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Sports Magazine - December 2017

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BACK ON IN '18

Submitted by Vankoughnet Cup Exec. Committee

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

Attracting local and outside teams from North Bay to Toronto, 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.

Last year's tournament had 12 teams, playing three games guaranteed. This allows a team to advance into the playdowns even with an early loss.

Last year, the Bracebridge Jagerbombers won their 2nd consecutive title going undefeated in upending the Black River Bruins, in the altered ball hockey format - switched because of weather.

The Cup, started in 2009 by Chris Varga, features activities including the games, a goaltender's challenge in a shootout contest, video replay, food and refreshments in the Village Square community building.

Register early, it fills up. For information contact Mike Sturgeon at 705-646-2755 or 416-276-5216 - mikesturgeon@rogers.com.

ABOVE: 2017 Champs, The Jagerbombers. Photo by Chris Varga.

"The Bullpen"

HOLIDAY TIME

We'll grab a minute here to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays.

To our readers, thanks for picking us up. To our advertisers, and on behalf of the sports enthusiasts and groups, we thank you for allowing us to bring this magazine to market.

At this time of year, we're to look back, reflect on what the year was. In sports though, if you look back too long or reflect too much, you'll miss the next pass. In a worst case scenario, you'll be flattened...hit so hard you won't know what day it is - we know, it's happened to us.

Next time you're in your car, note the rearview mirror is smaller than your windshield because it is more important to see where you're going, then where you've been.

No matter the next game's result or how you contributed...there's another day, another game - your chance to be better. Don't look back too long. Learn and move forward.

And, on that note, we wish our local athletes, teams and groups the best for the holidays and the new year. Make it your time.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Quick reminder about the 2018 Ontario Winter Games, being hosted by the City of Orillia. There are a few sporting events that will be taking place here. Bracebridge will host Synchronized Swimming and Taekwondo, Gravenhurst will feature Sledge Hockey and Huntsville will have Speed Skating.

The Games are looking for a variety of volunteers, including here. Detailed information about the games and volunteer registration can be found at orillia2018.ca.

Over 3,000 amateur athletes, 12-18 years old, will participate in the Games taking place March 1-4.



ROYAL UPDATE

Last month we told you about Fiontar Mac Tire, a Connemara pony stallion owned by Janet Rowe at Muskoka Lakes Connemaras, being part of Royal Winter Fair history. Ridden by Nicole Donovan of Orillia as part of the first juniors to ride in The Fair for the first time in The Fair's 95-year history. Both Nicole and "Finn" performed very well earning a ribbon in each of their 3 classes, "way beyond expectation" according to Nicole. They finished 4th, 6th and 8th. Well done.

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Find us online as well. Check us out on shopmuskoka.com. See the 'downloads' section to open an edition.

And, if you like what we're doing here...we'd appreciate being 'liked' on that facebook thing.



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International Stars Curlled In **Muskoka**

The largest and most successful curling events in all of Muskoka were the Muskoka International Mixed Bonspiels involving Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Huntsville.

It started in 1958 with a remarkable 88 rinks in the very first competition and continued until 1991. During that era, the two draw masters with the longest tenure, George Powell of Gravenhurst and Brian Howden of Bracebridge, had the very difficult and frustrating task of organizing a game schedule for a large number of teams in three different venues. Over its lifetime the average number of rinks competing was in excess of 100.

In 1959, New Zealand's ambassador to Canada, Sir Leslie Munroe, officially opened the games and welcomed over 100 rinks to the event.

Many well-known Muskoka and internationally recognized competitors' names, along with those of their wives, appear on the cup as champions.

Those who won with their wives as teammates include Paul Savage in 1983, Russ Howard (Canadian and World Champion

in 1981) representing Gravenhurst, and in 1989 with his brother Glenn representing Huntsville.

Bracebridge teams won the competition five times, Gravenhurst four, Huntsville three and Port Carling once. Skips for the five winning Bracebridge teams were, Jack Atkinson (1964), George Parlett (1971), John Saunders (1973), Gary Martin (1974) and Brian Howden (1979).

Dances, banquets and billeting the competitors were all part of the fun. Local retail, restaurant and service businesses flourished in each of the involved areas.

