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## IN & OUT OF TOWN

There are a couple of events coming in March that offer some excitement in and out of town.

The City of Orillia hosts the 2018 Ontario Winter Games, March 1-4. Over 3,000 amateur athletes, 12-18 years old, from across Ontario will descend on Orillia to compete in 25 sports.

Part of the games will take place in Muskoka. Huntsville hosts Speed Skating, Gravenhurst will have Sledge Hockey and Bracebridge will feature Synchronized Swimming and Taekwondo.

Though much of the action occurs in Orillia, the games will include Midland, Barrie and Collingwood.

The Games are looking for volunteers in all areas. Detailed information about the Games, volunteering, etc. can be found at [orillia2018.ca](http://orillia2018.ca).

From March 17-25, North Bay brings in the World Women's Curling Championships.

With qualifiers still taking place, the line-up has yet to be announced - but this is the real deal. Previous participants have included Team Homan, Jones, Muirhead and more. Event info can be found at [curling.ca/2018worldwomen](http://curling.ca/2018worldwomen). **OT**



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# "The Bullpen"

## OUTDOOR HOCKEY TOURNEY IN '18

The 10th annual Vankoughnet Cup outdoor hockey tournament is on.

Attracting teams from Central/Northern Ontario, the event grows each year. The tournament is a three on three, no goalie format, with each team permitted up to three substitutes.

The one day event's on Saturday February 24th, on the outdoor rink in the village park in Vankoughnet. Game officials keep teams on beam with the rules and fun is the name of the game.

Three games guaranteed. This structure allows a team to advance into the playdowns even with an early loss.

Activities include the games, a goaltender's challenge in a shootout contest, video replay of the games, food and refreshments in the Village Square community building.

Register early, this tournament fills up quick. For information contact Mike Sturgeon at 705-646-2755 or 416-276-5216 - [mikesturgeon@rogers.com](mailto:mikesturgeon@rogers.com).

## RINK RATS DO GOOD

The Rink Rats Hockey Club held it's 23rd Annual Golf tournament at Windermere Golf Club in the summer. The \$800 in proceeds were given to the Bracebridge Alzheimer's Society.



Pictured (L-R): Larry D'Andrea, Jessica Verbeek & Karen Quemby (BB Alzheimer's Society), Gord Dawes.



## ROYAL HISTORY

Fiontar Mac Tire, a 6 year-old Connemara pony stallion, was part of royal history. Fion ("Fin"), owned by Janet Rowe of Muskoka Lakes Connemaras in Bracebridge, competed at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto in the Pony Jumper Division. Fion was ridden by Nicole Donovan of Orillia. At the age of 16, Nicole is the first junior to ride a stallion in The Fair's 95 year history. Earlier this year, Equestrian Canada changed rules to allow riders 15-18 years to compete. Rowe turned to social media and found Nicole. Previously, with adults only allowed to ride, it was extremely difficult to get a rider for a pony.

Nicole and Fion competed in the 'A' level circuit in Ontario in hopes of qualifying for The Fair. The call came just a couple weeks before The Fair.

## AN IDEA FROM ORILLIA?

In our Orillia magazine we just did a story on their new recreation facility which has recently (finally) started construction. The first concept of the new facility came back in 1977—yes, 1977—not a typo.

Here's what we thought was unique. They have began their Capital Campaign to raise funds. As opposed to just donations or purchasing of a brick or something, they are offering naming rights to everything in the building. OK, so that's not different—here's what is. Orillia did not hire an 'outside' company to do it where commissions or flat rate fees would have to be paid. Instead a group of 9 volunteers stepped forward. They're business people, retired business people and residents.

When Bracebridge is ready to go full gear on the new arena—hopefully not 40 years from now—perhaps volunteers will step forward here and that the town considers the possibilities.

## OT ONLINE

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# FIRE DEVASTATED CURLING CLUBS

The Bracebridge curling organization enjoyed 34 years of success in the curling rink they had constructed at the corner of Taylor Road and Front Street in 1899, and an occasional bonspiel at Dunn's Palace Rink. Following the devastating 1931 fire that destroyed Dunn's rink, George Yearly stepped into the picture and contracted to build a new skating arena that included a section with an ice surface consisting of two sheets solely for the use of the club.

