



# His natural **HAT TRICK!**

Gushue chasing third straight Brier title to tie Alberta's Ferbey for most titles in a row, but a tough field in Brandon stands in his way

PAGES 2-3

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ON PAGE 15



Brad Gushue and his team from St. John's, NL, have had an excellent run at the Brier, starting with their win at home two years ago. Now, after winning in Regina last season, they're looking to win a third in a row in Brandon.

# Can he make it a

# THREE-PEAT?

By **GRANT GRANGER**

*Tankard Times Associate Editor*

*Gushue looking for a little more magic at Brier*

Call it a three-peat. Or maybe, to be more Canadian, a natural hat trick of Brier titles.

That's what Team Canada, skipped by Brad Gushue is aiming for at the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier.

Actually, you might wonder what took so long for him to get to this point. Even though he won an Olympic gold medal in 2006, along with his long-time third Mark Nichols, it took Gushue until his 14th Brier appearance representing Newfoundland and Labrador before he won his first national men's title, fittingly enough, in his hometown of St. John's.

Since winning on that emotional, dramatic day on The Rock two years ago, Gushue's squad — which includes second Brett Gallant, lead Geoff Walker and coach Jules Owchar — has been the best-of-the-best in this country and the world, too.

Between the 2018 Brier in Regina (12-1) and St. John's (11-2), the Gushue gang is 23-3 at the last two Briers. After running the table (13-0) at the 2017 world championships in Edmonton, the only blip was a loss to Sweden's Niklas Edin in the 2018 world final in Las Vegas. Those numbers have to have most skips shaking in the hack.

Now they're back shooting for their third in a row.

The only other team to win three consecutive Briers was Alberta's Randy Ferbey, Dave Nedohin, Marcel Rocque and Scott Pfeiffer who won in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

There was, however, another blip for Gushue during those two years, losing out on a second trip to the Olympics when they ran into a red-hot skip, Mike McEwen, in the semifinal of the 2017 Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings in Ottawa eventually won by Kevin Koe's team from Calgary. Koe, who rarely lacks for competitive motivation, will certainly have some in the form of redemption for missing making the podium at the 2018 Olympic Games in South Korea.

Koe's team has a new look this season. When third Marc Kennedy decided the week-to-week winter grind was getting to be too much, Koe recruited McEwen's

long-time third, B.J. Neufeld, with that team going its separate ways after more than a decade together. Second Brent Laing also returned to Ontario to hook up with his former front-end friend Craig Savill and skip John Epping. In his place is Colton Flasch who tried skipping his own squad last season after playing second for Saskatchewan's Steve Laycock, who, like Flasch, is back and playing for a different province. Koe did keep lead, Ben Hebert, though.



**Continued**  
**Opposite page**

FROM PAGE 2

The team has gone through several experimental permutations since McEwen joined his good buddy, second Derek Samagalski and lead Colin Hodgson with former third Braeden Moskwy returning to his hometown of Regina. The lineup that worked at the provincial championship down Highway 1 in Virden was McEwen skipping and throwing last rocks. But like prairie weather, wait 15 minutes and that could change.

The team's connection to Brandon is big. The 38-year-old McEwen was born in Brandon and grew up here before moving to Winnipeg when he was 27. While in the Wheat City, he took two teams to national junior championships, coming third in 1998 and then losing the 2001 final to some guy named Gushue. (McEwen's former second, Matt Wozniak, will be the team's alternate.)

It was Brandon where Reid Carruthers booked his team's

spot in the Roar of the Rings by winning the 2016 Canada Cup. Who did they beat in the final? Gushue! Although he was nowhere near Brandon that week. Gushue was back home in St. John's nursing a hip injury and Nichols skipped the team that week with Charley Thomas filling in.

And, to top it off, Carruthers and Nichols have history together. For two seasons, Nichols played lead for Manitoba living legend Jeff Stoughton while Carruthers played second.

Since Curling Canada took the Brier and the Scotties Tournament of Hearts to a 16-team format the wild card play-in winner has been a force to deal with, although, so far, it hasn't been a route to a title. This year was a rematch between the 2018 semifinalists, Edmonton's Brendan Bottcher and Ontario's John Epping. Bottcher won then, and did so again last night winning 8-4, dominating from the start of the game.

The win lifts Bottcher into the 16th and final position and sending Epping to the sidelines.



Brad Gushue's team was a repeat winner last year in Regina.

See **BRIER**  
Page 17

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Brendan Bottcher keeps a close eye on the action.



John Epping looks for help from his brushers.

# WILD-CARD GAME

# Bottcher punches Brier ticket

*Alberta team rolls to victory*

By **GRANT GRANGER**

*Tankard Times Writer*

It was another loser-go-home showdown, just like the last time they met at the Tim Hortons Brier a year ago, and it was the same team moving on and the same one going home.

Brendan Bottcher's squad of third Darren Moulding, second Brad Thiessen and lead Karrick Martin will be Team Wild Card at the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier presented by AGI after defeating John Epping and his Toronto team 8-4 at Westoba Place Friday night.

"This was one of our goals to get back here again and try and be in the playoffs. I really felt we had a great year leading up to

this and we've done our part. It would have been sad if our week was done already, we've had too good of a year for that to be the case," said Bottcher.

