

The CURLING CONNECTION

September 2012

www.curlbc.ca

New championship for BC

MIXED Doubles teams will be able to compete in a new BC curling championship this season.

The announcement follows the Canadian Curling Association's (CCA) decision to hold Mixed Doubles Curling Trials in Leduc, Alberta, from March 14 to 17, which will determine who will represent Canada at the World Mixed Doubles in Fredericton in April 2013.

Alongside the other provinces and territories, BC has been invited to send a representative team.

In order to decide who will represent BC, Curl BC will host an open event from February 1 to 3, 2013, at the North Shore Winter Club in North Vancouver.

The winner of the BC Mixed Doubles Championship will go on to compete in Leduc.

The format of the BC event will be dependent on the number of teams that enter. Registration will open in October.

Details of the Leduc event were decided at a special meeting of the CCA on Tuesday, September 25.



The

trials will be a 32-team event with four pools of eight teams competing in individual round robins with 12 teams advancing to a playoff round.

The 32 teams will be made up of 16 teams invited by the CCA based on the Order of Merit and the four players from the winning team at 2013 Canadian Mixed in Montreal event in November 2012. Fourteen teams will represent CCA Member Associations (one from each province or territory).

Mixed Doubles teams must be comprised of one male and one female curler.

Games are eight ends and will follow modified WCF Rules. The rules are printed in the 2012-13 Curl BC Yearbook in the green pages.

It is hoped that Mixed Doubles, which is popular in Europe, will become an Olympic event in 2018.

BC residents wanting to catch a glimpse of some of the world's best teams playing the Mixed Doubles format can watch them in action at the World Financial Group Continental Cup, presented by Monsanto, in Penticton in January.

Anyone interested in hosting the 2014 BC Mixed Doubles Championship will soon be able to enter the bidding process. Further details on the bidding process will be announced soon.

For more information, email High Performance and Competitions Manager Heather Beatty at hbeatty@curlbc.ca.

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Expanding school program needs helpers

CURL BC wants to hear from anyone who would like to be a Capital One Rocks & Rings instructor.

The Capital One Rocks & Rings program is expanding to more elementary schools in BC.

Various games, relays and team-building activities are used to introduce students to curling in a school gymnasium. Indoor floor curling equipment is used to provide a true curling experience without requiring ice.

Instructors are needed in programs that are up and running in Metro Vancouver and the Lower Mainland and in the Greater Victoria region.

There are also plans to expand the program in the Okanagan. Curl BC would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming an instructor from Merritt, Logan Lake, Princeton, Winfield, Vernon, Lumby, Kamloops, Penticton, Ashcroft, Chase, Summerland, Oliver, Osoyoos, Enderby, Armstrong, Salmon Arm, Sicamous, Revelstoke and Barriere.

Anyone who wants to be an instructor has to meet the following requirements:

1. successful completion of a criminal record check (vulnerable sector);
2. successful completion of 1.5 days of training;
3. be available weekdays during school hours.

If you would like more information about becoming a Rocks & Rings instructor, email pbartel@curlbc.ca.

Bill Tschirhart honoured for international coaching role

BILL Tschirhart has been honoured for his dedication to coaching.

Coaches BC - an association for coaches from all sports - has given the Sidney-based curling coach this year's award for International Coach.

The announcement was made during **Coaches Week, September 15 to 22.**

Bill said he was honoured to receive the award.

He was given a glass trophy, **Coaches BC** gear and \$250, which he plans to donate to a deserving junior curler for their summer curling camp in BC.

Bill, a National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Level 4 coach, has contributed to the sport of curling within the province, within Canada and internationally.

He is constantly offering advice and insight to other coaches, especially at the Junior nationals and at the international Senior level. He said: "I'm proud to do it and I really like doing it."



Coach Bill Tschirhart

Curl BC CEO Scott Braley said: "Bill has contributed untold hours and expertise to ensuring the very best experience for everyone. He is truly deserving of this award."

Coaches BC Executive Director Laura Watson said: "Bill Tschirhart is a great example of a coach who has used his expertise to help a variety of teams succeed on an international stage. We congratulate him on winning this prestigious award."