With the promise of this new facility, and recognizing the continuing deterioration of their 1899 building, in 1933 the club relocated to the new rink on James Street. The original Hunt's Hill Rink, in what had to be an emotional moment, was immediately demolished.

The club's tenure at the Yearley facility, however, was to be short-lived. Mr. Yearley quickly found out that operating his new rink was costly and he repeatedly appealed to the Town council for financial assistance. In 1937, the council capitulated and started providing some support, but in 1943 fire struck again and the building, which was heated by large wood stoves, was completely destroyed.

For a number of years, all ice-related activities had to make use of the facilities of other communities or temporarily cease to operate.

Following the end of World War II, when many young men were returning from duty with the armed services, a strong organization was formed and a new skating rink was created on the, then vacant, property of George Yearly at a cost of \$280,000. It was aptly named the Bracebridge Memorial Community Centre, which celebrated its official opening in 1949.

Kenneth Carman Veitch  
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## TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. Toronto has won the most. But what 2 teams have appeared more often in the Grey Cup?
2. The movie 'Moneyball' told the philosophy of GM Billy Beane. What team was he GM for?
3. Who is the only player to play in the World Series and Super Bowl?
4. The 'Grand Slam' Tournaments are the 4 most important annual events in which 2 sports?
5. In what year was the 'Super Bowl' first played?
6. The Colorado Rockies are a Major League Baseball team. What other professional sports league had a 'Colorado Rockies' team?
7. Brazil has won the World Cup (FIFA) 5 times. What 2 European teams have each won it 4 times?



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## Tracey Part Of Positive Start

When you look at the standings, and see (at deadline) they presently sit in 8th (of 10) in the North division of the GMHL, things may not seem rosy for the South Muskoka Shield Hockey Club.

Win one, lose one, win one, lose two—it's been a matter of establishing consistency and gaining momentum. But, they sit just one game below the 'magical' .500 mark, 8 points from first.

It is quite a different roster this year—and they're still a group gradually finding their way.

There are many positive aspects to the Shield's 2017-18 start, including the offensive output of many of the newcomers. Included in that group is Bracebridge's Brody Tracey.

Tracey's offensive numbers, 8G-8A, has him in the top 5 on the team despite the fact he also leads the team in penalty minutes.

Upcoming home games in Gravenhurst - Nov 24 vs West Nipissing, Dec 1 against Almaguin and Dec 15 when Meaford comes in.

Stay up to date with the club at [shieldhockey.com](http://shieldhockey.com). OT



## SWIMMING WITH LEAVES

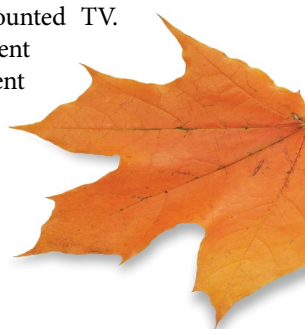
Submitted by Muskoka Aquatic Club (MUSAC)

'3 CHEERS' for our Junior MUSAC'ers and all the volunteers on a successful Fall Cleanup Fundraiser!

Groups of swimmers and chaperones raked leaves at over a dozen homes in Bracebridge and Huntsville in late October. See if you can find all the swimmers in the leaves.

Together they raised \$1000 for the club. The funds will go toward underwater video equipment and a mounted TV. Having the ability to purchase this equipment is a huge accomplishment and the investment will have a tremendous effect on improving training.

It's all thanks to some hard work and team bonding time. Watch for our bottle drive coming in the new year. (There's 5).





# 'THE FINALE' ENDS SEASON

Submitted by South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club

Despite announcing, "this is my last game of the season," many golfers were drawn back to the first tee by spectacular weather.

That was evident at the final event of the season. Close to 100 participated in 'The Finale' - a 2-player scramble with 3 divisions.

In Men's Division, the Matt Montgomery-Eric Foulkes duo were first-time winners, edging out the team of John Drohan and Jeff Esplen.

