

HEART CHART™



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Let the games begin

Longtime teammates Jennifer Jones (left) and Cathy Overton-Clapham will be first-time Scotties rivals this week.

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A house full of story lines

There are innumerable story lines simmering on the surface as the 2011 Scotties Tournament Of Hearts swings into action at the Charlottetown Civic Centre. But there's a singular stickout. Protruding way, way out.

No story will be any more enduring — five days at least — than the impending collision of Team Canada's Jennifer Jones, looking for a record-tying fourth straight title, and her former vice-skip Cathy Overton-Clapham who is skipping the Manitoba entry and may be the only curler in history to have twice qualified for the same Scotties.

Neither skip, nor most members of either team, wish to dwell on the delicate issue that has been smouldering since Cathy O. Jones was dropped from the Jones squad after playing the role of vice-skip in winning a world title and four Canadian titles in seven years, put together her current provincial championship batting order.

But the round-robin collision of the duo Wednesday night will dominate discussion and media attention from the get-go. And there'll be no place to hide for either skip.



LARRY WOOD
HeartChart Editor

As one observer was observing the other day, if this edition of the Scotties was slated for Winnipeg, it would precipitate a media circus of proportions unheard of in the realm of women's curling.

Overton-Clapham, meanwhile, has her sights set on records of her own. A victory at this Scotties would be her sixth, tying her with Halifax's Colleen Jones, the queen of them all.

There are, to boot, many other story lines.

For instance, the aforementioned Colleen Jones. The current Nova Scotia standard-bearer was a team of which Jones was to be the skip until she was struck down with bacterial meningitis. Jones and Heather Smith-Dacey were set to play the back end but when the six-time champ was forced out, Smith-

Dacey took over the reins, recruited Danielle Parsons from junior ranks to play third and won the provincial title anyway.

No less than 12 former national junior champion skips will be at large on the Civic Centre freeze. That's a Scotties record. All told, 24 former national junior champion players are on hand and that's about as solid a testimonial for junior women's curling as you can find.

Only one of the 12 teams in the starting gate today, in fact, is without at least one former national junior champ in its lineup. That would be Cathy Galusha's Territories crew from Yellowknife which always suffers from lack of seasoning at this level but hasn't been without the fortitude to turn in a stunning upset or two along the way.

The return to the field of Alberta's Shannon Kleibrink, the 2006 Olympian, should contribute to a much stronger lineup. Kleibrink was upended in last year's Alberta final by a young rookie team that proved ill-equipped for the subsequent national potboiler.

To boot, Kleibrink and her team of Amy Nixon, Bronwen Webster and



Team Canada skip Jennifer Jones and new third Kaitlyn Lawes.

Chelsey Bell out of Calgary have a score to settle with the defending champion. They haven't forgotten the bitter disappointment of losing the 2008 final at Regina after running up an 11-1 record going in.

Alberta will have to wait until Thursday night's last draw of the round robin to get a crack at Team Canada. The betting is both teams still will be in contention

for playoff berths when they gird for that battle.

The defending champion Jones last year defeated Prince Edward Island at the last gasp in Sault Ste. Marie but the home province this time will send six-time provincial champion Suzanne Birt into the fray.

On paper, the Birt threat would seem to be at least the equal of last year's Island aggregation. But

that's on paper. A two-time former national junior champ and one-time world junior champ, Birt exploded from the junior ranks and amassed the best Scotties round-robin record for an Island team in 2003 before losing in the playoffs.

Please see WOOD, Page 3

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Heather Smith-Dacey

WOOD

Continued from 2

Last year's Canadian junior champion Rachel Homan of Ottawa will be trying to improve on that record one-year jump up the ladder to the bigs this time around with third Emma Miskew along for the ride. The newcomer, lead Lisa Weagle, is the oldest member of the Scotties youngest team at 25. Second Alison Krevaziuk was with the runnerup Homan team at the 2009 Juniors.

Joining Homan among rookie skips in this Scotties field is Stacie Devereaux of St. John's.

Kelowna's Kelly Scott is back for the second straight year and her sixth Scotties in seven winters. The Scott team sandwiched two Hearts titles in there 2006, 2007 and added a world crown in the second season.

Other repeaters in the lineup are Saskatchewan's Amber Holland of Kronau and New Brunswick's Andrea Kelly of Fredericton.

Quebec's Marie-France Larouche is back for the fifth time with seven-timer Annie Lemay moving up to play third. Larouche was runnerup to Colleen Jones in 2004.

Here's the complete Scotties grad picture for junior champs:

Alberta — lead Bell, 2003 Canadian and world champion.

British Columbia — skip Scott, 1995 Canadian and world champion; second Sasha Carter, 1995 Canadian and world champion.

Canada — skip Jones, 1994 Canadian champion skip; third Kaitlyn Lawes, 2008 and 2009 Canadian champion skip; second Jill Officer, 1994 Canadian champion second.

Manitoba — skip Cathy Overton-Clapham, 1989 Canadian champion skip; third Karen Fallis, 1981 Canadian champion skip; fifth Breanne Meakin, 2009 Canadian champion lead.

New Brunswick — skip Kelly, 2005 Canadian champion skip; third Denise Nowlan, 1991 Canadian championship third; fifth Jodie deSolla, 2005 Canadian champion second; lead Lianne Sobey, 2005 Canadian champion lead.

Newfoundland — skip Stacie Devereaux, 2007 Canadian champion skip; third Stephanie Guzzwell, 2007 Canadian champion third; second Sarah Paul, 2007 Canadian junior champion second; fifth Julie Devereaux, 2007 Canadian junior champion lead.

Nova Scotia — skip Smith-Dacey, 1991 Canadian champion skip; second Blisse Comstock, 2004 Canadian champion second.

Ontario — skip Homan, 2010 Canadian champion skip; third Miskew, 2010 Canadian champion third.

Prince Edward Island — skip Birt, 2001 Canadian and world champion skip, 2002 Canadian champion skip; second Robyn MacPhee, 2001 Canadian and world champion second; 2002 Canadian champion third.

Quebec — skip Larouche, 1999 Canadian champion skip.

Saskatchewan — skip Holland, 1992 Canadian champion skip.

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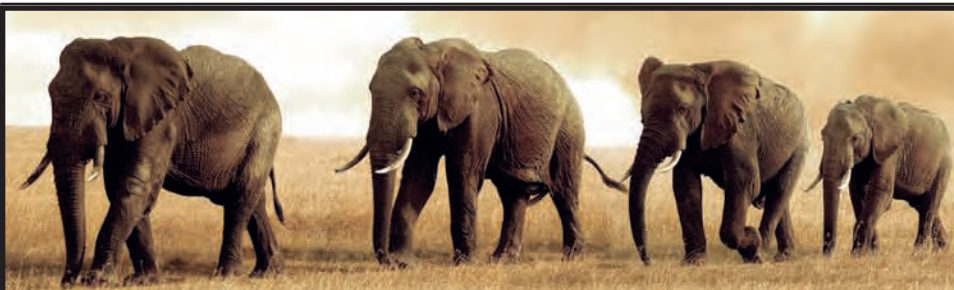
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Time out for trivia

Larry Wood
HeartChart Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Ottawa's Rachel Homan last year won the Canadian junior women's championship. Name the last curler to skip the national junior champion one year and skip in the Scotties the next.

2. She represented which province?
3. In which consecutive years did she win the Juniors, then play in the Scotties?
4. Only one other Canadian junior champion skip advanced to skip a team in the Scotties the following year. Her name?
5. The years she won Junior, and played in



Scotties?

6. Name one current participant in the Scotties who skipped a team in the 2010 and 2011 Canadian Juniors and won as a lead in 2009. (Hint: She's an alternate at the Scotties).
7. Newfoundland is one of three provinces/territories never to have won the Canadian women's curling championship. Name the other two.
8. Which P.E.I. centre does not fit in this list: Montague, Alberton, Charlottetown, Summer-

side, Cornwall, Crapaud and why?