Kenneth Carman Veitch
Bracebridge Historical Resources
bracebridgemuskokahistory.com

ABOVE: The Muskoka Trophy donated by the Rubberset Company of Gravenhurst was the feature of the Muskoka International Mixed Bonspiel.



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TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. Who is the all-time rushing leader in the NFL?
2. With 9, what NHL coach has won the most Stanley Cups?
3. Finish this famous quote, "Float like a butterfly, sting..." coined by Muhammed Ali.
4. In 1935, which US city is the only city to have won 3 major championships in the same year?
5. Who is the NHL goalie recognized as being the first goalie to ever score a goal?
6. At 511, what pitcher has the most wins in Major League Baseball history?
7. The 1972 Miami Dolphins are the only team in NFL history to record a perfect (no losses) season including winning the Super Bowl. What team did the same until losing the Super Bowl?



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THEY LEFT IT ALL ON THE COURT

Submitted by St. Dominic Catholic High School - Kayla McBride, Student Journalist



Before a big game, regardless of the sport, it's not uncommon to hear a coach say these key words – "Leave it all out there".

Regardless of the win or loss to follow, these words inspire athletes to work their hardest and put everything they have into this one game. Sounds easier than it is.

Allowing yourself to push past what you thought was possible can be exhausting or frustrating but the thrill you receive knowing you did your best is irreplaceable.

At St. Dominic CSS, we know what it's like to leave it all out there. As the semester reached its halfway mark the sports seasons changed, marking the end of Girls basketball. The team had a record-breaking season, 7 wins and only 3 losses. They placed 2nd in MPS (Muskoka Parry Sound) and made their way to GBSSA (Georgian Bay Secondary School Association) finals.


These 12 girls redefined what it means to be a team. Not only did they work together to defeat rival schools and close usually large score gaps,

but they supported each other. They gave pep-talks before, during and after games. In practice it became habit to see teammates going step-by-step to explain plays and insure everyone felt comfortable with what they were able to do. This kind of teamwork is rare.

It was evident at the end of every game that these girls gave it all they could, leaving exhausted but proud of what they had achieved. The team thanks their coaching staff for guiding them to a victorious season and teaching them sportsmanship wins more games than skill alone.

Congratulations to these record breaking, pep-talk loving, hardworking girls who we know, left it all out on the court.

"Never give up until you have given out all your best. It's better to fail trying than wondering what could have happened if you tried" - Unknown



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BUZZED PARADES

Submitted by Muskoka Hornets Baseball

Hornets showed up and got into the spirit of the season.

The Muskoka Hornets Baseball Association gathered up a few players and coaches and hit the streets to wish everyone the best for the season.

They buzzed into the Santa Claus parades in Huntsville, Gravenhurst and Bracebridge as a way to say thanks for the support the group received on and off the field.



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SPECIAL OLYMPICS SEEKS ATHLETES & COACHES

Submitted by Special Olympics - Muskoka

Muskoka's Special Olympics programs have provided opportunities in sport for athletes with an intellectual disability for over 20 years. Coached by local volunteers, athletes have represented this community at the district, provincial and national levels.

The local council maintains eight sport clubs offering weekly training throughout the season.

During winter, athletes may be outdoors on the Nordic ski trails (Sundays @ 1 pm, Arrowhead Provincial Park, Huntsville), swimming laps at the pool (Fridays @ 3:30 pm, Bracebridge Sportsplex), curling at the rink (Thursdays @ 3:30-5 pm, Gravenhurst Curling Club), or playing floor hockey (Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm, Beachgrove Public School, Gravenhurst). One of the more popular activities is 5-pin bowling (Wednesday @ 3:30-4:30 pm, Quality Inn, Bracebridge).


In summer, athletes can choose from softball, t-ball or golf. There is potential for other sports to be offered, including basketball and bocce.

Special Olympics Ontario offers several school events in Muskoka, attracting secondary students from Muskoka and beyond. The Bracebridge Muskoka Lakes Secondary School Basketball team received the Special Olympics Ontario School Team of the Year Award in 2016.

Athlete and volunteer recruitment are important for local programs to develop. Lynn Self, Community Coordinator for SOO-Muskoka, looks forward to welcoming new members to the movement. "Volunteering with this organization is very rewarding," says Self. "Our athletes have tremendous abilities and it's wonderful to see them shine."