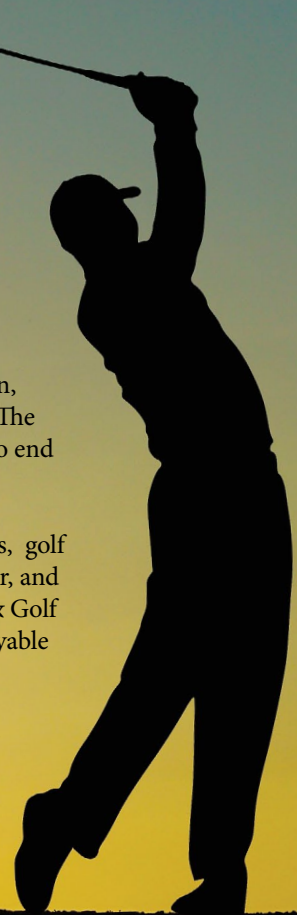
Jennifer Webb and Pat Pearson defend their Ladies title, with Sue Hall and Lisa MacDonald finishing 2nd.

In the hotly contended mixed division, Dave and Annette Allen narrowly edged out Rick and Sue Nelson for the championship.

On course contest winners were Pat Pearson, John Drohan, Mike Hansen and Sue Hall. The golfers enjoyed a superb buffet to end the 2017 season.

Special thanks to Mark Deactis, golf professional and general manager, and staff at South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club for making the season enjoyable and memorable for all.

While we're sorry to see the season end, we look forward to the first "fore" of spring 2018.



## PIONEERS MAKE WAY IN WEST

Although it is very early in their inaugural season, the Bracebridge Pioneers, with quite a number of local boys on the roster, appear to be making their way through the west in the Canadian Premier Junior Hockey League (CPJHL).

Their 5-1-0 start (at press) has them in 3rd place in the West division, a point behind Coldwater, 6 behind Essa, with 3 in hand.

So far it's been about offence for the club, outscoring their opponents by an average of 8.2 goals to 3.5. This upcoming month will see some challenges.

The Pioneers have 2 home games scheduled - Nov 25, 7pm vs Lake Erie Eagles and the 26th, 5pm against Coldwater. Then they're on the road for 4-straight including a Dec 2 trip to Angus to face the Essa Stallions and a return visit to Coldwater on Dec 9. Both games will test the Pioneers. They return home on Dec 16 to take on the Grey Highlands Hawks at 7pm at the Bracebridge Arena.

Full info is available at [bracebridgepioneers.ca](http://bracebridgepioneers.ca). OT

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## ATOMS ANSWER BELL

Submitted by South Muskoka Minor Hockey

South Muskoka Minor Hockey recently welcomed 14 teams from out of town to play in the annual Atom/Peewee Dan Bell Memorial Tournament in Bracebridge and Gravenhurst.

In all the years of the tournament, the host team has never won the championship game. That changed this season.

The Castle Peak Retirement Residence Atoms were a force the entire weekend, going undefeated.

Round robin play saw them win games one and two by scores of 6-1 and 7-0. Game three saw them battle Pembroke to a 2-2 tie. That was as close as any team would get.

The Bears took out North Bay 10-1 in the semi-final and shut out Pembroke in the rematch 4-0 for the title.

The success was a testament to the strong overall team game the Bears played throughout the weekend, outscoring their opponents 29-4.

The Fowler Peewee Reps weren't as fortunate, going 0-2-1. The Peewee Bears lost to Lincoln and Newcastle, managing to tie Cambridge.

Photos courtesy South Muskoka Photography- John Pokocky



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## MEET KATE WALKER

Submitted by the Muskoka Limberettes

Kate is 7 years old and in our six hour pre-competitive group.

Kate spent the month of October determined to improve in the sport of gymnastics. She has been

asking her coach a lot of questions on how to become a better gymnast and what she can be working on to help her progress.

Kate has been focused on keeping her knees straight in all her skills, splits and conditioning - something she has struggled with in the past.

Her enthusiasm and work ethic have been a great example for the rest of her group. Way to go Kate, we are proud of how far you have come this year!



## Limberettes Attend Camp

Submitted by Muskoka Limberettes

Gymnastics Ontario recently held a training camp at the Springers Gymnastics Club in Milton and 5 of Muskoka Limberettes' Provincial athletes attended.

Arden Johnston, Alex Marsden, Trista Fry, Marley Wicks, and Zoey DaPonte were the Muskoka participants.

The purpose of the camp is to identify and develop talent in Ontario. The girls got to work with high level guest coaches from the US and Canada on vault runs, dance postures, tumbling, bars, and conditioning.

ABOVE: The Muskoka Limberettes attended in their dark purple gradient uniforms.



