

## CURLING

# Young players make their presence known within the province

**Karen Sotvedt**  
Throwing Rocks



While the Middleton Curling Club was busy hosting the Provincial Club Mixed Bonspiel, student curlers continued to be busy with their own plans. Last year, Little Rock Zaida Lily was one of five finalists in the province for the Hit, Tap, Draw contest for her age group. She travelled to Cape Breton for the finals during the Scotties, which she won.

This year, she was also in the top five for the province and the finals were held between the Tankard and Scotties playdowns in Halifax. She came second in the province, a proud accomplishment for a diminutive curler.

Last weekend, MCC had events both days that centred on the youth programs. On Feb. 1, coordinator Dawn Spidle held the annual Friends and Family Funspiel that invites not just students, but also parents, siblings and friends.

A few club members counted themselves as friends and family, so there were two draws of four-end curling before and after lunch. The teams were an even mixture of those who curled and those who were being good sports. The very young used the Lite Rocks for their throws, and the

adults and older students used the regular rocks. For some of the youngest, the strategy was lost in the pleasure of just hitting someone else's rock. It was great fun for everyone but also a good opportunity for the up-and-coming curlers to experience a game with curling etiquette against adults and they all took it in stride. Lunch was enjoyed as part of the day and, at the end, all the young curlers received a prize, so everyone left happy. The event was won by the Daley family, skipped by Junior curler Sophie Daley. Club members, too, were pleased to think that a new generation of curlers is coming along.

On Sunday, many of the juniors were back in the club as MCC hosted the Valley Youth League's latest get-together. Four clubs – Windsor, Kentville (Glooscap), Berwick and Middleton – have a rotation of games they each host, so that their curlers have another chance to curl against different teams from outside their own clubs. It is a "friendly" league, not at the major competitive level, but helps the students prepare for those higher level games. It is one six-end game, because there is travel involved for most teams, but at the end of games at MCC there is the added bonus of some glow curling, which other clubs are not equipped to provide.

For upcoming events, check our website at [www.middletoncurlingclub.com](http://www.middletoncurlingclub.com) or follow us on Facebook.



The Daley family – Nicole, Justin, Sophie and Olivia – won the recent Friends and Family Funspiel. CONTRIBUTED