It was a rematch of the 2018 Brier semifinal in Regina won by Bottcher 6-4. Last year, at least, Epping's team got to stand on the podium by finishing third. This year the stakes were much more primal. The winners living to play not only another day but several more chasing Canadian curling's Holy Grail. Conversely, the losers are forced to watch on television, that's if they can stomach it after such a gut-wrenching loss.



Members of Team Bottcher celebrate their wild-card win.



See **BOTTCHER**  
Page 20

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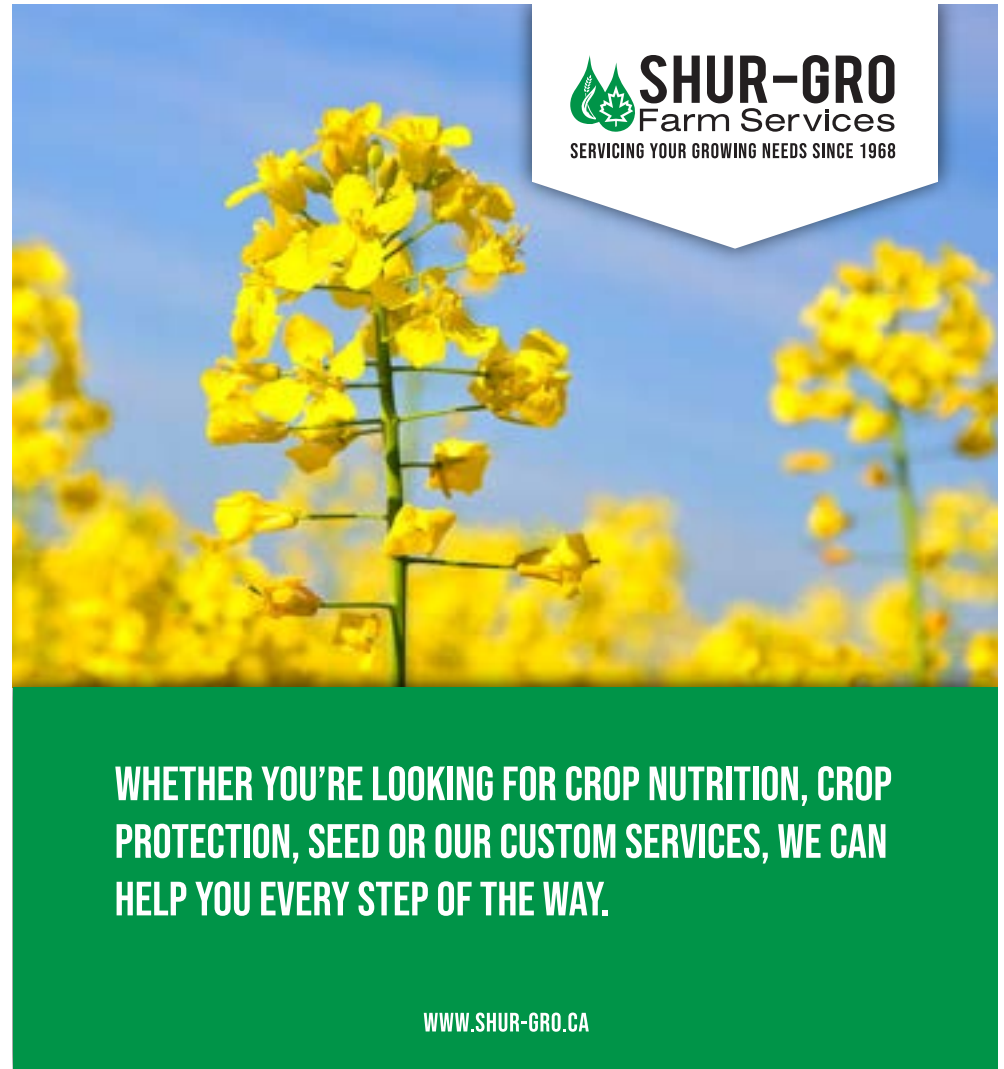


