



The 10th Edition of the Challenge de curling de Gatineau will make way for the new generation

Gatineau, October 9th 2018,

The direction of the Buckingham curling club announces today that it will showcase the next generation of curlers during the presentation of the 10th edition of the Challenge by adding a completely new category, the junior component U-21 (boys/girls)

The **10th edition of the Challenge de curling de Gatineau** will take place from October 12th to 14th for the junior component and from October 17th to 21st for the men's elite, open class and senior categories.

All games will be presented at the Centre sportif Robert-Rochon (Masson-Angers area) and at the Buckingham curling club.

There will be 4 different competitions during this 10th edition of the Challenge presented by 104.7 Outaouais, (new partner) which are :

- A tournament of the « Junior Slam Series » U-21 (**new**) which will combine a total of 40 teams (25 girls and 15 boys).
- A tournament in the « men's elite » category of 24 teams which is included in the 2018-19 calendar of the World Curling Tour.
- An « open class » tournament of 32 teams recognized by Curling Québec.
- To highlight the 100th season of activity of the Buckingham curling club, a senior tournament (**new**) of 16 local teams which will battle to win the "Coupe du centenaire".

Here are some of the highlights of this 10th edition:

- With it's 112 teams registered, the Challenge de curling de Gatineau will be the most important competition to be presented in Eastern Canada (Québec-Maritimes) during the 2018-19 season.
- The participation of over 450 curlers from Canada (7 provinces), the United States, Switzerland, Scotland and China.
- Amongst the junior teams present, we must watch closely on the feminine side, capitain Kaitlyn Jones' team from Nova Scotia, Canadian and World champions in 2018, the team of Laurie St-Georges from Laval, provincial champions in 2018 and silver medalists at the Canadian championship as well as Sarah Daniels' team from British Columbia.
- On the boys side, the 2017 provincial champion Vincent Roberge and his team from the Québec area will be one of the tournaments' favorites. We will also have to pay attention to the performances of the local juvenile team of skip Olivier Blanchard-Pelletier.
- As far as the men's elite tournament is concerned, 2 teams from the World's top 10 teams are registered : team Bruce Mouat from Scotland, ranked 4th in the World and bronze medalist at the 2018 World championship, as well as team John Epping, ranked 6th in the World and 2018 Ontario champions.

- Also in the men's elite competition, the Gatineau resident Jean-Sébastien Roy will be in command of team SFL-Morissette which should be one of the favorite teams to battle to earn a place in the championship round. The other teams from Québec to keep a close eye on are skip Mike Fournier's team, 2018 Québec champions, the team of veteran Martin Ferland and Jean-Michel Ménard's ex team, now directed by Martin Crête.
- In the open class competition, from Val d'Or, skip Ghislain Doyon's team will be back to attempt to win a second consecutive title. Many foursomes from the Outaouais will be very competitive particularly Ted Butler's team, 2018 Québec senior champions and team Daniel Caron which the always popular Jean-Michel Ménard is part of.
- The total prizes at stake are worth over **50 000\$** and more than 20 curling games of the elite section, including the final, will be transmitted live on the web via the website of the Challenge :«challengecurlinggatineau.com».

Schedule of the Challenge

- For the junior competition, the action will begin Friday October 12th starting at 8:00 AM and the finals will be held Sunday October 14th at 3 :00 PM at the Centre sportif Robert-Rochon.
- All games of the men's elite competition will be presented at the Centre sportif starting at 11:15 AM on Thursday October 18th and the final will be held Sunday October 21st at 3 :45 PM.
- The first open class games will take place Wednesday October 17th at 8 :00 PM.
- The finals (A-B-C) of the open class and the finals (A-B) of the senior competition will also take place at the Centre sportif Sunday October 21st at 3:45 PM.
- The « On the Rocks » lounge, located on the 2nd floor of the Centre sportif Robert-Rochon will give the possibility to spectators to see many games in a comfortable setting.
- The admission will be free for the weekend of the junior tournament. From the 18th to the 21st of October, the daily admission cost for the spectators will be 5\$ and the cost of the weekend pass for all the games of the Challenge is 15\$.

Joint efforts to ensure the success of the Challenge

Mr Richard Faguy, coordinator of the Challenge, has mentioned the excellent work accomplished by the tournament director Mr. Dany Beaulieu with regards to team recruitment.

He has also emphasized on the importance of the implication of all partners, collaborators and volunteers in order to make this major sporting event in our community run smoothly.

The coordinator also wanted to point out the contribution of the major sponsor of the Challenge la Ville de Gatineau, of the presentating partner of the event, the 104.7 Outaouais, as well of the collaboration of Curling Québec, OVCA, Lexis Média, Hôtel V, la Corporation des Loisirs de Masson-Angers and the Club Optimiste de Buckingham.

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