

CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Time to host a national?

Exhausting though the provincials have been, Penticton club is toying with the idea of bidding on a grander scale

By JAMES MILLER
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Now that the Penticton Curling Club has hosted both genders of provincial championships, club president Kim Kirkland said the executive is now toying with the idea of bidding for a national championship.

"The thought has crossed our minds," Kirkland said as she watched the championship final of the 2010 Scottie's B.C. women's championship Sunday afternoon at the club.

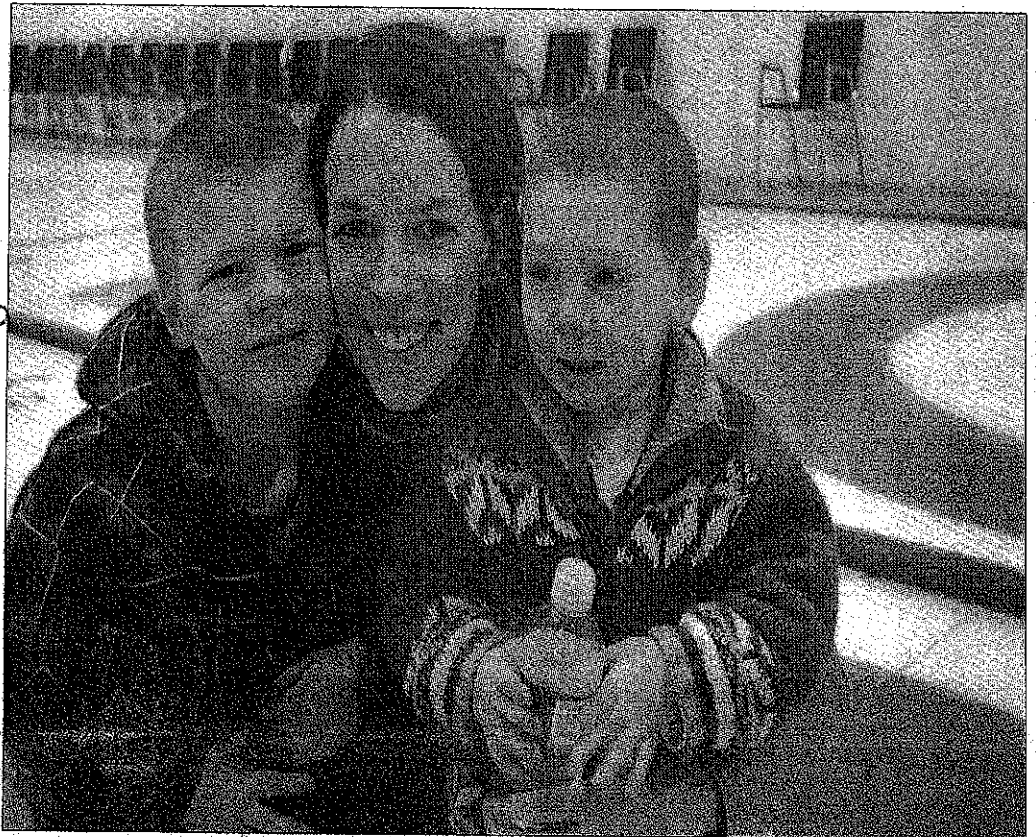
"I think we're going to rest for a few weeks. It's been exhausting, but still a lot of fun. We're all talking about hosting a national, but we'd have to talk with the South Okanagan Events Centre because it's too small here."

The Brier (men's championship) is ruled out because the facility is too small, but Kirkland said the minimum seating requirement for a Scottie's (the women's national final) is 4,000, which the SOEC easily surpasses.

Penticton also hosted the provincial men's championship in 2008.

As for the past week, Kirkland, who co-chaired the event with George Horner, said it couldn't have gone any better.

"It was awesome. We had really



JAMES MILLER/Penticton Herald

Jenna Schraeder, third of the championship Kelly Scott rink out of Kelowna, gets something even better than a medal and trip to the national championship — a hug from sons Luke, left, age 4 and Dion, 2. The Kelowna rink captured top honours in the week-long event hosted by the Penticton Curling Club.

good crowds all week. In the week-day game between Kelly Scott and Kelley Law, there were 350 people here, easily our biggest single-game crowd until the final. There were some concerns about the ice, but it got really cold all of a sudden and everyone seemed to get used to that."

She was pleased that junior curlers were able to participate in opening ceremonies as well as the club's Special Olympics curling team.

The feedback from the teams was all good.

"Each rink wrote us a personal thank-you note, so I think that means they were happy," Kirkland said with a chuckle.

Scott, the eventual winner who plays out of Kelowna, offered tremendous praise to the organizing committee.

"It was top notch. It was such warm hospitality and everywhere we went in Penticton, people knew the curling was going on. The people

at the hotel, our drivers and the committee were all great. We decided to stay at the Best Western, even though we only live in Kelowna, and I'm glad we did because everyone couldn't have treated us better."

Kirkland said the week-long event involved 250 volunteers, many who weren't necessarily curlers, but community-minded people who merely wanted to help out.

See game coverage of the finals on Page B1.