9. Only one P.E.I. skip ever has won 10 games in a single Scotties tournament. Name her and the year she won 10.
10. Name the only P.E.I. skip who directed nine wins in a single Scotties and when.
11. How about the only P.E.I. skip ever to win eight games at a Scotties, and that year?
12. Name the province with the most third-place finishes in Canadian women's curling championship history.
13. How many third-place finishes?
14. Name the province with the most second-place finishes, and that number.

• Answers on Page 14

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SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS: THE PLAYING FIELD



Alberta

Calgary Winter Club
Calgary

Experience factor 8
Sk Shannon Kleibrink (42-4)
3rd Amy Nixon (33-3)
2nd Bronwen Webster (32-2)
Ld Chelsey Bell (28-3)
Alt Crystal Webster (35-0)
Coach J.D. Lind
(Runnerup: Heather Nedo-hin, Edmonton)
Last year s record: Valerie Sweeting, Edmonton, 4-7, finished 10th.



B.C.

Kelowna Curling Club
Kelowna

Experience factor 19
Sk Kelly Scott (33-6)
3rd Jeanna Schraeder (34-5)
2nd Sasha Carter (36-6)
Ld Jacquie Armstrong (34-3)
Alt Shannon Aleksic (34-4).
Coach Gerry Richard.
(Runnerup: Kelley Law, Vancouver)
Last year s record: Kelly Scott, Kelowna, 7-5, finished fourth.



Manitoba

Fort Rouge C.C.
Winnipeg

Experience factor 14
Sk Cathy Overton-Clapham (41-12)
3rd Karen Fallis (48-2)
2nd Leslie Wilson (31-2)
Ld Raunora Westcott (34-2)
Alt Breanne Meakin (20-1).
Coach Rob Meakin
(Runnerup: Chelsea Carey, Morden)
Last year s record: Jill Thurston, Winnipeg, 7-5, finished fifth.



New Brunswick

Capital Winter C.C.
(Fredericton)

Experience factor 12
Sk Andrea Kelly (25-4)
3rd Denise Nowlan (39-5)
2nd Jillian Babin (21-2)
Ld Lianne Sobey (26-3)
Alt Jodie deSolla (24-3).
Coach Daryell Nowlan
(Runnerup: Sylvie Robi-chaud, Moncton)
Last year s record: Andrea Kelly, Fredericton, 5-6, finished eighth.



Nfld/ Labrador

Bally Haly G&C.C.
St. John s

Experience factor 7
Sk Stacie Devereaux (24-1)
3rd Stephanie Guzzwell (23-1)
2nd Sarah Paul (25-1)
Ld Heather Martin (47-8)
Alt Julie Devereaux (22-1).
Coach Craig Withycombe
(Runnerup: Shelly Nichols, St. John s)
Last year s record: Shelly Nichols, St. John s, 4-7, finished ninth.



Nova Scotia

Mayflower C.C.
Halifax

Experience factor 3
Sk Heather Smith-Dacey (38-3)
3rd Danielle Parsons (21-1)
2nd Blisse Comstock (27-1)
Ld Teri Lake (29-2)
Alt Melanie Comstock (37-1)
Coach Mark Dacey
(Runnerup: Theresa Breen, Halifax)
Last year s record: Nancy McConery, Dartmouth, 1-10, finished 12th.



Ontario

Ottawa Curling Club
Ottawa

Experience factor 6
Sk Rachel Homan (21-1)
3rd Emma Miskew (22-1)
2nd Alison Krevaziuk (22-1).
Ld Lisa Weagle (25-1)
Alt Sherry Middaugh (44-7).
Coach Andrea Ronnebeck
(Runnerup: Krista McCarville, Thunder Bay)
Last year s record: Krista McCarville, Thunder Bay, 9-5, finished third.



P.E.I.

Charlottetown Curling Club

Experience factor 25
Sk Suzanne Birt (29-6)
3rd Shelly Bradley (40-8)
2nd Robyn MacPhee (27-6)
Ld Leslie MacDougall (40-4)
Alt Tricia Affleck (40-6).
Coach Paul Power
(Runnerup: Kathy O'Rourke, Charlottetown)
Last year s record: Kathy O'Rourke, Charlottetown, 9-5, finished second.



Quebec

Etchemin CC,
St-Romuald

Experience factor 21
Sk Marie-France Larouche (30-7)
3rd Annie Lemay (33-7)
2nd Veronique Gregoire (28-2)
Ld Veronique Brassard (25-2)
Alt Joelle Sabourin (38-8).
Coach Bill Tschirhart
(Runnerup: Chantal Osborne, Thurso)
Last year s record: Eve Belisle, Montreal, 5-6, finished seventh.



Sask.

Kronau Curling Club
(Kronau)

Experience factor 7
Sk Amber Holland (36-4)
3rd Kim Schneider (26-2)
2nd Tammy Schneider (28-2)
Ld Heather Kalenchuk (26-2)
Alt Jolene Campbell (29-2)
Coach Merv Fonger
(Runnerup: Stefanie Lawton, Saskatoon)
Last year s record: Amber Holland, Kronau, 6-5, finished sixth.



Territories

Yellowknife C.C.
Yellowknife

Experience factor 28
Sk Kathy Galusha (33-9)
3rd Dawn Moses (41-12)
2nd Wendy Miller (29-1)
Ld Shona Barbour (31-4)
Alt Sharon Cormier (46-7)
Coach Fred Koe
(Runnerup: Sharon Cormier, Yellowknife)
Last year s record: Sharon Cormier, Yellowknife, 4-7, finished 11th.



Canada

St. Vital Curling Club
Winnipeg

Experience factor 20
Sk Jennifer Jones (36-8)
3rd Kaitlyn Lawes (22-1)
2nd Jill Officer (35-8)
Ld Dawn Askin (30-5)
Alt Janet Arnott (54-11).
Coach Earle Morris
(Runnerup: Kathy O'Rourke, Prince Edward Island)
Last year s record: Jennifer Jones, Winnipeg, 10-3, finished first.

(player s age and total Scotties appearances in brackets)

ROAD TO THE SCOTTIES Quebec's Marie-France Larouche

Fifth try for skip who hopes for next step

HeartChart Staff

Surviving a hectic 10-team round-robin Quebec provincial gauntlet like the one Marie-France Larouche slipped through and lived to tell about it earlier this month should leave the petite skipper from St-Romuald on the south shore of the St. Lawrence in good stead for the Scotties.

Larouche, with Annie Lemay, Veronique Gregoire and Veronique Brassard operating immaculately in front, hung on for an 8-7 championship final victory over veteran Chantal Osborne of Thurso. It was the ninth win in 11 starts for Larouche who will be skipping the Quebec standard-bearer in her fifth Scotties Tournament Of Hearts.

Larouche turned in her best effort at the Scotties when she finished runnerup to Colleen Jones in 2004 at Red Deer. But her Quebec teams never have been too shabby.

She was 7-5 in her 2001 debut, one year out of junior. In 2004 she was 10-4, in 2008 she was 8-4 and in 2009 she was 7-6. In fact, she never has skipped a Scotties contender that failed to reach the playoff round.

Four teams dominated La Belle province's latest women's curling argument at Gatineau.

Three of them have been around forever. The fourth, skipped by Kim Mastine of Lacolle, appeared to be a proven darkhorse. And there was no clear-cut edge in this four-way struggle until Larouche scored a 10th-end deuce to defeat Osborne 6-4 in the Page One-Two playoff.

Osborne was the first of the four to suffer defeat — in the second round when unsung Julie Hamel of Chicoutimi tagged the Thurso four with an 8-3 walloping.