Currently, the community's floor hockey program requires new coaches. The 2017/18 season is important, as there's a tournament in April that will see teams selected to the Provincial Championships in 2019. While coaches with a background in sport are important for team development, those looking to volunteer in general are encouraged to become involved.

For information on becoming a volunteer or athlete in Muskoka, please contact Lynn Self at soo.muskoka@gmail.com or District Developer Hellaina Rothenburg at 1-888-333-5515 ext. 276.




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MEET ATHIA GAUTHIER

Submitted by Muskoka Limberettes



Athia is 12 years old and in our three hour competitive trampoline group.

This month Athia has been training extremely hard and has come to every practice with a positive attitude. During practice she has been learning to connect back-to-back skills and has been persevering with the level 2 Provincial Compulsory routine. She has also learned a cat twist, a ball out, and is working towards a Cody.

This will be Athia's first year competing in trampoline and she has been working hard to clean up her form and body positions.

Awesome job Athia!



PIONEERS PREPPED FOR STRETCH RUN

The Coldwater Ice Wolves, quickly becoming the main rival, rolled into Bracebridge last month on an 8-game winning streak. The Pioneers stepped up, held them to a tie and won in a shootout. Coldwater sits just ahead of Bracebridge.

At the halfway point of their inaugural season (at press), the Bracebridge Pioneers continue to impress.

They still sit in 3rd place in the Canadian Premier Junior Hockey League's (CPJHL) West division, and 4th overall in the league with a record of 13-4-0.

During the past month there has been a little more focus on the defensive side of the game. They've brought their goals against average down to 2.94, behind only league front-runners Essa and Smith's Falls.

Offensively, the Pioneers are led by Kristian Luptak. Then 5 local-area boys round out the top 9 in scoring.

Captain Doug Ledger (20G-21A), Carson Jacklin (7G-22A), Nathan Lyndon (9G-9A), Oliver Hammond (8G-9A) and Aaron Shaw (4G-7A) are each averaging more than a point a game. Ledger's average is 2.56 points per game while Lyndon leads all defensemen.

Following the Christmas break, the Pioneers enter the stretch drive with their first 4 games at home. And, there's going to be some tough ones in there.

The Grey Highlands Hawks come in January 6, game time 7pm. Then the Pioneers host league leading Essa Stallions on the 20th at 7pm, followed by the high octane offense of the Maniwaki Mustangs who come to town on the 27th (note start time of 6:30pm) and lastly the Seaforth Generals on February 3, 7pm start. All games are at the Bracebridge Arena.

Up to date info and full schedule is available at bracebridgepioneers.ca. OT



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Like Father, Lucas Medals Too

Lucas Allen, son of Judo Jeff Allen, just competed in the shojin Judo championships in Orillia.

He fought some top competitors even though some of them were 3 years older than him and at a higher belt level. Lucas fought hard and won all three fights by ippon.

He was able to capture the gold medal and bring Huntsville Judo Club another medal to put on the wall.

Lucas is a tough competitor who has trained all over the world alongside Dad who, along with Mom Crystal, is very proud of his efforts and early successes.

Next up is the Crown Hill Judo championships where he hopes to bring us home another medal.

ABOVE: Lucas Allen, after winning the Gold.

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'BURGESS BOWL'

-IN ITS 59TH YEAR

Submitted by Bala Curling Club

On Saturday, January 20, 2018, the Bala Curling Club will host the 59th Burgess Bowl Bonspiel.

Starting in 1959, the Burgess Bowl Trophy was awarded to the winners of the Bala Legion Mixed Bonspiel.

Winners over the past years came from virtually every curling club in Muskoka and from as far away as Woodbridge.

Bert Adams from Bala was the most successful skip, winning the trophy four times with Horace and Ruth McNeil as regular team members.

In 2013, the format changed from skip's entry to a jitney. Players sign up individually and play three games with different team members and carry their own points to determine the best score at each position.

The Bonspiel is open to all curlers (whether they are new to the game or seasoned veterans of the sport) and provides a full lunch, steak dinner, prizes and lots of fun for all participants.

For more information or to sign up, please contact the BalaCurlingClub@gmail.com.



