have all selflessly contributed their time and effort to the health and growth of curling.

DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED
SHORTLY, SO KEEP AN EYE OUT!

TEAM KOE HEADS TO 2019 TIM HORTONS BRIER

The Ellerslie Curling Club saw twelve of the best men's teams in the province battle for the top spot in the 2019 Alberta Boston Pizza Cup, presented by Best Western on February 6th to 10th.

Bottcher will take on Team Epping from Ontario on Friday, March 1 at 7 pm (Central Time). The winner will advance to the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier.

It wasn't an easy run for Team Koe, after losing their first two games and landing in the 'C' event final, but they didn't let it rattle them. After a 7-6 victory over Vavrek, Koe advanced to the championship bracket. The game could have gone either way after being faced with the defending Champion, Bottcher, in the semi-final. However Koe managed

to come out on top once again. In the gold medal game, Koe took on Appelman, where the battle was close up to the fifth-ender in the ninth to make it 9-5 for Team Koe.

Scoreboard and Standings

Defending Provincial Champion, Bottcher, has qualified for the Brier wildcard play-in game. Bottcher will take on Team Epping from Ontario on Friday, March 1st at 7:00pm (Central Time). The winner will advance to the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier.

Watch as Kevin Koe looks to add a fourth Brier win to his resume when the Tim Hortons Brier kick off on March 2nd in Brandon, Manitoba.

Brier Schedule



2019 ALBERTA MASTERS GAMES REGISTRATION

**OPENS
APRIL 1**



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REGISTER HERE!

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