Larouche, Mastine and defending champion Eve Belisle of Montreal sailed

through four rounds without a blemish. In the fifth draw, Larouche bowed 8-6 to Osborne. In the sixth, Larouche hammered Mastine 9-2, leaving Belisle, who defeated Osborne 5-4, alone in the unbeaten bracket.

Mastine knocked off Belisle 7-5 in the seventh round while Larouche was losing 8-5 to former junior champion Marie-Christine Cantin of St-Romuald. And, in the eighth round, Larouche nipped Belisle 6-5 and Osborne clubbed Mastine 9-3, leaving all four with 6-and-2 records.

Belisle bowed 8-7 to Hamel in an extra-end last-rounder and dropped into a fourth-place tie with Cantin.

Based on earlier results, Larouche and Osborne moved to the Page One-Two while Belisle was forced to play a tiebreaker, win



Larouche

7-4 over Cantin, then score in an extra end to eliminate Mastine 7-6 in the Page Three-Four tussle.

Osborne took control of the semi-final early and failed to relinquish control after scoring a third-end deuce. It ended Osborne 7, Belisle 3.

Osborne led the final 4-3 in the sixth when Larouche manufactured what turned out to be the game winner, a fat four-ender. But Osborne wasn't finished. She racked up singles in the seventh, eighth and ninth ends to square the account again. But Larouche finally made good with the hammer for he 8-7 duke in the final exchange.

Trailing Larouche's 9-2 record were Osborne and Belisle at 8-4, Mastine at 7-3, Cantin at 6-4 and Hamel at 5-4.

Up the track: Joelle Beley of Montreal at 3-6, Helene Pelchat of Quebec City at 2-9 and teams of Laura Thomas and Sian Canavan, both of Montreal, at 1-8.

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ROAD TO THE SCOTTIES: Alberta's Shannon Kleibrink

Relaxed sked pays off in Hearts

HeartChart Staff

Shannon Kleibrink may consider adjusting her curling preparations in the near future.

Like, takin' it easy may be the way to go.

Normally a strict adherent to the women's tour which means most weekends, the 2006 Olympic women's bronze-medal winner and 2009 Olympic trials runnerup planned to make this season a relative quiet winter — just a few cashspiels within the borders of Alberta, a crack at the provincials, period.

And, to some extent, quiet it was. Except that Kleibrink and her team of Amy Nixon, Bronwen Webster and Chelsey Bell won two important Alberta 'spiels — Red Deer and Lloydminster — which qualified the team for an automatic provincial championship berth, and then romped through the 12-team provincial Scotties in the minimum number of assignments — five games.

This team had a winning streak of about 19 going at the Canada Cup back in December, too, but faded in the stretch, losing the semi-final to old Calgary nemesis Cheryl Bernard.

But the tables were inverted at Camrose in the triple-knockout Alberta shootout, a provincial championship that employs the worst draw imaginable but the easiest if you just happen to sustain your winning ways.

Kleibrink's team was in a "sustaining" mood this time. And, as a result, it will head for its first Scotties since 2008, when the Albertans sailed through the



Shannon Kleibrink

round robin and Page One-Two playoff at Regina with an 11-1 record before losing the final to Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones in heart-breaking fashion — on a dicey last-rock runback in the 10th end.

It's been 18 years since Kleibrink played in her first Scotties (1983). She returned in 2004. She also was provincial runnerup in three of the last nine years, including last year's upset loss to rookie Val Sweeting, and was twice runnerup in Canadian Olympic trials as well as the winner in 2005.

At Camrose, Kleibrink doused Heather Nedohin of Edmonton 9-4 in the final but the key win transpired in the A-B showdown when Kleibrink connected in an extra end to shade Bernard, a long-time crosstown Calgary rival, 9-8. It was Kleibrink's first win in nine games against the Olympic silver medallist who, two weeks later, announced her six-year team of Susan O'Connor, Carolyn Darbyshire and Cori Morris was splitting up and going separate ways.

The victory moved

Kleibrink to the final while Bernard suffered a subsequent 6-5 loss to C winner Nedohin in the semi-final, stolen by the Edmonton team of Beth Iskiw, Jessica Miller and Laine Peters when Bernard gave the string a slight yank on a last-rock draw to the four-foot.

"It might not take the sting away from some other (losses) but this one feels good," said Kleibrink following the final. "It's awesome. We came in believing we could win, but probably with no expectation that we

would win. It's kind of a bonus win, for sure."

Added vice-skip Nixon:

"It feels good because we've lost a couple of tough finals in the last 14 months. We've had a solid week and to cap it off like that is great. Losing the Olympic trials final is the worst possible thing that can happen to you in curling. That will never go away, but we get a chance to go to the Canadian championship. If you would have asked me about that in September, it would have been . . . ha, ha, ha."

And now for some unfinished business?

"I had a shot for the win (in 2008), in the last end, we were sitting five when she (Jones) threw her last one," recalled Kleibrink. "She completely buried it. I tried the runback and stuck it dead. They stole. We'd like to get back in that game (final) for sure. So I'm hoping we can do it again. I think it's Alberta's turn, eh?"

Could be, but there won't be short odds. The province always has had its trouble at the Scotties, though, in spite of housing powerhouse women's curling teams at home. No Alberta team has won the Scotties since Cathy King of Edmonton clicked in 1988.

Kleibrink won the A side of the Triple with three wins — 7-1 over former rinkmate Glenys Bakker, 8-6 over Nedohin and 10-3 over Crystal Webster of Calgary. Webster will be the alternate for the Albertans at Charlottetown.

Bernard avenged an earlier loss to Webster, 8-7, and topped Nedohin 6-5 in B qualifying. Nedohin (6-5 over Renee Sonnenberg of Grande Prairie) and unsung

Dana Ferguson of Edmonton (8-5 over Desiree Owen of Grande Prairie) claimed C qualifying berths and Nedohin doubled Ferguson 8-4 in the quarter-final playoff.

"I think it's a lot of the hard work that we put in over the last four years," second player Bronwen Webster, who outperformed every second in the field in Camrose, told Al Cameron of the Calgary Herald.

"We're falling back on that. And I think we have a huge belief in each other and in our team, and that never went away, even though we came up short on some of our bigger goals the last couple of years. It was all about the Olympics and the trials for the last four years, and that's out of the way now, so it's a chance for us to enjoy each other's company, enjoy the game and get back to why we play."

At the Canada Cup, Kleibrink explained:

"I wasn't sure if the team would want to (step back) or want to go real hard but I wasn't going to travel out the province. Turned out we were all on the same page. Everyone wanted an off year. We thought the light schedule might adversely affect our play. But we're certainly not burnt out, that's for sure. We're ready to go every time we play because we get a month off in between (events)."

Trailing Kleibrink's 5-0 log in the provincial argument were Nedohin at 6-3, Bernard and Ferguson 4-3, Webster 3-3, Sonnenberg, Owen, Casey Scheidegger of Lethbridge and Jesse Kaufman of Edmonton at 2-3, and Sweeting, Bakker and High River's Tanilla Doyle at 1-3.

Team done, Bernard not so much

HeartChart Staff

Just in case you thought Calgary's Cheryl Bernard was thinking of packing it in when she announced last week that her Olympic silver-winning team was splitting up, forget it.

Bernard appears to have discovered a new thirst for curling and has formed a team with a view to repeating as Canadian Olympic trials champion.

The team, in fact, includes her former vice-skip, Susan O'Connor, who a week ago was part of the split. The two have been inseparable for nine years.

According to the Calgary Herald, the 44-year-old Bernard is set to unveil her new team that will feature O'Connor, a bulwark at the Vancouver Olympics, with a new front end of Lori Olson-Johns of Edmonton and Jennifer Sadleir of Calgary.

Bernard respectfully declined to comment when contacted by the Herald this week, preferring to wait until an official announcement is made.