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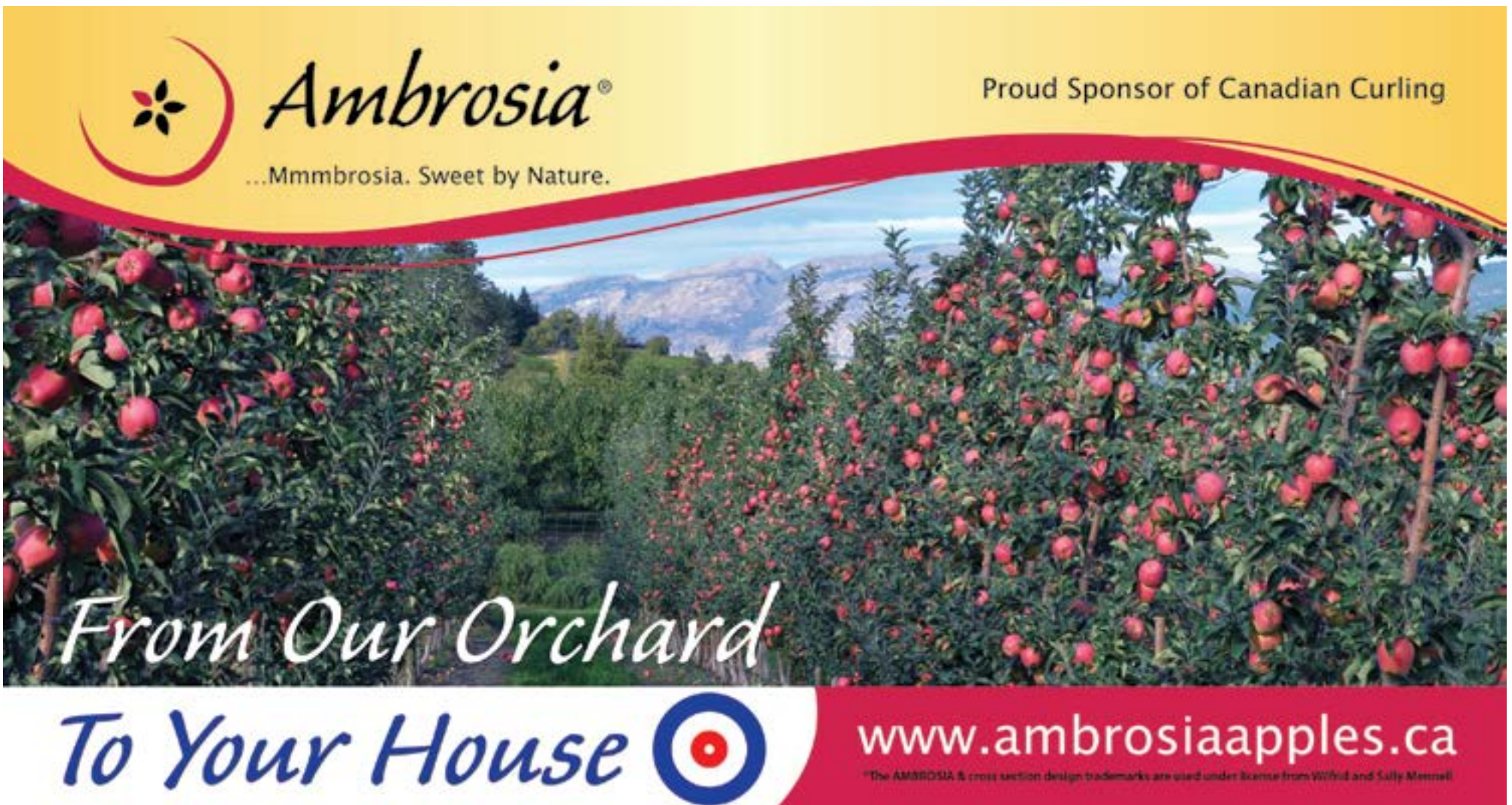
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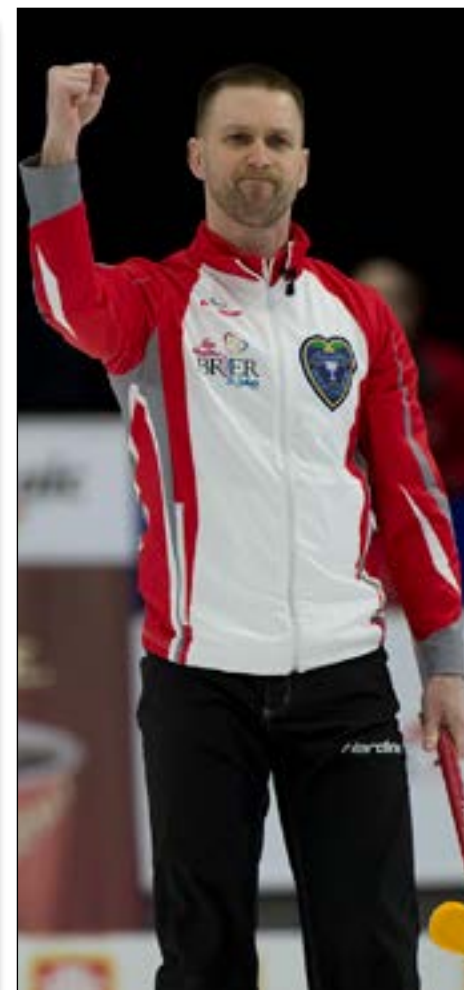
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## PREDICTIONS/PREVIEW

## TOP 4



Brad  
Jacobs



Mike  
McEwen



Kevin  
Koe



Brad  
Gushue

**The skinny:** It's been a troubling year for Jacobs and his team from the Soo, but they can make it all go away with a victory at the Brier. The former champ and 2014 Olympic gold-medal winner had to carry on early in the season when third Ryan Fry took a leave of absence from the game, and although Jacobs hardly missed a beat, winning the Canada Cup in Estevan and rising to No. 2 in the CTRS rankings, it must have been a difficult stretch. But they're all back together again and ready to win their second Brier title.

**The skinny:** If hometown advantage worked so well for Brad Gushue two years ago in St. John's, NL, why can't it work the same for Mike McEwen in Brandon? The crowds at Westoba Place will be firmly backing homeboy McEwen this week, and that can't be a bad thing. McEwen has deep roots in Brandon, as does second Derek Samagalski, who lives here, and they will be feeling the love at home. Throw in the fact that this is a well-oiled machine that is highly motivated and you have a recipe for success.