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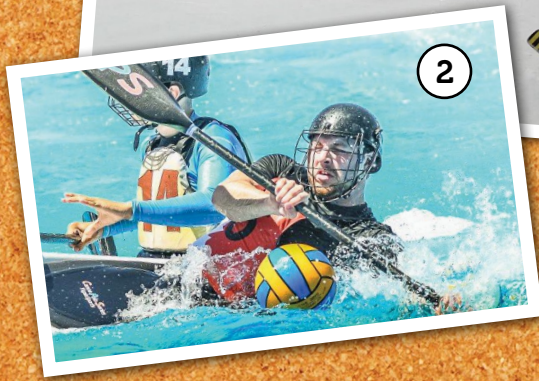
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HOT



- 1. HV Sting Atoms in North Bay.
- 2. Muskoka paddler Jeff Osler playing Kayak Polo in Argentina, courtesy MerLe fotografia, Argentina.
- 3. Winter with Arrowhead Nordic Ski.
- 4. Atom Bears action, courtesy South Muskoka Photography.
- 5. MSK Limberettes in action.
- 6. MSK Dance Connection at Port Carling parade.
- 7. MSK Hornets at Gravenhurst Santa Claus parade.
- 8. Hunters Bonspiel at South Muskoka Curling & Golf, post-bonspiel gathering.
- 9. MUSAC's Georgina Henderson at Muscat Splash.
- 10. MUSAC's Milton 'Dash for Cash' group.

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PERSISTENCE & DETERMINATION ... START TO SUCCESS

(Judo Jeff Allen sent OT this note. He wanted to share a little of his story with you and us. How he, for lack of a better way to say it, 'came to be'. We enjoyed the quick read, hope you do too)

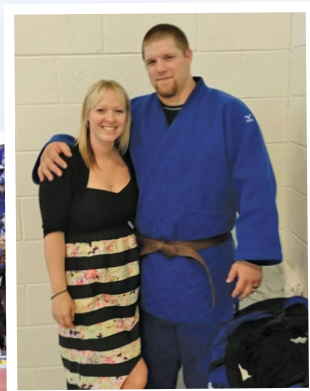
Hello my name is Judo Jeff Allen. I'd like to tell you a little bit about how I got started in judo.

It started with a simple discussion with my son Lucas and my wife Crystal. We all decided that it would be something great for Lucas and I to join something together. To create a pastime, have a hobby we could do together.

We chose the sport of judo and loved it right off the bat. We would go to training, not only at the Huntsville Judo Club but eventually all over Ontario.

After three months we started competing and we both did very well.

Just a year-and-a-half later I got my first invitation to fight at the National Judo Championships in Richmond BC. I fought well there, but wasn't able to come home with a medal. It was enough though to keep going.



I continued training and fighting hard and in 2015, I fought again in the Nationals in Quebec. This time I received a gold. I became the heavyweight Judo champ of Canada.

Following that, and wanting more, it was on to fight in the World Judo Championships in Amsterdam. I had a great fight there but ended up coming home in eighth place. Disappointment. I kept moving forward.

After that came New York City, Quebec and then on to Calgary for the National Judo championships again. I fought hard there and brought home a silver.

I was then selected to go and compete at the World Judo championships in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 2016. I fought competitors from all over the world. In the bronze medal fight I was up against a competitor from Spain who weighed over 400 pounds. I fought hard.

With my son Lucas and my wife Crystal on the sidelines cheering me on, I was able to finish the fight and bring home a bronze medal to Canada.

I love the respect in Judo, the hard competition and the one-on-one fights. But, most of all, I love to train with my son, Lucas Allen. He inspires me to do well and to show him that with hard work and determination...you can achieve your goals.

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ARGENTINA TO RICOH COLISEUM

Submitted by Muskoka Kayak School

Muskoka paddler Jeff Osler has just returned from playing Kayak Polo in Argentina.

Jeff was invited to play for the Canadian men's team in the Pan-American Canoe Polo Championships in Buenos Aires.

The Canadian's took on teams from Brazil, USA, Argentina and French Guiana and finished with 2 wins from their 6 matches. Jeff was Canada's second highest scorer with 5 goals, Brazil were overall champions. The Canadian ladies team took the Silver medal.

Jeff (Number 5) who plays for the Muskoka Kayak School's, River Sharks, received praise from the Canadian team coaching staff who were impressed with both his play and his attitude towards the game.