Her old team, including second Carolyn Darbyshire and lead Cori Morris, will play two more events this season — the Victoria Curling Classic and the Grand Slam Players' Championship at Grande Prairie — before parting company after six seasons together.

Olson-Johns played third this season and last with Calgary's Crystal Webster. Previously, she played with Edmonton's Cathy King, with whom she carried Alberta colors at the 2005 and 2006 Scotties.

The Webster team qualified from the Olympic Pre-Trials last season in Prince George and made it to the provincial Scotties last month in Camrose, defeating Bernard at the outset before fading and failing to qualify for the final four.

Sadleir, formerly Vejprava, hasn't played at the elite women's level for a few years. He played third for Bronwen Webster, now of the Shannon Kleibrink team, in the 1998 Canadian junior championship and second for Edmon-



Cheryl Bernard

ton's Tiffany Odegard in the 2000 Juniors. He skipped her own team to the Alberta junior title in 2002.

By coincidence, Vejprava's mother skipped an Alberta team to the inaugural national junior women's championship in 1971.

Darbyshire and Morris likely will play on new teams next season, partly because they need to enter the playdowns to keep their Sport Canada funding.

Bernard's moves are expected to be the first of many leading

to next season, which will be the first of a two-year qualifying process leading up to the 2013 Olympic Trials.

"Nothing could match it, and that's why we thought, why ruin it?" said Bernard when announced last week's split. "We all realize that things have changed, and we know that what would ruin it would be trying to keep it going forever.

"I watched Randy Ferbey's team, and I thought it was kind of

sad in the end, because they were such an amazing team, and they all still were amazing players in the end, but I think they tried too long to be that same team, and people just change.

"I think that just kind of speaks to who the people on the team are. One of the most important things we've said through this whole thing is that we did something really special, and to ruin it by not respecting each other when we decide that it's done would be

the worst part of it all. We were laughing about it and we said that we're going to get together once every three or four months to autograph stuff, because we'll still be 2010 Olympic silver-medallists, and have a bottle of wine and reminisce about what we did.

"We've been talking this way for about two years, and I really think this was the right way to do it.

"And everybody was on board with it."

HEART CHART™

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The Party Line

your guide to what's goin' on



the party starts here



The Party Line is the official guide to the entertainment scene at Season of Champions events. Each day during the Scotties, we'll keep you in touch with all the action in the HeartStop Lounge – Canada's Party Place!

You'll find the HeartStop at the Charlottetown Civic Centre – right next door to the on-ice excitement. It's open daily from 11:00 am 'til 2:00 am. Enjoy an impressive array of food and beverages, all kinds of contests and games – and a

lineup of high-energy bands performing on stage every night.

The HeartStop Lounge is where fans and competitors alike come together to share the unique experience of the Season of Champions. And the best part is... admission is free with every same-day draw ticket.

twenty years after!

Today at 5:45 pm

There aren't many acts that have been together for 20 years... but you can hear one tonight to kick off a week of non-stop party action in the HeartStop Lounge.

Winners of the Music PEI 2010 "Weekend Warriors of the Year" honour, **Vintage 4.0** is PEI's longest-running dance band. They get the crowds on their feet every time they hit the stage – with a playlist that includes the likes of the Beatles, Dave Mathews, Fleetwood Mac, Paul Simon and Bon Jovi.



dance the night away!

Today at 10:00 pm

Phase II is a highly polished party band that delivers a versatile performance, spanning a diverse range of classic and contemporary tunes.

The group's repertoire ranges from the legendary sounds of Buddy Holly and Elvis, the Beatles and Stones to the popular hits by bands such as Great Big Sea, the Proclaimers, AC/DC, ABBA and Bryan Adams... plus, many more stars of the rock world.

If you're in the mood to dance the night away, make sure you're in the HeartStop for Phase II!



this game's SO COOL!

Competition at the Scotties extends beyond the ice surface of the arena. Just check out the action when the Cool Curling crowd shoots for cash prizes!

Cool Curling is a miniature version of the real thing, played on shuffleboard style tables... and it's grown to become the rage at Season of Champions events.

Sixteen players will compete each night - starting tomorrow at 4:30 pm and continuing through to Friday. The daily winner earns a \$60 prize and - along with the runner-up - advances to the Saturday championships.

First prize is \$350, with \$200 for second and \$75 each for third and fourth place. Sign up for free in the HeartStop Lounge and take your best shot at the Cool Curling title!

up next

Sunday, February 20

Boys in the Kitchen

5:00 pm

Roger Jones

10:00 pm

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describe the
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Kelly Scott
Team British Columbia



Jennifer Jones
Team Canada

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When you watch elite curlers in the heat of competition, it's an intense and focused performance. Put them behind the mike in the Up Close & Personal interviews and you'll see these world-class athletes in an entirely new light.

Up Close & Personal is an informal setting where you have a unique opportunity to find out what really makes these champions tick. The questions are always wide-ranging... and the answers often hilarious.

You can be part of it all **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 6:00 pm** in the HeartStop Lounge. Make sure you get there early because the prime seats always go fast!

Tuesday, Feb. 22

British Columbia
Canada
Newfoundland/Labrador
Quebec

Wednesday, Feb. 23

Prince Edward Island
Ontario
Alberta
Saskatchewan

Thursday, Feb. 24

New Brunswick
Northwest Territories/Yukon
Manitoba
Nova Scotia

autograph
sessions



Come out and meet your favourite curlers in the HeartStop Lounge. Team Autograph sessions bring you face-to-face with the players from all the teams at the Scotties.

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|---|
| Sunday, Feb. 20 | 1:00 pm | New Brunswick & Manitoba |
| | 6:00 pm | British Columbia & Team Canada |
| Monday, Feb. 21 | 1:00 pm | Alberta & Ontario |
| Tuesday, Feb. 22 | 1:00 pm | Nova Scotia & Northwest Territories/Yukon |
| Wednesday, Feb. 23 | 1:00 pm | Newfoundland/Labrador & Quebec |
| Thursday, Feb. 24 | 12:00 pm | Prince Edward Island & Saskatchewan |
| Saturday, Feb. 26 | 3:30 pm | All teams available |



50/50
draws

You can be a big winner at the Scotties! 50/50 draws will be held during every draw with tickets sold through a convenient electronic system. The total is automatically updated with each purchase... so while you're watching the action on the ice, you can also watch the pot grow. Winners will be featured daily in the Party Line.

Twenty-four young PEI curlers were chosen through a random draw to take part in the Junior Stars program, serving as honorary members of the 12 Scotties teams. They will all be featured in special pre-game ceremonies.

Today's Junior Stars are:

2:30 pm Draw

Team Prince Edward Island

Chloe McCloskey Cornwall CC
Kyle Holland Charlottetown CC

6:30 pm Draw

Team Canada

Megan Davies Charlottetown CC
Alex Sutherland Cornwall CC

junior
stars

ROAD TO THE SCOTTIES Ontario's Rachel Homan

Young guns from Ontario reach the peak

HeartChart Staff

There were early hints that the partnership of skip Rachel Homan and third Emma Miskew of Ottawa was going to produce some amazing successes.

Nearly a decade ago, the pair teamed up to win the first of four Ontario bantam (16 and under) girls championship, a feat that may never be repeated.

Along the way, Miskew also earned a gold medal at the 2007 Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse, a gold medal at the prestigious Optimist International juvenile championship in

2006, and gold medals at the 2006 and 2004 Ontario Winter Games.

During their junior years, the Homan team honed its game by playing in women's company and it paid off. Homan won her first Ontario junior title in 2009 and finished second to Manitoba's Kaitlyn Lawes at the nationals in Salmon Arm, B.C.

Last season, the team finally reached the pinnacle of Canadian junior curling, winning the national championship in Sorel-Tracy, Que. It proceeded to bring home a silver medal from the world junior championship in Flims, Switzerland.

