

■ CURLING

Throwing Rocks

MCC takes on an international atmosphere

BY KAREN SOTVEDT

Middleton Curling Club opened its doors last weekend and hosted three events that kept the club hopping.

On Friday, the Afternoon League hosted three teams from Berwick; Friday night the Chase the Ace crowd continued to grow; and then on Sunday 16 International Students from nine countries took to the ice to try out curling and see how Canadians pass the winter.

The teams from Berwick managed to hold on to their trophy, even though Middleton won the day's play on Friday. The total aggregate points from the two-day home and home left MCC short by one point and so the bragging rights went home with the visitors.

The Chase the Ace total is now up to \$822 for the ace itself. The pot each night is divided up with the winning ticket taking home 30 per cent of the cash sales and also having a chance to draw the ace for the whole thing.

Newcomers to the event this week found that their friends and neighbours were there playing cards and games, having a drink and catching up on community news.

Plus they were able to join in the anticipation as the draw took place, with cheers for the winner and then a mixture of sad and happy reactions when the ace was not drawn.

The general consensus was: it might be nice to see the ace come up but it would be nicer for the pot to keep accumulating. Chase the Ace takes place on Fri-

days at MCC and everyone is welcome to come and join the fun.

The International Students who attend Middleton Regional High School represent nine countries: Germany, Spain, Japan, Korea, China, Columbia, Brazil, Turkey, and Belgium. A few of those countries have curling teams in the international arena, but for some students this was a completely new sport.

Co-ordinated by Jamie Marshall and coached by Dan Townsend with some parent volunteers, they all moved around on the ice tentatively at first but with more confidence after a few minutes.

Sliding out of the hack was an adventure, and some used sliders on their sneakers and others used the time-honoured method of taping their shoes with duct tape.

There were cheers and groans when slides turned into slips, and the occasional student could not resist the urge to "peel" the rock – sending it rocketing down the ice to the other end at great speed.

Other host parents had come armed with the fuel necessary to any teenage sporting event and the clubhouse tables were covered with sandwiches and snacks to reward the new curlers after their workout.

There is always something happening at MCC – keep up with events by going to www.middletoncurlingclub.com

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the Middleton Curling Club.