Andy Parry, coach of the River Sharks, commented, "Jeff, when offered the chance to play for Canada jumped at the opportunity, even though he would have to fund all costs himself". Parry went on to say "It's awesome to see local Muskoka paddlers competing on both the National and International stage at both Kayak Polo and Slalom. 2017 has been a very successful year for our paddlers"

The 2018 Canoe Polo World Championships will take place in Welland. We wish Jeff the best of luck with his quest to play at the Worlds.

January will be really exciting. A team of Cadet paddlers from Muskoka are going to play Kayak Polo at the Toronto International Boat Show. Playing in the Toronto Marlies' home stadium on the largest indoor lake in the world should be an awesome experience for all.

To give Kayak Polo a try, there are programs for kids and adults held in both Bracebridge and Hunstville pools over the winter. No experience needed, we provide all the equipment required.

Contact Andy Parry muskokakayakschool@gmail.com

Photos courtesy MerLe fotografia, Argentina

Learn To Ski At Arrowhead

Submitted by Arrowhead Nordic Ski Club

It's time to enjoy winter and there's no better way than through Arrowhead Nordic Ski Club's "Learn to Ski" programs.



There are cross-country ski programs for all ages, including Jackrabbit and Track Attack programs, recreational cross-country ski lessons and games for kids ages 4 to 13.

The ARC Racing Program hosts bi-weekly practices, training camps and races for ages 11 and up. Winter session begins in January.

Our adult programs include Ski for Fitness - a program of ski instruction for adults of all abilities with skate or classic instruction.

Plus, the masters training group will be operating again this season. Beginner lessons are a two hour group lesson to get you skiing.

All programs start in January and take place at Arrowhead Provincial Park.

For more information on any of the programs call 705-789-0327 or you can sign up online at www.arrowheadnordic.ca.

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OFFENCE WILL BE THE KEY

They seemed to have turned things up, but plenty of hockey remains.

The South Muskoka Shield had a rough go a few weeks back in losing 4 straight, then promptly took 3 of 4 to nudge up into 7th place (at deadline).

It's a big hill, and really steep. Their drive starts again January 5th. With 16 games remaining, the Shield will be focused on a seeded playoff spot.

They had surpassed West Nipissing in the standings but remain 12 points back of divisional front-runner Temiscaming.

Only 5 teams in the 22-team league have a better goals against average to-date. The key for the club will be to generate more offence, an issue since the start especially if you take out their 19-1 win over (now defunct) Wiarton.

A heavy load awaits the team after the break - 3 games, 3 nights. Back to back home games kick it off - on January 5th, Meaford comes in, on the 6th its New Tecumseth. Each 8:30pm in Gravenhurst. These 2 games will be important for South Muskoka - each team is slightly ahead of them in the standings. On Sunday, the 7th, the Shield finish their 're-opening' trifecta by visiting the Rattlers in Bradford.

The Bradford tilt will be the first of four road games in a row. The Shield return to Gravenhurst January 19 and 20, hosting Almaguin and New Tecumseth respectively. Same start, 8:30pm



GIRLS HOCKEY SET TO TAKE OVER HUNTSVILLE

Submitted by Huntsville Girls Hockey Association

On January 12-14, Huntsville Girls Hockey will host its 41st annual tournament.

This year, expectations are for almost 70 teams, more than 1,000 players, 200 coaches and over 2,000 spectators. Huntsville and area will buzz with hockey families and local businesses are encouraged to take advantage of our tournament sponsorship opportunities. It's not too late!

Our Huntsville Sting teams are off to a great start to the season with three teams recently playing in the North Bay Boltz tournament and one competing in the Barrie 'Sharkfest' tournament. The girls are working hard at honing skills and, most importantly, having a blast!

Eight Sting teams will participate in the January tournament. We wish them the best of luck.

Huntsville Girls Hockey Association promotes fun and skill development from Bumble Bees (Tim Bits) to Senior. To find out more about our association, visit us at huntsvillegha.ca, find us on Facebook or come check us out at the Huntsville Summit Centre on tournament weekend.

ABOVE: Huntsville Stings, Novice vs. Barrie



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HUNTERS BONSPIEL RACKS UP A WINNER

Submitted by South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club

The South Muskoka Curling and Golf Club recently played host to the annual Canadian Tire Hunters Bonspiel.

