

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

# SPORTS

## Cringan hopes to rock way to provincial curling title

*Stouffville resident on Niagara Falls rink at Ontario mixed championships in London this week*

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It's a family tradition.

Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Cringan, a Grade 9 student attending Stouffville District Secondary School, is keeping it alive.

Curling is their game.

Fresh from her mother Joanne's recent BMW bonspiel victory at Unionville, Jennifer has advanced to the provincial bantam mixed competitive playdowns at London.

The event, involving eight rinks, opened yesterday and concludes Sunday.

Jennifer is the youngest member of a Niagara Falls rink that includes skip Matt Stoll, vice Brenna Cochrane and second Rhys Etherington.

With no curling facilities in Stouffville, the Cringan family participates in the sport at the Bayview Country Club in Thornhill.

To qualify for the provincials, Jennifer's rink won the zone at Welland and the regionals in Burlington.

Because of her age, Jennifer will have two more years of bantam eligibility.

Jennifer, like her mother, has grown up with a rock in one hand and a broom in the other.

Only this year, Joanne missed a spot in the Best Western Challenge, an international ladies final held in Belleville, by only one shot.

"She was close enough to taste it," Jennifer's father, Stewart said.

Jennifer began curling at age eight and her interest in the sport has continued to grow.

She often spends up to eight hours a week improving her game. She now has her own shoes, a gripper and a slider custom-made from skateboard boots.

Her good-luck charm is wearing mismatched socks.

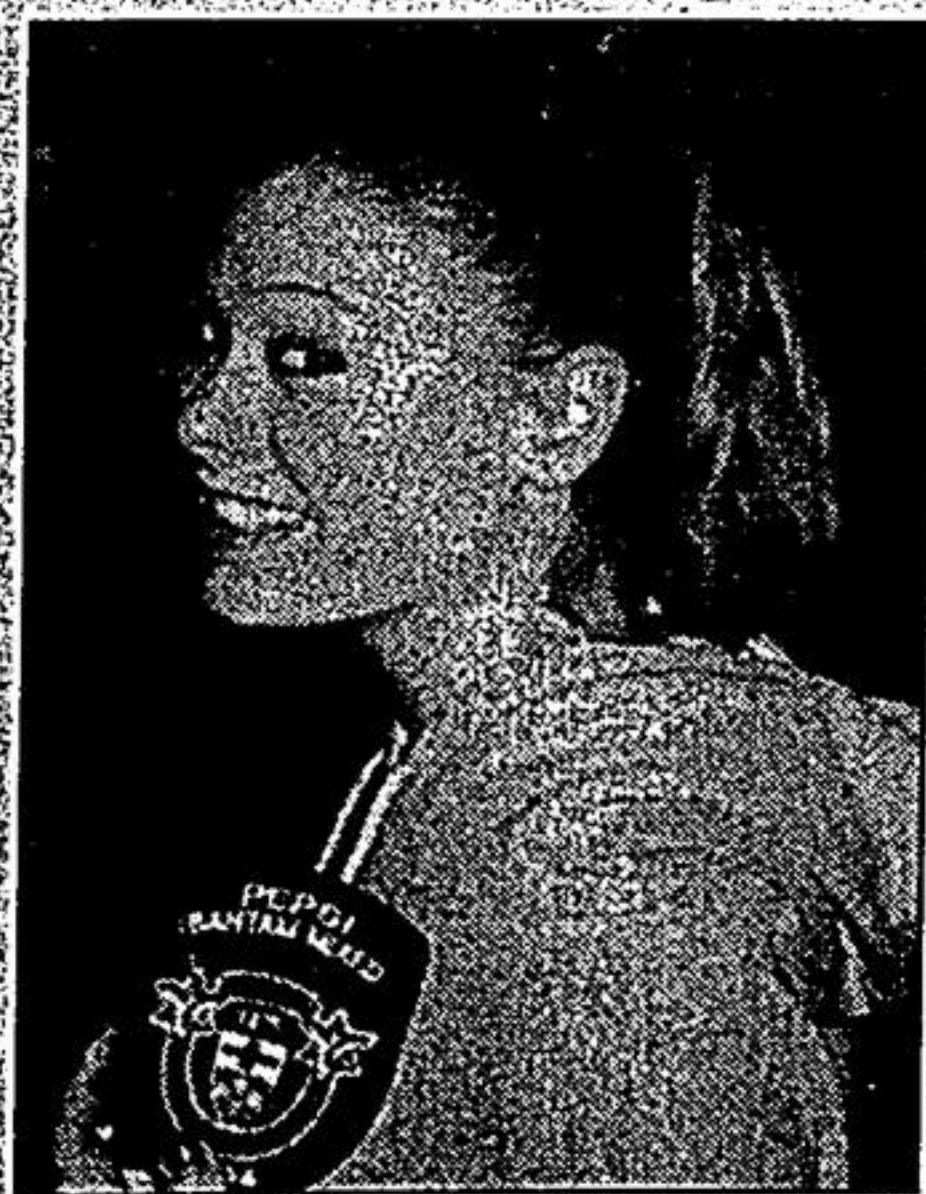
### ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

