CURLING in BC has been given a major boost thanks to an agreement signed by Sportsnet and Curl BC.

The 10-year agreement gives Sportsnet the rights to air all Curl BC curling championships, including the Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men’s Curling Championship, the Scotties BC Women’s Curling Championship, presented by Best Western, and the Tim Hortons BC Junior Curling Championships.

The deal is huge for curling in BC.

Curl BC CEO Scott Braley said: “This is fantastic news for BC curlers and all fans of curling. The 10-year agreement gives us the opportunity to promote the roaring game on network television and to put our provincial curlers on the national stage. It’s a great opportunity.”

“Sportsnet is a premier broadcasting organization and we know the coverage will be superb.”

Navaid Mansuri, Vice-President of Finance and Sports Programming at Sportsnet said: “As curling’s popularity continues to grow at an impressive rate, Sportsnet is committed to providing curling fans with increased access to high-calibre events such as the Provincial Curling Championships. By building on the growing popularity of the sport, these agreements allow us to expand our curling coverage while elevating the profile of these events, as well as the sport of curling across Canada.”

The deal begins in the 2013-14 season.

Sportsnet has also signed a 10-year agreement with the Alberta Curling Federation, Manitoba Curling Association, and Ontario Curling Association.

They will be delivering the men’s and women’s championship events on television, online and for mobile platforms.

As part of an existing agreement with Curl BC, Shaw TV will broadcast the 2012-13 championships, including the 2013 Scotties BC Women’s Curling Championship in Cloverdale, Surrey, from January 14 to 20, 2013, and the 2013 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men’s Curling Championship in Parksville from February 5 to 10, 2013.

Shaw will also be televising the Tim Hortons BC Junior Curling Championships for the first time in 2013.

The event takes place from January 1 to 6, 2013, at the Coquitlam Curling Centre.
Discounted event tickets ‘make great stocking stuffers for curling fans’

THE host committee of the 2013 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men’s Curling Championship are offering discounted tickets to fans who buy early.

Penny Shantz, Chair of the host committee from Parksville Curling Club, said full event passes are available for $30 until January 8.

“It would make a great stocking stuffer for curling fans,” added Penny.

The championship event, run by Curl BC, takes place from February 5 to 10, 2013, in Parksville.

B.C.’s Jim Cotter, who was recently in the national spotlight after making it through to the finals of the Rogers Masters Grand Slam of Curling event in Brantford, Ontario, will be back to defend his title in Parksville.

Young people learn to curl at the Optimists’ Getting Started in Curling Camp in Invermere.

After January 8, full event passes will cost $40.

To purchase tickets, call Parksville Curling Club at 250-248-3764.

For more information on the event, visit the 2013 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men’s Curling Championship website at http://cdimens2013.curlbc.ca.

BC Scotties return to Cloverdale

2013 marks the return of the BC Scotties to Cloverdale.

The Cloverdale Curling Club in Surrey were hosts of the Scotties BC Women’s Curling Championship, presented by Best Western, back in January 2011 and they are preparing for another busy event.

The championship starts on January 14 and culminates on January 20, with the semi-finals (January 19) and finals (January 20) televised on Shaw TV.

Cloverdale Manager Judy MacKinnon said everyone at the club really enjoyed hosting the event in 2011.

She said: “In January 2013 we are looking forward to welcoming the return of the curlers, fans and sponsors as well as showcasing the City of Surrey and the community of Cloverdale.”

She added: “We have a great facility and we have excellent ice. I think hosting the event in 2011 put the Cloverdale Curling Club on the curling fan and curler map, so we’re happy to have the Scotties return.”

Go to http://bcscotties2013.curlbc.ca to visit this year’s championship site, including information on who is playing and how to get tickets.
November 2012

Scottish curlers to brave gruelling schedule during tour

People encouraged to watch the friendly games between visitors and local curlers

They are a nation known for their bravery, so it’s not surprising that the 20 Scottish curlers coming to BC in January have a very ambitious schedule ahead of them.

From January 10 to 16 the curlers from the Strathcona Cup West Tour will be travelling to no fewer than 11 curling clubs.

And not content with seeing just one part of the province, the players also have several ferry crossings to brave.

The tour takes them to the Greater Vancouver area, Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. And it doesn’t end there – they will also be travelling east through Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba after their stay in BC.

