

Direct route to Scotties challenges Team Canada skip's preparation

The Canadian Press

LANGLEY, B.C. Amber Holland can't go to the grocery store — or many other places — anymore without getting recognized.

"Literally, two or three people stop me as I'm grocery shopping," she said. "It almost seems like every place I go, someone knows you."

Such is the price of newly-found fame for the reigning Canadian women's curling champion. But after winning her first national crown in Charlottetown and following it up with a silver medal at the world championships in Denmark, she has had a much harder time finding suitable competition this year.

By gaining an automatic return ticket to the Scotties Tournament of Hearts through the Team Canada berth, Holland's Kronau, Sask., rink does not have to compete in provincial playdowns. As a result, she will play fewer events before heading to Red Deer, Alta., next month to defend her Canadian crown.

This week's Continental Cup of Curling, an international competition pit-

ting a North American squad against a world team comprising rinks from Europe and China, is helping to pick up some of the slack.

"It's great playing conditions out there and you feel like you can make any shot," said Holland, 37. "The pressure to go out and perform well? It's good. We're in a good space out there for what we need to do to prepare."

But Holland is still trying to get some of the kinks out of her game. She dropped a 6-4 decision Friday to Binyu Wang of China, the 2010 Olympic bronze medalist. The loss came after Holland battled back to tie the score three times after trailing 2-0, 3-2 and 4-3.

"We just had so many opportunities," said Holland. "We just missed. We played well, just missed some of those key shots. When they missed, we didn't make (shots) and that's the difference at this level of play."

Wang claimed the win as she broke a 4-4 tie by scoring two with the hammer in the eighth and final end. Continental Cup women's and men's matches are shortened to eight ends from the standard 10.

Cochrane wins gold in the 400-metre freestyle at U.S. Grand Prix

The Canadian Press

AUSTIN, Texas

Canadian Olympic and world championship medalist Ryan Cochrane won the gold medal in the men's 400-metre freestyle on Friday top open the U.S. Grand Prix swimming competition.

Canada added a second victory to close the first day of racing in the men's 4x100 freestyle relay.

Cochrane, from Victoria, won in three minutes 50.66 seconds. Michael Klueh of the U.S., was second in 3:51.23 and Charles Houchin of the U.S., third in 3:51.77.

"It's a great way to start the year 2012," said Cochrane, who'll also race the 200 freestyle here this weekend. "I was feeling a bit stressful now that we are actually into the Olympic year. Now I'm looking forward to posting sub 3:50 times which will give me more confidence as the year progresses."

Jeremy Bagshaw of Victoria was fifth in 3:53.70 and Nicholas Sinclair of Victoria seventh in 3:54.33.

In the men's 4x100 freestyle relay Canada won in 3:23.89 with Blake Worsley of Victoria, Joel Greenshields of Calgary, Luke Peddie of Edmonton and Stefan

Hirniak of Victoria. North Carolina's SwimMac relay teams followed in second and third in 3:24.81 and 3:26.09 respectively.

Team Ontario was fourth with Hassaan Abdel-Khalik of Toronto, Zach Chetrat of Oakville, Andrew Ford of Guelph and Tobias Oriwol of Toronto.

In the women's 400 freestyle, Barbara Jardin of Montreal came within 0.29 seconds of a medal placing fourth in 4:10.95. Brittany MacLean of Toronto was fifth in 4:11.28 and Alexa Komarnycky of Toronto in 4:12.01.

Other Canadian finalists for the women were: Victoria Poon of Montreal and Julia Wilkinson of Stratford, Ont., fifth and sixth in the 100 freestyle; Jillian Tyler of Calgary and Hanna Pierce of Edmonton, fifth and sixth in the 200 breaststroke; and MacKenzie Downing of Whitehorse eighth in the 100 butterfly.

Earlier, Janet Evans started her Olympic comeback at age 40.

In her first elite-level competition since coming out of retirement, the former United States gold medalist and world record holder qualified Friday for this summer's Olympic trials in the 400-metre freestyle at the Austin Grand Prix.



