



Kim Gellard, far left, and her Unionville Curling Club foursome of, left to right, Sherry Scheirich, Sally Karam, Allison Ross and coach Mary Gellard will take to the Unionville Curling Club ice this weekend in an eight-team Ontario Ladies Curling Association regional event. The second-year team hopes to have a repeat performance this year where they represented Ontario in the Scott Tournament of Hearts.

Gellard rink hopes to sweep past opposition

Provincial champs take nothing for granted on the road to the All Ontario playdowns

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Sports Editor

When Kim Gellard formed her Unionville Curling Club rink last season the only request she had of her team was to play to the best of their ability.

That effort produced an Ontario Ladies Curling Association Scott Tournament of Hearts title and a berth in the Scott Tournament of Hearts playdowns in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Taking to the pebbled ice surface for their second season and setting sights on an encore performance, the Gellard rink does not intend to alter from that philosophy.

"Refusing to apply any undue pressure on herself or her team of vice Sherry Scheirich, second Sally Karam and lead Allison Ross, Gellard insists the task of qualifying for this year's Scott Tournament of Hearts playdowns is no more difficult than a year ago.

"We're not looking at it as a harder challenge," the 25-year-old Gellard insisted. "Going into the playdowns last year as a new team we had some expectations. We just wanted to go in and play to the best of our abilities. This is what we want to do this year."

Just recently, Gellard's rink took the first step toward finding their way back at the provincial championships by winning the A side of a zone playdown in Uxbridge.

Taking the B side was Janet Brown's foursome from Sutton. This was the same team that Gellard defeated in last

year's OLCA Scott Tournament of Hearts playdown final.

Gellard's team will take the second step this weekend as they will take to the Unionville Curling Club ice to compete in an eight-team regional event. The action begins Saturday with draws at 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. and concludes Sunday at 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The event will also see several other local curlers taking part as Sara Garland is a lead on Brown's Sutton entry.

Sherry Cordina is a lead on Kristen Turcotte's Bayview rink.

And Julie Anderson will skip a Bayview rink which includes her sister Kristy as vice and Katrina Sale as a lead.

Two rinks from this event will advance to the southern Ontario playdowns in Lindsay on Jan. 8 and 9.

From Lindsay, another four will advance to the All Ontario's in Timmins in late January.

In tuning up for this weekend's event, Gellard's rink took part in the recent JVC-TSN Skins Game in Thunder Bay. Gellard's rink was defeated in the semifinals by eventual champion Sherry Anderson's rink from Saskatoon.

For their efforts, they pocketed \$1,500.

"We just weren't executing and we just weren't getting any breaks," Gellard said of their effort in Thunder Bay. "But it was a great experience."

While Gellard's rink took the first step toward making a repeat appearance in the All Ontario's, she is not looking beyond this weekend's play.

"There's still lots of games to play yet. I never look too far ahead and try to put pressure on myself to achieve our end goal. It's good to strive for one larger goal, but you have one accomplish a lot of smaller things first," she said.

"We just try to take things one step at a time."

Milne Dam fishway receives public approval

Any objections or questions that were raised concerning the proposed construction of a fishway at the Milne Dam site on the Rouge River next summer were put to rest at a recent public information session in Markham.

For the fish ladder, which would allow migrating fish to manoeuvre their way past a 4-1/2-metre dam on the Rouge River to reach suitable spawning areas, it now means that all systems are go in its construction.

Fish ladder constructed

At a public information session conducted at Roy H. Crosby Public School in Unionville on Dec. 1, close to two dozen people heard the Ministry of Natural Resources and consultants plans to construct a fish ladder along the river's west bank and on conservation area property.

Mark Heaton, a ministry biologist from the district's Aurora office, noted the session was well received and no serious objections were raised.

"It went pretty well," he said. "Some good questions were raised. But we came to an understanding that there were no serious issues with the design and direction of the project."

In the construction of the proposed fishway, the ministry and consultants gave the people one option to consider.

Heaton said the ladder could



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either be a single slot denile fishway, or have a second denile slot.