Hence, Homan's first full

run at the women's circuit this winter appeared merely to build on the successful formula. Homan, Miskew, Alison Kreviazuk and Lisa Weagle combined to cruise through their provincial Scotties at Thornhill last month with a 10-1 record, twice defeating defending champion Krista McCarville of Thunder Bay en route.

"This is pretty unbelievable; I don't know what to say," the 21-year-old Homan said after running McCarville out of rocks in the 10th end of the championship match that ended 9-6.

"It's been an amazing road and my team has

played amazing to get us to this point," she told Steve Green of the London Free Press. "I can't believe we're

going to the Scotties."

Not only are they set for action this week in Charlottetown, this youngest

team in the field will not be overlooked when it comes to possible winners.

Continued on Page 15

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What will the Cathy O factor be?

HeartChart Staff

Cathy Gauthier, now a TSN curling commentator from Winnipeg, played lead for Jennifer Jones when the current defending champion won her first Scotties title in 2005 at St. John's. That was the year of Jones's shot heard 'round the nation, which heisted the title from Ontario's Jennifer Hanna.

Gauthier retired from the team following that year but nobody better knows the principals in the current Team Canada who-should-be-with-who argument.

Gauthier won the 1992 Scotties at Halifax with Connie Laliberte and current Team Canada fifth player Janet Arnott. Gauthier also was with Laliberte, Cathy Overton-Clapham and Arnott on a 1995 Scotties champion team that emerged at Calgary.

She also filled in as coach during the recent Manitoba provincial championship in Altona when Overton-Clapham, the Team Canada outcast, skipped her team to victory.

And her view of the Team Canada vs. Manitoba scuffle at this week's latest Scotties renewal has more to do with Overton-Clapham than with Jones. To be precise, he points out that neither contending team has Overton-Clapham delivering third stones.

"As a third player, Cathy just brought so much to the picture," Gauthier opined with the Winnipeg Sun's Jim Bender the other day.

"Cathy has been a huge part of that team's (Jones) success. I mean, she was an all-star almost every year. There's going to be a lot of good, solid players (in Charlotte-town) but nobody who can make that soft, finesse shot like Cathy can."

But what about the barrage of media innuendo that is certain to follow both teams wherever they go?

"Both of them will say they won't be affected at all and I think it will affect them both," Gauthier told the Sun. "It's impossible for it not to with the history between them and all the success they had playing together. Plus, they had never played each other before this year so there is no escape. 'Now, they've both been trained by



Cathy Gauthier



Manitoba skip Cathy Overton-Clapham

sports psychologists so they will know the right things to say. But nobody's got her head in the sand. This is a really big game for both of them."

And another thing . . .

"Since the split (with Overton-Clapham), teams are no longer afraid of Jones. And when they stop being afraid of you, they play better and that will make it tougher to win."

Overton-Clapham, of course, has long since tired of the constant references to the breakup which, for her, has been "tough to take".

"There have been so many things that have gone wrong that we've had to deal with," she said in the wake of winning the Manitoba title with her new team.

"It's just exciting to be able to put all that aside and put our best game out on the ice. That's what we did."

During the Autumn Gold Slam 'spiel at Calgary last October, she told HeartChart editor Larry Wood:

"I don't know if it's anger. Or hurt. I'd be lying if I said it wasn't hurt. There was quite a bit taken away from me and I'm still not understanding the whole thing but it is what it is and I didn't get a say in it.

It's done and I'm trying to go forward.

"I've always wanted to have success as a player and I'm hoping with all the different people I get to play with now and the girls I'll play with this year that I'll get to share some good things and we'll each get something out of it."

On the positive side . . .

"When I set this (fall) schedule I had so many offers. The way it worked out I could have been playing every weekend. But I accepted some offers early and they were experiences I wouldn't otherwise have had.

"I mean, who would have thought? I'd played against Jan Betker, idolized her for years and playing on the same team with her is something I'll never forget. You know, a lot of bigger and better things have come this way this year.

"I've a lot of friends, I've had a lot of e-mails, a lot of support at every event I go to. It's been overwhelming really. I guess if I can look back at the game I have a lot of friends out there so that's nice."

That support and friendship may be, in part, what kept Cathy O driving to the success she now has attained.

Karen Fallis, the veteran third who was a recent edition to Overton-Clapham's lineup

prior to the provincial playdowns, told the Sun:

"It's nice to see her (Cathy) come back and play well and have another opportunity at the Canadians.

"You know what, the only reason she plays with a chip on her shoulder is because everybody reminds her non-stop. She doesn't want to hear about it that much any more.

"But it'll end up being a big deal. I played with Jennifer for six, seven years. We all know Jennifer really well."

Fallis played third for Jones in her first kick at the Scotties in Brandon, circa 2002.

Overton-Clapham has been, and will be, persistently reminded of the Wednesday night match at the Civic Centre.

"I wouldn't be doing anything for her (Jones), it would be all about our team," she said when the issue arose following her Manitoba triumph.

"It has nothing to do with them. It's done, it's over. It's been a long eight months.

"Do I want to go out there and play my best and win? Absolutely.

"I would be lying if I didn't. When that day comes, I hope that I'm at my best."

Soaking up the hometown Scotties



Shelley Muzika

HeartChart Guest Columnist

(Each year, the HeartChart conscripts a volunteer hometown columnist to provide insight on the Scotties Tournament Of Hearts from the local community angle. This week, we're delighted to welcome Shelley Muzika to the staff for the 2011 Scotties. For the uninitiated, Shelley knows her curling stuff — she has won five P.E.I. women's curling titles.)

The Scotties is finally here and I am almost as excited as the participants! There is no sporting event that has played more significance in my life than the Canadian women's curling championship. I have been fortunate to play in five Scotties between 1987 and 2009. I feel I have grown as a curler and a person through these times and each provincial win has been an important benchmark in my life.

I am very grateful to have had two serious runs at winning the Canadian, firstly in 1994 playing with Shelly Bradley, and secondly, in 2009 playing with Robyn MacPhee. These were two of the most thrilling weeks of my life.

The 12 teams in Charlottetown this week share this feeling with me. The first few days of the Scotties become a culmination for all curling teams in that the primary goal of any women's curling team is to make it to the Scotties. In one sense it is mission accomplished, and in another sense, it is a wonderful opportunity to

compete against many of the best curling teams in the world.

Most importantly though, this week's Scotties tournament is a chance to take a curling career to the next level, to be part of history, to represent Canada and perhaps win a world championship.

The atmosphere surrounding the initial stages of a Scotties is incredible. Nice things arrive . . . like new clothes to compete in and to become your own and serve as your provinces' uniform and a source of pride.

The Scotties is special in that you receive your "provincial trophy" at the national championship in the form of beautiful jewellery, unique to the event. The presentation of Scotties jewellery is an important part of the first day at the Scotties. At the special presentation reception, Scotties curlers are struck with the feeling of joy of being part of a group of great curlers and they leave the reception wearing a beautiful memento which will be part of their lives forever.

The Hot Shots competition, which will conclude today, is a great opportunity to win great prizes (thanks to Ford) and to ease into the pressure-cooker ahead.

Some teams have travelled great distances to be here. Along the way, in airports or on air-planes, they will have encountered other provincial champions and begun to form or re-establish friendships and perhaps develop regional loyalties. These friendships and commonalities can become support networks as the week progresses and the teams share successes, disappointments and experiences that will be recalled for years long afterward.

What I suggest to every curler at the Scotties is that they soak up every experience they can and enhance their appreciation of the mystique of the event. Continued success in curling is not something one can take for granted and it is possible that this trip to the Scotties could be the last one.

I am humbled today to participate in the opening ceremony and

have the honour of being one of the P.E.I. curlers invited to throw the opening rock. This is obviously a role I have not played before and has definitely caused me to reflect back on my years in curling. It will be special to be out there trying to hit the button with my former teammates — Kathie Gallant and Cathy Dillon as well as curling friend Julia Robinson.

