

THE CURLING CONNECTION

What can Merit Travel do for you?

Did you know that Merit Travel is the Official Travel Agency for Curl BC and its membership? Merit is also proud to be the Presenting Sponsor of the William's Moving and Storage BC Mixed Curling Championships, as part of our relationship with Curl BC. What can Merit Travel do for you?

Merit's philosophy is centered on experience, and when you book your travel through Merit, you can be assured of receiving not only the vacation of a lifetime but an experience in outstanding service. Merit offers leisure and corporate travel services, as well as a specialty vacation division offering customized golf, ski, scuba diving, small-ship cruises and adventure travel.

Merit has 3 offices in BC in the Victoria region – Saanich (Shelbourne Plaza), Sidney (Landmark Building) and Colwood (Colwood Plaza) – and any office can be reached toll-free at 1-800-409-1711. Our website is www.merit.ca.

When you call, mention you are a Curl BC member – on every booking we make on behalf of the Curl BC membership, we make a donation to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation.

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Canadian and World Curlers coming to BC

BC is the place to be in 2009 for top-notch curling action! Canada's best juniors kick off the action in Salmon Arm from January 31-February 8 at the [2009 M&M Meat Shops Junior Championships](#). This tournament features BC's newly crowned champions – the Shimizu rink from the Richmond Curling Club and Team Kedziora from Golden Ears Winter Club.

The [Scotties Tournament of Hearts](#) in Victoria from February 21-March 1 will feature Canada's best as well as BC's newly crowned champion.

With just over a year to go until the Olympic and Paralympic Games, now is the time to check out the Olympic venue in Vancouver as both the [World Wheelchair Championships](#) (February 20-28) and [World Junior Championships](#) (March 5-15) are set to take place. Canada will be represented in the World Wheelchair Championships by BC's own Jim Armstrong, Ina Forrest, Darryl Neighbour and Sonja Gaudet who were selected to Team Canada in December.

First Ever BC Wheelchair Championship

Curl BC hosted the first ever BC Wheelchair Curling Championships in Vernon January, 16-18, 2009. The 4 teams taking part in the inaugural event were:

Team Armstrong (Prince George): BC CHAMPIONS!

Skip: Jim Armstrong, Third: Frank LaBounty, Second: Whitney Warren, Lead: Jacqueline Roy

Team Austgarden (Westbank)

Skip: Gerry Austgarden, Third: Cyril Kinakin, Second: Ron Vaselenak, Lead: Sonja Gaudet

Team Lindstrom (Island)

Skip: Bill Lindstrom, Third: Gary Cormack, Second: Roy Crawford, Lead: Corrinne Jensen

Team Neighbour (Richmond)

Skip: Darryl Neighbour, Third: Bob MacDonald, Second: Ina Forrest, Lead: Samantha Siu

2009 Junior BC Champions & Award Winners

Congratulations to the two teams that qualified for the 2009 M&M Canadian Junior Championships!

On the Junior Men's side, Team Kedziora from the Golden Ears Winter Club beat Team Kopf from the Royal City Curling Club 9-4 in the finals. Team Kedziora is skipped by Bryan Kedziora, with third Derek Errington, second Cal Jackson, lead Tyler MacKenzie and coach Bill Tschirhart.

On the Junior Women's side, Team Shimizu from Richmond Curling Club played against Team Sivertson from the Victoria Curling Club, winning the final 10-4. Skipping was Kelly Shimizu, playing third was Kayte Gyles, second Janelle Sakamoto, lead Julianna Tsang and coach Victor Shimizu.

Individual award winners were:

Men's Sportsmanship Award: Joey Ferguson

Women's Sportsmanship Award: Julianna Tsang

Junior Provincial Championship Coaches Award: Victor Shimizu, Team Shimizu (Women) & Bill Tschirhart, Team Kedziora (Men)

Upcoming Courses

Level 2 Coaching
Vancouver Curling Club
April 3-5, 2009

Club Coach
Vancouver Curling Club
April 4-5, 2009

Level 3 Coaching
North Shore Winter Club
April 2009 TBA

Coaching Symposium
In conjunction with the World Junior Championships

REMINDER!

In order to be considered fully Level 1 certified you must have completed your Level 1 Technical (also known as Club Coach), your Level 1 Practical and your Level 1 Theory Course. If you are not sure of your certification, please go to www.coach.ca to check your certification.



GM Canada and the CAC Support the Development of Good Coaches

Making Dreams Possible is a program developed by GM in cooperation with the Coaching Association of Canada, the governing body of Canada's coaching education program and is designed to support coaches of Olympic and Paralympic Sports at the high performance and community levels.