Bruce Beveridge, who is helping to organize the BC part of the tour, said: “We’re hoping to give the Strathcona Cup curlers a warm welcome. That’s why we’re encouraging as many people as possible to come out to their nearest club and support the event. Not all the players will be curling at the same time, so you will have the opportunity to talk to the visiting teams.”

The Strathcona Cup, established in 1903, pits curlers from Scotland against curlers from Canada in a series of friendly games.

While play is scheduled every five years, alternately in Canada and Scotland, the tours have occurred somewhat irregularly, at the beginning of the 20th century because of world wars, and more recently because of scheduling difficulties.

2013 is primed to be a great year, with three separate Scottish tours coming to Canada.

At the same time as the Strathcona West Tour, a Strathcona Central and East tour will take place in Ontario and the Maritimes. Each win will be tallied up and the country – Scotland or Canada – with the most points will win the coveted cup.

Although Canada won the last Strathcona Cup event, the cup itself has stayed in Scotland.

The delicately engraved cup, created by silversmiths in Glasgow at the turn of the last century, is thought to be too valuable to be shipped back and forth between the two nations.

The dates and time of the curling games taking place during the tour are now available. People are encouraged to come out to watch at the following locations and times:

- North Shore Winter Club, January 10, 2:45 p.m.
- Royal City Curling Club, January 11, 9:30 a.m.
- Vancouver Curling Club, January 11, 2:30 p.m.
- Richmond Curling Club, January 12, 10 a.m.
- Tunnel Town Curling Club, January 12, 2:30 p.m.
- Hollyburn Country Club, January 12, 2:30 p.m.
- Esquimalt Curling Club, January 15, 2 p.m.
- Victoria Curling Centre, January 16, 9 a.m.
- Glen Meadows Golf and Country Club, January 16, 1 p.m.

BC’s Buchy ends run at Mixed Nationals with five wins

Tom Buchy’s rink rallied hard and nearly beat higher-ranking Nova Scotia in their sixth day of action at the Canadian Mixed Curling Championship last week.

However, it was not to be for the team from Kimberley.

The team, made up of Tom and Lori Buchy and Dave and Robyn Toffolo, lost 9-10 to Nova Scotia’s Brent MacDougall, which put them out of playoff contention.

MacDougall went on to play in the final, but lost out to champion Cory Heggestad from Ontario 10-3.

Despite a solid record of 5 wins and 6 losses, BC ended up in ninth place at the championship event.

But the team put in good performances. The game against Nova Scotia was a close affair. Down a single point playing the 7th end, Buchy made a terrific raise take-out to score four points seemingly driving a stake in Nova Scotia’s chances for that bye to the final.

Down 9-6, MacDougall was forced to one in the 8th, stole one in the 9th when Buchy just missed a raise take-out for multiple points, and then stole one in the 10th when Buchy again just missed a hit and roll to win.

In the extra end, with time running out for both teams, Buchy elected to play a double tap back on his own stones to the four foot but was a foot too heavy allowing Nova Scotia to steal three consecutive ends and the 10-9 win.
Brier returns to Kamloops

Prestigious men’s curling championship heads to Interior Savings Centre

THE Brier is back in BC!

Kamloops is in the curling spotlight after it was announced that the city would be hosting the 2014 Tim Hortons Brier.

The Canadian Curling Association made the announcement about the 85th edition of the Canadian men’s curling championship at a press conference on October 30.

The event will be played March 1 to 9, 2014, at the Interior Savings Centre.

It will mark the second time that Kamloops has hosted the Brier, after staging the 1996 event won by Manitoba’s Jeff Stoughton, who stole the victory against Alberta’s Kevin Martin in an extra end in one of the most exciting finals in history.

It will also mark just the seventh time that British Columbia has hosted the Brier since the championship began in 1927 in Toronto.

“We are delighted to be announcing today that the premier men’s curling event in the world, the Tim Hortons Brier, has been awarded to Kamloops,” said the CCA’s Chief Executive Officer, Greg Stremlaw.

“The year 2014 is stacking up to be an incredible Olympic year with some very unique championship locations and events being hosted by the CCA.

“We were delighted to be announcing today that the premier men’s curling event in the world, the Tim Hortons Brier, has been awarded to Kamloops,” said the CCA’s Chief Executive Officer, Greg Stremlaw.

“The year 2014 is stacking up to be an incredible Olympic year with some very unique championship locations and events being hosted by the CCA.

“We were very pleased to see such support from the City of Kamloops during the bidding process as they put together an impressive bid to ensure that the Tim Hortons Brier would come to their beautiful city.”

