

Why is Manitoba skip Michelle Englot smiling? Could be because she knows she has the upper hand in the Scotties with top spot in the Page 1-2 game tonight.

TOP OF THE HEAP



Manitoba knocks off Ontario to claim top spot in round-robin

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2017

Scotties TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS



A coach speaks and everybody listens, right? Well, not always. Erin Porter, left, seems to have other things on her mind as Newfoundland and Labrador coach Eugene Trickett talks strategy with skip Stacie Curtis and second Julie Devereaux during a fifth-end break Thursday.

Buffalo Girls prevail

Manitobans knock off Ontario to claim top spot

By **CAM HUTCHINSON**

HeartChart Associate Editor

Manitoba's Michelle Englot secured the No. 1 spot in the Page playoffs at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts on Thursday, with an easy 9-5 win over previously-unbeaten Rachel Homan of Ontario.

Englot scored four in the first end and never lost control of the scoreboard. The win gave Englot a 10-1 record, the same as Homan's. Because Englot won the head-to-head meeting, she will have the hammer or choice of rocks when the two meet to night at 7:30 p.m. at the Meridian Centre.

The winner of tonight's game advances to Sunday's final, while the loser drops to the semi-final.

Meanwhile, Team Canada's Chelsea Carey secured one of the spots in the Page 3-4 game (Saturday, 2:30 p.m.) with an 11-5 win over Saskatchewan's Penny Barker (1-9; Moose Jaw). It is yet to be determined if Carey will finish third or fourth.

If Northern Ontario's Krista McCarville defeats Kerry Galusha of the Northwest Territories this morning, she will finish in third place. If she loses, her Thunder Bay team will drop into a tiebreaker with Quebec's Eve Bélisle (7-4; Mount Royal).

McCarville defeated Nova Scotia's Mary Matattall (2-8; Windsor) 5-4 to take a 7-3 record into Friday morning's final round-robin draw. Bélisle

defeated British Columbia's Marla Mallett (1-10; Maple Ridge) 8-5 to remain in the hunt.

The game most fans came to see Thursday evening was the one between Englot and Homan. Some of the life was sucked out of the building when the Winnipeg team scored the four in the first end. Homan came up light on her last rock, leaving Englot what amounted to a routine hit for four.

"We were fortunate in the first end that I had a second chance to make the shot for four," said Englot, who is backed by vice-skip Kate Cameron, second Leslie Wilson, lead Raunora Westcott, alternate Krysten Karwacki and coach Ron Westcott. "From there we just wanted to keep counting when we had hammer and make sure we didn't give up any steals and get into any trouble."

Homan got two back in the second, but's that as close as she got.

Englot pointed out that a loss to Homan could have dropped her into a possible tie in the standings with Carey. In that scenario, Carey would have finished second since she defeated Englot in their round-robin game. It would have meant Englot being pushed to the Page 3-4 game.

Englot said having the hammer against Homan will be important in their playoff game.

"We started out with hammer today, took advantage of it and I hope we can do the same tomorrow."

The final round-robin draw will be played at 9:30 a.m. If a tiebreaker is needed, it will be played at 2:30 p.m.



Team Canada's Jocelyn Peterman (left) and Laine Peters take a look.

A heart still beats

Transplant recipient here to give thanks

By **CAM HUTCHINSON**
HeartChart Associate Editor

Lauren Mann remembers her brother, Adam Prashaw, as a person with a big heart.

Barely a year after her brother's death, his big heart is beating here in St. Catharines.

Prashaw died in January 2016 after suffering an epileptic seizure and drowning in a hot tub. He was 22 years old.

Prashaw was an organ donor, with four of his organs harvested and gifted to others. His loss gave four people a chance for better lives.

One of those is John Dickhout of St. Catharines. He received Prashaw's heart.

Dickhout and his wife have been in the stands watching Mann, the third

for the Quebec team at this week's Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

"John and his wife Lynn have taken to curling, I guess," Mann said. "She was saying to me yesterday that she probably wouldn't have had any interest in curling before, but she's been out to almost all the games. So they have been hanging out."