Jennifer admits she's thrilled by the prospect of competing provincially.

"Some make it once or twice in a lifetime," she says, "some never make it at all."

She would like to see curling become an integral part of the sports scene at Stouffville Secondary. She and brother Bruce, now in Grade 8, hope to promote this next season.

"It's something the York Region school board strongly supports," Stewart says, "but with no curling arena in Whitchurch-Stouffville, students lack the same opportunities enjoyed elsewhere."



**JENNIFER CRINGAN:** Grade 9 student is the youngest member of Niagara Falls rink.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

## Knocking on the front door

Radical Stunts' forward Melanie Carlin (centre) avoids a fallen William Lee CA defender in an effort to take a swipe at the loose puck during Saturday's Markham-Stouffville Girls Hockey Association house league pee-wee division playoff game at the Angus Glen Community Centre in Markham. Radical Stunts won 4-0. For further results, see Sportsboard on page 22.

## Spartans still find positives at OFSAA despite quarter-final loss in London

One goal. That's what separated the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' hockey team from potentially earning a medal at last week's Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA playdowns in London.

The top-seeded Spartans returned empty handed after they suffered a heartbreaking 3-2 overtime loss to the seventh-seeded Holy Trinity (Kanata) Tornadoes in Friday's quarter-final.

Despite being denied the opportunity to compete for a medal, Spartans head coach Jamie Hewitt was proud of his team and accentuated the positive.

"Sure, to lose in overtime was disappointing. But we've been on the good side of most overtimes this season," he said. "Our kids really stepped up and played well. They battled hard and were just one goal away from playing for a medal."

"Both teams had chances to win and in overtime anything can happen. We just missed a chance to score just before (Holy Trinity) scored the game-winning goal."

In the loss to Holy Trinity, Justin Hitchen scored the Spartans' first goal on a power play while Mark Sullivan tied the game to force overtime with just 1:46 remaining in regulation time.

If there was any consolation for the Spartans, the Tornadoes fell 3-2 to eventual gold-medallists from Essex District Secondary School in one semifinal encounter.

### Spartan girls also at OFSAA

The Spartan senior boys weren't the only ice hockey team from the school that took to the ice in the OFSAA championships.

The Spartans girls also took to the ice this week in Pembroke after they received word prior to the start of the recent March break that they were invited to the OFSAA AA tournament.

Entering the tournament as the 10th seed, the Spartans lost their first game to Lockerby Composite School (Sudbury) 2-0, but rebounded to defeat LaCitadelle High School (Cornwall) 2-0 and Theriault High School (Timmins) 4-1.

Lockerby, however, won the pool and advanced to the playoffs.

For the Spartans, their appearance at OFSAA marked their first appearance.

Dan McConnachie, Spartans head coach, said his team received an invitation after one of the other OFSAA entries opted not to participate.

"We weren't going (to OFSAA) at first," he said. "But then things just fell into place when one of the teams, a Toronto school, backed out."

"We had talked with OFSAA prior to this happening and they told us we would be guaranteed a spot if one of the teams dropped out. Since we got word that we would be going to OFSAA we were in rapid mode in getting ready for it. The girls were pretty excited in going."

### Tracksters tune up indoors

The Spartans track team visited York University last weekend to take part in a high school indoor meet.

In the open girls' 4 x 200m relay, the foursome of Dana Wood, Deidre Wood, Jasmine Geense and Tiziana Cotechini finished second.

Dana Wood was also fourth in the senior girls' 400m while Cotechini was fourth in the senior girls' triple jump.

Caitlin Leger, a midget-aged performer, took part in the junior girls' triple jump and was sixth.

In the senior girls' shotput, Katelyn Smith finished sixth.

