

# January

There was an unaccustomed lull at the Middleton Curling Club during the hiatus over the holidays with league play stopped for two weeks. Using the time to get ready for the New Year, Ernie Killen and his ice-makers spent several days in ice maintenance, essentially remaking the ice surface so it will be in top condition for the return of the curlers. The ice surface is flooded and burned to ensure uniformity and replace any uneven or damaged sections. The ice at Middleton is generally considered "good ice" by visiting curlers and the ice-makers want to make



## Throwing Rocks

Karen Sotvedt  
Middleton  
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sure that the club's reputation for having a good ice surface continues.

League play was fully under way again on January 7 with Seniors curling in the afternoon and the Open League on Monday night with all other leagues meeting as usual. The club is also getting ready to host several bonspiels over the next month and club members have begun to prepare for these events also. It is not just the ice-makers who were busy over the holidays.

On January 12 and 13 the club will hold the 28th annual January Thaw Mixed Bonspiel. This spiel draws teams from other clubs to come to Middleton for two days of curling competition and reconnecting with old friends. The first day, Saturday, Jan. 12 begins with a Big Breakfast which is always a good time for community members and curlers to mingle. That day the curling is six-end games in a points scoring system which will result in three events for the eight-end games on Sunday. Mid-way through Saturday afternoon everyone will sit down together for supper meal before the final two draws which will still result in a reasonably early night for all.

Sunday's games will divide the teams into events based on Saturday's points and the two morning draws will give all teams another chance at the prizes. After a soup and sandwich lunch for everyone, the finalists will play one last draw with play over by about 3 p.m. MCC is always happy to welcome teams from other clubs to this very social bonspiel which fits the club well in size and convivial character.

At the end of January, the club again hosts teams from out-of-town as MCC provides additional ice for the Fireman's Bonspiel, hosted by Bridgetown. Middleton will see draws for this popular bonspiel from January 31 to Feb 3, to which the public is always welcome. Upcoming events can be checked at [www.middleton-curlingclub.com](http://www.middleton-curlingclub.com)