Dickhout said words can't properly describe the gratitude he has for Mann and her family. His first contact with them was through an anonymous letter.

"My solemn promise to you is that the man I was before my transplant is but a fraction of the man I will become!" he wrote. "I will devote my life to making my life, and the lives of



From left to right: Lynn Dickhout, Rick Prashaw and John Dickhout.

my family even better and stronger . . . and much of my driving force from this day forward will be thinking of you and your lost family member, to make you all proud of your loved one's decision to be a donor."

He said Mann's mother and

stepfather responded to his letter.

"I discovered a few clues in their letter that led me, with a little sleuthing via Google and Facebook, to figure out who my donor was. I first met Lauren in August of last year at the Canadian Transplant Games in

Toronto, where she and many other family members attended to watch me compete — six months post-transplant."

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It's played on ice, folks!

Players need to adjust to ever-changing conditions



DAVE KOMOSKY

You see it all the time at major golf tournaments, but usually those played near big bodies of water.

A system moves in, there's moisture in the air, and playing conditions change. A gentle mist falls, greens get damp, the wind kicks up, and what were ideal playing conditions suddenly become dicey.

So how do golfers handle this?

They adjust, that's what. They look at the conditions and think of new ways to attack the course.

It's all part of their mindset.

So why is it that at a major

curling event, when a high humidity system moves in, and ice conditions inside a building changes, there is such a wringing of hands? It's like the sky is falling.

We saw it again Wednesday at the Meridian Centre when the frost buildup created problems for the curlers at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

That doesn't happen often, but there was a perfect storm brewing Wednesday when a dehumidifier inside the building broke down because of a faulty sensor and the Meridian Centre was left to the mercy of the high humidity outside. Problems were carried over to Thursday when all four sheets of ice needed to be scraped and pebbled at the fifth-end break.

Naturally, it was a great point of conversation later, almost to the point of finding fault.

That's nuts. The fact is, we're not dealing with a bowling alley here. That's ice the women are playing on, and it is susceptible to all kinds of factors — humidity being only one of them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Head icemaker Dave Merklinger advises curlers about ice conditions Thursday.

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Spotlight on: **Canada**

Glencoe Club (Calgary) Coach: Charley Thomas



SKIP

chelsea

carey

Essentials

Age: 32
Birthplace: Winnipeg
Residence: Calgary
Marital status: Single
Children: None
Employment: Territory Account Manager for Simmons Canada (the Beautyrest people)
Started curling at age: 5

What was the happiest moment in your life? Honestly, winning the Scotties last year is right up there! It was a lifelong dream come true, and I'll never forget that moment.

What is the one thing you wish you could do if given the chance? Bungee jumping or sky diving.

What is your definition of an incredible weekend? My family's cabin on Lake of the Woods, spending days on the boat in the sun playing water sports, and evenings having dinner and playing the games with my family and extended family.

Are you a cat/dog person? I love all animals.

What is your favourite breakfast meal? I'm torn between traditional bacon and eggs and Belgian waffles.

What is your favourite colour? Anything in the green/turquoise/teal family.

When you dance, you look like ... hopefully a former dancer! I danced competitively until I was 19 and I still miss it.

What was your favourite toy as a kid? A stuffed loon named Larry. We were inseparable for years after that.



THIRD

amy

nixon

Essentials

Age: 39
Birthplace: Saskatoon
Residence: Calgary
Marital status: Married to Mike Westlund
Children: Kali (3)
Employment: Senior Advisor to the President, Mount Royal University
Started curling at age: 10

If you were granted three wishes, what would you ask for? Health and wellness for my daughter, myself and my husband Mike

What is your definition of an incredible weekend? Being outdoors, great food, beer and time with those I love the most.

What are the five things you cannot do without? My Scotties ring, my Olympic medal, time with my daughter and husband, my career and sleep.

Who or what inspires you? People who question,

who protest, who take risks.

