

## SPORTS

# Burnard rink wins Provincial Club Mixed at Middleton

**Karen Sotvedt**

Throwing rocks



Middleton Curling Club has hosted provincial championships for years, and one thing that has been a constant is some sort of weather event has created challenges more often than not.

Some years it is a nor'easter that makes driving difficult for participants coming in by highway each day; more than once torrential rains blowing in at odd angles have resulted in buckets on the ice; and not infrequently, blizzards and ice-storms have kept curlers snow-bound in Middleton with a variety of snow-moving equipment delivering participants to the club.

But the show must go on and it always does.

This year the drama was caused



The Windsor rink of Arnold Burnard, with Shelley MacDougall, Ryan Whitehead and Monica Driscoll, won the Club Mixed Championship Jan. 27 in Middleton. **CONTRIBUTED**

by icy roads and two separate accidents that took out power poles and with them, the electricity at the club. For 11 hours there was no refrigeration to the ice in the day before a provincial championship and there was some tense time for the ice-making team.

As it was, power came on in time

and chief ice-maker Ernie Killen with Allen Morris and Ian Reesor spent their weekend making sure the ice was top-notch for the competitors. The event proceeded with many attendees being unaware of this year's weather-related difficulty.

Two teams from Middleton competed in the Provincial Club

Mixed held Jan. 25-27, skipped by Les Smith and Larry Drew. Friday began a series of games to decide teams to go forward into the qualifiers and Smith's team - with Susan Coulter, Irwin Banks, and Stephanie Harvey - progressed through without defeat. Drew - with Cindy Robar, Jim Marshall, and Becky Robar - had to work a little harder, play extra games, but eventually topped the consolation round.

In the other qualifying round, the team of Arnold Burnard from Windsor, the defending champions, had also progressed into the qualifiers undefeated but then lost a critical game on Saturday night. Just the way the draw schedule was created, after playing Sunday morning's game, a rematch of the night before with team MacEachern from Glooscap, the resulting championship game would have seen Burnard's team playing against themselves. So Burnard, with Shelley MacDougall, Ryan Whitehead and Monica

Driscoll, won the Club Mixed Championship from both directions and the runners-up were the Conrad MacEachern team with Kim Garby, Kevin Siddall, and Kathy Siddall.

It was a grand weekend for spectators too, and the club welcomed supporters of local teams as well as those from further away. There was lots of discussion over tactics by those safely behind the glass where their armchair quarter-backing did not disturb the competitors. That is part of the fun of watching live curling - calling the shots and then cheering or groaning, depending on the outcome.

The next event at the club is the Valentine Funspiel, on Feb. 9, and is open to individual curlers - you don't need to be a club member to sign up.

See our homepage at [www.middletoncurlingclub.com](http://www.middletoncurlingclub.com)

Karen Sotvedt is a member of the  
Middleton Curling Club.

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