# New Club Racks Up Provincial Awards

Submitted by Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club

Sally Mills, the president of the new Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club, was pleased to accept two awards at the annual fall meeting of the Ontario Lawn Bowling Association (OLBA) in Woodstock.

The club, which opened in July on the grounds of the Muskoka Highlands Golf Course, won an award for the most new members in 2017. They will be presented with a new set of club bowls by the sponsor of the award, MVP Sports, at the spring meeting of the OLBA.

Mills was also thrilled to be awarded first prize out of 30 entries for a communications contest sponsored by the OLBA. Her contest entry detailed her presentation to organizations inviting them to try the Learn to Lawn Bowl program.

Thomas Wu, marketing director for the OLBA, who created the contest, said “this type of program really does work.” Mills said she will use the \$1,000 prize to purchase new equipment for the lawn bowling club.

Ken Simpson, president of the OLBA, praised Mills and the Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club. He referred to Mills as a “wonder woman”, and joked, “I wish I could clone her.”

Mills gave a presentation to the delegates at the OLBA meeting about the lawn bowling club's first season, and the very successful Learn to Lawn Bowl program. Approximately 90 percent of program participants became full time club members after taking the program. Mills credited the club's partnership with the Town of Bracebridge's recreation department with helping to advertise the program, and for their guidance and support. The Club will offer the classes again in the spring.

For more information about the club, to purchase a gift certificate for the 2018 Learn to Lawn Bowl program, or to book an event, visit [muskokabowls.ca](http://muskokabowls.ca), or phone 705-646-0086.



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- 1. South Muskoka Atoms championship game, courtesy of South Muskoka Photography.
- 2. BB Soccer - indoor fall/winter program.
- 3. Reunited GH Alumni Basketball game.
- 4. Nicole Donovan rides Fion Mac Tire.
- 5. MSK Grizzlies, ready for action.
- 6. Working on skills with MSK Grizzlies.
- 7. MSK Limberettes Coach Dan & Kelsey with (L-R) Arden, Alex, Trista, Marley & Zoey.
- 8. MUSAC's fall clean-up fundraiser.
- 9. MSK Dance Connection, Fall Fair.

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# South Muskoka Grads Lead NCAA Teams To Victories

Submitted by South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club



South Muskoka Curling and Golf Club has consistently helped local junior players to develop their golf and personal skills to succeed through life. What other club can boast three current coaches at the NCAA level?



LEFT: Brennan Webb.  
MIDDLE: Erin Thorne (L).  
ABOVE: John Handrigan.

Erin Thorne is currently coaching at Wingate University in Charlotte, NC. Erin, a former assistant pro at South Muskoka, has led her team to a fourth place finish and a win at the Myrtle Beach Invitational at the team's first two events this year.

Erin formerly golfed at Western Michigan University, playing in every event the Broncos played from 2003-07. She turned pro in 2007, competing on the Duramed Futures Tour, the Suncoast Tour and the Canadian Women's Tour.

Brennan Webb, son of former South Muskoka pro Ron Webb, is head coach at Middle Tennessee State University. His team is moving up the rankings, as they have played to a fourth place, third place and a win at the Memphis Intercollegiate Tournament in their first three starts this season.

Brennan was formerly a fully exempt member on the PGA Web.com Tour in 2009, logging three top 25 finishes. In 2010, he competed in the Zurich Classic on the PGA Tour. He reached the second stage of the PGA Tour Qualifying School eight times in nine attempts.

John Handrigan moved this year from coaching at Florida to take on the head coaching position at Notre Dame University in Indiana. In their first four starts they have earned a sixth, fourth, third and a win at the Fighting Irish Classic.

John is just the seventh head coach in the 89 years of Irish men's golf, dating back to the fall of 1929.

All three continue to have close ties to Bracebridge and are supporters of the club's junior program.



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## GOOD TIMES AT BALL 'N' STONE

Submitted by South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club

The 14th Annual Modern Home Carpet One Ball 'n' Stone Bonspiel saw 12 teams play nine holes of modified Stableford scramble golf and eight ends of skins curling.

Once the final putt was down, and final draw to the button had come to a stop, the winners of the bonspiel were Rob Burgess, Steve Peters, John C. Smith and Al Helmer.