What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning? Hug my daughter.

Where would you go if you were invisible? The White House.

What is the worst job you could have? Nurse. The bodily fluids, the shift work, the selflessness and witnessing pain and loss. All respect to nurses, I should not be one.

Which is the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Sit at my mom's bedside in intensive care for many days and nights.



SECOND

jocelyn

peterman

Essentials

Age: 23
Birthplace: Red Deer, AB
Residence: Calgary
Marital status: Single
Children: None
Employment: Kinesiologist at TotalCardiology Rehabilitation
Started curling at age: 5

What was the happiest moment in your life? Winning the Scotties last year was definitely up there.

Got a phobia you want to share? Extreme irrational fear of birds.

What is your favourite day of the week? Sundays. Relaxing days on weekends off, and always a great day if you're still curling on Sundays.

Any tattoos? I have a tattoo that includes the semi-colon for suicide awareness and heart and a plane for my late friend.

Are you a cat/dog person? My dog is Lucy is the best ever, in my opinion. Cats are the worst.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why? Peru, I would love to hike to Machu Picchu.

What is one of the things you would put on your "bucket" list? Sky diving.

What was your favourite toy as a kid? I loved cutting my Barbie's hair.

Favourite board game? Crokinole is a Peterman family favourite.



LEAD

laine

peters

Essentials

Age: 46
Birthplace: Carrot River, SK
Residence: Calgary
Employment: Executive Assistant
Started curling at age: 13

What would you do if you won the lottery?

Travel, golf, and attend many different sporting events! Definitely NEVER work 9 to 5 again!!

Got a phobia you want to share? I detest bugs!

What is your definition of an incredible weekend? Participating in the Pinty's All-Star Skins game in Banff!! Thanks Pinty's and TSN!

What is your favourite colour and why? Red because to me it represents power and energy.

Describe your life in one

word: Fabulous!!

What is the worst job you could have? Anything that involved having to go grocery shopping on a regular basis.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why? Hawaii — it's been on my list for a long time and I've never been.

What is one of the things you would put on your "bucket" list? Attending a major tennis event.

What three things can always be found in your refrigerator? Perrier, champagne, olives.



FIFTH

susan

o'connor

Essentials

Age: 39
Birthplace: Calgary
Residence: Calgary
Marital status: Married to Todd Brick
Children: Oliver (3)
Employment: Respiratory Therapist, Foothills Medical Centre
Started curling at age: 10

What would you do if you won the lottery? Travel the world.

Would you be brave enough to spend an entire hour alone in a cemetery? For sure in the daylight.

What is the one thing you wish you could do if given the chance? I wish I could play the guitar and sing. Sadly I have zero musical talent

Do you believe that there is life beyond our planet? I think there's a good chance.

What is your favourite day of the week? When you work shift work, days of the week don't really mean anything.

Any tattoos? Olympic Rings and small Maple Leaf on my foot.

Are you a cat/dog person? Dog

What is your favourite breakfast meal? It would definitely include bacon.

What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning? Give my boy a hug.

What is the thing your most afraid of? Something bad happening to my child.

What celebrity annoys you the most? Donald Trump; pretty much anyone Kardashians or related to them.

FACTS



Population: 36,500,000

Area: 9,984,670 km²

Moto: A Mari usque ad Mare ("From Sea to Sea")

Capital City: Ottawa

Ethnic groups: 76.7% White, 14.2% Asian, 4.3% Aboriginal, 2.9% Black, 1.2% Latin American, 0.5% multiracial, 0.3% other

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TEAM CANADA AT THE SCOTTIES

Last five years:

2016: Jennifer Jones (9-2 Bronze)

2015: Rachel Homan (7-4)

2014: Rachel Holman (11-0 Gold)

2013: Heather Nedohin (7-4)

2012: Amber Holland (6-5)

Last championship — Rachel Holman (2014)

Canadian titles — 9





Spotlight on: Ontario

Ottawa Curling Club (Ottawa) Coach: Adam Kingsbury



SKIP

rachel

homan

Essentials
Age: 27
Birthplace: Ottawa
Residence: Ottawa
Marital status: Married
Employment: Student
Started curling at age: 5

What is your favourite day of the week? Sundays because those are the days in our sport (to quote Gabby Douglas) “where champions are made.”