**The skinny:** Rule No. 1 in Brier predictions is never count Kevin Koe out of anything. The Calgary skipper has pretty much done it all on a pebbled sheet of ice, from winning three Brier championships, two world titles and making the Olympic Games. So it's a given he'll be in the playoff mix in Brandon with his outfit of B.J. Neufeld, second Colton Flasch and lead Ben Hebert. It's a new lineup for this season, except for Hebert, but it's been good enough to be top dogs in the CTRS standings. This team is too good not to be close.

**The skinny:** How can you dismiss a two-time champion and former Olympic gold-medallist? The answer: you can't, although Gushue is chasing something that is so difficult to achieve that it may be just beyond his reach. Gushue is trying to win three titles in a row, a feat only previously accomplished by Edmonton's Randy Ferbey, so this is his chance to grab a piece of history. Everything is in place for him to do it, meaning his superbly talented lineup of third Mark Nichols, second Brett Gallant and lead Geoff Walker.



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# food

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# music



## TONIGHT! KENDRA KAY

Few artists capture the spirit of country music like award winning country recording artist Kendra Kay. Raised in small town Manitoba and true to her roots, her music and song writing is inspired by the sounds of traditional country music. The 2018 Manitoba Country Music Association Fan's Choice Award winner has earned praise for her 'powerhouse vocals' and her live show was called a 'must see' by Top Country News.

With the release of her latest EP 'More to Me', Kendra has firmly established herself as an artist to watch and garnered respectable radio airplay with her recent two singles 'Buy You A Drink' and 'Fuel on the Fire' spending 17 weeks in the Top 100 on the Canadian Country National Airplay chart.



## SUNDAY & MONDAY

### Music Video Dance Party

The always exciting, perpetual fan favourites, our very own hand-picked music video line-up will entertain you in the Patch all day and night on Sunday and Monday! Sing-along, Dance-along and Party-along with hits from every era and every genre.

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# fans & photos



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### Saturday March 2nd

5:30 pm **Quebec**  
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The top teams in the country will be here for the Tim Hortons Brier – including the 2018 champions competing as Team Canada. They'll all be on hand for autographs and photos with their fans in the Patch.

*(DON'T FORGET to bring along something to get a few autographs!)*

# up close & personal



DUANE EDWARDS



BRIAN FOWLER



MEL LOGAN



ROB FOWLER



BRENT SCALES

### Saturday March 2nd

5:30 pm

You might not believe what you hear, but you definitely don't want to miss it! There are plenty of surprises in store when the curlers field questions from fans at the Up Close and Personal interviews.

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# BRIER DRAW



	TIME	DRAW	A	B	C	D
TODAY	2 p.m.	1	N/L vs. PEI	Yukon vs. Quebec	Manitoba vs. Sask.	Wild Card vs. N. Ontario
	7 p.m.	2	BC vs. Nova Scotia	Canada vs. Ontario	Alberta vs NWT	NB vs. Nunavut
SUNDAY	9 a.m.	3	Yukon vs. Sask.	N/L vs. N. Ontario	Wild Card vs. PEI	Manitoba vs. Quebec
	2 p.m.	4	Canada vs. Territories	B.C. vs. Nunavut	NB vs. Nova Scotia	Alberta vs. Ontario
	7 p.m.	5	Wild Card vs. Manitoba	PEI vs. Sask.	N. Ontario vs. Quebec	N/L vs. Territories
MONDAY	9 a.m.	6	NB vs. Alberta	NS vs. Territories	Nunavut vs Ontario	BC vs. Canada
	2 p.m.	7	Sask. vs Quebec	Wild Card vs. N/L	Yukon vs. Manitoba	N. Ontario vs. PEI
	7 p.m.	8	Territories vs. Ontario	NB vs. BC	Canada vs. Alberta	Nunavut vs. Nova Scotia
TUESDAY	9 a.m.	9	Manitoba vs. N/L	Quebec vs. PEI	Sask. vs. N. Ontario	Yukon vs. Wild Card
	2 p.m.	10	Alberta vs. BC	Ontario vs. Nova Scotia	Territories vs. Nunavut	Canada vs. NB
	7 p.m.	11	Quebec vs. Wild Card	N. Ontario vs. Manitoba	PEI vs. Yukon	Sask. vs. NL
WEDNESDAY	9 a.m.	12	Ontario vs. NB	Nunavut vs. Alberta	Nova Scotia vs. Canada	Territories vs. BC
	2 p.m.	13	N. Ontario vs. Yukon	Sask. vs Wild Card	Quebec vs. N/L	PEI vs. Manitoba
	7 p.m.	14	Nunavut vs. Canada	Territories vs. NB	Ontario vs. BC	Nova Scotia vs. Alberta
THURSDAY	9 a.m.	15		Tiebreakers if necessary		
	2 p.m.	16	A4 vs. B3	B1 vs. A2	A1 vs. B4	B2 vs. A3
	7 p.m.	17	A3 vs. B1	B3 vs. A1	B2 vs. A4	A2 vs. B4
FRIDAY	2 p.m.	18	A1 vs. B2	B4 vs. A3	B3 vs. A2	B1 vs. A4
	7 p.m.	19	B4 vs A4	A2 vs. B2	B1 vs. A1	A3 vs. B3

## TIEBREAKERS/PAGE PLAYOFFS/SEMIFINAL/FINAL

TIEBREAKERS	Saturday, March 9	9:30 a.m.	PAGE PLAYOFF 3 vs. 4	Saturday, March 9	2 p.m.
			PAGE PLAYOFF 1 vs. 2	Saturday, March 9	7 p.m.
			SEMIFINAL	Sunday, March 10	1 p.m.
			FINAL	Sunday, March 10	7 p.m.

