

THE BOYS TRY CURLING

WINTER sports, as they exist in Eastern Canada, have little place in Powell River's sports agenda. Normally our snowfall is of short duration. Ice skating is very spasmodic, depending on outdoor lake freezing — and rarely do citizens enjoy more than a maximum of two weeks' skating in a year. (Up to the end of January, not a lake in the district had even looked like freezing.)

Bob Fletcher (left), Mark McCartney, Tom Wyborn, Russell Cooper, Powell River's curling challenge.



But many of our residents, brought up in the hardy atmosphere of ringing blades, flashing sticks and bob sleigh runs, hanker after the pleasures of their youth — and last month their hankering was too much for four of our prominent citizens. Resident Manager Russell Cooper, Groundwood Superintendent Bob Fletcher, Steam Plant Superintendent Tom Wyborn and Mark McCartney, well-known district merchant, headed off for Vancouver to take part in a curling tournament.

None of them had played for at least 15 years, but this trifling fact failed to daunt them. Bob Fletcher and Tom Wyborn were lawn bowlers of province-wide fame — and after all, curling on ice couldn't be much different from bowling on grass.

It was a little different — but surprisingly enough, the Powell River rink put up a good show, and except for one end, held their own in competition with a rated Vancouver squad. Russ Cooper and Bob Fletcher were in top form — and Vancouver curlers are praying they don't build a rink in Powell River and send out teams to disrupt the quiet of Vancouver.

This is the first record of a Powell River rink playing a competitive match in curling — and interest has spread about the district. If any of the lakes freeze over this year, it is a certain fact that a lot of lawn bowlers will be purchasing curling stones.