A great time was had by all but none more so than our recipients of the Most Honest Golfers title and the team who inevitably buys the reciprocal round after eight ends: Lisa Bjorkquist, Jill Chilvers, Dawn Decaire and Carrie Reid.

Thanks to the great weather, the bonspiel also saw a new addition this year: a putting contest. Set up on the practice green, each participant had three putts to achieve the highest score they possibly could. Phil Lyndon had a winning total of 90 points and was crowned champion. The committee would like to thank the Muskoka Sno-Bombers for graciously allowing us the use of their putting contest board.

On behalf of all the participants, South Muskoka Curling and Golf Club would like to thank Modern Home Carpet One for their continued sponsorship of the Ball 'n' Stone Bonspiel. Without their support, this event would not be possible. We also thank 'Hurry Hard Beer' for generously providing some of our prizes.

Up next for South Muskoka Curling and Golf Club is the Canadian Tire Hunter's Bonspiel on November 25.

For details, contact Jenn Josiak at [jennifer@southmuskoka.com](mailto:jennifer@southmuskoka.com).

LEFT: Bonspiel winners (L-R): Rob Burgess, Steve Peters, John C. Smith and Al Helmer.

MIDDLE: Most Honest (L-R): Lisa Bjorkquist, Jill Chilvers, Dawn Decaire and Carrie Reid.

RIGHT: Putting Champ, Phil Lyndon.

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## Academy Kicks Off

Submitted by Bracebridge Soccer Club

Bracebridge Soccer Club's fall/winter indoor program kicked off with the boy's on Friday night October 27th at the Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School gym.

Now into it's 4th season in our community, the Premier Soccer Institute Academy program offers a great development opportunity for children age 9 to 16 to receive high-quality elite level skill development and training from licensed National "A" Coach Ray Wright and the PSI Academy team.

The sessions are aimed at developing player's physical literacy, ball mastery, and technical skills using a variety of group activities and small-sided games.

The girl's program started the week after.



All decked out in Muskoka Grizzlies gear!



## GRIZZLIES GROW GIRLS' HOCKEY

Submitted by Muskoka Grizzlies

The Muskoka Grizzlies are off to another great year.

We have 27 players registered and over half of them are brand new to the game. Ages range from Grade 1 to Grade 5.

Each year we have been turning more female players onto hockey and being active.

Most of the players head north to play for the Huntsville Sting after the Grizzlies for more competitive hockey. They play in a local house league loop.

This year we sold some Grizzly swag to raise money for goalie equipment. We were a little short, so the Dads of Muskoka chipped in \$500 to complete the two sets of equipment. The two sets are shared every week so that each player has the opportunity to become the next Frederick Andersen.



The program that introduces girls to hockey runs Saturday mornings from 8-9 am. Any girl interested in giving it a try can email [muskokagrizzlies@gmail.com](mailto:muskokagrizzlies@gmail.com).



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# YOU HAVE TO PASS - NOT JUST THE PUCK

There's only 28 in Ontario. You'd expect most of them to be in the GTA. However, the largest area that has this is Hamilton—population 550,000. Many locations include Red Lake, Belle River, Pain Court - yes, towns in Ontario. Bracebridge has one too.

It's recognized around hockey here, but after that, who knew?

Bracebridge has the Hockey Canada Skills Academy (HCSA), operated via St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School (St. Dom's) here.

The HCSA was developed following the 1999 'Open Ice Summit' as one of 11 recommendations to improve 'Canadian hockey' development. At the time, many media reports stated the 'summit' was due to Canada's results at the '98 winter Olympics where the men's team failed to make the podium and the women lost to the US in the gold medal game. Also, in the late 90's, Europeans and Russians dominated the NHL draft and awards.

Coach Dan Blum, well-known in South Muskoka Minor Hockey, runs the HCSA program here. Even with his successes in minor hockey, Blum still had to qualify through Hockey Canada. It is also mandatory that he attends Hockey Canada courses/seminars to maintain program eligibility.

The St. Dom's students in this 'class' receive a credit. The skeptical questions why the student gets a credit for playing hockey as opposed to 'learning' something, say math.

"This isn't just hockey. We range from a junior player to a few that are new to the game. Sure, it teaches and enhances skill sets, but the academic side teaches nutrition, CPR, fitness, health. There's a written exam at the end", states Blum pointedly.

