

Bison buddies

Past Scotties champs (left) Kelly Scott (B.C.) and Jennifer Jones (Manitoba) share a chuckle during Sunday action in Kingston. Scott is a Manitoba native, and won the Canadian and World Junior title as Kelly Mackenzie in 1995. Jones won her Canadian junior title in 1994. Both are among the favourites this week.



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Winnipeg 2013
 December 1-8, 2013 MTS Centre

Day 2: Separation starts

BY JIM MORRIS

The Heart Chart

It's still early days but already one rink is making ripples in the big sea at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

The sharks at this year's tournament are feeding as expected with defending champion Heather Nedohin, former world champion Jennifer Jones of Manitoba and 2010 Canadian junior champion Rachel Homan of Ontario all being 3-0.

The rink that few people expected to make a splash is Jill Shumay's team of small fish from Saskatchewan. At 3-0 they aren't showing any signs of being intimidated in their first appearance on in the women's national championship.

Shumay is scoring points like the CFL Roughriders. Her team managed a six-ender in Sunday's morning draw in an easy 12-5 defeat of Quebec's Allison Ross that took just eight ends. They followed that by managing both a four and three-ender on New Brunswick's Andrea Crawford for a 10-5, nine-end win.

"It was a real big swing in both (games)," said the 38-year-old skip who lives in Saskatoon but curls out of the Maidstone Curling Club. "It was nice to make the big shots and score those ends."

Jones stayed perfect with a pair of lopsided wins. She pounded Kelly Scott of B.C. 10-4 in nine ends in the morning then beat up Stacie Devereaux of Newfoundland & Labrador 9-1.

Homan kept the Ontario fans happy with a 9-5 win over Alberta's Kristie Moore in the morning then defeated Kerry Galusha of the NWT/Yukon 9-2 in eight ends during the afternoon.

Nedohin, who skips Team Canada out of the Saville Sports Centre in Edmonton, had a little tougher time. She scored a point in the 10th for a 7-6 win over Devereaux then edged Suzanne Birt of P.E.I. 6-5.

In the evening draw B.C.'s Scott (2-1) Arsenault of Nova Scotia (0-3) 9-4; New Brunswick (2-2) beat NWT/Yukon (1-3) 9-5; Quebec (2-1) kept Alberta (0-3) winless with a 9-6 victory; and P.E.I (1-3) defeated Newfoundland & Labrador (0-4) 12-7.

Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Canada lead the standings at 3-0. B.C. and Quebec are 2-1 while New Brunswick is 2-2. NWT/Yukon and P.E.I are 1-3. Alberta and Nova Scotia are 0-3 while Newfoundland & Labrador is 0-4.

Shumay is too busy enjoying her early ride at the Scotties to feel snubbed over being considered food for the big fish at the K-Rock Centre this week.

"It doesn't mother me," said the amiable accounts receiver administrator. "When we went to provincials they didn't know who we were. Why should they know who we are here?"

"It doesn't bug me at all because the pressure is on them. We're just here to curl and not worry about what everybody is doing. There is no pressure on us to win at all. It's just nice to kind of fly under the radar."

Nedohin said it's not unexpected for a team from Saskatchewan to be in the hunt.

"When you look at the calibre of play in Saskatchewan . . . it's not surprising," she said. "Teams play well here regardless. The calibre of women's play is strong."

As for her unblemished record, Nedohin said her team has taken advantage of some breaks.

"We've had some tighter games," she said. "There's times when you lose some of those games when they are tight.



Defending champ Heather Nedohin stayed undefeated Sunday.

ANDREW KLAVER/CCA

"This year we've come out with the W. Teams are playing well against us. Obviously we are very comfortable in the position we are because we are executing."

Jones hasn't needed any breaks because she's been too busy rolling over her rivals. She curled 97 per cent against B.C. and her average is 88 per cent, just two back of Homan. Against Devereaux she scored two in the second, then stole points all the way through the sixth end.

"I think we are playing well but we can definitely play better," she said. "It's nice to have a lead but it's scary to get a lead too early."

Homan said the week is still young.

"We have a lot of tough days to come," said the 23-year-old from Ottawa.

"We're 3-0 but it doesn't really mean much in the end. We are really going to have to battle hard tomorrow. It would be nice to get a couple more wins. It's not too settling right now."

Scott, who was left frustrated after her morning loss, was

happy with her win.

"We just came out ready to figure things out," said the 2007 world champion. "I think shot selection has a big impact out there. If you can get a couple-point lead those shots are easy. Those freezes and getting the right line on those precision shots are difficult.

"That's what we were trying to do earlier this morning. We were on the flip side of a few-point lead tonight and it seemed easier."

Birt was happy to finally put P.E.I. in the win category.

"We've had a couple of good games and didn't come out with the win," said the 2001 world junior champion. "It was good to get that first win under our belts."

For Moore it was another frustrating loss.

"The ice is good but it makes you pay when you don't throw them well," said the 1996 world junior champion from Grande Prairie. "We need to pick it up and start throwing them a little better for sure."

Scotties 2014 will head to Montreal

BY JIM MORRIS
The Heart Chart

The Canadian Curling Association is hoping that by placing the 2014 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Montreal it will be a stepping stone to hold other major championships in cities like Toronto and Vancouver.

"Everybody knows Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver are the big three cities in Canada," Greg StremLaw, Curling Canada's CEO, said Sunday after announcing next year's Scotties will be held at Montreal's Maurice Richard Arena Feb. 1-9. "This is really a template to kind of build towards one of the three big cities, see if it can be successful.

"I think Montreal, with all the elements that are there, we are going to be really watching closely to see how the bottom line looks. If it works well, maybe we can start to look at some stuff for Toronto or Vancouver as well."

The last time the Canadian women's champion was held in Montreal was 1979. It was the last year Macdonald Tobacco sponsored The Lassie. It was also the first time the championship used a playoff format and the first time the final game was shown on television.

Montreal also hosted the 1977 Brier.