The fans in Charlottetown are in for a special treat this week. The quality of the curling and close finishes will delight them. The strength of the field is impressive with four teams having former Canadian or Olympic champions on the roster.

The P.E.I. team is ready and will do very well. Something changed in P.E.I. curling last year due to the success of Kathy O'Rourke's team in Sault Ste. Marie. The obvious quality of our 2010 team relative to the rest of Canada was evident. P.E.I. women curlers feel that it is time to finish the job once and for all.

I believe there is a legacy of success in this province that has been leading toward this week. Since Shelly Bradley's breakthrough in 1994, P.E.I. has been knocking on the door and a little louder each year. From 1994 onward, nine P.E.I. teams have had winning records at the Scotties, including Suzanne Birt's amazing 10-1 record in the 2003 round robin.

The four members of P.E.I.'s team in Charlottetown this week have all tasted significant success at the Scotties. Three of the players are skips that have qualified for tiebreakers or playoffs. It is the combination of experience and talent that is necessary to win the Scotties. The P.E.I. foursome this week boasts those qualities — in spades!

TRIVIA ANSWERS

From Page 4

- QofD: Andrea Kelly
 2. New Brunswick
 3. 2005 Junior and 2006 Scotties
 4. Suzanne (Gaudet)

- Birt
 5. 2001 and 2001 junior champ; skipped in the 2003 Scotties.
 6. Breanne Meakin
 7. P.E.I., Territories.
 8. Alberton doesn't fit because its club

- hasn't produced a P.E.I. women's curling champion.
 9. Suzanne (Gaudet) Birt, 2003
 10. Kathy O'Rourke, 2010
 11. Rebecca Jean

- (MacPhee) MacDonald, 1995
 12. Ontario.
 13. Eight bronze medals.
 14. Alberta has nine silver medals.



P.E.I. skip Suzanne Birt

ONTARIO

Continued from Page 12

During the 10-team round-robin preliminary skirmishing at Thornhill, Homan pasted together a four-game winning streak, suffered an 8-6 setback at the hands of Uxbridge's Susan McKnight, then rattled off another quartet of victories to lead the pack heading into the Page playoffs.

An additional two dominating performances there and the tickets to P.E.I. were in the bag.

Homan clobbered Tracy Horgan of Sudbury 12-4 in the Page One-Two playoff. McCarville outlasted McKnight 6-2 in the Page Three-Four affair after McKnight had earlier disposed of Lisa Farnell of Peterborough 8-6 in a tiebreaker by scoring three in the final end.

McCarville, looking for a record third straight Ontario title and her fifth Scotties visit in the last six years, faced an arduous uphill battle from the get-go after losing her first two assignments — 9-2 to Marlo Dahl of Thunder Bay and 7-6 to Farnell.

It was a matter of scraping and clawing all the way thereafter, winning eight of

nine games to qualify for the final.

The eighth win was a 7-5 conquest of Horgan in the semi-final. McCarville overcame a 3-1 deficit there with a crucial three-spot in the fourth end which gave her control she refused to surrender although she required a precise hit-and-stick with last rock for the game-winner.

But Homan tagged the Thunder Bay team with a killing four in the second end of the final and no amount of scraping and clawing was going to overcome that edge although the defender stole two in the eighth to pull within one point of the lead.

After blanking the first, Homan saw her last-rock takeout connect with the help of a couple of rubs after McCarville had made a tough hit-and-roll from the outside to sit second shot.

"We were really building and building and she made a pistol of a shot to get in there," Homan said, adding she wasn't surprised McCarville was able to claw her



Rachel Homan

way back.

"We had to work for every point we got. We knew we had to bring our A-game against her because we knew it wasn't going to be easy. And it wasn't."

McCarville took two in the third but gave those back in the fourth. The teams traded last-rock singles for the next three ends until McCarville made things interesting with her double-steal when Homan's draw to the four-foot failed to curl.

"It didn't move," Homan said. "It hit a dead straight spot; too bad, because the weight was perfect."

Leading by one in the ninth, Homan manufactured another deuce for wrap it up.

"The ice changed quite bit from our semi-final game," McCarville said.

"We struggled with it; it was quite a bit heavier and we didn't catch on quickly enough. Kari (second MacLean) came up light on both of hers in that second end, but that weight was the same as she threw in the morning to hit the four-foot. In this game it was a tight guard, in that game it was tee-line weight. "But we really couldn't have played that end any differently. They made a really good freeze (by Weagle on a stone at the back of the four-

foot) and we had to freeze on top of that. From then on, they just kept making really good shots."

The deposed champ added:

"They (Homan) are a super team and they'll be around for a while."

Homan's team sailed through the M and M Meat Shops Juniors last winter with a 13-zip record, only the fourth unbeaten effort in the history of Canadian junior women's competition.

At Flims, Homan was 9-1 including a 9-3 Page One-Two playoff win over Ana Hasselborg of Stockholm but the Swedish bounced back in the championship final, breaking up a 3-3 debate after six ends by stealing deuces in the seventh and eighth ends and a single in the ninth for an 8-3 triumph and the world title.

Lead Weagle is the lone new addition to the lineup this season.

At Thornhill, Homan finished 10-1 while McCarville was 8-4, Horgan was 7-4, McKnight was 6-5 and Farnell was 5-5.

Trailing were Dahl at 4-5, Ashley Kallos of the Lakehead and Marla Bakewell of London at 3-6, and Kristy Russell of Shelburne and veteran former champion Alison Goring, playing out of Georgetown, at 2-7.

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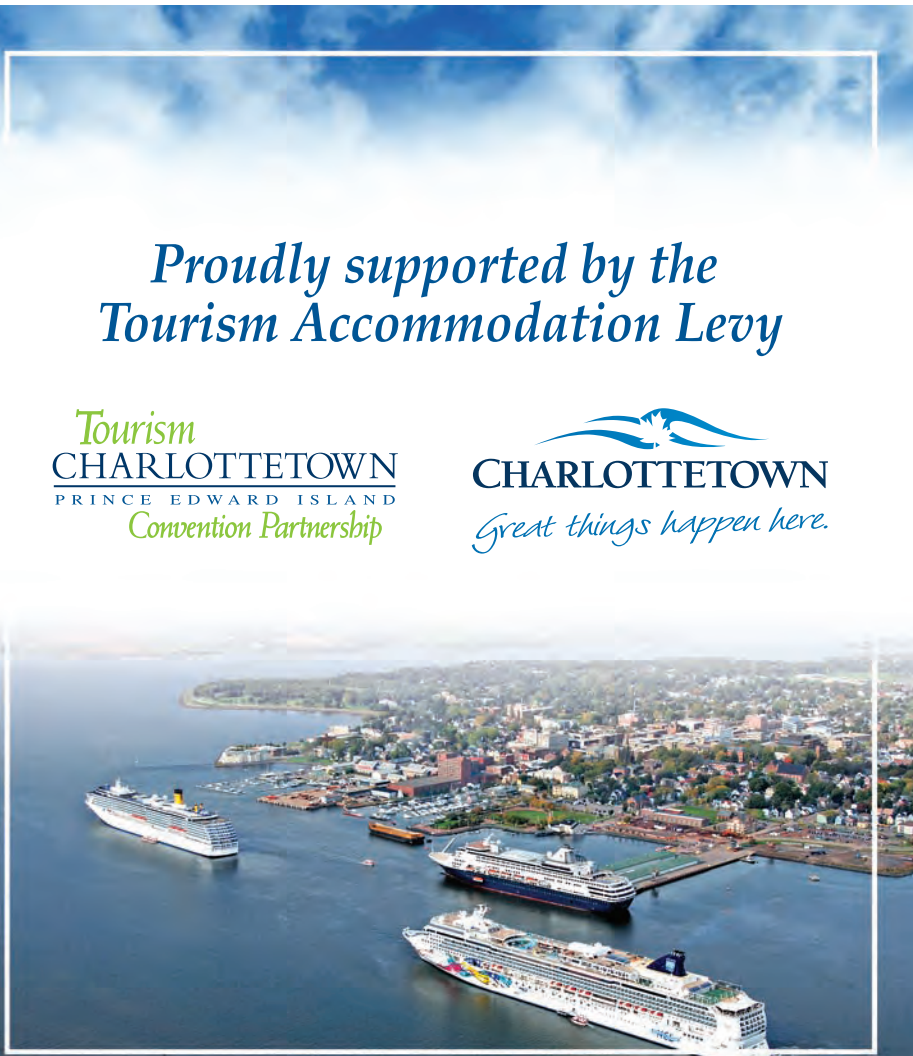


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SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS DRAW SCHEDULE

Saturday Feb. 19

2:30 p.m. Ontario vs. Nova Scotia; Territories vs. Alberta; P.E.I. vs. New Brunswick; Manitoba vs. Saskatchewan.

