

## The medallists

by Marilynne Miles Gray (November 2014)

What better way to start the 2014-15 curling season than to be on the winning end of a fourth curling championship year?

That's the current situation for the curling team of Lawrence Woytowich, Lynn Wilson, Wayne Scott and Jack Campbell. Let's back up a little and get a bird's eye view of what it takes competitively to get to these points—that is to say seven medals in six years at Provincial and Canadian levels starting back in 2009.



The Woytowich team from our own Glen Meadows Curling Club won a third BC Senior Games title at the 2013 competition, held in Kamloops. That win gave the foursome entrée to the 2014 Canada Senior Games (held in Strathcona County, Alberta) a year later. Don't overlook that, prior to the Kamloops gig, they had to compete regionally in order to make the trip.

Fast forward a month (September 2014) and it was off to Langley to the Provincial Seniors where they garnered their fourth Provincial Gold.

Lawrence kindly has agreed to recount a few of the adventures along the way.

**Reporter:** Which of the 4 provincial championships were the best?

**Lawrence:** 2009 is always memorable because it was our first, though this year (our 4<sup>th</sup> Provincial Championship) may be my own personal favourite, because it was the most difficult to win.

**Reporter:** How so?

**Lawrence:** Teams this year were the strongest ever and although we were in total control in the final game we were only inches away from being eliminated during the round robin. When you have too many situations that can be decided by one rock... things get pretty exciting. There is a lot of risk and reward involved.

**Reporter:** Some players wouldn't label bringing home silver instead of gold "a high" however that's what you call it: "a high". Can you tell readers why?

**Lawrence:** As to the Canadians, this was our third time at the Nationals. A real adrenalin filled week. Yes, we lost our Gold medal game, but coming second and representing BC was a real high. I'm pleased to say the facilities and hosts were absolutely the best. What more can curlers ask for?

**Reporter:** Spectators probably wonder what's going through your mind as you step out on the ice to play. Can you let us in on some of your thoughts?

**Lawrence:** At this level of curling, we're competing against the same powerhouse teams-- whether it is at Curl BC, PCMCA or Senior Games. There is real challenge just stepping on the ice with a former Brier Team or a Provincial Champion. You don't want them "getting inside your head", when it comes to the ice. Fortunately, we seem to play better on superb ice conditions: when the curl is identical across the whole sheet which gives players the ability to make hits and rolls, runbacks and angles shots. Being able to execute such shots builds confidence and with the rise in confidence, the percentage of execution rises dramatically. In short, the better the ice the more likely it seems we'll win.

**Reporter:** I'm guessing you're enthusiastic about the fine collection of players at Glen Meadows Curling Club.

**Lawrence:** I feel very fortunate to have had the fantastic pool of players to choose from at Glen Meadows. Wayne Scott has been with me at all eight competitions and Lynn Wilson on seven. Jack Campbell has competed with us for the last three. Also I need to acknowledge Ken Wigbers, Paul Addison, Frank Nash and Grant Marshal who all played on the Glen Meadows team for at least one Provincial Championship.

**Reporter:** What lies ahead?

**Lawrence:** The curling future? Curling's in my blood but I've got to say, while it's been a great run, the enthusiasm may have run its course. Competing takes time, prolonged stamina, commitment and preparation. The only possible goal left would be to take a run at the 2016 Canada Senior Games title in Ontario, but right now two years seems a long way away.... Ask our team come the end of the 2014-15 regular curling club season, when we've had a bit of breathing time.

2014 proud Gold Medallists (L to R):



Lawrence Woytowich, Lynn Wilson, Wayne Scott, Jack Campbell