Any tattoos? I have a tattoo on my foot in honour of my grandfather. Both him and his father served in the Air Force and they both were able to curl all over the world. He went to all my curling events he could. My grandfather was able to come to my first Scotties before he passed away shortly after. My tattoo is on my sliding

foot and is the Royal Canadian Air Force motto when he served – ‘Per ardua ad astra’ – it means ‘through adversity to the stars’.

What is your favourite breakfast meal? Eggs

Favourite board game? Most recently Catan but I love all board games.

Describe your life in one word: Fortunate and I try my hardest never to forget it

What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning? Make a tea

Favourite accent? South African.



THIRD

emma

miskew

Essentials
Age: Will be 28 at the Scotties
Birthplace: Ottawa
Residence: Ottawa
Marital status: Single
Children: None
Employment: Self-employed graphic designer
Started curling at age: 5

What would you do if you won the lottery? Go on an around-the-world trip!

Would you be brave enough to spend an entire hour alone in a cemetery? Nope! I’ve watched too much Criminal Minds!

Which sitcom character do you relate to? Monica from Friends.

Got a phobia you want to share? Snakes.

Are you a cat/dog person? Dog!

What is your favourite fruit flavour? Raspberry.

Favourite store you like

to shop at? Lululemon.

If you could talk in your sleep, what would you say? So many things.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why? Greece, it just looks so beautiful.

Flowers or chocolates? I love both equally.

Have you ever been pulled over by a cop? Yep! Once, ignored the ‘No turns’ sign in downtown Toronto.



SECOND

joanne

courtney

Essentials
Age: 27
Birthplace: Edmonton
Residence: Edmonton
Marital status: Married to Mark
Children: None
Employment: Dialysis nurse
Started curling at age: 7

What is the strangest thing you’ve ever eaten? Fermented shark (it was gross).

If you were stranded on an island, what are the three most important things that you think you would need? Sunscreen, headbands and candy.

What is your favourite day of the week? Friday.

Are you a cat/dog person? Dog.

What is your favourite breakfast meal? French toast

Favourite store you like

to shop at? Lululemon

What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning? Take the dog out then have a cup of coffee.

Flowers or chocolates? Chocolates.

What was your favourite toy as a kid? Polly Pockets.

What is your favourite ice cream? Cookie dough.

Favourite smells? Fresh pot of coffee.

Scary movies or happy endings? Happy endings

Strength training or cardio? Cardio.



LEAD

lisa

weagle

Essentials
Age: 31
Birthplace: Ottawa
Residence: Ottawa
Marital status: Married to Robin Guy
Children: None.
Employment: Communications Advisor, Department of Canadian Heritage (Sport Canada)
Started curling at age: 8

What is the weirdest thing you’ve ever done?

Falconing. Dachshunds sniff out rabbits and a falcon catches them (we didn’t catch any, thank goodness!)

What is your definition of an incredible weekend? Coffee, a long walk with my husband and dog, no phone, nice dinner, good wine.

Are you a cat/dog person? Dog person. I have a corgi named Trooper

What is your favourite breakfast meal? Eggs, oatmeal, coffee.

Favourite store you like to shop at? Nordstrom.

What three things can always be found in your refrigerator? Perrier, eggs, hot sauce.

What superstition do you believe/practice? We always have to sit in the same seats on the way to the rink.

Favourite musician(s)/bands you’ve seen in concert? Drake in Las Vegas.

Have you ever been pulled over by a cop? No, but I have been on a ride along.

Favourite board game? Trivial Pursuit.