# POOL A



## 2. Team Jacobs

Sault Ste. Marie  
(Ontario)

Skip — Brad Jacobs  
Third — Ryan Fry  
Second — E.J. Harnden  
Lead — Ryan Harnden  
Alternate — Lee Toner  
Coach — Adam Kingsbury



## 3. Team Bottcher

Edmonton  
(Alberta)

Skip — Brendan Bottcher  
Third — Darren Moulding  
Second — Brad Thiessen  
Lead — Karrick Martin



## 6. Team McEwen

West St. Paul  
(Manitoba)

Skip — Mike McEwen  
Third — Reid Carruthers  
Second — Derek Samagalski  
Lead — Colin Hodgson  
Alternate — Matt Wozniak  
Coach — Rob Meakin



## 7. Team Muyres

Saskatoon  
(Saskatchewan)

Skip — Kirk Muyres  
Third — Kevin Marsh  
Second — Daniel Marsh  
Lead — Dallan Muyres  
Coach — Lyle Muyres

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# POOL A



## 10. Team Crête

Etchemin  
(Quebec)

Skip — Martin Crête  
Third — Philippe Lemay  
Second — Éric Sylvain  
Lead — Philippe Ménard  
Alternate — Philippe Brassard  
Coach — Robert Ménard



## 11. Team Symonds

St. John's  
(Newfoundland/Labrador)

Skip — Andrew Symonds  
Third — Chris Ford  
Second (vice-skip) — Adam Boland  
Lead — Keith Jewer  
Alternate — Rick Rowsell



## 14. Team Likely

Charlottetown  
(Prince Edward Island)

Skip — John Likely  
Third — Anson Carmody  
Second — Steve Burgess  
Lead — Robbie Doherty  
Alternate — Matt Nabuurs



## 15. Team Solberg

Whitehorse  
(Yukon)

Skip: Jon Solberg  
Third: Bob Smallwood  
Second: Clinton Abel  
Lead: Scott Odian  
Alternate: Dave Rach  
Coach: Larry Snow



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# Here's how format works

The 16-team, two-pool format was put into play by Curling Canada last season. It was introduced to make sure all 14 Member Associations have direct entry into the main round-robin portion of each event, in addition to retaining Team Canada, and adding another competitive team to bring it to an even 16 teams, while sticking to the traditional nine-day format so that players don't have to spend more time away from family and employers.

## Here's what happens:

- The teams are split into two pools of eight, based on their ranking on the Canadian Team Ranking System as of Dec. 31. The Wild Card team was given the No. 3 seeding, regardless of who won the game, so that most of the schedule could be completed to allow fans to buy tickets to see their favourite teams once the provincial/territorial playdowns were finished.

- Pool A consists of seeds 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16; Pool B consists of seeds 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15.

- They play a round-robin within their pools during the first five days of the competition.

- The top four teams from each pool go into the Championship Pool, which begins round-robin play on Thursday. The teams carry over their records from their preliminary pools, and the four teams from Pool A then play the four teams from Pool B on the final Thursday and Friday. That means EVERY game on EVERY sheet has playoff implications!

- After those games are completed Friday evening, the top four teams from the Championship Pool will go into the Page Playoffs, beginning on Saturday (a tiebreaker, if necessary, would be on Saturday morning). The Page 3-4 playoff is Saturday at 2 p.m. (all times local); the Page 1-2 playoff is Saturday at 7 p.m.; with the winner of this game going directly to Sunday's final. The semifinal is Sunday at 1 p.m., and the gold-medal game will be on Sunday at 7 p.m. The bronze-medal game has been removed from the schedule.



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Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs can never be taken lightly.