Vancouver hosted the 1978 Brier and the 1997



Montreal Scotties organizing committee members Cathy Hughes (left) and Francine Poisson at the announcement the city will host the 2014 Scotties.

Scotties.

The Scotties have never been held in Toronto and the last Brier was 1941.

Besides the Brier and Scotties, the other championships hosted by the CCA are the Canada Cup, the Continental Cup, the Canadian Juniors and the world curling championship. Next year's Continental Cup will be held in Las Vegas.

StremLaw is excited about the marketing

opportunities Montreal presents.

"Curling in Quebec is really a diamond in the rough," he said.

The Maurice Richard Arena is a 4,750-seat multi-purpose arena. It was built in 1962 and renovated in 1994.

The arena hosted boxing and wrestling at the 1976 Summer Olympic Games. It is located on a metro stop making for easy access.

Montreal is also home to Kruger Products,

which is now in its 32nd year as title sponsor for the Scotties.

"Kruger has a deep-rooted history in Montreal which dates back over a century," Nancy Marcus, corporate vice-president of marketing, said in a release. "Curling is a part of our company's heritage. We're looking forward to Montreal hosting a milestone event."

One of the challenges of hosting a competition in a large city that also has professional sports teams and many entertainment options is making sure your event doesn't get lost.

"We have to activate the brand and make sure people know all about it and get bums in the seats," said StremLaw.

"If people come we're golden. We need to activate the brand and excite people, whether that's through local sponsorship or painting the town red. All the little elements that go into it."

Cathy Hughes, executive vice-chair of the Montreal organizing committee, said 17 curling clubs currently operate on the Island of Montreal. She's confident the Scotties will draw a large crowd.

"We are going to promote it everywhere we can, locally and outside the city," she said.

"The curling clubs are very excited. We are going to make sure everybody knows about it. We are going to tell our tale."

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HOW THEY GOT HERE: MANITOBA

Jones returns to Manitoba apex

Jennifer Jones has taken ownership, lock, stock and out-turn, of the Manitoba Scotties championship.

In fact, over the last 13 renewals, Jones has missed the final match in this affair only once in the years she has been compelled to enter on account of failing to win the national title the year previous.

Manitoba legend Connie Laliberte suggests that Jones is better than the likes of Sweden's Elisabet Gustafson, a four-time world champion, three-time champion Anette Norberg and Regina's Sandra Schmirler because Jones has been able to be better for longer.

All of which is arguable. Jones has won only one world title. But when you're already a proven player, you need challenges to keep on top of your game, and this past season has presented nothing but challenges for Jones, who will go in search of her fifth Canadian title this week as she skips Manitoba entry in her 10th Scotties.

Writes Winnipeg Sun curling reporter Jim Bender:

"Sure, everyone knows by now how she overcame off-season knee surgery and rebounded from giving birth to her first child. Before that, Jones got emotional when people started prying into her private life and her latest romance.

"Not only is that all behind her now, Jones

has emerged with a new lease on life. The famous curling mother may have been away from the competitive scene for half a season but she was still determined to return to the form that resulted in four Canadian crowns and one world title in the last 12 years. She wasn't going to come back just throw rocks and get embarrassed."

Jones told Bender on Thursday:

"It's unbelievable any time you win a Canadian championship and it would be unbelievable and exciting to do it again here in Kingston at the end of the week. But there's a lot of games still to win before we can even think of that."

Still, playing in Scotties No. 10 is special.

"I never really thought about this being my 10th before you mentioned it," said Jones, who is supported by third Kaitlyn Lawes, second Jill Officer and Dawn Askin. "I never thought that I would get to more than one, so it's exciting to be back here again."

Jones never has missed the playoffs in the previous nine trips. Aside from winning four, she lost the 2006 final to B.C.'s Kelly Scott and the 2011 final to Saskatchewan's Amber Holland. Only losing a measure prevented her from getting to last year's final, which was won by Edmonton's Heather Nedohin.

Jones has added Kristin MacCuish — Officer's niece — at fifth as long-time alternate Jennifer

Clark-Rouire wanted to take a break, Jones said.

There wasn't much difference in Jones's performance en route to her record sixth Manitoba title last month at Stonewall.

The St. Vital outfit defeated veteran Barb Spencer of Winnipeg 9-3 in the final.

Jones led 4-3 playing the eighth end but cracked a three-pointer after Spencer's attempted freeze shot sailed through the rings.

Said Askin:

"It's awesome, with Jen overcoming her surgery and having Isabella a few months ago and it all coming together, and she played phenomenal. She had a great event and I think it far exceeded the expectation of everybody. I'm so proud of her. She really worked hard to get back to where she needs to be."

The 38-year-old Jones said it was her team's best-ever provincial effort.

"We worked so hard to make sure we played well . . . and I thought it was our best provincial from start to finish," she allowed, fighting back tears. "It's probably the most emotional win I've ever had.

"We're always hungry. There's nothing better than playing in the Scotties. It's the epitome of sport for us, for women's curling. We want to go there, make the playoffs and hopefully play well and come out as champions and if we don't, at least give it a good try."

Jones and Spencer posted 6-1 records on their side of the 16-team split round-robin draw, Jones racking up scores of 9-3, 10-5, 13-1 and 7-2 before dropping a 6-5 decision to Winnipeg's Michelle Montford, a clubmate of Spencer's.

But Jones bounced back to defeat Spencer 8-5 and then erase veteran Janet Harvey by an 8-2 count.

On the other side of the draw, unsung Colleen Kilgallen of Pinawa wound up with a 6-1 record, one game better than Chelsea Carey of Winnipeg, the provincial runnerup the past two years.

In the Page One-One playoff leading directly to the final, Jones hammered Kilgallen 11-2 while Spencer eliminated Carey 8-5 in the Page Two-Two donnybrook.

Spencer advanced to the final with a 6-3 victory over Kilgallen in the semi-final.