PUBLIC NOTICES

8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
SPECIAL SERVICES
Electric Outages 403.529.8260
Gas Emergency 403.529.8191
Water and Sewer Emergency 403.502.8042
** After Hours Special Services
403-526-2828

Stay informed go to www.medicinehat.ca

BOOK NOW ... TRAVEL TO MOOSE JAW TEMPLE GARDEN SPA AND RESORT — MARCH 7, 8, 9

Cost: \$165 Double Occupancy /\$250 Single Occupancy

The cost includes two nights accommodation; transportation; 3 lunches; free play at the Moose Jaw Casino and unlimited use of mineral spa resort, including indoor/outdoor roof-top pool. The Spa is connected to Moose Jaw Casino. You won't want to miss your chance to test your luck and skill at the Casino. Complete your stay with a stroll through downtown Moose Jaw including shops, galleries and tourist attractions like the Underground Tunnels.

For more details or to sign up, see Marilyn or call (403) 529-8384

DEFECTIVE STREETLIGHTS CITIZEN ALERT

If you reside in the City of Medicine Hat, Redcliff or Dunmore and you notice a streetlight that is not operating properly, please contact us at one of the following:

- www.medicinehat.ca
- Select e-Services
- Select Report a Streetlight Problem

or

- (403) 529-8262
- If after hours, please leave a message.

When creating an electronic report or calling, please have the following information:

- Streetlight number (Painted on street side of steel pole)
- Street address or nearest house number, office or store

Electric Utility

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL CULTURAL EVENTS/ PERFORMANCE, EXHIBITION AND COMPETITION ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATIONS (ARTS AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD)

The City of Medicine Hat Arts & Heritage Advisory Board is now accepting applications for Special Cultural Events, Performance, Exhibition, Competition Assistance Grants.

The City may grant support to a group proposing a program or project which fills a cultural need in the community. This event must demonstrate a major contribution to the community in terms of citizen involvement, tourism generation, economic benefit, positive recognition and celebrating the joy of living in Medicine Hat.

The City may grant support to groups, organizations or individuals who have achieved representative status or recognition at provincial, national or international competitions, exhibitions, performances or events related to arts and culture. This category also applies to those who are hosting such an event.

NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 2012

Applications are available at the Esplanade Security Desk, Cultural Centre, or on line at www.medicinehat.ca/city-government/departments/cultural-development/cultural-development-grants. For further information contact Susan at 403.502.8426 or Kathy at 403-502-8580.

VEINER CENTRE



Wellness Wednesday Workshop
January 18, 2012
At 225 Woodman Avenue SE
9:45 Registration & Refreshments
10:00 am to noon ~ Presentation

"Alberta Seniors Benefits"

Join us to learn about:

- ~ Alberta Seniors Programs and Services
- ~ Who may qualify ~ Where to apply ~

- ~ free admission, hand-outs, and door prize entry ~
- To save a seat, just call **403 529-8383** on or before January 17.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend or meet a new one. Stay for our **Park Side Eatery** \$5 lunch special!

An evening session will follow at 7 pm on January 25 at the Medicine Hat Public Library.

To save a seat, just call **403 529-8383** on or before January 17.

Another FREE Wellness Wednesday Workshop

January 25 ~ 9:45 am to noon

"DILLS" ~ The Drop In Lifelong Learning Series created especially for the

Medicine Hat area's 50-plus population.

"Responding to Challenging People"

Guest Speaker: Our friend from

Medicine Hat Family Service
Enjoy refreshments and the company of others.

Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend or meet a new one! To save a seat, just call **403 529-8383** or before January 24.

Your Community Wellness Education Council Hosts Learning Opportunities for Older Persons and Families

Check out Community Wellness on the "EVENTS" side bar menu on-line at: www.medicinehat.ca



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING DECEMBER 26, 2011 - JANUARY 31, 2012

Residents are advised that there is no residential Christmas tree collection.

Trees can be recycled by taking them to the landfill site or one of the drop-off depots listed below:

- Kipling Recycling Depot (across from Kin Coulee Park)
- Shamrock Recycling Depot (172 Altawana Drive NE)

All plastic bags, stands, tinsel and decorations **must** be removed from trees. The trees will be chopped and used in the composting program.

