

SPORTS

New BOSS working hard at Middleton Curling Club

Karen Sotvedt
Throwing rocks



Everyone at Middleton Curling Club is delighted with their new BOSS.

The arrival of the battery-operated ice scraper was low key: head icemaker Ernie Killen parked it proudly at the far end of the ice shed for several social occasions at the beginning of the curling season so it would be on display. However, most club members may not have understood the significance of this.

The old system required several people to operate it safely. It was nearly twice the size, heavy and cumbersome, plus, being electrical, it required hundreds of feet of cable to be manipulated as it was pushed up and down the ice (think of a Zamboni with a cable dragging



MIDDLETON CURLING CLUB

Head icemaker Ernie Killen and his team Les Smith, Ian Reesor, Jim Sotvedt, Allen Morris and John England.

along with it). The combination of water, electricity and sharp blades meant that it was an exacting task and physically demanding.

The BOSS has a 24-volt rechargeable battery and spends most of its time tucked into the docking station. However, if required, on a full charge, it could run for 10 hours without re-docking. Plus it is lighter and easier to manoeuvre so does not require as much manpower, is much faster, and in less time delivers more passes on the ice surface.

Life for the ice-making team became easier and the ice got better. We have experienced an unseasonably warm autumn that presents

challenges in keeping the ice in good repair, but the new BOSS really assisted in this.

The acquisition of such a piece of equipment required a large financial outlay, and Middleton is a small club. Luckily MCC had the help of Annapolis County Recreation project and programs officer Nancy Chisholm and the support of County Coun. John A. MacDonald in obtaining a grant for half of the purchase of the BOSS.

Annapolis County has always supported healthy living initiatives and MCC not only has its adult leagues but a thriving and expanding youth program so the

investment made sense. And once the purchase of the BOSS was a reality, the Rotary Club of Middleton funded the construction of the purpose-built docking station in its own room off the ice shed.

Such events may only be of passing interest to most members, but to the icemakers it is huge. The ice has to be 'made' with the scraper every day, and when there is a bonspiel, sometimes two or three times in a day depending on the schedule. The reduced time and physical strain makes a big difference since everyone who performs this function is a volunteer.

Next up - MCC's annual Christmas ticket auction on Dec. 2. Check it out at www.middleton-curlingclub.com

Karen Sotvedt is a member

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Kentville

TOWN OF KENTVILLE MEETING NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of Council will be held in the Town Hall Chambers on Monday, November 27th

COUNTY of ANNAPOLIS

NATURALLY ROOTED