Jones finished 8-1 while Spencer was 8-2. Kilgallen was 6-3 and Carey 5-3.

Kate Cameron of Stonewall was 5-2 along with Montford while veteran Winnipeggers Cathy Overton-Clapham and Karen Fallis each posted 4-3 records. Former champions Harvey, Darcy Robertson and Jill Thurston each turned in 3-4 records while Stacey Fordyce of Brandon and Deb McCreanor of LaSalle were 2-5, Lisa Park of Brandon and Lisa Menard of Dauphin were 1-6 and Charlene Norquay of Thompson was winless in seven matches.



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HOW THEY GOT HERE: ONTARIO

Homan 'hometown' fave this week

As romps go, Rachel Homan's gallop through the Ontario Scotties championship last month was strictly no-contest.

Perfection is usually measured on a scale ending with 10. But for Homan's Ottawa juggernaut, it was an 11 at the Kitchener-Waterloo Granite.

The imperturbable 23-year-old Homan, a personal trainer who excels at the big-weight kill, won her second title in three years with an 11-and-0 record after losing the 2012 final at the last gasp after running another unbeaten round-robin table.

"It's just amazing to be able to go back to the nationals and I'm so proud of my team," said the unassuming Homan. "They played amazing all week.

"We've matured a bit as a team and we've come a long way in the last three years."

Homan finished fourth two years ago at Charlottetown, losing the bronze-medal match to Nova Scotia. As home-province favourite at

Kingston, the team will rate among the favourites to knock off four-time champion Jennifer Jones of Manitoba and defending champion Heather Nedohin of Edmonton.

Playing with Emma Miskew, 24, Alison Kreviazuk 24, and Lisa Weagle, 27. Homan's 7-3 final decision against Mississauga's Cathy Auld took the sting out of the 2012 surprising loss to Sudbury's Tracy Horgan.

The big break in an at-times defensive game came in the sixth end when Auld was heavy on a draw against three, giving Homan a triple-steal and complete control at 5-1.

"It was a bit of a defensive game, but we were able to stay patient and wait for the big end," said Homan.

The team is more than eager to play for a national crown, basically in its own backyard.

"We can't wait," said Homan. "We'll have a lot of fans and family who'll be there. Some had already bought tickets expecting us to be there. We're really ready to try and go all the way

this time and do what we know we can do."

The 10-team round robin affair promised to be a thriller with several top-rated teams in the lists. But none, following the first round, gave the always-patient Homan much difficulty.

In order, Homan needed an extra end to shade Julie Hastings of Toronto 5-4, then hammered Jill Mouzar of Toronto 10-1, defeated Horgan 5-2, Sherry Middaugh of Cloldewater 9-6, Jacqueline Harrison of Brantford 8-1, Marlo Dahl of Thunder Bay 7-5, Krista McCarville of Thunder Bay 6-3, Auld 8-4 and North Bay's Kendra Lilly 6-2.

Auld, who finished second in the round robin at 6-3 and was smoked 9-0 by Homan in five ends in the Page One-Two playoff game leading directly to the final, rebounded for a 10-4 semi-final win over Middaugh.

Deadlocked with 5-4 records, Middaugh defeated Hastings 7-5 in a tie-breaker, then ousted McCarville 9-7.

"They're a great team, no doubt in my mind," said Auld, the gracious final-game loser. "We came here as one of the unknown teams and got to the final. We had some hiccups along the way, but we were able to regroup as a team and move on."

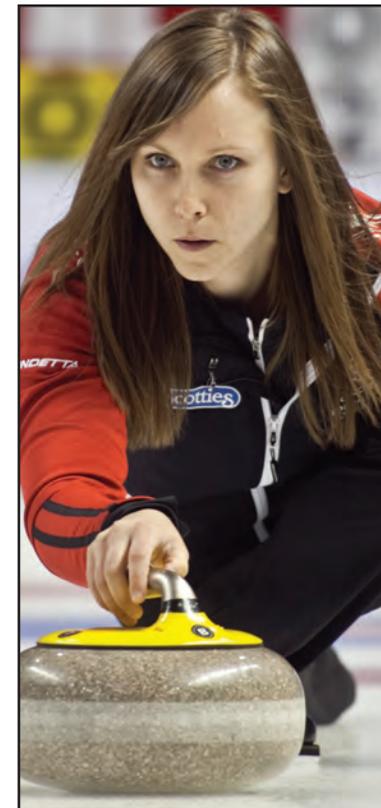
Auld and her teammates were almost flawless with their decision-making and rock placement in the semi.

Middaugh pulled off a great triple-raise takeout for a deuce to tie the game 2-2 in the third but Auld made a great freeze in the fifth that set up a steal of two and a 6-2 lead.

From that point, there was only going to be one winner.

Much like there was only going to be one winner at the event's conclusion.

Behind Homan's 11-zip record, Auld and Middaugh each finished 7-5, McCarville and Hastings each wound up 5-5, Lilly and Horgan were 4-5, Harrison and Mouzar were 3-6 and Dahl was 1-8.



Rachel Homan



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THE STATISTICAL STORY



STATISTICAL REPORT FOR DRAW 3

**HEART CHART
DRAW STAR**

Draw 3

**Jennifer Jones:
100%**

GAME SCORES FOR DRAW 3

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	
A Ontario (Homan)	0	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	1	X	9	04:04
Alberta (Moore)	*0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	X	5	01:52
B Quebec (Ross)	*0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	X	X	5	09:07
Saskatchewan (Shumay)	0	0	1	3	0	6	0	2	X	X	12	10:18
C Canada (Nedohin)	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	7	04:38
Nova Scotia (Arsenau)	*2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	6	02:44
D Manitoba (Jones)	*1	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	2	X	10	06:45
British Columbia (Sc)	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	X	4	07:51

