



# Stick with Us!

## Nova Scotia Stick Curling News/Happenings

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Produced by:  
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### **Nova Scotia Stick Curling Hall of Fame Inductees**



Up until now, our stick curling community has celebrated seven Hall of Fame inductees, all of whom have been men—trailblazers who have shaped our sport as builders, individual competitors, or as part of teams. This year marks an exciting milestone with the first-ever women's team (Diane Mallinson/Pauline Bullerwell) being recognized in the team category.

These women were true pioneers in our province, stepping onto the ice in 2012 to compete against the men, as there was no women's division at the time. When the first women's individual event was introduced in 2015, they not only competed but also claimed the title. Over the years, they have continued to set the bar high, earning an incredible 14 medals—6 gold and 8 silver.

Their dedication, skill, and perseverance have paved the way for future generations of women in stick curling. Their induction into the Hall of Fame is a well-earned recognition of their impact on the sport, and we couldn't be more proud. Check out our website to see the Bio's of all our inductees. ([novascotiastickcurling.ca](http://novascotiastickcurling.ca))

### **Expanding Our Community: Sydney Curling Club Comes on Board**



Sydney, Nova Scotia, has received federal funding to build a brand-new curling club, and it looks like stick curling will be at the heart of this exciting new venture.

We are thrilled to welcome Sydney into the Nova Scotia stick curling community and look forward to seeing them take part in future events. With their growing presence, we're hopeful that, in the near future, they may even have the opportunity to host one of our provincial championship events.

This is an exciting step forward for curling in Nova Scotia, and we can't wait to see how Sydney's new club takes shape! Welcome aboard everyone!



## Changes in the National Stick Curling Championship Format

The new format for the 2026 National Championship was announced at the National Championship on April 2, 2025 and will be tabled for approval on June 4, 2025.

Nova Scotia will have the first opportunity to showcase this new style of play at the National Championship. The event will be held **March 25 - 29, 2026**. Two clubs in our province will co-host the event, the Wolfville Curling Club, and the Windsor Curling Club. More details on registration will follow, but consider this your heads up!

Starting in 2026, the Championship will feature two distinct events: the National Championship and the National Challenge.

- **The National Championship** will consist of three divisions (Men's, Women's, Mixed) with teams required to win their way into their respective division. Only provincial winners will advance to the National Championship. Additionally, the National Champions from the past two years will have a reserved spot in the competitive field. Since 2026 marks the first year for a Mixed National Championship division, the two reserved spots for past mixed champions will take a couple of years to be filled.
- **The National Challenge** will also feature the same three divisions as the National Championship event. This event welcomes teams from across the country without the need for prior qualifications - anyone can apply to participate.

These changes aim to provide a more structured and inclusive competition, allowing both high-performance and recreational players to compete at a level that best suits their experience and goals.

Congratulations to all NS teams who competed in this year's Canadian Championship in Grande Prairie AB, April 2 - 6.. With four out of the five teams advancing to the playoff round, it was a tremendous showing for Team Nova Scotia and something to be proud of.

- Among those four playoff teams, one advanced all the way to the Championship Game - **Keith Bennett and Paul Landry**. This marks back - to - back silver medals for them at the Canadian Championship. That's no small feat. Medaling at a National event of this calibre is a tremendous accomplishment, and one they should be very proud of. We congratulate them on their hard work and success. The Nova Scotia stick curling community is proud of you.

## **Farewell and Welcome: Honouring Our Board Members**



When an organization runs smoothly, with few complaints, it's easy to overlook the effort happening behind the scenes. Here in Nova Scotia, we are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who give their time and energy to help our sport grow and thrive. It's no small ask — balancing personal passion for the game with a commitment to the

broader curling community requires generosity, dedication, and a true love for the sport.

To those leaving our board, we extend our deepest thanks for your service:

And as spring approaches, we warmly welcome our new board members:  
Bruce Lohnes and Gary Burton.

We are equally proud to introduce our current board members - who will be working on your behalf the next curling season.

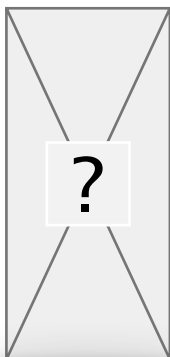
[Marilyn Neily](#) - President, [Patti Simpson](#) - Secretary, [Jim Russell](#) - Treasurer,

[Milt Larsen](#) - Chair of Education - Metro, [Judy Power](#) - Director at Large - Metro,  
[Joan MacKinnon](#) - Director at Large - Metro, [Anne Blandford](#), - Director at Large - Northern,  
[Bruce Lohnes](#) - Director at Large - Northern, [Gary Burton](#) - Director at Large - Eastern

This year promises exciting changes and challenges, and we know our new board will meet them with skill, dedication, and enthusiasm. Thank you for stepping up. Your hard work ensures that, for the rest of us, participation in this sport remains seamless and enjoyable.

**We appreciate all that you do!**

From one end of the province to the other our sport is experiencing an exciting surge of enthusiasm and growth. Not only are we seeing an increase in tournaments and competitive events but there's also a notable rise in fun recreational opportunities. A stand out development was the introduction of the Mixed Stick Curling - a fresh twist that offers friends and couples a new way to enjoy the game.



This one - hour format game we've adopted is perfectly suited for all age groups and varying time commitments. It's bringing people together in ways traditional curling, never could. As we look forward to an optimistic future, we invite each of you to spread the word, share the joy and encourage others to try this innovative approach to curling.

**Let's get out there and make "STICK" happen!**



If you have any issues or topics you'd like to see covered in the newsletter, feel free to reach out to [gplarocque@gmail.com](mailto:gplarocque@gmail.com)

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsor, whose steadfast support drives the success and growth of our sport.

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