This event has become a great tradition. In recent years with longtime South Muskoka Curling member Brandon Kuehn taking the “buck by the rack” it has grown from a relatively small eight team event to a full blown 16 team bonspiel. The curling committee would like to thank Brandon for his tireless efforts to make sure this is a not-to-miss event!

With 11 different area hunt clubs represented by 64 curlers and non-curlers alike, the event saw each team compete in three, six-end games. After the last rock in the 24th game only one team could tag the Canadian Tire Buck Trophy. They were Chris Vanwilligen (second), Justin Veitch (lead), Brandon Kuehn (skip) and Neil Veitch (vice).

Of course as with any event, big or small, sponsorship makes a huge difference and this year’s Canadian Tire Hunters Bonspiel was no exception. With Canadian Tire – Bracebridge once again generously providing our lead sponsorship, Bracebridge Radiator, Muffler and Brake Centre bestowing our four winners with a set of Prism Binoculars and Muskoka Brewery continually offering their support, the prize table for the participants was outstanding.

New to our list of sponsors is the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH). In 1995, the OFAH created the DeerSave Fund to assist local MNRF and community emergency deer feeding programs where and when necessary.



White tailed deer are susceptible to large-scale winter die-off and reduced fawn production in severe winters in certain parts of Ontario. Even in an average winter, Ontario white-tails can lose 25% of their body weight, sustaining themselves on their own fat reserves and poor-quality browse. As a result, deer conservation objectives can be threatened in extremely long and harsh winters.

DeerSave helps ensure that resources for emergency winter deer conservation are available in this, and future, emergency winters. It exists to augment local conservation efforts, not to replace or supplement them.

Thanks to the generosity of the participants in the 2017 Canadian Tire Hunters Bonspiel the committee is pleased to announce a generous donation will be made to this initiative.

Up next for South Muskoka is the 1st Annual Mixed Doubles Bonspiel sponsored by Hurry Hard Beer and Van Schyndel Greenhouses on January 6th followed closely by the Men’s Molson Bonspiel – January 13th and the Ladies “Rocking” through the Decades to be held January 20th. For information regarding these events please contact Jenn Josiak at jennifer@southmuskoka.com

TOP RIGHT: Left to Right–Chris Vanwilligen (Second), Justin Veitch (Lead), Brandon Kuehn (Skip), Neil Veitch (Vice).

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Novice Bears Battle In Eastern Ontario

Submitted by South Muskoka Minor Hockey

A weekend road trip helps a team hit its stride. The NorStar Novice Rep South Muskoka Bears travelled to Napanee for the Andy McGarvey Memorial. They were up against some tough eastern Ontario competition from Brockville, Cornwall, and Deep River along with the host Napanee Stars.

The Bears came out strong in their tournament opener with a convincing 7-2 win over the Cornwall Colts. Evan Aitken tallied 3 goals, 2 assists while Grayson Cauley added a goal and 3 helpers to pace the offence.

Game two saw the Bears first to hit the ice against the hometown Stars. Strong defence and dependable goalkeeping were the order of the day but the Stars eeked out a 4-1 victory.

By 9am Saturday, the Bears work was done for the day, but their 1-1 record was good enough to solidify third place in the 5-team division, heading into what would be a very busy Sunday.

For the second day in a row, the Bears would christen the ice with an 8 am Sunday morning, quarter-final tilt against the Deep River Knights. Defence and goaltending were once again prevalent but this time, it was the Bears who would skate away victorious, 3-1. South Muskoka persevered to play another game - against the same Stars who the Bears lost to just 24 hours earlier.

The semi-final game was one that the players, coaches and parents will remember for a long time. It was a back and forth battle all game. Hudson Weening opened the scoring for the Bears, but Napanee evened it up a short time later. Despite several scoring chances, strong goaltending and stellar defence on both sides kept the game even.

In the final frame, Grayson Cauley broke the tie to give the Bears a 2-1 lead. But, again, Napanee came back to even it at two just seconds later.

The game stayed knotted until the end of regulation, forcing a sudden death overtime period. Thankfully, the extra frame required less than a minute. Grayson Cauley took a Phenix Chambers pass, broke down the left wing, cruised past the Star's defence and went top shelf to give the Bear's a 3-2 overtime victory and a spot in the final.