*last rock advantage



STATISTICAL REPORT FOR DRAW 4

**HEART CHART
DRAW STAR**

Draw 4

**Rachel Homan:
97%**

GAME SCORES FOR DRAW 4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	
A Newfoundland/Labrado	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	X	X	X	1	13:34
Manitoba (Jones)	*0	2	2	3	1	1	0	X	X	X	9	14:23
B Prince Edward Island	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	5	07:31
Canada (Nedohin)	*2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	6	05:21
C Saskatchewan (Shumay)	0	1	0	4	0	1	0	3	1	X	10	07:56
New Brunswick (Crawf)	*2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	X	5	04:42
D Ontario (Homan)	*2	2	1	0	1	0	0	3	X	X	9	11:49
NWT/Yukon (Galusha)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	X	X	2	10:52

*last rock advantage



STATISTICAL REPORT FOR DRAW 5

**HEART CHART
DRAW STAR**

Draw 5

**Sarah Wazney:
88%**

GAME SCORES FOR DRAW 5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	
A NS (Arsenault)	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	X	4	06:54
BC (Scott)	*3	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	X	9	07:02
B NB (Crawford)	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	X	9	04:46
NWT/Yukon (Galusha)	*0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	X	5	04:33
C Quebec (Ross)	*2	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	9	07:01
Alberta (Moore)	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	6	01:16
D PEI (Birt)	0	0	3	0	3	2	0	2	2	X	12	04:47
NL (Devereaux)	*3	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	X	7	04:40

*last rock advantage

TEAM STANDINGS AFTER 5 DRAWS

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	FUTURE GAMES		
			6	7	8
Ontario (Homan)	3	0	BC	NB	--
SK (Shumay)	3	0	AB	PE	--
Manitoba (Jones)	3	0	NS	NT	--
Canada (Nedohin)	3	0	QC	NL	--
BC (Scott)	2	1	ON	--	NB
Quebec (Ross)	2	1	CAN	--	PE
NB (Crawford)	2	2	--	ON	BC
NWT/Yukon (Galusha)	1	3	--	MB	NS
PEI (Birt)	1	3	--	SK	QC
Alberta (Moore)	0	3	SK	--	NL
NS (Arsenault)	0	3	MB	--	NT
NL (Devereaux)	0	4	--	CAN	AB



B.C. second Sasha Carter gives a look of consternation after a shot during action Sunday. B.C. sits 2-1 after weekend play.



The Party Line

your guide to what's goin' on



the party rocks on!

By Candice-Rose Gagnon

The party was in full swing Saturday night at the HeartStop Lounge, situated just a complimentary shuttle ride away from the arena, in the Kingston Memorial Centre.

Mickey and Darryl McDonald connected with old friends, catching the end of the Northwest Territories/Yukon and Newfoundland/Labrador game on the big screen monitors and then watching the animated Paul James Band on stage.

Travelling from Ottawa for the evening, they were excited to see Team Canada compete in the afternoon and then relax in the HeartStop for the evening. "Coming to Kingston was easy for us because of the location. We are really a part of history tonight and we couldn't be more excited," said Mickey.

Candace Stefanik traveled from Schenectady, New York with husband Mike to celebrate their fourth anniversary. "Coming to the Scotties was our Valentine's Day and Anniversary present to each other. I picked out this event months ago, and it was the perfect choice for us," said Candace. "We're having a blast at the HeartStop at night and watching great competitive curling during the day."

Both avid curlers at the Schenectady Curling Club, it marked their first live championship event. "I love the sport so much, everyone needs to give it a try," she added. "Once you try curling, or experience it live, it lives with you for the rest of your life. You really have to be here!"

Beth and Steve Giberson, residents of Bath, are both local curlers. They enjoyed the intimate atmosphere of the HeartStop Lounge, remarking on how easy it was to get there on the shuttle bus from the K-Rock Centre.



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up next

Tomorrow Evening

SUPERFREAK



Anne Spada and Betty Campbell accept the grand prize in the Club Cool Shots Championship.



club cool shots champs crowned

The Sunday finals in the Club Cool Shots Championship saw Anne Spada and Betty Campbell of the Catarqui Golf and Country Club walk away with the \$500 first prize and \$2,500 for their home club.

The second-place team of David Staples and Greg Sullivan, also representing Catarqui, earned a cool \$250 and another \$1,000 for the Club. Derek and Pamela Prendergast and Linda O'Neil and Bernie Kay, from the Royal Kingston Curling Club, took home the \$100 team prizes for reaching the quarter-finals.

Play opens today in the Cool Shots competition for fans in the HeartStop. Registration is free, and you'll have a chance to win cash prizes and move on to this Sunday's championship playdown.

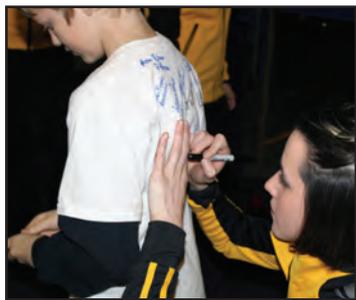
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autograph sessions

Today – 6:00 pm

Teams Nova Scotia & Alberta



Team Nova Scotia and Team Alberta will be greeting fans this evening for Team Autographs in the HeartStop. The Nova Scotians include Mary-Anne Arsenault, Colleen Jones and Kim Kelly – longtime veterans of Scotties competition. Alberta skip Kristie Moore is competing in her second national championship.

- Tomorrow** – 6 p.m. Teams Newfoundland/Labrador & New Brunswick
- Wednesday** – 6 p.m. Teams Manitoba & Saskatchewan
- Thursday** – noon Teams Canada & Ontario
- Thursday** – 6 p.m. Teams Prince Edward Island & Northwest Territories/Yukon
- Friday** – 12:30 p.m. Teams Quebec & British Columbia
- Saturday** – 5:30 p.m. All Teams



up close and personal

Today – 5:30 pm

Teams Quebec & British Columbia

Representatives of the Quebec and British Columbia teams at the Scotties will be sitting down in the HeartStop for a candid discussion with the fans. It's a great opportunity to get the inside word from some of the country's top shooters. Join Quebec's Allison Ross and Audrée Dufresne, and Jeanna Schaefer and Sarah Wazney from B.C.