7:30 p.m. Manitoba vs. Territories; British Columbia vs. Newf/Lab; Quebec vs. Canada; New Brunswick vs. Nova Scotia

Sunday Feb. 20

9:30 a.m. Newf/Lab vs. New Brunswick; Nova Scotia vs. Quebec; British Columbia vs. Manitoba; Canada vs. Territories.

2:30 p.m. Alberta vs. British Columbia; Saskatchewan vs. Canada; Ontario vs. Newf/Lab; Quebec vs. P.E.I.

7:30p.m. Saskatchewan vs. P.E.I.; New Brunswick vs. Manitoba; Nova Scotia vs. Territories; Alberta vs. Ontario

Monday, Feb. 21

9:30 a.m. Ontario vs. P.E.I.; Alberta vs. Saskatchewan.

2:30 p.m. New Brunswick vs. Canada; Newf/Lab vs. Territories; Manitoba vs. Quebec; Nova Scotia vs. British Columbia.

7:30 p.m. Newf/Lab vs. Alberta; Quebec vds. Saskatchewan; British Columbia vs. Ontario; P.E.I. vs. Canada

Tuesday, Feb. 22

9:30 a.m. Nova Scotia vs. Manitoba; Canada vs. British Columbia; New Brunswick vs. Territories; Newf/Lab vs. Quebec

2:30 p.m. British Columbia vs. Quebec; P.E.I. vs. Alberta; Newf/Lab vs. Canada; Ontario vs., Saskatchewan.

7:30 p.m. Territories vs. Saskatchewan; New Brunswick vs. Ontario; Nova Scotia vs. P.E.I.; Alberta vs. Manitoba

Wednesday, Feb. 23

9:30 a.m. Canada vs. Ontario; Saskatchewan vs. Newf/Lab; Quebec vs. Alberta; British Columbia vs. P.E.I.

2:30 p.m. Alberta vs. New Brunswick; Territories vs. P.E.I.; Ontario vs. Manitoba; Saskatchewan vs. Nova Scotia.

7:30 p.m. Nova Scotia vs. Newf/Lab; Manitoba vs. Canada; Territories vs. British Columbia; Quebec vs. New Brunswick

Thursday, Feb. 24

9:30 a.m. P.E.I. vs. Manitoba; Alberta vs. Nova Scotia; Saskatchewan vs. New Brunswick; Territories vs. Ontario

2:30 p.m. Quebec vs. Territories; British Columbia vs. New Brunswick; Canada vs. Nova Scotia; Manitoba vs. Newf/Lab.

7:30 p.m. Saskatchewan vs. British Columbia; Ontario vs.

Quebec; P.E.I. vs. Newf/Lab; Canada vs. Alberta.

Friday, Feb. 25

9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Tie-breakers (as required)

7:30 p.m. Page One-Two playoff (and tiebreaker if required)

Saturday, Feb. 26

12 p.m. Page Three-Four playoff.

5 p.m. Championship semi-final

Sunday, Feb. 27

2:30 p.m. Bronze medal match.

7:30 p.m. Championship final.

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SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS: FEARLESS PREDICTIONS

Defending champs still strong

Jones quartet remain the faves

THE FRONT LINE

1. TEAM CANADA

St. Vital Curling Club, Winnipeg.

Jennifer Jones, skip; Kaitlyn Lawes, third; Jill Officer, second; Dawn Askin, lead. (Fifth-Janet Arnott).

The skinny — The Scotties is this team's own stomping ground until somebody proves different . . . and it hasn't happened since 2007.

The odds — (2-to-1)

2. ALBERTA

Calgary Winter Club, Calgary

Shannon Kleibrink, skip; Amy Nixon, third; Bronwen Webster, second; Chelsey Bell, lead. (Fifth-Crystal Webster).

The skinny — Kleibrink is the best shooter never to have won the Scott Tournament Of Hearts. Not overtrained this year. Look out!

The odds — (3-to-1)

3. MANITOBA

Fort Rouge Curling Club, Winnipeg

Cathy Overton-Clapham, skip; Karen Fallis, third; Leslie Wilson, second; Raunora Westcott, lead. (Fifth-Brienne Meakin)

The skinny — The other half of the long-time winning Manitoba combination has something to prove with her own team. She's

made strides, just getting here!

The odds — (7-to-2)

4. ONTARIO

Ottawa Curling Club, Ottawa
Rachel Homan, skip; Emma Miskew, third; Alison Krevaziuk, second; Lisa Weagle, lead. (Fifth-Sherry Middaugh)

The skinny — These youngsters have been so good on their rise to prominence as to be scary. They may need a race, but then again, they may make it closer than many predict.

The odds — (4-to-1)

THE SECOND WAVE

5. QUEBEC

Etchemin Curling Club, St-Romuald.

Marie-France Larouche, skip; Annie Lemay, third; Veronique Gregoire, second; Veronique Brassard, lead. (Fifth-Joelle Sabourin)

The skinny — Larouche never has missed the playoffs in four previous kicks at this can. Can she make it five in a row? Don't bet the yacht against it.

The odds — (6-to-1)

6. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Charlottetown Curling Club, Charlottetown.

Suzanne Birt, skip; Shelly Bradley third; Robyn MacPhee, second; Leslie MacDougall, lead. (Fifth-Tricia Affleck)

The skinny — There's maturity and talent in this Island lineup but

attempting to match last year's stunning achievement in front of the home faithful may be too much to expect.

The odds — (7-to-1)

7. BRITISH COLUMBIA

Kelowna Curling Club, Kelowna

Kelly Scott, skip; Jeanna Schraeder, third; Sasha Carter, second; Jacquie Armstrong, lead. (Fifth-Shannon Aleksic)

The skinny — Former world champ has been struggling to find her old form the past few years. It's there, somewhere. But . . . where?

The odds — (8-to-1)

Continued on Page 18



PEI Ford Dealers is owned and operated by Peter MacDonald. The company is made up of D Alex MacDonald Ford Lincoln in Summerside, Fair Isle Ford Charlottetown and Fair Isle Ford Montague. The company was started by Peter's father D. Alex in 1958 in Summerside. Fair Isle Ford Charlottetown and Montague two very successful and well known companies were purchased in 2006.

The company success is due to the dedicated staff of over 75 people including six of Peter's brothers and sisters. An avid curling family, PEI Ford Dealers have sponsored curling for over 40 years.

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Predictions

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8. SASKATCHEWAN

Kronau Curling Club, Kronau

Amber Holland, skip; Kim Schneider, third; Tammy Schneider, second; Heather Kalenhcuk, lead. (Fifth-Jolene Campbell)

The skinny — Consistency never has been a long suit with this bunch but, lately, the team has shown it has the determination to rebound from off the pace.