This group has 21 players - cap is 24. Brynn Kirbyson, grade 10, is in her 2nd year of the program. She loves the game and plays for



the Orillia Hawks, the girls association there. Brynn sees a chance to improve her skills, meet new people, all which may enable her to move forward in the game with a scholarship or another aspect. "This is a fantastic program. It's fun to learn everything on the ice and off. It's not an easy credit. The only thing missing, more girls" she says nudging her head towards the boys with a laugh.

Jake Kelly, who hasn't played minor hockey for 3 years, took the course. "I want an active lifestyle," was his response when we looked at him rather inquisitively. "We've got different levels of players. Coach Blum copes well with all of us. I mainly chose this because it also teaches nutrition, proper weight training and stuff. It's pretty good."

A few years ago, when St. Dom's applied for the program, the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board had 2 other schools participating. Blum, along with Principal Kevin Strong and VP Joe Conway, thought the program would be a good fit...promote activity, health, hockey and the school itself.

Although you have to be a St. Dom's student to participate in the HCSA, you're not required to be Catholic to enroll at the school despite popular belief.

Ice and class time are equally split. The academic side teaches elements that can be carried through and the balance is there. "We have time to do extra things that minor hockey coaches don't have the time to do. Skills will improve but the students still have to pass - and not just the puck", finishes Blum. **OT**

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## A HARDCOURT REUNION IN GRAVENHURST

Submitted by GH High School Alumni

Recently several hundred people came out to watch the 1993 Gravenhurst High School (GHS) gold medal basketball champs play the current GHS boys' basketball team in the GHS gym.



The event marked the 25 year anniversary of the 1992-93 Ontario High School 'A' Boys' Basketball Championship (OFSSA) victory for GHS.

The alumni game brought the team members back together again to challenge the current GHS boys' basketball team, who also happen to be Georgian Bay champs (GBSSA). It was planned as a charity event for the Gravenhurst Food Bank and the Rotary Bursary for Gravenhurst High School students. It was also intended to help inspire the current team.

The '93 champs defeated the current team 64-38.

Some highlights of the event included the fact that over 500 pounds of food was collected for the food bank, more than \$500 was collected for the bursary as part of a 50/50 draw and it helped foster a great sense of community spirit.

Steve Wagstaff, who sustained a paralysis after a diving accident, brought his family back from New Brunswick to be at the game. He received a standing ovation from the crowd when he was wheeled on to the court for the last couple of minutes of the game.

After 25 years, this was a feel-good event that brought a reunion of more than just the team members. It also brought together fans and family members from both eras, the original scorekeepers and the lively announcer - Jordan Ferguson.



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# THE QUESTION

**OT note:** *Though we are about local sports, we felt this article from our North Bay publication was 'universal' and is printed here with permission from Danny Gosselin. Hope you enjoy the read.*

*(A special contribution from Danny Gosselin, Head Coach Vision Volleyball. He has coached 17 years, level 3 Volleyball, Region 2 President - Volleyball Operations, Player Development Coach & Co-Founder of Vision, Coaching Staff - Team Ontario 9 years and Coaching Staff - High Performance, Ontario Volleyball Association)*

Coaching, a most rewarding experience, has its learning moments and I've had more of these than the average person. Often, the learning has happened due to my miscalculations, but not always. I wish to share some of the wisdom I have acquired.

Once, a player, a wonderful girl for whom I have a soft spot, asked me, "Coach, how can I become a starter?" I usually don't mind this question. I often give the "statistically speaking" answer but her stats were among the best. Truth is, she gets in her own way. How could I impart my thoughts to her without hurting her feelings? I told her, rather than improving statistically, GIVE more to the culture. Quoting John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you... ask what you can do for your country." I let her mull that over.

She came back asking if it was a unity thing. I was impressed, she grasped the concept. "Yes, it is." I clarified, 'Unity', or 'teamwork', comes from the willingness of the collective to give without being asked to share; learning to be selfless." I'm not sure she understood. I explained, until she finds it in herself to become a true team player, she'll likely never find that floor time she wants. Not sure if our chat helped, time will tell.