- Tomorrow** – 5:30 p.m. Teams Prince Edward Island & Northwest Territories/Yukon
- Wednesday** – 5:30 p.m. Team Ontario
- Thursday** – 12:30 p.m. Teams Manitoba & Saskatchewan
- Thursday** – 5:30 p.m. Team New Brunswick
- Friday** – 12:30 p.m. Teams Alberta & Nova Scotia
- Friday** – 5:30 p.m. Team Newfoundland/Labrador



Lorraine Lang and Trish Dwyer, members of the Ceremonial Rock Team, were in the HeartStop for Saturday's Up Close and Interview.

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Win big cash just by purchasing a 50/50 ticket available during every draw at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts! Tickets will be on sale until the 5th end break. The winning number will be drawn at the 8th end break, the winner has 10 minutes to collect their winnings. The lucky winners will be featured each day right here in the Party Line.

The winners are:

- Draw 2**
Terry Thornton – \$1,665.00
- Draw 3**
Bill Amey – Kingston, ON – \$1,007.00
- Draw 4**
Shelley Marks – Mississauga, ON – \$1,740.00

Draw 4 - 50/50 winner Shelley Marks of Mississauga, ON.

Today's junior stars

The Junior Stars program provides 24 young curlers from local clubs with a first-hand experience of championship curling during the Scotties.

Junior Stars receive a ticket for themselves and two guests, an official jacket, a gift package from TSN, a photo with their team and introduction during a pre-game ceremony.

2:00 pm Draw

Team Quebec

Dylan Welch Royal Kingston
Nicholas Leduc Royal Kingston



Logan Grimard and Robert Heyman join Team Nova Scotia during the draw 5 pre-game ceremony.

7:30 pm Draw

Team New Brunswick

Jack Mandin Royal Kingston
Caitlin Gibson Royal Kingston



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HOW THEY GOT HERE: BRITISH COLUMBIA

Scott stands for Scotties in B.C.

Scott persists in standing for Scotties in the province of British Columbia.

The Kelowna foursome skipped by the diminutive Kelly Scott has taken complete ownership of the provincial championships in the last decade, winning four titles in a row and six over the last nine years.

Toss in two national titles and one global success and you know this team understands how to win at the top of the women's curling ladder.

Scott, was back this time around, at Cloverdale last month, with third Jeanna Schraeder, 36, who returned from a one-year baby sabbatical, second Sasha Carter and new lead Sarah Wazney. And the team rattled off nine wins in 11 starts including a 9-6 final-game conquest of Patti Knezevic's Prince George squad, a three-time provincial runnerup.

The 35-year-old Scott, a financial officer by trade, was as coolly efficient as usual in nailing down the decisive victory, her third of the tournament against Knezevic.

"We've had to become adaptable," said Scott, who had old buddy Carter at third in 2012.

"We keep changing our lineup from year to year, so there's always someone we want to win title for. Sarah (imported from Winnipeg when lead Jacqui Armstrong took the year off to focus on work and family) has given a lot to this team. It's awesome that her commitment is repaid in a trip to the (national) Scotties. That's super."

Runnerup to Heather Nedohin at last year's national showdown in Lethbridge despite a flu bug that ravaged the team during the week, Scott's exhorted everybody to stay clear of the team headed for Kingston.

"Don't touch anybody!" said the Winnipeg-born skip.

At Cloverdale, the team rented a house instead of staying in a hotel, ate at the house instead of at restaurants, and, like all the teams on hand, avoided shaking hands at the end of games.

"We took every precaution," said Scott, who knows a good showing at Kingston will have her in the hunt for a spot at Olympic trials. "We've got to keep that in mind for the next month."

The 38-year-old Carter told PostMedia the team's experience paid off all week, particularly in the final.

"Our sport psychologist (Dr. David Cox) always says you want to be the person who says, 'Give me the ball.' We are like, 'Give me the ball. We want to play.'"

It was a slow start to the 10-team round-robin affair, with Scott having to come from behind a couple of times to earn wins.

At the finish, the Kelowna team was 7-2 alongside Knezevic and former champion Marla Mallett of Cloverdale but Scott and Knezevic claimed the One-Two berths in the Page playoff while Mallett was dumped into the Three-Four tilt against Allison MacInnes of Abbotsford who needed an 11-8 tiebreaker decision over Marylou Richter of New Westminster in a battle of 6-3 finishers.

Scott beat Knezevic 8-7 in an extra-end Page affair that led to the provincial final. Mallett knocked off MacInnes 7-4 before losing an 8-7 decision to Knezevic in a spotty semi-final.

Knezevic, who was 0-9 in 2012 throwing fourth rocks for skip Brenda Garvey, experienced trouble with weight and the amount of curl early in the final.

"Just execution today," she said. "We were ready to play, but lack of execution. We had opportunities and lots of them."

So did Scott. She led 5-1 after three ends and it could easily



Kelly Scott

have been more.

Knezevic missed a relatively easy double takeout with her last rock in the first, but Scott was wide and a bit heavy with her subsequent draw and counted two instead of a potential three.

Knezevic got one back in the second, but a heavy draw in the third, followed by another draw that hung outside of the four-foot, left Scott a simple hit-and-stick to count three.

Scott then stole another point in the fourth when Knezevic, who initially was going to throw draw weight to nudge Scott's shot rock off the edge of the button, wrecked on a guard while trying a raise takeout to get two points.

Knezevic made a nice double takeout in the fifth to score a deuce but she failed to execute on both her shots in the sixth, hitting and rolling into the open with her last shot. That

left Scott a great chance to wrap it up with a hit for three. She rolled out, settled for two and a commanding 8-3 lead.

"It's still a little surreal right now," said Wazney, 25, who won a junior national title with Kaitlyn Lawes of Winnipeg in 2008. "This is going to be my first time (at the Scotties). A fantastic feeling."