A single slot denile fishway allows for 15 cubic feet per second of water to move through.

Although a second denile slot would increase construction costs by 10 per cent, it allows for more water to move through.

To be more exact, Heaton said 30 cubic feet per second of water would move through.

This, in turn, could entice more fish to utilize the facility, Heaton speculated.

However, this could only be determined through actual usage.

When all was said and done, the people supported the creation of a second denile slot model.

Heaton said this ladder design would be the first of its kind to be utilized in the province.

With public support, Heaton said the plans will now go to detailed design.

Heaton said this process is expected to take about six

weeks and then go to an approvals process through Fisheries and Oceans, the ministry and Toronto Region Conservation Authority.

If all goes according, Heaton expects the ground breaking ceremony for the fishway, which has an estimated cost of \$175,000 to \$200,000, will take place by July 1.

Among the species that would utilize the ladder include rainbow trout, brown trout, smallmouth bass, northern pike, white sucker and different minnow species.

Licence renewal time?

The Ministry of Natural Resources recommends that anglers and hunters who plan to renew their Outdoors Card for the Year 2000 act now.

The New Year is fast approaching and the busy holiday season is just ahead. Anglers and hunters whose Outdoors Card expires Dec. 31, and who plan to fish or hunt in January are encouraged to renew their licence and Outdoors Card quickly by using the ministry's 24-hour, seven-day-a-week toll-free phone-in card renewal service.

The number is 1-800-288-1155.

New cards and licences will be received by mail within two to three weeks after renewal by telephone. Callers will need their Outdoors Card number and a VISA or Mastercard to complete the renewal by phone.

Skate with Spirit Sunday at rec centre

The third annual Skate with the Spirit will take place at the rec centre main pad on Sunday from noon to 2 p.m.

Those interested in attending will have the opportunity to skate with members of the Spirit of Stouffville Provincial Junior A Hockey League club.

Anyone attending are asked to bring a donation of food or money to support the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank.

A number of door prizes will be given out.

For further information, call the Spirit office at 642-6755.

Students in fine form

Students representing Sean Wong's Karate and Kickboxing Studio's Team Meibu-Kei hauled in 10 medals from the recent Karate Ontario Tournament Grand prix 2 competition.

In individual kata, Sarah Irvine won gold in the seven and under beginner division. Alisha Yee won gold in the 12-13 girls' intermediate.

Brendon Cheung was sec-

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ond in the 12-13 novice while Justin Yee won bronze in the 8-9 intermediate.

In sparring, George Lambropoulos won silver in the men's novice under-16 kilogram division and Yee claimed a bronze in the 12-13 girls' intermediate.

In the black belt division, Morana Zeskoski won gold in the women's under-53 kg group.

In team kata, a silver was won by the under-13 novice team of Randall Cheung, Erica Cheung and Sarah Irvine.

Another silver was claimed by the over-13 intermediate team of Mark Soto, Kristina Chin and Alisha Yee.

Vanessa Andres, Alyssa Andres and Stacey Chong earned a bronze in the over-13 intermediate.

Minor bantam hot

For the Markham Islanders minor bantam A team, it's so

far, so good.

Reaching the midway point of its Greater Toronto Hockey League schedule, the Islanders sport an impressive 18-

0-1 mark.

Included in those wins were recent decisions

against the Ted Reeve Thunder 9-1, the Hillcrest Summits 2-0 and North York Knights 5-3.

In addition to its first-place mark, the Islanders' goaltending tandem of Matt Peacock and Michael Biback sport the lowest goals against average in the GTHL minor bantam division at 1.68.

Also helping the club attain its impressive goals against mark are defencemen Chris Chapman, Ben Hemming, Daniel Hinton, Tim Lawless and Danny McGracken.

Amassing 135 goals this season, the Islanders' scoring has come from Mark Anderson, Nick Tsantsoulas, Chris Rose, Peter Christopoulos, Paul Arlin, Louis Covens, Brett Kitchen, Ziv Zukier and Philip Chow.

