

■ SPORTS

Curling action on and off the ice in Middleton

Karen Sotvedt

Throwing rocks



With the noise and merriment of last week's Christmas Fete over and all the prizes picked up – they had the club looking like Santa's workshop for weeks – Middleton Curling Club seemed fairly subdued this week.

League play continued as normal as it was too early for Christmas parties. The Afternoon League hosted the first Home-and-Home, with Berwick curlers playing at MCC last Friday, Dec. 8. Last year the trophy went to Berwick at the end of the return visit, and despite best efforts, Berwick won the day this time. The home teams are undaunted and will make the return visit in the New Year, and try to reclaim the trophy.

Of most interest this week was the activity outside the club, along the back boundary. A line of dead and dying trees has caused problems for MCC for a number of years. Of concern is that in high winds the dead branches fall down and more sizeable limbs can damage the steel roof and even cars in the parking lot.

Members have been talking of this for some time, and this week,



MIDDLETON CURLING CLUB

Middleton Curling Club members took chain saws and other implements of destruction out back of the club and started cleaning out old trees that were posing a hazard to the club's roof as branches tended to fall off in high winds. The trees were also a staging area for platoons of racoons in their assaults on the club over the years.

with the agreement of adjoining neighbours, the worst offenders amongst the trees started to come down. Work parties of six or more, wielding chain saws and other implements started a process that will take several weeks.

It was not only the falling limbs that were a concern. Over the years, armies of critters have used the trees as a staging area for assaults on the club. In particular - but not limited to - racoons, which of course have an uncanny ability to work around

the best defenses. In his years as president, Ian Reesor spent many hours trying to ensure that the club was critter-proof, only to find that if there was no hole for entry, the offenders could eat their way through some of the walls. It was very much a matter of territory, and as long as the trees offered a launching pad and nesting space, the sporadic invasions would continue.

With the back safe and tidy, and the approach of Christmas, the feelings of goodwill abound.

The next Big Breakfast is Saturday, Dec. 16, and league play continues until Dec. 21. The Breakfast is a great community socializer, and in the New Year, Middleton hosts two events that are also open for public viewing – the January Thaw Mixed Bonspiel Jan. 13-14 and the Provincial Club Mixes, Jan. 19-21.

Check it out at www.middletoncurlingclub.com

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the Middleton Curling Club.

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