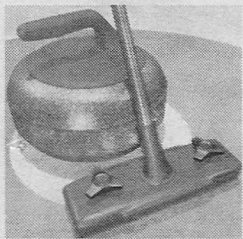


Getting the best ice; keeping the building in good shape



Throwing Rocks

Karen Sotvedt
Middleton
Curling Club

The curling season is not quite under way, but if you open the doors of Middleton Curling Club you will find it is already a hive of activity. Most clubs are only as good as their volunteers, and MCC is blessed with a solid core of able and willing members who continue to keep the building and programs going.

The most visible and important part of the curling scene is the ice, and Ernie Killen once again heads up a small but dedi-

cated group who are learning his skills, in order to give the club a superior curling surface. In the world of curlers, opinions of the ice travel from club to club and Ernie's team works hard to preserve the club's reputation. To start the season each year it is not just a matter of putting some water in the ice shed. The surface is cleaned, painted and the various lines and markings put down. The ice is flooded three or four times a day for a week, and many

man hours over many days are required by the volunteers who help Ernie and learn from him at the same time.

The machinery also needs inspection and this summer the aging ice plant needed some extensive work to remain safe and operative. The club was lucky to get a grant from the Joyce Meyers Foundation of the provincial association to assist with these essential repairs. In the past two years several neigh-

bouring clubs have had problems with equipment of the same generation, so some proactive work was necessary. Club treasurer Allen Morris oversees the plant maintenance and the combined efforts of he and the ice makers find the club once again opening with good ice, on schedule.

Building Maintenance

Not all the hard work is in the ice shed. Coordinating building maintenance is Ian Reesor who spent part of his summer on essential repairs to ensure the stability of various parts of the structure that curlers might not think about but which could affect the club's operations. Club president Jim Leaman and vice-president Marcy Gaul are busy overseeing all the many start-up requirements of a building that has not been open to the public for nearly six months.

With a history that stretches back over 85 years, the Middleton Curling Club houses not only curling leagues but also welcomes the "1700 Club" group of members and friends, finds a home for quilters and crafters, and hosts social events for community members. Information on the club's activities are updated regularly on the website www.middletoncurlingclub.com