FIFTH

cheryl

kreviazuk

Essentials
Age: 24
Birthplace: Ottawa
Residence: Ottawa
Marital status: Single
Children: None
Employment: Clinical Research Assistant at The Ottawa Hospital Department of Orthopaedics
Started curling at age: 6

Are you a cat/dog person?: Dogs. I love every dog I see.

What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning? Fall back asleep, ha!ha!

What is your favourite day of the week? Sunday lazy day.

What is your favourite ice cream? Mint chocolate chip

Favourite board game? Cranium.

Favourite musician(s)/bands you’ve seen in concert? Coldplay.

What is your favourite

fruit flavor? Raspberry.

What is your favourite breakfast meal? Breakfast sandwich (bacon, egg, cheese).

What are the five things you cannot do without? My bed, my phone, curling, dogs, warm weather.

What was the happiest moment in your life? Getting my first puppy.

FACTS



Population: 13,000,000

Area: 1,076,395 sq. km

Joined Confederation: 1905

Motto: “Loyal it began and loyal she remains”

Capital City: Toronto

Languages Spoken:

70 English, 10% French, 20% other

Economy:

Manufacturing, energy, agriculture.

ONTARIO AT THE SCOTTIES

Last five years:

2016: Jenn Hanna (6-5)

2015: Julie Hastings (5-6)

2014: Ali Flaxey (3-8)

2013: Rachel Holman

(10-1 Gold)

2012: Tracy Horgan (4-7)

Last championship — Rachel Holman (2013)

Canadian titles — 5

World titles — 2 (Marilyn Bodogh (Darte), 1986, Marilyn Bodogh 1996)



FROM PAGE 4

And when a piece of equipment fails — and they do sometimes, or hasn't your furnace pilot light ever gone out? — the problems can become acute.

But it's just part of the game, like golf, and people in this sport need to chill out and adjust when that happens.

It's particularly disheartening for the icemakers who put down these lovely sheets of glistening frozen water event after event, year after year. They have their role at these events down to a science, but every so often there's a wrench thrown in the works.

Head icemaker Dave Merklinger says the faulty sensor was one of those things that crop up every so often, and he and his crew did everything they could to right the situation.

So play on.

Gerry Peckham, the High Performance Director for Curling Canada, doesn't understand it when this sort of situation arises and people start finger-pointing. A former tennis player, he says these 'playing conditions' issues only becomes a problem when they are unplayable, and things are far from that here.

"Frost is a natural and predictable aspect of arena competitions, especially on the shores of one of our great lakes, with above average temperatures at play," he says. "These ice conditions, though somewhat challenging, are not even close to being unplayable. The ice is not impacting the performances or the results in a negative manner."

He's right. The top teams are still the top teams, despite the frost buildup.

Peckham says it is up to the players to manage their games when things go awry. He likes to compare what tennis or golf pros have to go through when things get difficult.

"Tennis slams are played on clay, hard court and grass, and the grass is in the poorest shape of the event on the final weekend,



GERRY PECKHAM

especially as impacted by hot, dry weather. Clay changes with every footprint and sliding motion.

"Golf slams are played on very different playing conditions and those conditions can change dramatically from the first tee-off time to the final group, and from Thursday to Sunday, especially as impacted by weather conditions, let alone spike marks.

"Sometimes the course allows you to shoot a 66 and sometimes it holds you to a 72."

Peckham says it's up to the curlers to adjust, and others to understand that it's not the end of the world.

"This is about managing ice conditions which have always been best defined by the term unpredictable — consistently unpredictable," he says. "This about adjusting. It has ever been thus."

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Starts 1 hour before the start time of the first draw of the day and

Ends 15 mins. after the end of the final draw of the day.

