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NEW OCEAN SUPERMARKET BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA NO FRILLS OPTICAL DESIGN mhayakawa@yrmg.com ORIENTAL FOOD When lead Katrina Collins PERLA DENTAL assembled with her Bayview Curl-PET VALU PRINCESS AUTO ing Club teammates that included skip Julie Hastings, vice Cheryl **REAL CANADIAN** SUPERSTORE McPherson and second Stacey RFXALL Smith at the start of the season, their objective was to be the best SEARS women's rink in the province. SHOPPERS SPORT CHEK

The Stouffville resident and Stouffville District Secondary School teacher and her rink came close to fulfilling that goal at the 2014 Women's Ontario Scotties Tournament in Sault Ste. Marie.

To be precise, just three rocks to win after they suffered a heartbreaking 7-5 loss to Allison Flaxey's Listowel Curling Club entry, who will represent Ontario at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, in Sunday's final.

Collins took solace in the fact their appearance in the final marked the first time as a group they were in a position to vie for the title.

Their prior best effort in the provincials was in 2009 when they reached the semifinals.

"We did well and I think once we get over the fact that we got so



KATRINA **COLLINS:** Stouffville teacher hopes her hometown builds a curling rink.

close it will sink in that we're the second-best team in the province,' Collins said. "In the past we had set a goal just to be in the playoffs but this year we set a goal to be in the final.

"With this year being an Olympic year, a lot of other teams had set their goal to try and represent Canada in the Olympics. But our goal was to try and be No. 1 in the province.

SPORTS

Having curled with Hastings since 1994 and starting up their team that included Smith the following year and having McPherson join them this year when Hastings' sister was on a maternity leave, Collins noted their rink entered the provincial championships having pocketed close to \$10,000 in the cash spiel circuit this year.

During the round-robin segment of the 10-rink field, Collins and her teammates finished with a 7-2 won-loss mark and were tied with Flaxey with the best record. Flaxey, though, defeated their team during the round-robin segment and were awarded first.

But in meeting Flaxey for a second time in their page one versus page two match Saturday, they prevailed 8-3 and with it, were guaranteed entry into Sunday's final.

Despite losing the game, Flaxey was given a second life and played the winner of the page three versus four match in a semifinal Sunday morning. Collins noted having the additional time off can work for or against you.

"She definitely had an advantage of playing earlier that day and

in knowing what the ice conditions were," Collins said.

Collins credited the approach her rink took throughout.

"We just wanted to stay in the moment, to take things one shot at a time. We weren't looking at the scoreboard until the very end," she said. "All we wanted to do was to focus on our game and concentrate on what we had to do."

Collins said that would definitely serve as an incentive for their foursome to settle some unfinished business next year.

"Right now it's too soon just after the final. Maybe in a week or so we'll discuss plans for next year," she said.

What Collins would like to see in the meantime is for the creation of a curling club in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

She had involvement in the past with town politicians on the subject and hopes the issue will re-emerge after it hit a bit of a brick wall.

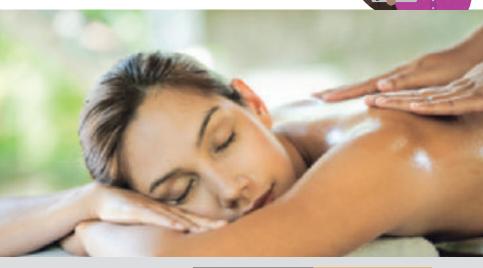
"I'm not sure if the push (for a curling club) will continue," she said. "Being a teacher and competing, I might not have the time to commit as I did in the past though."

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