The odds — (9-to-1)

THE LONGEST SHOTS

9. NEW BRUNSWICK

Capital Winter Club, Fredericton

Andrea Kelly skip; Denise Nowlan, third; Jillian Babin, second; Lianne Sobey, lead. (Fifth-Jodie deSolla)

The skinny — Smooth-shooting former junior champ not to be overlooked but still likely to be a spoiler at best.

The odds — (12-to-1)

10. NOVA SCOTIA

Mayflower Curling Club, Halifax

Heather Smith-Dacey, skip; Danielle Par-

sons, third; Blisse Comstock, second; Teri Lake, lead. (Fifth-Melanie Comstock)

The skinny — Smith-Dacey hasn't been around for a while and the Bluenosers that have been around haven't exactly blown the doors down since the days of Queen Colleen.

The odds — (14-to-1)

11. NEWFOUNDLAND

Bally Haly Golf and Curling Club, St. John's

Stacie Devereaux, skip, Stephanie Guzzwell, third; Sarah Paul, second; Heather Martin, lead. (Fifth-Julie Devereaux)

The skinny — One shot away from a world junior title, perhaps, but, in this company, an outside threat at the very best.

Odds — (18-to-1)

12. TERRITORIES

Yellowknife Curling Club, Yellowknife

Cathy Galusha, skip; Dawn Moses, third; Wendy Miller, second; Shona Barbour, lead. (Fifth-Sharon Cormier)

The skinny — Always likely to hang a beating on some unsuspecting contender but this competition always is an uphill struggle for the under-trained Polars.

The odds — (30-to-1)



B.C. third (right) Jeanna Schraeder and second Sasha Carter.

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ROAD TO THE SCOTTIES Territories Kerry Galusha

Popular polar champs return to the show

HeartChart Staff

Before each curling season, Dawn Moses starts planning her curling winter.

The idea is to make certain she has a block of free time in the latter half of February when they play the Scotties Tournament Of Hearts.

There are never any guarantees in curling, of course, but Moses, the pride of Mayo, Yukon, can generally say with a fair degree of certainty that she has a very good chance of wearing a Northwest Territories/Yukon jacket at the Scotties.

Since 1990, Moses has worn it an even dozen times — including the past four renewals of the Hearts, three of them playing with Kerry Galusha — and even more amazingly, she's done it at all four positions, which is a staggering achievement. Starting with a victory at Whitehorse

with skip Kathy Chapman and continuing through this year with a triumph as Kerry Galusha's vice-skip, Moses is as constant a championship entity as Polar curling has to offer.

Prior to her run of success in women's play, Moses also played at three straight junior national championships.

And she was on the ice for one of the most memorable NWT/Yukon victories ever — the stunning, nationally-televised win over defending champion Jennifer Jones and Team Canada at 2009 in Victoria, which played a role in the Galusha team earning the 2009 Sport North Team of the Year award.

And for good measure, the Territories proved it was no fluke by beating Team Canada again during the round robin at the 2010 Scotties in Sault Ste. Marie. Moses was the fifth player in that batting order skipped by Sharon Cormier. This time

around, with Galusha's team back as Polar champs, Cormier is the fifth player.

Yellowknife's Galusha, with Moses, second Wendy Miller and lead Shona Barbour,

won five of six matches last month in the four-team modified double round-robin territorial scuffle at Whitehorse.

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TERRITORIES

Continued from Page 19

Galusha ousted Cormier's defender from the same club, along with Whitehorse teams skipped by Nicole Baldwin and Jaime Hewitt, in order to wear the red and grey at Charlottetown.

"This win, it's pretty special for a few reasons," said an emotional Moses following her team's 10-7 win over Hewitt in the final round-robin draw. "We didn't win last year ... and I think of Whitehorse as my home club, because I grew up curling in the Yukon and won my first trip to the Scotties here.

"We were struggling with draw weight for the majority of this game, and when we were able to steal three points, that was a good confidence builder, plus it put us up two points coming home."

Galusha beat Hewitt 10-7 which clinched a triumphant 5-1 record. Cormier, who finished a game back at 4-2 required an extra end to oust Baldwin 10-9.

Moses started her curling career in Mayo before competing as a junior in Whitehorse. "We knew the competition was going to be tough," Moses said. "We were confident

because of all the work we put in this year, and we just knew that we could only get better and better as the weekend went on. It was a challenge, there are some really good teams here, in both the Hewitt team and the Baldwin team as well as the Cormier team."

The Cormier outfit finished runnerup while the Baldwin team finished third with a 2-4 record and the Hewitt team finished 1-5.

A visibly disappointed Baldwin played extra ends in four of her six games.

"Extra ends are always tough, your team has to be right on and ready for it," she said. "I feel we did very well and we just keep climbing that mountain to reach our goal."

Moses and Galusha have felt the sting of disappointment before. This year, the team decided to refocus.

"It's really special because Kerry (Galusha) and I and the rest of the girls worked really hard, and we're really looking forward to going to Charlottetown," Moses said.

This will mark Galusha's seventh trip to the national championships. Five of those trips (2005-2009) were consecutive.



Kerry Galusha

"It was a struggle – three of our games we were behind points and we had to come

back and play our best and I guess experience helped us pull through," Galusha said.

"This is one of the first years we've had four top teams where any team could have won. In the past there's always been good teams, but this year all four teams were pretty equal, and basically it was going to be whoever got the breaks and played the best was going to come out on top.

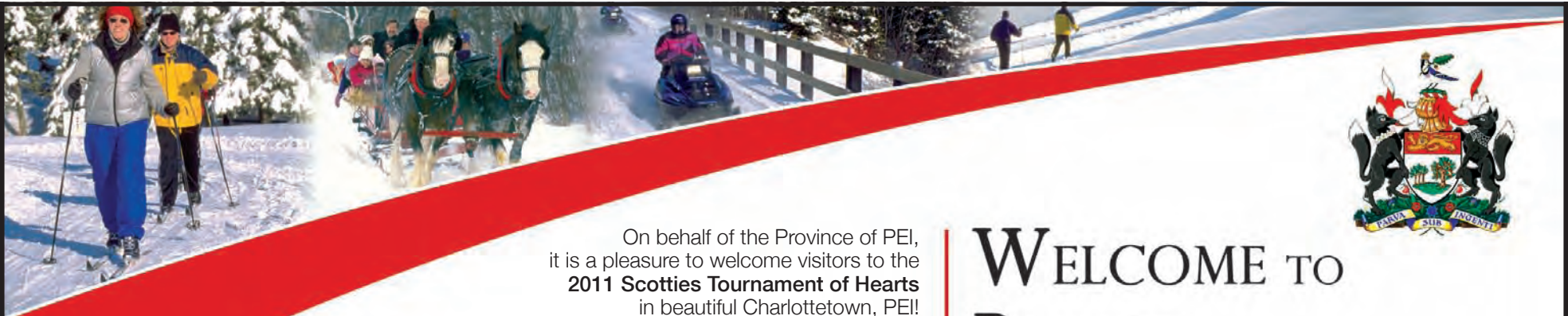
"We have the most experience of the four teams, and I guess we know how to pull through as a team, stick together and know we just have to be patient," Galusha said.

"We did it in three of our games. So I think it's just experience that comes through.

"I think I'm still kind of in shock. It feels great; I think I just need to let it kick in a bit right now. It feels so good to be able to come back and win those tough games. It feels good to be going back to the big show. It was really tough last year to lose."

Galusha (in order) defeated Cormier 11-6, Baldwin 11-8 (stealing three in an extra end), lost to Cormier 8-7 in an extra, defeated Hewitt 6-3, Baldwin 9-8 with an extra-end steal, and Hewitt 10-7.

The difference, for Cormier, was an 8-5 loss to Hewitt during the penultimate draw.



On behalf of the Province of PEI, it is a pleasure to welcome visitors to the **2011 Scotties Tournament of Hearts** in beautiful Charlottetown, PEI!

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