Curl BC CEO Scott Braley, who spoke at the press conference, said it was a great day for curling in BC. He added: “It’s nice to know the winning team from the 2014 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men’s Curling Championship, hosted by Vancouver Curling Club, will go on to represent BC at a national event held in BC.”

Tickets for the 2014 Tim Hortons Brier are expected to go on sale in February of 2013. The winning team will then represent Canada at the World Men’s Curling Championship, at a site and date to be announced by the World Curling Federation.

There are also some new aspects to the 2014 Tim Hortons Brier. First of all, the winning team will become Team Canada and receive an automatic entry into the 2015 Brier. Secondly, an as-yet-to-be-determined number of provinces/territories, based on the results of the 2014 event, will play a relegation round immediately prior to the 2015 Brier, in order to determine which ones qualify for the 12-team draw.

In addition to the 1996 Brier, Kamloops also staged the Canada Cup competition from its inception in 2003 through 2008 and the 1998 Ford World Curling Championships, when won by Canada’s Wayne Mid- daugh and Sweden’s Elisabet Gustafson.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome back the best curlers in the world to the 2014 Tim Hortons Brier,” said Host Committee Chair Norm Daley, who held a similar post for the 1998 Worlds and Canada Cups.

“Kamloops has had a rich tradition with curling events and we know that this one will be no exception. Our community has great memories of the Canada Cups, the Ford Worlds and 1996 Brier. We look forward to the opportunity to again showcase our City as we host this prestigious championship.”

The Brier will be televised in Canada by TSN and RDS, from the round robin, through the page playoffs, semi-final, bronze medal and gold medal games.

Richmond gets $40,300 for ice condenser

THE Richmond Curling Club has received an investment of $40,300 from the federal government.

The cash boost comes from the federal government’s Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF) and will go towards replacing the ice condenser at the club.

Doug Bradley, manager of the Richmond Curling Club, said everyone at Richmond Winter Club, from the staff who work at the curling club to the board of directors and the people who use the ice were all pleased with the investment.

The Richmond centre is mandated to provide safe and quality curling opportunities for men and women of all ages and abilities.

Doug said: “We are the sole provider of curling in Richmond and are proud to be a strong community partner.”

“The new condenser, which is a key component to our ice making equipment, will ensure our facility will continue to fulfill our mandate to the community well into the future.”

Alice Wong, Minister of State for Seniors and Member of Parliament for Richmond, said: “Our Government is committed to creating jobs, growth and long-term prosperity in our communities.”

“By improving facilities such as this, we are helping to boost economic activity and maintain a high quality of life for Canadians.”

CIIF supports, on a cost-shared basis, repairs and improvements to existing community infrastructure accessible to the public. Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) is delivering the Fund in Western Canada with an allocation of $46.2 million over two years.
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Ticket Prices:
$2.00 / draw
$10.00 / week package

For more information: www.coquitlamcurling.com
IT’S not every day that “Vegas” and “curling” get mentioned in the same sentence. But the two will go hand-in-hand when the World Financial Group Continental Cup travels to the Nevada city in 2014.

The Las Vegas announcement was made by the Canadian Curling Association, the US Curling Association and the World Curling Federation earlier this week.

First, though, BC curling fans will be able to sample the delights of the competition closer to home.

Penticton’s South Okanagan Events Centre will host the event from January 10 to 13, 2013. The Ryder-Cup-style competition pits the top curling teams from Canada and the US against the Rest of the World.

The format of the event is a real mix. A variety of curling disciplines are showcased over a four-day period – Team Games, Mixed Doubles, Singles, Skins and Mixed Skins, with each segment worth a specified number of points. Each side will also have a captain and a coach.

And there is still the chance to snap up tickets for the Penticton event. Visit http://www.curling.ca/championships/continentalcup/ticket-information for details.

When the cup heads to Vegas in 2014 it will be the first time the event has been hosted outside of Canada. It will also be the first time that Las Vegas has hosted a curling event of this magnitude.

That event will run from January 16 to 19, 2014, at the 5,000-seat Orleans Arena.
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US Women’s Curling Association members have a blast on BC tour

SIXTEEN senior women curlers from across the US visited BC in November as part of the 2012 US Women’s Curling Association Friendship Tour.

The tour kicked off November 1 at Victoria Curling Centre and wound down with a final game at Marpole Curling Club on November 8.

The ladies also visited Lake Cowichan, Nanaimo, Royal City, Richmond and Cloverdale Curling clubs.