For more information on this and other recycling programs, please call the Recycling Infoline at 403-502-8045 or visit our website at www.medicinehat.ca

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED JANUARY 5 TO JANUARY 11, 2012, PLANNING, BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL	
189 Cypress Way SE	(Lot 6, Block 4, Plan 7510668) Permit No. DP9313. With Conditions. Existing Covered Deck.
94 Anson Ave SW	(Lot 33, Block 4, Plan 8010927) Permit No. DP9316. With Conditions. Existing Covered Deck.
COMMERCIAL	
241 Stratton Way SE	(Lot 1MR, Block 21, Plan 8611221) Permit No. DP9306. With Conditions. Modular Classroom.
865 Black Blvd. NW	(Lot-, Block R5, Plan 1481JK) Permit No. DP9307. With Conditions. Modular Class Room.
18 8 Street NW	(Lot 13 - 18 inclusive, Block 12, Plan 703HE) Permit No. DP9213. With Conditions. Car Wash and Liquor Store Additions and 3 Fascia Signs.
101 - 1276 Strachan Road SE	(Lot 29, Block 27, Plan 9411002) Permit No. DP9295. With Conditions. Addition to Car Wash.
HOME OCCUPATION	
853 B 3 Street SE	(Lot 7, Block 26, Plan 56507) Permit No. DP9410. Office Use Only. House Painting - 3 Year Renewal.
30 2 Street NE	(Lot 7.8, Block 9, Plan 3204M) Permit No. DP9412. Office Use Only. Painting & Decorating - 3 Year Renewal.
1298 Crockford Crescent NW	(Lot 27, Block 2, Plan 6641JK) Permit No. DP9413. Office Use Only. Bookkeeping - 3 Year Renewal.
B-305 4 Street SE	(Lot 1, Block 56, Plan 61685) Permit No. DP9414. Office Use Only. Web Development & Online Help Desk.
737 Taylor Road SE	(Lot 27, Block 51, Plan 911959) Permit No. DP9416. Office Use Only. General Contractor - 3 Year Renewal.
1687 31 Street SE	(Lot 13, Block 51, Plan 8910248) Permit No. DP9417. Office Use Only. Interior/Exterior Painting.
61 Rundle Ave SE	(Lot 37, Block 34, Plan 8610678) Permit No. DP9418. Office Use Only. Catering & Baking - 3 Year Renewal.
31 Stark Court SE	(Lot 16, Block 3, Plan 0010267) Permit No. DP9419. Office Use Only. Speech - Language Consulting Services.
301 Sprague Way SE	(Lot 25, Block 22, Plan 8210189) Permit No. DP9420. Office Use Only. Painting - 3 Year Renewal.
72 Saunders Crescent SE	(Lot 18, Block 11, Plan 8010981) Permit No. DP9421. Office Use Only. Mobile Welder - 3 Year Renewal.
31 Ross Haven Ave SE	(Lot 58, Block 16, Plan 7911087) Permit No. DP9422. Office Use Only. Handyman - 3 Year Renewal.
985 20 Street NE	(Lot 4, Block 5, Plan 7510086) Permit No. DP9423. Office Use Only. Massage Therapy - 3 Year Renewal.
32 Perry Crescent NE	(Lot 18, Block 1, Plan 9511347) Permit No. DP9424. Office Use Only. Wholesaler - 3 Year Renewal.
12 Red Oak Blvd. SE	(Lot 24, Block 28, Plan 8010679) Permit No. DP9426. Office Use Only. Commercial Cleaning Services - 3 Year Renewal.
454 4 Street SW	(Lot 28, 29, 30, Block 9, Plan 833M) Permit No. DP9427. Office Use Only. Custom Cabinet's Interior Finishing - 3 Year Renewal.
109 Hull Crescent NE	(Lot 60, Block 5, Plan 7410135) Permit No. DP9428. 1 to 5 Customers Per Week. Photography.
465 Spruce Way SE	(Lot 16, Block 3, Plan 9911834) Permit No. DP9429. 10 Customers Per Week. Electrolysis - 3 Year Renewal.
68 Vintage Meadows Place SE	(Lot 109, Block 3, Plan 9611149) Permit No. DP9432. Office Use Only. General Contractor.