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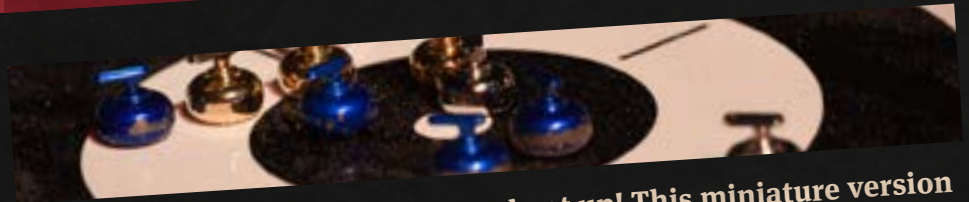
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— Angus McStone

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Official tags: #STOH2017 #AngusMcStone

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CoreyLeBlanc13

@team_englot I think I found your number 1 fans? Always nice to have a dedicated cheer section.

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DID YOU KNOW!?

THE SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1982 - AT THE TIME IT WAS CALLED THE SCOTT TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS. BEFORE THAT, UNDER DIFFERENT NAMES, THE TOURNAMENT HAS EXISTED SINCE 1961.

BY ATTENDING IN 2017, YOU HAVE BECOME A PART OF CANADA'S PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF CURLING!

THE DUELLING PIANOS - PERFORMING TOMORROW



Women play, men coach

Why are there not more females guiding teams at Scotties?

By **DAVE KOMOSKY**
HeartChart Editor

Women have made great strides in the area of gender equality over the years, but it would appear they have a little more work to do at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

A quick glance at the team rosters this week at the Scotties shows that, of the 15 teams that started the week, only two had a female coach — Donalda Mattie of Team Nunavut and Lorraine Lang of Northern Ontario.

That seems like a particularly low number for a women's competition, and a bit bewildering when considering there are countless numbers of women who have curled at the highest level over the years, and have just as much experience and knowledge of the game as any of the men coaching here.

It's not like there are no women coaches in curling. There are plenty of them. Elaine Dagg-Jackson is the High Performance coach for Curling Canada. Melissa Soligo is a Curl B.C. provincial coach and was team leader/national coach consultant for Curling Canada at the VoIP Defender World Junior Curling Championships held in Gangneung, South Korea. That team was coached by Amanda Dawn St. Laurent of Edmonton, who coached Kelsey Rocque's world junior champions in 2014-15.

Karen Watson, meanwhile, is a Level 4 course and Master course conductor for Curl B.C., and is heavily involved in wheelchair curling. Olympic gold-medal champion Jennifer Jones is coached by Wendy Morgan. Then there's Andrea Ronnebeck of Kenora who is Northern Ontario Curling Association technical director. Ronnebeck coached Rachael Homan's Ottawa team at the 2011 Scotties Tournament of Hearts and now coaches Tracy Fleury's team from Sudbury. Mattie is a certified competition development coach registered with Coaches of Canada and has guided a team at the Tim

Hortons Brier.

So they're out there.

But not so much here.

So what's the deal? Why do women's provincial curling teams gravitate to the men when looking for a coach at these high-profile events?

It should be noted that their coach is the team's call. They pick 'em. But whatever their reason, the fact is, the optics are lousy.

The discrepancy is not lost on Dagg-Jackson.

"I'd love to see more women's in coaching positions at the Scotties, and Brier, too," she says. "There's no reason there shouldn't be."

Dagg-Jackson says this year's Scotties could be an anomaly, but the numbers do tend to skew towards the men year after year at the Scotties. She understands why.

"There are just more experienced male coaches available. The numbers are greater," she says. "We have a lot of women who would be awesome coaches who are still actively curling, or chose broadcasting as their direction to remain involved in the sport. Maybe we need to do a little more to give them an opportunity to be in those positions."

Dagg-Jackson says one of the reasons women's teams may choose a male coach is because they bring a different perspective.

"When you look for a coach, you're looking for someone who is going to identify something that may not be a strength of your collective experience," she says. "For some women, that could be a male perspective. Maybe it's someone who's been to that championship many times before, or is a little tougher in team situations."

In any case a coach — male or female — is hugely important at an event like the Scotties.

"A competition environment is extremely complicated, challenging and always different," says Dagg-Jackson. "A coach is your guide. A coach can make a huge contribution."