Bill has coached Canadian gold medal winning Senior Men's and Women's teams at three World Senior Curling Championships.

In addition, he has led international coach and instructor seminars and held the position of provincial coach with Curl BC.

Bill is the creator and a major contributor of a series of coaching essays entitled "A Pane in the Glass: A Coach's Companion" for which all the proceeds go to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation.

Lower Mainland (Region 11) Men's Playdown date change

YOUR curling calendar may need to be updated. place at the Chilliwack Curling Club.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Region 11 (Lower Mainland) Men's playdown has been changed from December 7-9 to the weekend of December 14-16.

This event will now take place at the Chilliwack Curling Club. It means the date and location for this event printed in the 2012-13 Curl BC Yearbook are no longer valid.

Curlers are reminded to make a note of the updated dates.

Sign up for coaching workshops

THERE is still time to sign up for Curl BC's coaching workshops.

Competition Coach Workshops are being held in Nanaimo, North Vancouver and Kimberley. Coaches who complete the course will be eligible to coach at playdowns, provincials, nationals and the BC Winter Games.

There is also a Community Coach Workshop being held in Parksville for people who want to coach at the club level.

Click [here for Competition Coach Workshop info](#) and [here for Community Coach Workshop info](#) or email Elisabeth Walker-Young at ewalkeryoung@curlbc.ca.

Junior coaches wanted

THE Port Moody Junior Curling Program is expanding and they need your help.

Organizers are looking for coaching support for youth between the ages of 8 and 19. Email juniors@portmoodycurling.ca or portmoodycoach@gmail.com for more information.

Junior coaches are also needed at Peace Arch Curling Club in White Rock. Call Richard at 604-531-0244.

SOAR program gets \$18,000 boost

THE SOAR (Sharing Our Activities and Resources) program has received \$18,000 in funding from the BC Sport Partnership Program.

SOAR, a partnership between Curl BC, Tennis BC and British Columbia Golf, is designed to go into schools to teach elemen-

tary-school-age children the FUNDamentals of all three sports.

The funding, from the BC and federal governments, will allow the program to expand to more schools across the province.

For more information about the program, email pbartel@curlbc.ca.

Vancouver celebrates centenary with gala and funspiel

A GALA dinner, a "mix 'n' match" funspiel and the re-creation of a 1940s photograph are all on the menu when Vancouver Curling Club celebrates its centenary.

The club has issued an invitation to the wider community to help them mark 100 years of existence.

A series of fun events on October 12 and 13 will commemorate the anniversary.

The club has its roots in Vancouver's West End, where, in 1912, a five-rink facility – the Denman Arena – was built.

Between 1931 and 1949 the club operated out of The Forum, a building near the PNE grounds.

Following the end of World War II, plans for a new building were created. In October 1949, the club moved into their facility on Dinmont Avenue.

Vancouver's successful bid to host the 2010 Winter Olympics meant a new era for the club.

In August 2011, the club moved to the Hillcrest Centre at 4575 Clancy Loranger Way, an eight-rink facility that was built for the Games.

Brad Blackwell, the club's manager of membership services, said the club had really grown since they went from being a five-sheet facility to an eight-sheet facility.

It means everyone at the club is in the mood to celebrate.

He added: "It's shaping up to be a really good weekend that we have planned. Hopefully we can drum up lots more interest in the club."

The celebrations will consist

of four main events.

- **Gala Banquet:** Taking place on Friday, October 12, there will be dinner, wine, appetizers, entertainment, and more throughout the evening.

- **Celebrate the Decades Funspiel:** Taking place on Saturday, October 13, this one-day funspiel will follow a "mix-n-match" format whereby each curler signs up to play a position for the day (and then plays with different teammates each game).

- **Commemorative Photo:** Past and current members are invited to the VCC a commemorative photo at 1pm on Saturday, October 13.

- **Off-ice Open House:** Throughout the day on Saturday, October 13, there will be historical displays set-up throughout the Club to celebrate the VCC's rich history with curling and with the City of Vancouver.

Tickets for the gala dinner and funspiel must be purchased in advance and participants will save money if they book for both.