The Scott team won five in a row before stumbling against MacInnes 9-7 and Mallett 8-4. But the winner finished 9-2 to Knezevic's 8-4 while Mallett was 8-3, MacInnes 7-4, Richter 6-4 and New Westminster's Kirsten Fox 5-4.

Trailing following round-robin play at 2-7 were Simone Brosseau of Victoria, with Sarah Wark tossing last rocks, Lori Olsen of New Westminster and Roberta Kuhn of Vernon. A William Lake team skipped by Simone Groundwater managed only one win in nine outings.

Scotties 2013 Draw Schedule

DATE	TIME	DRAW	A	B	C	D
SATURDAY February 16	2:00 p.m.	1	SK vs NT	NL vs ON	MB vs PE	CA vs NB
	7:00 p.m.	2	PE vs NB	AB vs BC	NT vs NL	NS vs QC
SUNDAY February 17	9:00 a.m.	3	ON vs AB	QC vs SK	CA vs NS	MB vs BC
	2:00 p.m.	4	NL vs MB	PE vs CA	SK vs NB	ON vs NT
	7:00 p.m.	5	NS vs BC	NB vs NT	QC vs AB	PE vs NL
MONDAY February 18	2:00 p.m.	6	QC vs CA	MB vs NS	ON vs BC	AB vs SK
	7:30 p.m.	7	NB vs ON	CA vs NL	PE vs SK	NT vs MB
TUESDAY February 19	2:00 p.m.	8	AB vs NL	BC vs NB	NS vs NT	QC vs PE
	7:00 p.m.	9	SK vs NS	ON vs QC	AB vs MB	BC vs CA
WEDNESDAY February 20	2:00 p.m.	10	CA vs MB	NT vs PE	NL vs NB	SK vs ON
	7:00 p.m.	11	NT vs AB	NS v NL	BC vs PE	NB vs QC
THURSDAY February 21	9:00 a.m.	12		SK vs CA	MB vs ON	
	2:00 p.m.	13	NS vs PE	NB vs AB	NT vs QC	NL vs BC
	7:30 p.m.	14	BC vs SK	QC vs MB	AB vs CA	ON vs NS
FRIDAY February 22	9:00 a.m.	15	NL vs QC	BC vs NT	NB vs NS	PE vs AB
	2:00 p.m.	16	MB vs NB	PE vs ON	SK vs NL	CA vs NT
	7:30 p.m.	17	ON vs CA	AB vs NS	QC vs BC	MB vs SK
IF NO TIE BREAKER DRAWS						
SATURDAY, February 23	2:00 p.m.	PP	Page Playoff Game			
	7:00 p.m.	PP	Page Playoff Game			
IF TIE BREAKERS REQUIRED						
SATURDAY, February 23	9:00 a.m.	TB1	Tie-Breaker			
	2:00 p.m.	PP	Page Playoff Game (if 2nd TB is required - 2:00 p.m.)			
	7:00 p.m.	PP	Page Playoff Game			
SEMI FINAL						
SUNDAY, February 24	9:00 a.m.	SF	Semi Final			
BRONZE MEDAL						
SUNDAY, February 24	2:00 p.m.	BRZ	Bronze Medal			
FINAL						
SUNDAY, February 24	7:00 p.m.	FNL	Final			

All times subject to change



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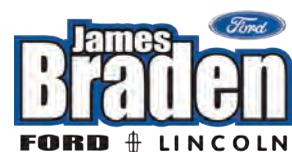
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HOW THEY GOT HERE: NEWFOUNDLAND-LABRADOR

Former junior champ back again

Stacie Devereaux has been known to emerge from exactly nowhere to succeed on the curling ice.

The tall skip from St. John's upset the experts at the 2007 Canadian junior women's championship at St. Catharines, racking up 12 wins in 13 starts for her province's first-ever . . . also only . . . national junior women's title.

Four years later, Devereaux skipped her team to her province's Scotties title and observers were looking for another positive surprise at a national championship.

It didn't happen. Unless you consider one of her province's worst records in years as a shocker.

Devereaux is back this year after a one-year absence, having knocked off veteran Heather Strong in the Newfoundland-Labrador final, and looking for some redemption.

Something, at least, to erase the memory of a dead-last 1-10 record at Charlottetown.

A 26-year-old border services officer,

Devereaux has retained the experience of 49-year-old lead Heather Martin but has installed youth in the middle of her batting order with Erin Porter, 23, at third and Lauren Wasylikiw, 22, at second.

The combination paid off in a chilling 8-7 win over Strong, the type of victory for which Devereaux was known in her junior days.

Sweeping the round-robin portion of the five-team provincial scuffle, including a 9-5 conquest of Strong, Devereaux awaited an opponent for the championship final and, lo, she got Strong who finished second with a 3-and-1 log.

In Newfoundland, you understand, an unbeaten record means something. Maybe partly because they don't bother with televised finals on the Rock. Anyway, the rule is that if a 3-and-1 team knocks off a 4-and-0 team in a playoff, the 4-and-0 team gets another shot at the marbles.

And when Strong doubled up on Devereaux 10-5, primarily on the strength of a stolen triple in the sixth end,

both teams were directed back at it with identical 4-and-1 records.