Elaine Dagg-Jackson



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Quebec's Lauren Mann lost her brother Adam in a drowning.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Dickhout is a 54-year-old BPO Management Consultant and a part-time professional actor. He is married with two daughters, Jamie (25) and Kristen (23). He had severe Cardiomyopathy, which essentially means an enlarged heart.

"Things had been deteriorating for three years from the initial heart event. I had a combination defibrillator/pacemaker implanted in my chest to help keep the damaged heart beating."

He said meeting Mann and her family was emotional.

"How do you thank someone even remotely adequately for giving you the ultimate gift? It is the gift of life."

Mann said she and her family are happy knowing Dickhout is doing well.

"It is really the only positive that comes out of it. It is nice to know there is some good and to know there is another family, for our pain, it's their joy. So there is some happiness there."

"It is emotional. All the aspects of it are emotional at times. You have happy moments and you have sad moments. We're happy he's doing well and happy that he's here."

Dickhout has an email address with golden attitude included in it. He said those words are important to him.

"I have always strived to be someone to live a purposeful life, to seize the day, live every day to the fullest, to focus on what I can do, rather than what I can't do and generally live life with a 'Golden Attitude.'

"I have the word 'Attitude' highlighted in gold, tattooed around my right ankle. I've always been one to wear my heart on my sleeve, and never ashamed to share my feelings, and now that sensibility has been increased ten-fold.

"Adam gave me my life back, and I am forever eternally grateful. It is imperative for me now to also live every day in honour of Adam and his decision to be a donor."

HEARTSTOP LOUNGE



Manager Ken Lauzon hopes to sell plenty of beer at the HeartStop Lounge as the STOHL moves toward the weekend.

It's the place to party hearty

By DAVE KOMOSKY
HeartChart Editor

Ken Lauzon has thrown open wide the doors to this year's HeartStop Lounge — the entertainment hub of the Scotties Tournament of Hearts — to everybody who likes a good time, and his logic is simple. "It's kind of a back-door way of introducing people to curling and the cultural side of our sport, says Lauzon, who is Food and Beverage Bar Manager in charge of the Lounge, and invites all people who may not have tickets to the actual tournament to 'come on down' — free of charge.

"Yes, curling is foremost here, on the TV monitors, and all that, but maybe a visit here might encourage people to take up the game or become a fan of the game."

And what's not to like about the HeartStop Lounge, which is located in the St. Catharines Golf & Country Club, a short distance away from the Meridian Centre. This week it's party central, the biggest watering hole in the city

and the warmest, friendliest place to plunk your butt and have a cold one.

"The HeartStop Lounge and the Patch at the Brier are part of our culture," says Lauzon. "It is where we gather as fans to have some camaraderie over the game of curling, have a beverage, some food and get to meet the athletes and learn a little more about them."

The Lounge has taken over the area where there are usually eight sheets of curling ice. It can accommodate 1,000 people comfortably and visitors can enjoy a food-and-beverage service, entertainment, autograph sessions and, of course, closed-circuit of the action on two huge screens.



CONTINUED
Opposite page

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Entertainment centre key to a successful Scotties

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The entertainment begins after the final draw, and the bands that have played thus far have rocked the house. Marmalade out of Toronto rocked the house earlier this week and went 90 minutes solid without a break. Carpet Frogs, another popular band, will play on the weekend.

The only drawback has been the proximity to the Meridian Centre.

“It has been a major factor for us,” says Lauzon. “It’s a few blocks away and it’s a bit of a challenge to get here.”

There are regular shuttles from the area to the HeartStop, so Lauzon says there’s no reason folks can’t get there.

The HeartStop Lounge’s location has cut into attendance, but Lauzon sees better days ahead.

“It hasn’t been what we hoped for but we had to deal with a provincial holiday on Monday,” he said. “But it’s building every day that the tournament goes on and there’s the weekend coming up where we’re looking for a strong finish. Weekend ticket sales look promising. As the arena goes, that’s how we go.”