Excited and exhausted, the Bear's had less than two hours to regroup for their match against Brockville. The Bears kept it close early, but the Braves took control with four goals in the middle frame on route to a 5-2 victory. It was still an extremely successful weekend for the Bears. They earned the silver and wore their medals with pride and distinction.

The weekend away was memorable for reasons other than just winning games. The Bears took pride wearing their new team "Bears" jackets, generously sponsored by NorStar Exteriors. They also bonded with each other just hanging out at the hotel, playing mini sticks, swimming or playing at the Rhino Sportsland in Belleville.

Thanks to everyone who helped our players take part in this great event...the coaches, parents, siblings and of course, to our sponsor, NorStar.



MUSAC OFF TO BLAZING START

Submitted by Muskoka Aquatic Club (MUSAC)

The 2017-18 swim season kicked off recently with a meet in Markham.

The Markham Aquatic Club's Fall Fest Invitational was held at the Markham Pan Am Pool. Although the primary purpose of the meet is to get back into the swing of things, many of our MUSAC swimmers had a great day of racing with a ton of top 10 ranking swims and best times.

Most noteworthy was Owen Jibb's 100m freestyle performance. His time of 1:01.63 broke a club record formerly held by Noah Prymak, and qualified him for Provincials in this event.

Following that, our second meet was the Milton Dash for Cash event.

This was a fun event for Novice, Junior and Senior swimmers, where over \$1,200 in cash prizes was awarded based on individual age group and gender performances. Nice incentive when swimmers are still trying to get up to speed this early in the season.

MUSAC had impressive results, placing second amongst the clubs and returning home with just over 40 individual medals. In the elimination 50's Daniel placed seventh, Ty was fifth, and Branwyn, Ally and Mark were fourth - each winning \$20. Owen won his eliminator for a \$100 prize.

Also a highlight at this meet, was Daniel Parry (age 10), who took 15+ seconds off of three races and missed qualifying for Festivals in 50m freestyle by .02 seconds.



BOTTLE DRIVE FOR MUSAC

Submitted by Muskoka Aquatic Club (MUSAC)

Looking for a quick clean up of all those empties after the holidays?

Support your local swim club by donating your empties to MUSAC's Bottle Drive - January 6th!

It takes place in Bracebridge, Huntsville and Gravenhurst. No need to go out in the cold, MUSAC will pick up right at your door.

The goal is to raise money to purchase underwater video equipment to help with training.

For information on how you can help or to arrange a pickup, please email us at musacswimming@gmail.com.



52 IN ORILLIA

Submitted by Muskoka Aquatic Club (MUSAC)

The first of three developmental meets was held in Orillia and MUSAC had... get this... 52 swimmers in attendance! The growth of our up-and-comers is huge.



The Muscat Splash #1 meet turned more exciting when some of our racers earned times that qualified them for Regionals in February. Congrats to

Calum Simpson, Neil Duncan, Daniel Parry, Andrew Guerriero, Lucas Penney and Georgina Henderson.

The Muscat Splash #2 meet is Feb. 11 in Bracebridge and Muscat Splash #3 will be back in Orillia on May 6.

TOP: Calum Simpson, Neil Duncan, and Daniel Parry.
ABOVE: Andrew Guerriero and Lucas Penney.

Qualified For Juniors

Submitted by Muskoka Aquatic Club (MUSAC)

Shout out to Samuel Kuntz (left) and Ally Goldring (right) on qualifying for the 2017 Ontario Junior International!

The meet took place (Dec 15-17, just before this edition released) at the Toronto Pan Am Sport Centre for athletes 18 years old and under.



Ally is one of only five, 15 year old girls who have achieved a qualifying time allowing them to compete at this event. Outstanding!

TRIVIA

ANSWERS

1. Emmitt Smith - 18,355 yards (Dallas Cowboys & Arizona Cardinals)
2. Scotty Bowman (Montreal 1973, 1976-79 incl., Pittsburgh 1992, Detroit 1997, 98, 2002)
3. Like a bee
4. Detroit (Lions - NFL, Red Wings - NHL, Tigers - MLB)
5. Billy Smith (NY Islanders Nov. 1979)
6. Cy Young
7. New England Patriots, 2007



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GOLF LEAGUE MOVES INDOORS



Submitted by Muskoka Highlands

With the snow comes our opportunity to welcome you for a round on our indoor hi-def simulator, and entry into our Winter Golf League on the simulator. It is four long months until we are possibly back on the course again – so we try to ease the pain of withdrawal by having this facility for you.