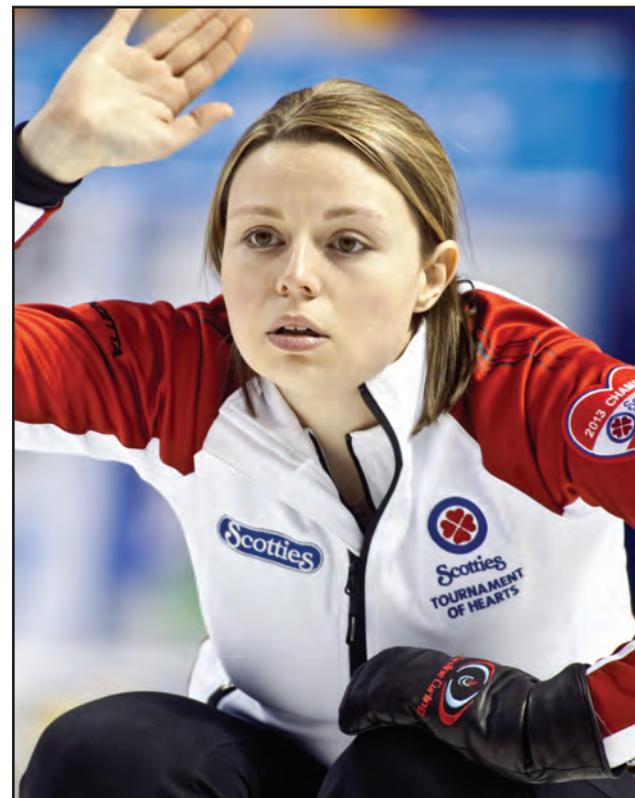
This time, Devereaux tripled in the second end and stole a sixth-end single for a 5-3 advantage. But, after a blank seventh, Strong erupted with three points of her own and a 6-5 lead.

It didn't last long. Devereaux bounced right back with another trio in the ninth, and confined Strong to a meaningless single in the 10th.

Now this team from the Bally Haly has to figure out a way to cope with the champs of nine other provinces plus a territory, plus a defending national winner.

Devereaux failed miserably in 2011. She scored a five-ender to crush Andrea Crawford of New Brunswick 10-4 in the second round. But then proceeded to lose nine in a row.

Finishing at 5-and-1, Devereaux outlasted Strong (4-and-2), former champion Shelly Nichols (2-and-2), former champion Laura Phillips (1-and-3) and Beth Hamilton (1-and-3).



Stacie Devereaux

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Time for trivia

Question Of The Day: Four skips have been required to win a dozen games each in order to win the Scott Tournament of Hearts. Name them.

1. In what years did they score the dozen wins?
2. Who skipped Ontario teams in those years?
3. Name the skip and hometown of the Ontario team that competed in the very first Scott Tournament of Hearts (1982).
4. Name the skip and home province of the runner-up team when Colleen Jones won the first of her record six Canadian women's championships.
5. How many points did Jones score in the first end of that final game and what was the final

- score?
6. Can you name the skips of the other five teams that were Scotties runners-up to Colleen Jones?
 7. Now, who skipped Team Canada at the world championship the year Elisabet Gustafson of Sweden won her record fourth world title?
 8. How about the skip of Team Canada the year Gustafson won her first world title?
 9. Which year and where?
 10. Something unique to the Canadian women's curling championship occurred at the inaugural Scott Tournament of Hearts in 1982. What was it?
 11. Who was involved and where were they from?
 12. Where was this edition played?

(Answers):
 Gold: Connie Laliberte, Marilyn Bodogh, Cathy King, Kelly Scott.
 1. Laliberte (1995), Bodogh (1996) (Borst) King (1998), Scott (2007).
 2. Alison Goring (1995), Bodogh (1996), Anne Merklinger (1998), Krista (Shari) McCarville (2007).
 3. Carol Thompson, Toronto.
 4. Dorothy Rose, Winnipeg.
 5. Jones opened with a four-ender and won 7-8.
 6. Cathy King, Kelley Law, Sherry Anderson, Regina.
 7. Colleen Jones.
 8. Connie Laliberte.
 9. 1992 at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.
 10. The round-robin competition wound up with a record five teams tied for first place with 7-3 records.
 11. Teams skipped by Colleen Jones of Halifax, the eventual champion, Barbara Parker of Comox, B.C., Cathy Shaw of Edmonton, Arleen Day of Regina and Dorothy Rose of Winnipeg.

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A LITTLE MORE FROM JIM MORRIS

Jones still has rock passion

You never know what can alter a person's life, maybe totally change their view on living. It could be winning the lottery, the birth of a child or the loss of a loved one.

People deal with the experience differently. For some it's a chance to reach new horizons. Others spiral out of control.

For Colleen Jones life changed that day on Dec. 4, 2010, when she was struck with bacterial meningitis. Explained simply, it is an inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.

According to the Centers for Disease Control in the United States, most people will recover but it can cause brain damage, hearing loss, or learning disabilities. It can also be fatal.

For Jones, that brush with death has given her a different perspective on the world. The woman who is a member of Team Nova Scotia at this year's Scotties Tournament of Hearts still has the same drive and fire as the curler who won three Canadian championships and two world titles. It's just packaged differently.

"I think there was the pre-meningitis me and the post-meningitis me," Jones said. "I think they are two different people."

"I am less an A-type personality. I'm now A-minus, maybe a B-plus."

Jones is making a record 21st appearance at this week's Scotties at the K-Rock Centre. It's also her first time back at the Canadian women's championship since 2006.

"I'm glad to be back," said Jones, who is playing second and acting as vice skip on Mary-Anne Arsenault's rink from the Mayflower Curling Club in Halifax.

"By the same token if it hadn't worked out, that's sort of life. It's not every day that when you are 53 you get an opportunity to come back and play in this event. You know time is no longer on your side. That's the reality."

Jones has enjoyed the switch to second.

"I love sweeping," she said. "We're all very much involved in the game."

"I don't mind not having the pressure of having to make the last shot."

For Arsenault, having Jones on her rink is like slipping on a pair of comfortable shoes.

"She is very spunky," said the massage therapist who played second on Jones's 2004 world championship team. "She adds a flavour for



One of the most enjoyable aspects of returning to competitive curling for Colleen Jones – her love of sweeping as she moves to the second position.

sure and a lot of years of ice calling.

"It's nice to have her in my corner."

While the game remains the same Jones views life through the eyes of someone who almost had everything taken away. That's brought a lot of things into focus.

"Like any person that is going through an illness the last thing you ever think about is anything but let's survive," said the veteran television announcer.