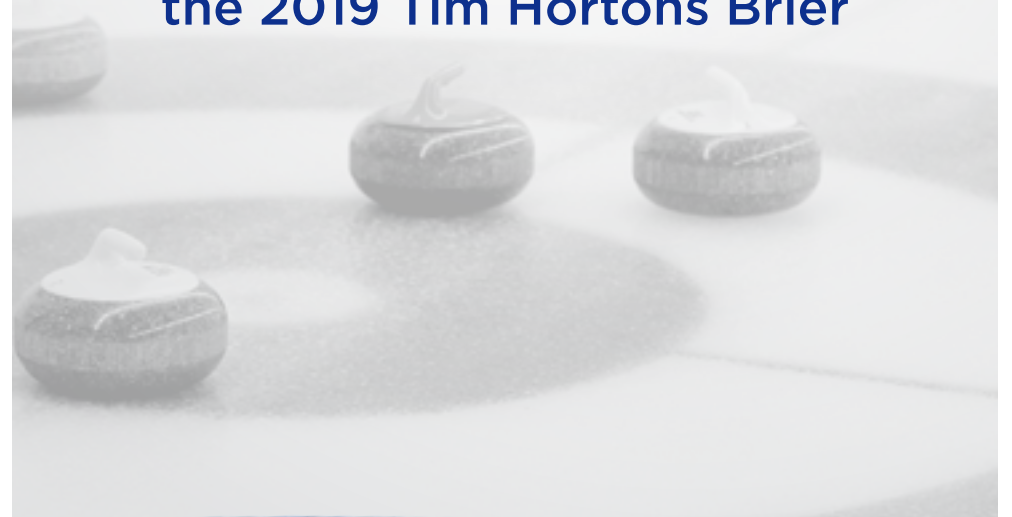


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# A Brier pool party

## POOL A

2. N. Ontario (Brad Jacobs)
4. Wild Card (Brendan Bottcher)
6. Manitoba (Mike McEwen)
7. Saskatchewan (Kirk Muyres)
10. Quebec (Martin Crête)
11. NL (Andrew Symonds)
14. PEI (John Likely)
15. Yukon (Jon Solberg)

## POOL B

1. Alberta (Kevin Koe)
3. Canada (Brad Gushue)
5. Ontario (Scott McDonald)
8. Nova Scotia (Stuart Thompson)
9. B.C. (Jim Cotter)
12. Territories (Jamie Koe)
13. N.B. (Terry Odishaw)
16. Nunavut (David St. Louis)

## Brier

### FROM PAGE 3

Epping got derailed by Scott McDonald's Southern Ontario (London, Kingston and Marysville) team in the provincial championship. The resumes of all four players — McDonald, third Jonathan Beuk, second Wesley Forget and lead Scott Chadwick lack any Brier, Canada Cup or even Canadian junior appearances. But make no mistake, they make up a strong squad that is currently eighth in the Canadian Team Ranking System standings.

Then there's the team from Northern Ontario that doesn't lack for robust resumes. The 2014 Olympic gold medallists from Sault Ste. Marie skipped by Brad

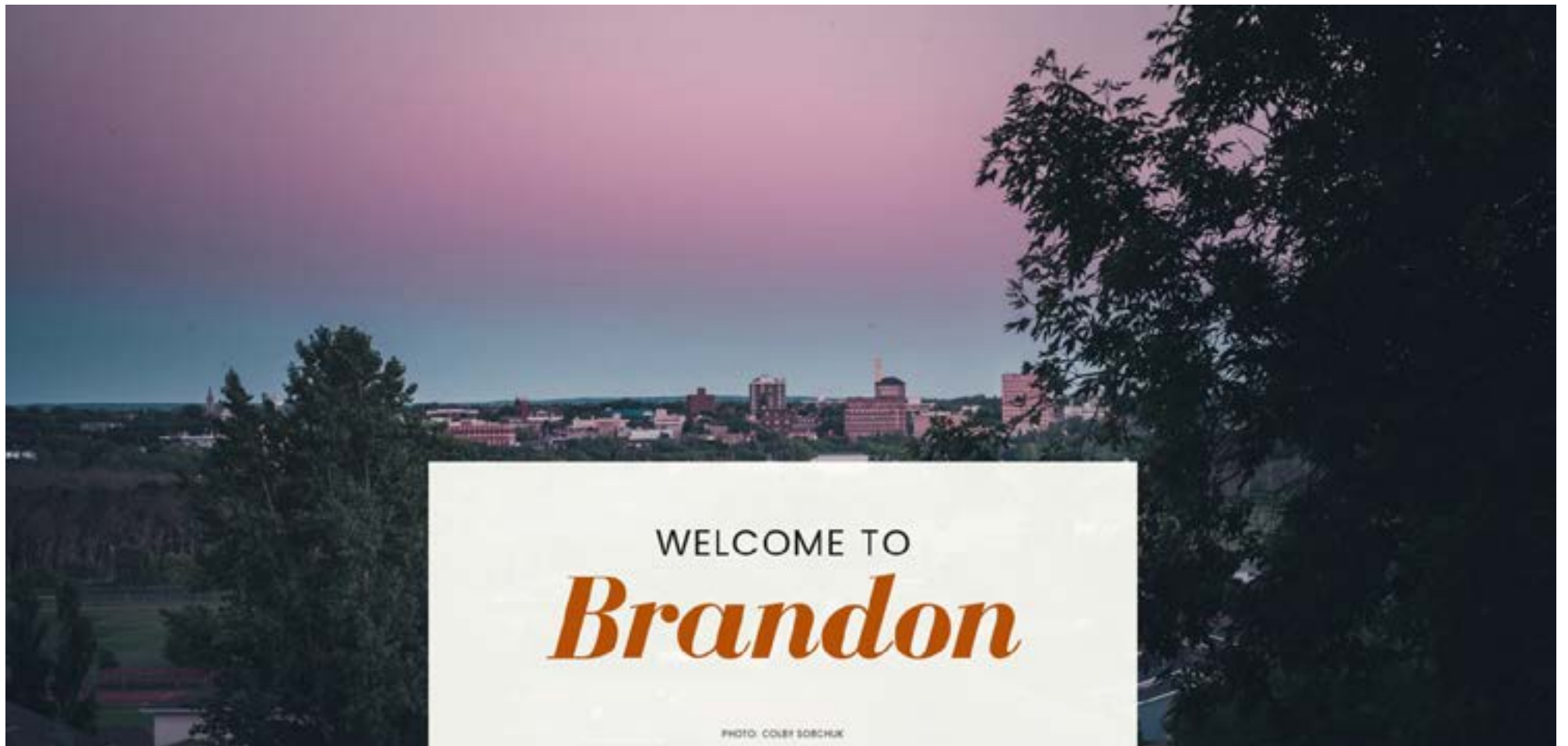
Jacobs can never be taken lightly. Jacobs' cousins Ryan and E.J. Harnden make up the front end with Winnipeg native Ryan Fry, son of 1979 Brier championship skip Barry Fry, throwing third rocks.

