

# Middleton gearing up for provincial Masters

## Karen Sotvedt

Throwing rocks



Middleton Curling Club takes the name "Heart of the Valley" seriously and maintains a goal of trying to keep the club on the provincial and national map, as far as curling goes.

This year, once again, MCC hosts the Provincial Combined Men's and Women's Masters Championship, a competition that is a good fit for the club and popular with the curlers. The participants must be at least 60 years old and for many of them, most of those years have been spent curling.

Over the years the members of the various teams have curled with and against each other in many combinations, on various levels, and in numerous locations

both in Nova Scotia and around the country. Middleton hosted the individual events before they were combined and since the new format, has been almost the permanent home. Each year the club feels like the venue for a reunion of old and dear friends.

In past years the Masters has been the last weekend in January, but this year has moved to the end of February. The five-day event begins on Friday, Feb. 23 and continues until Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Friday begins with practice and registration and the feeling of reunion runs high. The home team usually plays its first games that evening and the spectator seats are packed. This year the MCC entry plays weekly in the Valley Masters, skipped by Wayne Schurman with teammates Fred Hole, Les Smith, and Ian Reesor.

Also on the Friday is Chase the Ace - if the ace of hearts remains hidden in the deck - and the two events fit well together with the ace providing spectators for the

curling and the curling giving additional entertainment to those vying for the pot.

The Masters has a bit of a reputation for being hit by periods of bad weather. However, curlers are a hardy group and while sometimes games are delayed to await the arrival of a snow-bound team, they have never been cancelled at MCC due to weather. The organizers hope that this year the Almanac is incorrect when it predicts a snowy February.

The Masters creates a lot of opportunities to mingle and club members have been more than pleased at the good response to their hospitality in the past. MCC and Middleton have proved to be good hosts and the success of the event will be measured in the good memories it provides.

Photos and information are available at [www.middleton-curlingclub.com](http://www.middleton-curlingclub.com)

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the Middleton Curling Club.