"After that you come back with a new perspective on everything, accepting and blessing and enjoying life more, enjoying the small moments and living more moment to moment, staying present all the time. Do I do that every day? No. But I try to do that every

day. I try to live a less stressful life. I try to take time for the things that are really important."

Jones still brings a passion to the game. The competitive flames are fanned the minute she steps on the ice.

"I think you are born with that fire and it never goes away," said the mother of two sons. "When I step on the ice I'm excited, I'm nervous and I really want to win. That drive, I don't know if that will ever leave me."

"That's always been a battle for me, to have this perspective of balance and blissfulness. I want that but it's a total polar opposite to what I need to compete well. That polar opposite leaves in me the drive to win, that killer instinct."

New doesn't always mean better. Jones said there was nothing really wrong with the old Colleen. The new model is just more finely tuned.

"I didn't mind the old one but I do like living life with awareness and living with a mindfulness," she said. "I buy into the fact having more isn't important. Just being is what matters."

"Just trying to live life accepting and blessing and non-judgementally and all that sort of stuff, (like) I promised to live in a post-meningitis world. I try to live that. I mess up every now and then."

Jones accepts this year's Scotties could be her last. She also believes the Arsenault rink has a chance to qualify for the 2014 Winter Games and she could add an Olympic medal to her collection.

Predicting the future is impossible, just like Jones never guessed she would spend a week in hospital back in 2010 wrestling a sickness that could have killed her.

"There's lots of room for pushing to do more," Jones said. "I think age is really just a number. Experience is a powerful tool. We're lucky enough to play in a sport where you could play a long time."

"As an old country tune by Toby Keith says, I'm as good once as I ever was."



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GUEST COLUMNIST • RON BROWN

'Loonie' club is Canadian only

What started out as a bonfire and "on-ice lake party" on Benson Lake some 20 years ago, is now the home of Canada's only registered one-sheet curling club.

The club's owner, ice technician, ice-maker, record-keeper, bonspiel chairman, treasurer and general maintenance man is Alex McKinney, the fifth Alex on the McKinney family tree.

The Loonie Curling Club officially opened on Oct. 11, 2008, but the history of the club stretches back to 1992 when Gord Spencer, a neighbour of McKinney, came to him, out of courtesy, to say he was going to have a huge bonfire on the ice to clean up some lumber from his Beatrice Dairy business in Kingston.

"Right away I started thinking," said McKinney, who is a self-confessed curling addict. "I told Gord I knew where I could get my hands on four curling rocks, so why don't we invite all our neighbours and some friends and have a real party on the ice, complete with a curling game."



And that was the foundation for what is now the \$250,000 Loonie Curling Club.

"We made the "lake bonspiel" an annual event right up until 2006 when we had a mild winter and couldn't venture out onto the lake."

It was at that time, that McKinney's dream for his own curling club moved to the forefront.

His wife, Roberta, is a world-class weaver and has more than 20 looms in their home as she makes weaved garments such as blankets, sweaters and even Harris tweeds.

"With the weather so mild, I said to my wife 'you know I should build a lodge for your looms and at the same time build myself a curling club."

And that's exactly what he did.

The weaving palace is an overwhelming success with a dozen avid weavers using it on a regular basis and they produced a gold medal at this year's Royal Winter Fair.

Today his one-sheet wonder sits overlooking Benson Lake along with a miniature bobsled run named in honour of his niece, Heather Moyse, a gold medallist at the Vancouver Olympics. It is equipped with all of today's technology, on ice maintenance and with a compressor, could operate 12 months a year. It has overhead cameras directly above the button at each end of the sheet, an electric ice shaver and lightning-fast ice. Loons, which are plentiful on Benson Lake and hence the name Loonie Curling Club, adorn both walls bordering the ice surface and also on the regulation scoreboard.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

The Loonie Club will be basically idle for the next few days as McKinney, an accredited ice-maker, has been assisting head icemaker Mark Shurek of Winnipeg as they transformed the hockey rink at the gorgeous K-Rock Centre into a magical four-sheet curling venue.

Greg Balsdon, who played in last year's provincial men's curling final, called the Loonie ice the "fastest" he'd played on as he tuned up for the provincials.

Since the club opened in 2008, McKinney has had seven of "his teams" qualify for provincial playoffs including one he skipped in the provincial Masters in 2011. Lisa Farnell, originally from Peterborough and a regular on the trail leading to the Tournament of Hearts is another member of the Loonie Club.

In the summer months, McKinney transforms the on e-sheet curling club into a one-lawn bowling facility.

"And we've already had an eight-ender in curling and lawn bowling," beamed McKinney as he pointed out the pictures on the walls of the club.

Alex is extremely proud of the fact that he designed the club himself without the assistance of an architect.

Besides the curling rink and lawn bowling green, he has two regulation tennis courts outside the club, which, on occasion he can flood for two additional outdoor curling rinks if he has a particularly big bonspiel he wants to host.



Alex McKinney and Canada's only one-sheet club - The Loonie Club.

PHOTO: RON BROWN

He also caters to numerous other sporting ventures over the course of the year such as a golf tournament that has a 12 x 8 floating green stationed in the lake; electric remote-controlled car races and many, many more.

His next major goal in life now is to have one team from his 47-member club win a provincial title so he can proudly hang an Ontario Curling Association championship banner in Canada's only one-sheet club.



A Traffic Message from the City of Kingston

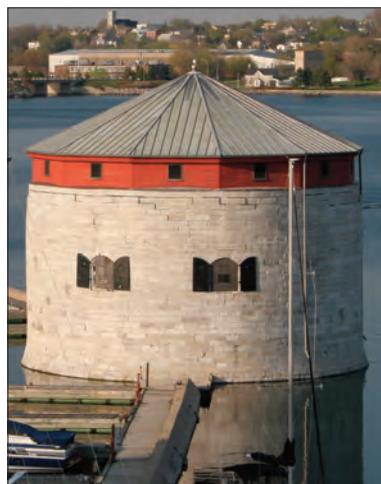
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