Community Coaching Grants

GM's Making Dreams Possible program will provide a minimum of 100 grants of \$2,000 each annually for coach development in local communities. Applications can be submitted by head coaches, technical directors or the presidents of local sports clubs.

These grants will be used to fund special projects that develop the skills and abilities of community level coaches.

High Performance Grants

GM also provides 10 grants of \$10,000 each annually to high performance athletes and their coaches. Applications must be submitted by the high performance athletes and their coaches for these elite grants.

For more information please go to www.coach.ca/makingdreamspossible

The next wave of local sport club and high performance applications closes at 11:59 pm on Sunday February 15th, 2009, with grants to be awarded in April.

The Aboriginal Youth Sport Legacy Fund

The Aboriginal Youth Sport Legacy Fund provides opportunities for the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations to design and launch a sustainable asset-building strategy. It also provides an excellent opportunity to support an innovative program aimed at assisting Aboriginal youth in British Columbia to prosper in the future of winter sport.

The Aboriginal Youth Sport Legacy Fund is accepting program proposals to a maximum of \$15,000 to qualifying Provincial Sport Organizations to support youth sport participation programming for the Aboriginal community.

The organization must show a strong partnership or a developing relationship with the Aboriginal community. The organization must also demonstrate the ability to expand provincially with their project. The program can start any time between January 2009 and June 2009.

Application deadline is February 9, 2009.

For more information, please email:

AYSLF@2010LegaciesNow.com

Optimist Curl BC Youth Curling Fundraiser Tickets

Thank-you to all member clubs who have been taking 20 Optimist Curl BC Date Planner Ticket Raffle booklets to sell at your clubs. Your reception has been very much appreciated and 43 of 93 affiliated clubs have taken books already. Al Kersey will be contacting the remaining clubs over the next few weeks.

Great cause: To raise \$18,000 for youth curling development in the 93 curling communities across BC. The cluster camps we've done so far have gone over really well in Chilliwack, Vernon and Barriere. Grand Forks cluster camp (inviting Boundary, Castlegar, Trail and Beaver Valley) is January 24th with BC Winter Games gold Team Ludwar as the instructors. All camps have 15-17 year old instructors running fun games, relays and activities for 9-12 year old beginner Curlers. Good snacks and hot lunch.

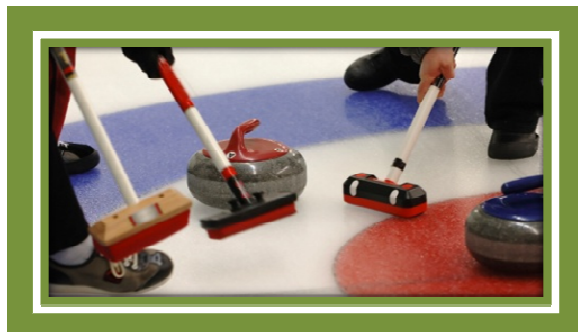
Great odds: Only 2,000 tickets to be sold. Great prizes include ten \$500 prizes plus five \$1,000 prizes plus one \$5,000 prize.

Great little 32-page pocket size date planner is your receipt. Please email lhowe@curlbc.ca to order your 20 Date Planners each with a tear off

raffle ticket.

The booklets have been selling quickly and while \$20 per ticket may seem steep, teams just bought tickets putting in \$5 per player. That's 4 or 5 books at each draw for 4 or 5 draws and there's your 20 tickets sold.

The best times for sales have been evenings at the curling rink 8:30 to 9:30 with announcements in the downstairs lobby at 10 minutes before the draw and upstairs lounge at 10 minutes after the draw. A table set up at 8:30 will attract the curlers coming in and then 2 books on each table in the lounge will help the curlers read along while you're making your announcement. Good luck!



Wicks & Rolls

Membership Reporting

A reminder that membership reporting for all clubs is due into the Curl BC office by February 15, 2009.

Men's Championships

The fields are almost set for the Coastal and Interior Championships in the lead-up to the 2009 Canadian Direct Insurance Men's BC Curling Championships.

Even with adverse weather and road conditions our curlers and volunteers made it happen – thank-you to everyone who pitched in to make it all work.

Good-luck to everyone on January 22-25 in Sparwood and New Westminster.

Wheelchair Demo

The BC Scotties Women's Provincial Championships will feature a demonstration by Wheelchair curlers.

2003 Scotties Tournament of Hearts BC Women's Curling Championship

The Parksville Curling Club hosts the 2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts BC Women's Curling Championship from January 20-25. The winner will advance to the Canadian version of the Scotties in Victoria.

Reminder Regarding Liquor Licensing in Curling Clubs

All BC curling clubs which allow minors into their licensed lounges must apply for a license from the BC government. Otherwise, the club's liquor license may be in jeopardy. Details are available on the application on the Curl BC website.

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