

CURLING

Next up at MCC? The always-fun January Thaw

Karen Sotvedt
Throwing
rocks



While the Valley digs out from the first major snowfall of the year, Middleton Curling Club looks forward to the January Thaw.

This year will be the 32nd time this mixed-team bonspiel has been held and the curling – luckily – is much more reliable than the weather. Predictions are for a seasonal weekend Jan. 14-15, but over the years, the event has been held in pouring rain, unseasonable balmy sunshine, and blinding snowstorms. And, occasionally, an actual January thaw.

However, the teams are always on their game and often make the most of an opportunity to sport Hawaiian shirts and other warm-weather gear in order to dress in the spirit of the event if not for the actual weather.

Twelve teams from around the

Valley will curl three games each on Saturday in order to determine the standings for the next day's play-downs. The Sunday morning elimination draws result in three final games that begin at 1:30 p.m.

MCC has four teams in the mix and of course members hope for a good showing by the home teams.

The club is open to spectators for the two days the curling is in progress and community members are invited to come and watch live curling with some very competitive teams in a social atmosphere.

While the adults are competing in a club bonspiel, youth co-ordinator Dawn Spidle is practising with her teams for their next outing: the Earl McKinnon Classic held at Glooscap Curling Club in Kentville.

Earl McKinnon ran the youth programs at GCC for many years and this bonspiel in his honour is a great chance for our younger curlers to try out their skills in competitive games against curlers who are not their regular team-mates in their own club.

Students have fewer options than adults and so this is an important outing that fosters team-building and good sportsmanship. Dawn has three under-12 teams and one under-14 team in the classic which will be held in Kentville Jan. 20-22. Everyone hopes that this year Dawn and her teams are not fighting the elements. Last year the driving was not easy but curlers, whether young or old, don't seem to be of the mindset that allows for cancellation, and most games were held.

While these larger events are being held, the club still hosts the regular Friday night Chase the Ace, which on January, Friday-the-13th, may go against superstition and be lucky for someone, as so far the Ace has been elusive. Also mark your calendar for the next Big Breakfast, Jan. 21.

All club information is available at www.middletoncurlingclub.com

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the Middleton Curling Club.