PUBLIC SKATING SCHEDULE SKATING HOTLINE: 403.502.8570 Free Public Skating is sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Medicine Hat

SATURDAY JAN 14	SUNDAY JAN 15	MONDAY JAN 16	TUESDAY JAN 17	WEDNESDAY JAN 18	THURSDAY JAN 19	FRIDAY JAN 20	SATURDAY JAN 21
--------------------	------------------	------------------	-------------------	---------------------	--------------------	------------------	--------------------

FAMILY SKATING 6:30 - 7:30 PM Moose	PUBLIC SKATING 2:00 - 3:00 PM Family Leisure Centre	ADULT SKATING 9:00 - 10:15 AM Arena	FAMILY SKATING 9:30 - 10:30 AM Family Leisure Centre	PUBLIC SKATING Noon - 1:00 PM Family Leisure Centre	FAMILY SKATING 10:00 - 11:00 AM Family Leisure Centre	BANTAM TIER I CAHL TOURNAMENT January 20 - 22 Family Leisure Centre, Hockey Hounds	BANTAM TIER I CAHL TOURNAMENT January 20 - 22 Family Leisure Centre, Hockey Hounds
ED HORWATH RINGETTE TOURNAMENT Jan 13 - 15 Hockey Hounds, Moose, Kinsplex	FAMILY SKATING 5:00 - 6:15 PM Kinsplex I	PUBLIC SKATING Noon - 1:00 PM Family Leisure Centre	SHINNY HOCKEY Noon - 1:00 PM Family Leisure Centre (\$5 drop-in)	PUBLIC SKATING 7:00 - 8:00 PM Family Leisure Centre	SHINNY HOCKEY Noon - 1:00 PM Family Leisure Centre (\$5 drop-in)	PEEWEE TIER III CAHL TOURNAMENT January 20 - 22 Kinsplex	PEEWEE TIER III CAHL TOURNAMENT January 20 - 22 Kinsplex
	ADULT SKATING 8:00 - 9:00 PM Moose	PUBLIC SKATING 7:00 - 8:00 PM Family Leisure Centre	PUBLIC SKATING 7:00 - 8:15 PM Hockey Hounds		PUBLIC SKATING 7:00 - 8:15 PM Moose		

Plus! Don't miss:
Hedley - Friday, February 17, 2012 at the Medicine Hat Arena
Tickets available online at tixx.ca, by phone at 403.502.8777, or in person at the Esplanade Box Office or Medicine Hat Mall Customer Service Desk

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

To protect your water lines against the possibility of freezing this winter, consider the following actions:

- Repair broken windows and ensure windows and vents are closed during the winter.
- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas of your home or business, including crawl spaces.
- If a sink is located against an uninsulated outside wall, consider opening the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes. A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing. Similarly a heat tape wrapped around the pipe may keep the pipe from freezing.

Residents of mobile homes should check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and water meter. An unheated indoor water meter should be protected with an insulated box and water pipes should be wrapped in insulation and heat tape.

Outside water taps and underground sprinkler systems should have their water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the tap and sprinkler line. Lines should be drained/blown out.

- A very thin stream of water (as thick as a pencil lead) running continuously from at least one tap will help prevent a frozen water service.
- If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve in your home. This is located next to your water meter.

A frozen water service, or a burst water pipe, is an inconvenience and expense that most people would like to avoid. Please take precautions to prevent this inconvenience in your home or business.

MSI Operating Grants for Non-Profit Organizations



Grants of up to \$25,000 may be available to registered non-profits to cover qualifying operating expenses.

Application packages are available:

- On the City website www.medicinehat.ca
- At City Hall, Community Development Department (Third floor)

Application Information Session

January 25, 2012

12 pm - 1 pm in Council Chambers

Deadline for Applications is 4:30 pm
Thursday, February 2, 2012



Arena: 155 Ash Ave
Family Leisure Centre - EnCana Arena:
2000 Division Ave NW
Hockey Hounds: 39 10th St NE
Kinsplex: 2055 21 Ave SE
Moose Rec Centre: Div Ave & 6 St SW

