



Twelve stick curling teams from across the Island (Montague, Cornwall, Summerside and Alberton) played a one-day tournament at the Western Community Curling Club on December 9 with the host club producing the winners.

It's an indication of the growing popularity of stick curling that participants rotate from club to club every month during the curling season.



The team of Walter Callaghan and John Vincent (left) won by 1/2 point over Johnny and Joey Ellsworth.



An innovation at the club this year is a Stick Curling league which is a rather recent innovation to the world of curling. Instead of pushing stones down the ice by hand, players do so standing up with a stick which attaches to the handle of the rock.

'Sturling', as it is coming to be called, is proving to be a great way of encouraging veteran curlers to continue enjoying the game as well as motivating new curlers into the sport.

In the last five years this new way to 'throw rocks' has seen a ten-fold increase in the number of participants throughout the Maritimes.



Alberton's Western Community Curling Club (WCCC) has about 15 'sturlers' with more joining the Club each week. Success of the program was proven when teams from the Club placed first and third at the Provincial Championships last year.

Stick curling has many of the same rules, and most of the same strategies, as regular curling except that teams consist of only two curlers, only six rocks thrown per end and only six ends played.

The games proceed rapidly, often lasting barely an hour.

Father Art Pendergast, President of the WCCC and ardent stick curler for the past five years, credits this innovative way to curl with definitely contributing to the ongoing success of the club.

Sticks are routinely used by some curlers for the regular evening draws also but there is also morning draw for stick curlers only.

Anyone interested in learning more about this newest game in town, please call the Club or stop by to join the fun on Friday mornings at 10:00 am.