Brad said organizers were hoping that people will go to the Celebrate the Decades Funspiel in their vintage gear. Anything from the old-style knitted sweaters to the neon brooms from the 1980s will add to the atmosphere.

The club is also basking in the glow of significant media attention.

CBC TV broadcast a segment about the club on September 16 and Cantonese-language Fairchild TV also aired a piece on the



Vancouver Curling Club's grand opening on Dinmont Avenue in 1949.

club on September 14.

Club members Keith Switzer and Katherine Louman-Gardiner were also interviewed by CBC Radio One.

Visit www.vancouvercurling-club.com/100years for more

information or to find out how to get your tickets for the Gala Banquet or register for the funspiel.

To see the CBC and Fairchild reports and to listen to the CBC Radio One broadcast, [click here](#) and scroll down.

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Rivers Inlet, BC



Exclusive hotel deals for Curl BC members

DISCOUNTED hotel stays and the chance to earn reward points towards affordable travel are being offered to Curl BC members.

CurlBC's official hotelsponsor, Best Western, is providing the deals as it continues to support curling in BC.

Curlers from Curl BC member facilities have access to a special room rate at Best Western hotels throughout North America.

The Best Western/Curl BC corporate ID, 01504820, can be quoted when making a booking over the phone or online and it allows curlers to save up to 20% per night. Bookings over the phone can be made through 1-800-WESTERN quoting 01504820. Online bookings can be made through www.bestwestern.com/curlbc.

In addition to the special

rates, Best Western is providing a new Best Western Rewards offer for curlers.

When curlers join the free Best Western Rewards program, they instantly earn 500 points. Then any stay at a Best Western Hotel before December 31, 2012, will be rewarded with an additional 1,000 points.

The BW Rewards program gives participants the chance to earn points towards airline rewards, gift cards and free hotel nights at more than 4,000 Best Western hotels in over 100 countries.

To take advantage of this offer, visit www.bestwesternbc.com/curling.

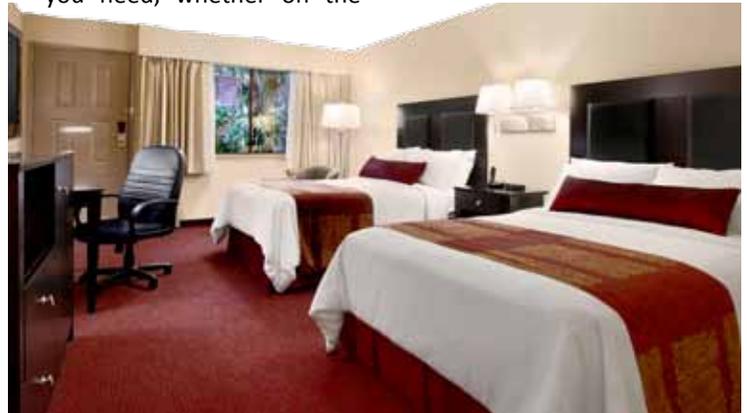
Best Western has provided every curling facility with 50 corporate ID cards, which have reached facilities through Curl BC's annual fall mail-out. These

corporate ID cards are a handy way to remember the corporate ID code and can be distributed to curlers who would like to take advantage of the offers.

Catherine Ed, Marketing Manager at Best Western, said: "We are proud to continue our support of curling in BC. Our three types of hotels provide what you need, whether on the

road for a quick overnight stay, or on vacation with more time to relax."

Anyone with any questions about the deal can call or email Rebecca Connop Price, Communications and Marketing Manager at Curl BC, at 1-604-333-3617 or rconnopprice@curlbc.ca.



A double room at a Best Western hotel.

Correction: Incorrect contact details for Juan De Fuca Curling Centre's Ladies' Hollyspiel were printed in the 2012-13 Curl BC Yearbook. Anyone wanting to register for the event - November 30 to December 2 - should email Diana McIntosh at kmcintosh@pacificcoast.net.

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BC's top curling official to head to Sochi

DIANNE Barker is used to jetting off to far-flung places to officiate at curling events.