See next month’s Curling Connection for a full report and pictures.

Goldline is proud to partner with Curl BC.

For the 2012-13 season, Goldline has donated 15 brushes to new curlers and three brushes to competitive junior curlers.

Young curlers who are trying curling for the first time will have the opportunity to enter into a draw to win a Goldline Fiberlite brush. Brushes will also be given out to three deserving curlers from a Curl BC High Performance Camp.


Diane Gushulak is the Goldline representative in BC.

Visit www.goldlinecurling.com to see the 2012-13 line, which includes shoes, bags, brushes, sticks, gloves, jackets, pants and more.

Contact Diane at diane@goldline.ca or call 1-604-313-1189.

Share the joy of curling with children

WHETHER you are a parent, grandparent, curling centre volunteer or simply an avid curler, you can help spread the word among local school children that curling is a fantastic sport.

The Capital One Rocks & Rings program has an initiative called “Adopt a School”. The initiative allows people to sponsor a local school in order to bring Rocks & Rings floor curling fun to their students.

Adopting a school is a great way to market your club’s programs and to get more kids interested in the sport. It is a neat gift idea for your kid’s teacher or principal, or just a nice way to give something back to your community. There are a lot of reasons why you should sponsor and now is a great time to get started.

Once confirmed you are ready to sponsor, Curl BC will contact the school to let them know you have sponsored them. You can also tell the school yourself, if you like. From there, Curl BC will arrange a booking date and get started in the set up process.

Visit http://rocksandrings.com/adopt-a-school to take part.
**Grand Slam curlers to play in hometown arena**

TWO BC teams are looking forward to playing in front of a hometown crowd when the Grand Slam of Curling series hits Kelowna’s Prospera Place next month.

Current BC champion Jim Cotter and challenger Brent Pierce will both be competing at the event from December 12 to 16, 2012.

The event will feature some of the top men’s curling teams in the world, including Olympic gold medalist Kevin Martin and world champions Glenn Howard and Jeff Stoughton.

With team members from Kelowna and Vernon, Cotter’s rink is likely to be a crowd favourite.

But Cotter isn’t the only team with Okanagan connections. Brent Pierce’s third, Jeff Richard, hails from Kelowna, so the Pierce rink will be competing against the BC champion for home-crowd support.

Cotter, who made it through to the final of Grand Slam of Curling event in Brantford, Ontario, earlier this month, said he is looking forward to playing closer to home.

“We normally have to fly across the country and we have family and friends who support us who don’t always get to see us. It’s great that we can play and they can come watch us on home soil,” Cotter said.

Cotter, who is married with three children, will see his immediate family in the crowd. “My oldest curls and the little ones love it and they love coming down. They’ll have a blast.”

Richard, who plays third for New Westminster-based Pierce, is also looking forward to the event. He said the whole team was “extremely excited” to be competing.

“It’s a unique feeling to be playing at home. It’s the first curling event ever in Kelowna’s big arena, so we are excited to compete with the top teams in the world.”

“It’s been a highly successful season so far and this Grand Slam event will be a great tune-up before provincials in February.”

The Canadian Open of Curling event in Kelowna features 18 of the top men’s teams in the world squaring off for $100,000 in prize money. If Alberta’s Kevin Koe continues the winning streak he started at the Rogers Masters of Curling event in Brantford, Ontario, he could be in line for a $1 million bonus.

Anyone wanting to catch world-class curling in Kelowna should visit http://selectyourtickets.com/grandslam.php. The event will also be aired on Sportsnet.

Cotter and Pierce are the highest-ranking teams from British Columbia. As the defending BC champion, Cotter has already won a spot at the Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men’s Curling Championship, being held in Parksville, on Vancouver Island, from February 5 to 10, 2013. Pierce will also likely receive a direct entry as the top BC team after Cotter based on Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) points.

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**Still time to bid to host 2014 Curl BC Championships**

CURLING centres still have the opportunity to bid to host a number of 2014 championships.

The 2014 BC Mixed Doubles Championship, the 2014 Tim Hortons BC Junior Championships, the 2014 BC Wheelchair Championship, the 2014 Tim Hortons BC Seniors Curling Championships and the 2014 Williams Moving and Storage BC Mixed Curling Championship are all up for grabs.

Visit http://curlbc.ca/competitions/provincial-hosting-information/ to fill out an application form.
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293 - 3820 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC V7B 0A2, Phone: 604-333-3616, Fax: 604-333-3615

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