Not to be forgotten, Laycock, the Yorkton native whose Saskatchewan rink went 6-5 at the Brier in Regina last year, has morphed into this year's version of John Morris joining the Okanagan Valley team skipped by Jim Cotter. Between the two of them they have 13 Brier appearances. They, along with Cotter's familiar second Tyrell Griffith and lead Rick Sawatzky, cruised through the British Columbia championship.

So although Gushue's squad has cruised to two consecutive Brier championships, this fabulous field is eager, and extremely able, to deny them the dream of a Brier natural hat trick.



Steve Laycock is back at the Brier.



# POOL B



## 1. Team Koe

Calgary  
(Alberta)

Skip — Kevin Koe  
Third — B.J. Neufeld  
Second — Colton Flasch  
Lead — Ben Hebert  
Alternate — Ted Appelman  
Coach — John Dunn



## 4. Team Canada

St. John's  
(Newfoundland/Labrador)

Skip — Brad Gushue  
Third — Mark Nichols  
Second — Brett Gallant  
Lead — Geoff Walker  
Alternate: — Tom Sallows  
Coach — Jules Owchar



## 5. Team McDonald

Kingston  
(Ontario)

Skip — Scott McDonald  
Third — Jonathan Beuk  
Second — Wesley Forget  
Lead — Scott Chadwick  
Alternate — Jeff Grant  
Coach — Sean Turriff

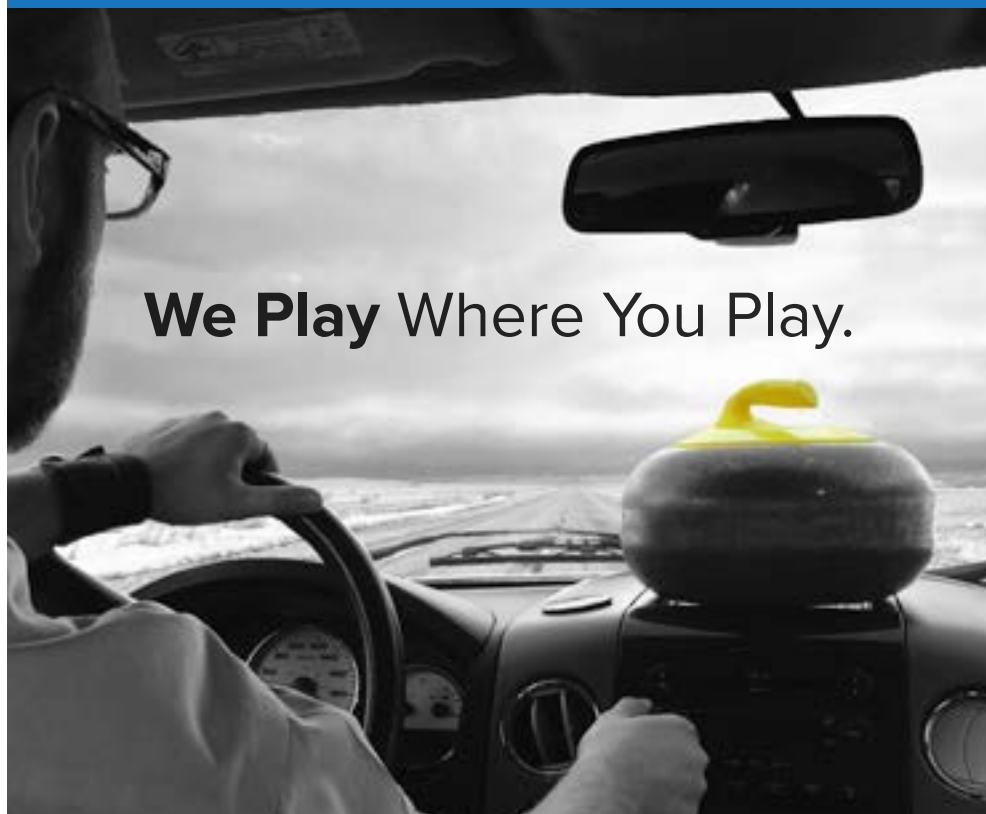


## 8. Team Thompson

Dartmouth  
(Nova Scotia)

Skip — Stuart Thompson  
Third — Colten Steele  
Second — Travis Colter  
Lead — Taylor Ardiel  
Alternate — Bill MacPhee  
Coach — Kevin Patterson

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For the love of curling

# POOL B



## 9. Team Cotter

Vernon  
(British Columbia)