When she's not helping out at provincial and national competitions, she's becoming a regular presence at World Curling Federation events in Europe.

But it's not every day that she gets an invitation letting her know she has been selected to officiate at the Winter Olympics.

When that invitation came (from Keith Wendorf, the World Curling Federation's Development Officer and Director of Competitions) Dianne did not hesitate for a second.

"I'm very excited," she said. "There are only four Canadian officials going, two men and two women, so I'm honoured to have been selected to go to Sochi. It's something you would sign up

for if you could, but you don't control it, they choose you."

Although Dianne worked as a volunteer at the Olympics in Vancouver, her on-ice role in Sochi in 2014 will be more exciting. For the first time in her 25-year-stint as a curling official, Dianne will be a technical official at an Olympic games.

It means she's a top official and will be one of the go-to people on the ice for any officiating issues that may come up.

It's slightly different from Canadian competitions where officials stick to one end of the Field of Play and oversee several games at the same time. "For the Olympics, we have one game umpire for every sheet of ice. We're responsible for one sheet. We go from end to end with the play," Dianne explained.

Dianne, from Kamloops, will have to take extra time off her role as an administrative assistant in the real estate sector.

Dianne explained: "The officiating is all volunteer. I have a full-time job. I also have a very understanding boss. It helps that I am married to him.

"He supports me in what I do and knows I love it."

Dianne and the other Canadian officials will have a chance to work with the other members of the international technical officials' team and familiarize themselves with the Ice Cube (the 2014 Olympic curling venue) in Sochi at the 2013 World Junior Curling Championships from February 28 through March 10 that will serve as a trial run.

Up to \$50,000 to help your centre become more accessible

CURLING centres can take advantage of a fund to help them make their facilities more accessible.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's "Enabling Accessibility Fund" supports community-based projects across Canada that improve accessibility, remove barriers and enable Canadians with disabilities to participate in and contribute to their communities.

The funds were accessed by Nelson Curling Centre last year and they are currently in the process of updating their building.

This year, the "Small Project" component of the fund provides grants of up to \$50,000 per project to construct, renovate or retrofit building.

The application deadline is fast approaching: it is October 5, 2012 at 8:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

Full details are available on the website and include the application form and program guidelines.

Visit http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/disability_issues/eaf/cfp/index.shtml for information or to apply.

If you have additional questions about the funding, please contact HRSDC by email at fpa-eaf@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca or through their toll free numbers: 1-866-268-2502 or TTY: 1 800 926-9105.

Nelson Curling Centre case study Q & A

Q: Why did you decide to apply for Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's "Enabling Accessibility Fund" resources?

A: A member of the community came forward and advised us of the opportunity. Our executive determined that making our facility universally accessible would not only benefit our club, but the community as a whole.

Q: How would you describe the application process?

A: Challenging, but worthwhile. We had a very short timeline (less than two weeks) from the time we learned of the grant to the deadline. Our final grant application filled a 3" binder. We experienced a number of challenges likely not experienced in larger centres, such as contractor availability, contractor interest in a small project, and, of course, winter roads and weather conditions. However, we found that open and honest dialogue with HRSDC was met with understanding. We found them to be very supportive and accommodating.

Q: How much funding did you get?

A: \$70,738. To date, we have secured extensive additional donations from local government, businesses, and contractors. The

grant funding and community support we received was integral to the completion of our initial phase of universal accessibility renovations. Benefits of this project extend to curlers and non-curlers alike.

Q: What has it allowed you to do at Nelson Curling Centre?

A: We have been able to install an exterior ramp, modify the entrance landing of our building, install three sets of automatic doors, and a chair lift.

Additional phases of this project will include a universal washroom, improved lighting, signage, tables, modification to ice access and ramps to the ice surface, as and when future funding becomes available.

Q: Will this funding be something that continues to give back? I.e. has it strengthened your centre for the long-term?

A: Absolutely. These improvements will allow community members to enjoy and participate in curling and non-curling events hosted in our venue.

Q: Is there anything you'd do differently if you applied again?

A: Establish a committee and divide up the responsibilities.

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Contact information can be found at www.curlbc.ca/contact/