A coach friend of mine says frequently we've entered into the "Age of Entitlement." Ten minutes don't go by without me seeing some of my players on a phone, taking a "selfie" and posting it on social media. They use these methods every day to SHOW OFF in every aspect of their lives. In this "Age", have we lost the meaning of TEAMWORK? It's about ME now. It's a systemic issue - "What can you give me?"; "How can I get what should be mine?"; "I want more playing time";

"I want to be a starter", etc. Where, in all this, do I hear, "Coach, what could I do to make our team better?" Words like that are rare. If your players don't have the 'give first' attitude, your team will never perform at their highest level.

Imagine a player saying, "I'll give more effort at practice and give my teammates positive encouragement. I'll shag that ball before I get my water. I'm going to be a leader in every aspect of my performance. I'll review my core values, adjust them to encourage a positive environment, then preserve that attitude and move it into game situation." This attitude would be wonderful if it were adopted by all members of your team, a coach's dream.

Parents often enable these "Age of Entitlement" behaviours. It's rare that I meet a parent who has the entire picture in mind. The parent of that girl came to me asking why I didn't play the best players all the time. Parents don't understand the difference between watching and coaching. Parents worry about one player, their child. I worry about eleven players, and their parents. If you think his comment was for the benefit of the TEAM, it was not. It proves my point. If this is what the parent was asking me in public, imagine what he'd be saying to his daughter at home. Parents should spend time understanding and talking about the big picture. These negative comments create animosity within a team, and do not lend themselves to developing a cohesive unit.

A few years ago, I was talking to a coach, for whom I have great deal of respect, he is a very successful high school and club coach, has won many championships, and has even produced a national team player. Mr. Bartlett said to me, "I'd rather lose with 12 players I like, than win with 10 I hate." I used these words as the back bone of my lifetime of coaching. I would rather lose with 12 players who understand the concept of 'team', than win with 10 who only function as individuals. I'll never forget those words. I'll continue to use them as part of my core values.

If we work together, parents to players to coaches, to put away the 'ME FIRST' attitude and commit to 'TEAM', only then will you truly be a TEAM PLAYER.





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## BALA CURLING STARTS

*Submitted by the Bala Curling Club*

The season got off to a great start after the 'Meet & Greet' evening for returning members and new curlers.

Weekly play shapes up as follows: Monday night men's, Tuesday night mixed, Wednesday night ladies, and Thursday night competitive. Plans are afoot to add a Tuesday afternoon junior curling program, Thursday morning mixed fun curling and Friday night mixed fun curling or Scotch doubles.

It's not too late to join in to play on most evenings and half-season memberships are available. For more info, email [balacurlingclub@gmail.com](mailto:balacurlingclub@gmail.com) or visit The Bala Curling Club's Facebook page.



## JUST SHORT

*Submitted by Huntsville Hawks Lacrosse*

They played their regular season to a record of 8W-1L-1T, which included a 6-game winning streak leading into the Championship Weekend in Brampton.

For the Huntsville Hawks U13 Fall Field Lacrosse team, that trend continued to start the weekend.

The Hawks defeated Mimico 7-3, then crunched Kitchener United 15-7. The 2 wins set up a semi-final re-match against Mimico. This time, unfortunately, the Hawks fell just short, losing by the slim margin of 6-5. In the final, Oshawa ended up hammering Mimico 15-2.

Still, the U13s had a stellar fall season. Well done.

*Back row (L-R): Trainer Steve Perentesis, Daniel Clarke, Alex Chochlowski, Aiden McCarthy, Ewen Greenfield, Kyler Van Kooy, Kean Pare, Hunter Crawford, Carter Boone, Head Coach Dan Caswell. Front row (L-R): Wyatt Fielding, Evan Pare, Nolan Caswell, Ethan Roos, Justin Caswell, Peter Perentesis, Jack Campbell.*





# ICE IS NICE IN GRAVENHURST

Submitted by the Gravenhurst Curling Club



We're ready for another great curling season. A new ice scraper was purchased to improve ice conditions. And, now, the ice is in and ready.

Thanks to Bill Collins for his help in making a needed repair in the condenser. Also thanks to our new ice team, Dan Champ, Gord Washburn and Matt Underwood. They recently attended an ice making session and are hoping to have the best ice conditions yet.

After our two registration nights we now have 170 members signed up, of which over 20 are new to the club. Also, we have 16 who are registered in the 'Learn to Curl' program.

TICKER... THE TICKER ... THE TICKER ... THE

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