Skip — Jim Cotter

Third — Steve Laycock

Second — Tyrel Griffith

Lead — Rick Sawatsky

Alternate — Brad Wood



## 12. Team Koe

Yellowknife  
(Northwest Territories)

Skip — Jamie Koe

Third — David Aho

Second — Matt Ng

Lead — Cole Parsons

Alternate — Shadrach Mcleod



## 13. Team Odishaw

Moncton  
(New Brunswick)

Skip — Terry Odishaw

Third — Jordan Pinder

Second — Marc Lecocq

Lead — Grant Odishaw

Alternate — Jamie Brannen



## 16. Team St. Louis

Iqaluit  
(Nunavut)

Skip — Dave St. Louis

Third — Peter Mackey

Second — Jeff Nadeau

Lead — Lloyd Kendall

Coach — Barry Westman

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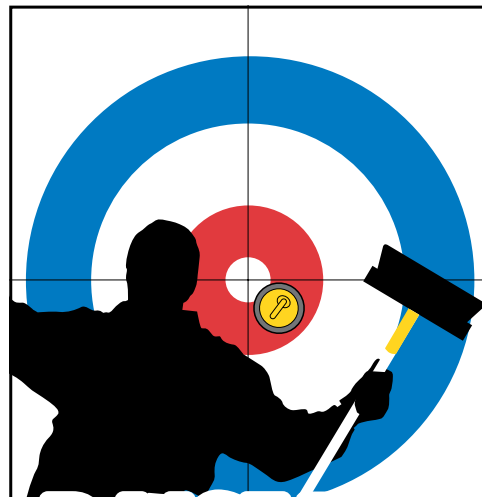
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Share your enthusiasm for incredible finesse and strategy on ice as the best players compete at the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier!



## Brier Memories

Don Duguid  
Manitoba

We won the Brier twice, in 1970 and '71, but my most favourite memory would have to be winning the Brier in our hometown of Winnipeg in 1970. They sold out the arena I don't know how many times. The crowds were unbelievable. Even when we had the bye they filled the place. It was a great thing. That was very exciting. Also a bit nerve-wracking. If you win four games and lose seven, there's no excuses. We had a really good team but that was a tough Brier. There was Hec Gervais from Alberta, Bob Pickering from Saskatchewan was there, so we had our work cut out. We played Pickering in the last draw to clinch the Brier title, which was very tough because the ice was very keen and very fast, and if you remember Pickering, he had that high backswing that pulled him out of the hack, so on keen ice he was damn near unbeatable. But we hung in there and beat him. We went on to win two world championships and never lost a game. That still stands as a record today. Nobody has



**DON DUGUID**

gone through undefeated two years in a row.

# Kids Dream BIG

Come and cheer on our future champions at the CurlManitoba provincial championship of Curling Canada's Hit Draw Tap program **SUNDAY MARCH 10** Between the semi-final and final game of the Tim Hortons Brier at Westoba Place.



Presented by *Tim Hortons*

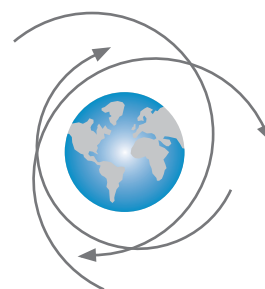


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# CHEMTRADE



Defending champion Brad Gushue of St. John's, NL got in a little practice Friday at Westoba Place before the start of the Tim Hortons Brier today. Gushue opens against Team Ontario's Scott McDonald.



# Tankard Times

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**Under-18 championship  
 headed for Sherwood Park**

Fans in Alberta will get a glimpse at Canada's curling future at the 2019 Canadian Under-18 Boys and Girls Curling Championships.

The third annual Canadian Under-18 Championships will be played April 2-7 at the Glen Allan Recreation Complex in Sherwood Park, Alta.

The event, which will feature representatives of all 14 of Curling Canada's Member Associations in both genders (aged 17 and under as of June 30, 2018), will see athletes competing on arena ice as well as at the Sherwood Park Curling Club, which is part of the same complex.

"This is an exciting time for Canadian curling as we start our road to the 2022 Olympics in Beijing, but the athletes in Sherwood Park will be the ones we'll be looking at in 2026 and beyond, and to see them all under one roof is a tremendous opportunity," said Resby Coutts, Chair of Curling Canada's Board of Governors. "This truly is the competition where future champions learn HOW to become champions, and I know

Sherwood Park will do a wonderful job in giving these athletes a showcase for their talents."

The teams will be seeded into two seven-team pools, and will play eight-end round-robin games. The top three teams will advance to the playoffs, with the pool winners advancing directly to the semifinals, and the second- and third-place teams meeting in crossover quarter-finals.

Assuming they meet the age requirements, athletes can enter the U-18 nationals as well as the 2019 New Holland Canadian Junior Men's and Women's Curling Championships, which are set for Jan. 19-27 in Prince Albert, Sask.

"Alberta takes pride in hosting national curling championships, and we're particularly excited to welcome the Canadian Under-18 Championships to our province for the first time," said Jill Richard, Executive-Director of Curling Alberta. "I know there's a dedicated group of volunteers in Sherwood Park who will take this event to new heights, both on and off the ice."

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

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