Lauzon says the HeartStop is a major component of the Scotties and his job is a big one.

“It’s not without its stress,” he said. “You’re dealing with a big bar and a lot of people. Obviously alcohol affects people in certain ways. You always have that at the back of your mind.”

But well into the week, he has things humming, and is looking for a big finish — including a bunch of folks who are not all that accustomed to the sport.



The HeartStop Lounge at the St. Catharines Golf & Country Club offers plenty of rockin’ entertainment.



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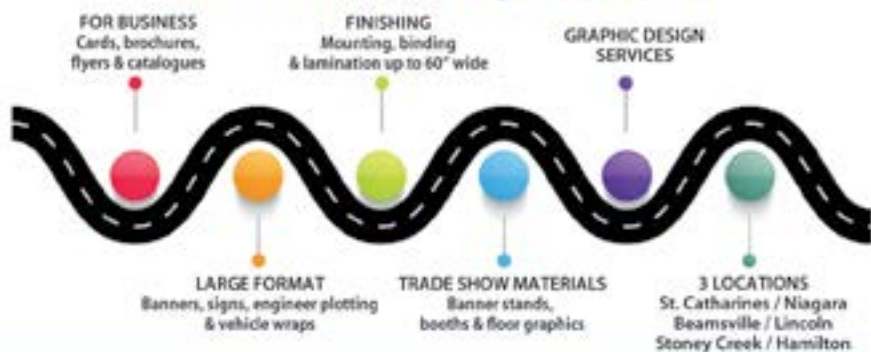
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SCOTTIES SCOREBOARD



Team Canada's Chelsea Carey (above) and Ontario's Joanne Courtney are a study in intensity.

STANDINGS

	W	L
Manitoba (Englot)	10	1
Ontario (Homan)	10	1
Canada (Carey)	8	2
N. Ontario (McCarville)	7	3
Quebec (Bélisle)	7	4
NWT (Galusha)	5	5
Alberta (Kleibrink)	5	5
NL (Curtis)	4	6
PEI (MacPhee)	2	8
Nova Scotia (Mattatall)	2	8
Saskatchewan (Barker)	1	9
B.C. (Mallett)	1	10



LINESCORES

Draw 14

9:30 a.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
NWT (Galusha)	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	x	— 4
NL (Curtis)	*2	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	x	— 7
Ontario (Homan)	*0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	x	— 5
Quebec (Bélisle)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	x	— 1
PEI (MacPhee)	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	— 4
Alberta (Homan)	*1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	— 6
B.C. (Mallett)	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	x	x	— 2
Manitoba (Englot)	*0	2	0	1	0	0	2	2	x	x	— 7

Draw 15

2:30 p.m.

Saskatchewan (Barker)	0	1	0	0	4	1	3	0	1	x	— 10
Nova Scotia (Mattatall)	*1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	x	— 4
Alberta (Kleibrink)	*0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	— 3
NWT (Galusha)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	— 4
Canada (Carey)	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	x	— 4
N. Ontario (McCarville)	*3	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	x	— 8
PEI (MacPhee)	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	x	x	— 4
NL (Curtis)	*2	1	0	2	0	0	3	2	x	x	— 10



Saskatchewan's Penny Barker finally hit the win column on Thursday.

Draw 16

7:30 p.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Manitoba (Englot)	*4	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	x	x	— 9
Ontario (Homan)	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	x	x	— 5
Nova Scotia (Mattatall)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	— 4
N. Ontario (McCarville)	*0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	— 6
B.C. (Mallett)	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	— 5
Quebec (Bélisle)	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	— 8
Canada (Carey)	2	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	2	x	— 11
Saskatchewan (Barker)	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	x	— 5

* — Last rock

SCHEDULE

TODAY

9:30 a.m. Draw

A — CA vs. AB; B — SK vs. PE; C — NS vs. NL; D — NT vs. NO

7:30 p.m.

PAGE PLAYOFF

One Vs. Two

Manitoba vs. Ontario

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