

Provincial Curling Championships held at the Elora Curling Club

BY LEAH GERBER

FOR THE ENTERPRISE NEWS EXPRESS

ELORA - 2014 marks the Elora Curling Club's 175th year of curling. In commemoration, the club recently hosted the Intermediate Provincials Curling Championships. The finals began on March 5, and continued until March 8, bringing the top eight men's and women's intermediate curling teams in Ontario to Elora. The women's champion this year was the Paisley Curling Club, and men's champion was the Chatham Granite Club. Everyone who attended had fun and was proud to be there.

Though the coveted title of provincial champions, and accompanying banner and bragging rights were up for the taking, the atmosphere inside the Elora Curling Club was relaxed. Men and women of all ages representing competing clubs from across the province mixed and mingled like old friends.

"The best part about curling is the social aspect," says Carol McKenzie, co-chair of the Curling Club's Provincials Board. "It doesn't matter what club you go in to, whether you're in Coldwater, Ottawa or Sault Ste Marie, they welcome you with open arms. Curlers like curlers. It's great."

McKenzie and fellow co-chair Kathy Freure, along with the rest of the provincials board and other volunteers have been busy for months organizing the four-day event. From providing food, to co-ordinating time keepers, McKenzie and Freure were constantly on the go sup-



FULL HOUSE

The Elora Curling Club was full of curling fans of all ages earlier this month for the Intermediate Provincials Curling Championships.

porting the curlers.

Tina Mazerolle, a local curler in both the Guelph and Elora curling clubs, competed with the Guelph curling team this year. Mazerolle started playing in her hometown of Buchans, Newfoundland.

Says Mazerolle, "I grew up in a small town where everyone either played hockey or curled. I chose curling."

She chose curling 24 years ago, and now plays two nights a week in Guelph and Elora, and receives abundant support from both clubs. Everyone, es-

pecially Mazerolle herself, was excited to see her compete in the provincial championships on home turf. But most of all, she loves playing the game.

"I love the sport itself first," says Mazerolle. "The strategy. It's a thinker's game. You have to be athletic, and you have to make the shots, but really it's like chess on ice. So you have to out-think your opponents to win the game."

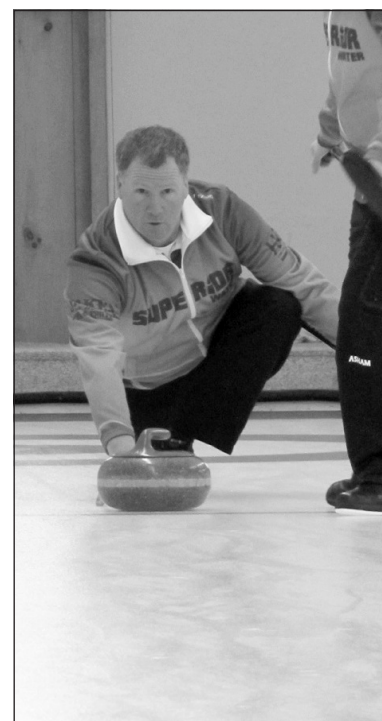
Curling is a game that anyone can play. Whether eight or 80 years old, looking for competi-

tion or just some fun, you will fit right in at your local curling club.

"That's the fun about curling" says McKenzie, "It's anybody's game. You can go out, and you can watch it on TV, and you can maybe beat one of those teams one day. It doesn't matter about your level."

Curling is also a family sport. Many curlers started playing early with their parents and siblings. Doug McDougall and Nathan McDougall, father and

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The best intermediate curlers from across Ontario gathered in Elora recently.

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