

SPORTS

Youth program benefits from year-long fundraiser at MCC

Karen Sotvedt
Throwing rocks



It is now less than two weeks to end of a very successful and eventful five months at Middleton Curling Club.

The start of the season was exciting not just for the curling but also for the Chase the Ace which went on for a year. Despite the odds, the ace stayed hidden until there was only one card left and the winning ticket did not have to make a choice. But in the weeks immediately beforehand, with

so few cards on the table, every night's winner seemed sure to get the big pot – until they didn't.

In the buildup and breathless excitement of each week's draw, it was easy to forget why it was being held in the first place. The beneficiary of the fundraiser was the youth program at MCC – the Little Rocks and Juniors – under coordinator Dawn Spidle. The attendance of both increased this past year and the revenue from the ace meant new modern equipment was purchased to replace older gear at the club and to invest in some things the club had not been able to supply previously.

Routine things like brooms,

sliders and stabilizers were bought and also stopwatches, and a smart broom to step the learning up a notch. Student curlers need only wear sneakers – there is no requirement to buy dedicated curling shoes – so new shoe cleaning machines were bought to prevent grit and dirt being tracked onto the ice.

A portion of the Junior Development Camp was subsidized and also some of the expenses of the MCC curlers who competed in the Skills Competition at the Scotties. A full-floor off-ice curling set was bought for the junior program for use in the practice of stance and technique.

Years ago the student equipment had been in a large tub

containing a jumble of extra bits and pieces; now it is housed in a well-stocked storage cupboard to support the youth programs.

The ace was fun while it lasted but the benefits to the students at MCC will last for years.

BIG BREAKFAST

This past weekend the club's last Big Breakfast was well attended despite the fact quite a number of members were in the Provincial Men's and Women's Club Championships in Kentville. On Sunday, the consolation round saw two club teams face off against each other with Bill Eaton, Rick Greene, Jim Marshall, and Paul Saxon finally beating Les Smith's team with Bruce Johnson, Erwin

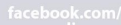
Banks, and Ian Reesor.

In the women's championship the team of Dawn Spidle, Emily Neily, Christine Spidle, and Barb Eaton did not win the event but they fought hard, with games going to extra ends – eventually playing 25 ends in one day. Exhausting!

The last event at the club when league play finishes is Bill Eaton's closing funspiel which is open to all curlers, individual entries. This is an evening spiel over two nights, April 1 and April 4.

Contact information is available at www.middletoncurling-club.com if you want to play.

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the Middleton Curling Club.



RECREATION