The Winter Golf League is played on the simulator in our clubhouse. There are weekly prizes, skins, closest to the pins and a ton of fun playing.

Each week we will select a golf course from the library of courses on the simulator. Practice rounds are encouraged.

Every participant will declare beforehand their intent to play that round on the course for their score. The simulator tracks all of the scores, mulligans and drops. It controls the scoring. Mulligans are not permitted unless a player unknowingly strikes another player's shot.

You can still set your handicap for the Winter Golf League. Contact the course for league info.

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Atoms At Their Peak

Submitted by South Muskoka Minor Hockey

The Castle Peak Retirement Residence Atom Rep Bears traveled to Napanee for their third tournament of the year. The Bears went undefeated in winning their second tournament this season.

In their first game, the Bears had a tight start to the weekend but managed to slip past the Clarence Crush 2-1. That was followed by a convincing 6-1 beating of the Stirling Blues. The 2-0 record put the Bears automatically into the final.

The championship game was a nail biter. The Bears took on the host team, Napanee Raiders. Jacob J and Travis H scored for the Bears in the 2-2 regulation tie.

Then goalie Edwin G took over. Edwin stood on his head stopping a penalty shot and breakaway in the overtime. Willow D finally potted the game winner as the Bears captured the championship with a thrilling 3-2 win.

New Curlers Ready To Rock

Submitted by Gravenhurst Curling Club

The 2017 version of 'Learn to Curl' kicked off on recently with a turn-out of 27 participants, using all 6 sheets of ice.

Fourteen of those who participated on the Sunday have already joined the club - welcome! We are hoping the other 13 discover just how much fun one can have curling and follow suit for the second draw.

Rick McGuire, the driving force behind 'Learn to Curl' for years, had this year's program extremely well organized. Rick took the new folks upstairs for an introduction to the basics of the game, some discussion on safety, equipment and what to expect on the ice. That was almost an hour of classroom time before they hit the ice.

In subsequent weeks Rick expects to spend about 10 to 15 minutes with them off the ice and maximize the time spent on the ice.

Work will continue on delivering the rock while introducing sweeping

into the game - this will involve more people with less standing and waiting. It also helps to keep everyone warmer!

Jean Vardon was a terrific help greeting them as they flowed through the doors, helping them with the paper work and getting them registered.

Several members of the Club were a great help on the ice. Introducing folks to the basics of sliding and delivery were: Steve Sharko, John Gordon, Kerry Isnor, Ron Isnor, Michael Wayling, Judy Wayling, Cindy Holmes, Jaylene Holmes Tang and Allan Kent.

The group was positive and interested in testing their curling skills. Even the noise levels grew as they gained confidence on the ice. Comments on our friendly environment and how welcoming the club is contributed to the fun had by all.



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

FOR UPDATED PLAYOFF, REGISTRATION, INFO & MORE - VISIT THESE WEBSITES

BALA	Bala Curling Club	www.facebook.com/The-Bala-Curling-Club
BRACEBRIDGE	BB Breakers Basketball	www.bracebridgebreakers.ca
	BB Knight Hawks	www.bracebridgeknighthawks.ca
	BB Pioneers	www.bracebridgepioneers.ca
	BB Skating Club	www.bracebridgeskatingclub.com
GRAVENHURST	GH Curling Club	www.gravenhurstcurlingclub.com
HUNTSVILLE	HV Girl's Hockey	www.huntsvillegha.com
	Arrowhead Nordic Ski Club	www.arrowheadnordic.ca
MUSKOKA	MSK Aquatic Club (MUSAC)	www.musacswimming.ca
	MSK Dart League	www.facebook.com/muskoka.dartleague
	MSK Limberettes	www.muskokalimberettes.com
	MSK Men's Basketball	www.facebook.com/MuskokaMensBasketballLeague
	MSK Rock Hockey	www.muskokarockhockey.ca
	Special Olympics	www.muskoka.specialolympicsontario.ca
WEST MUSKOKA	Port Carling Figure Skating Club	www.portcarlingskatingclub.ca
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