

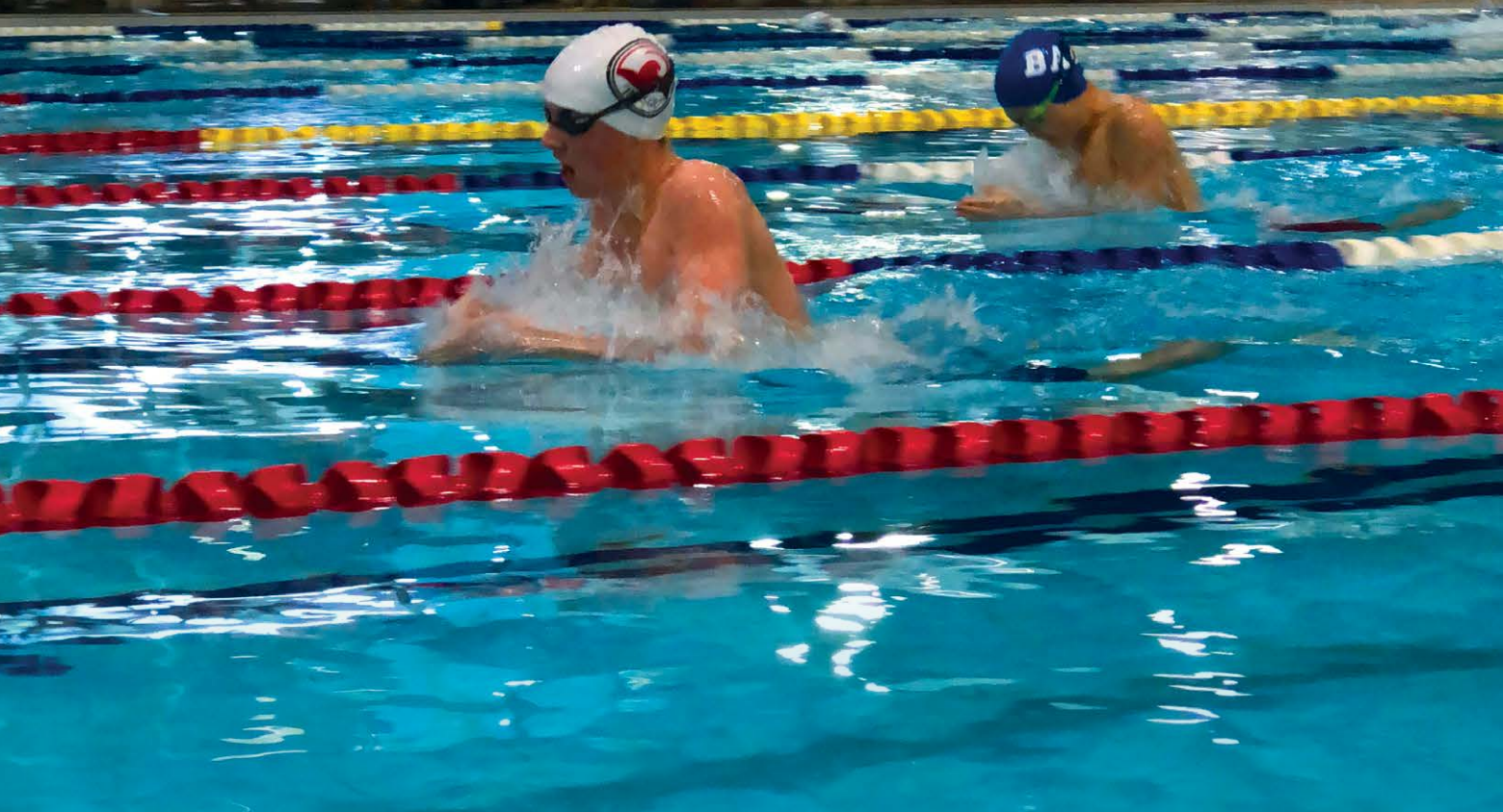


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Sports Magazine - January 2018

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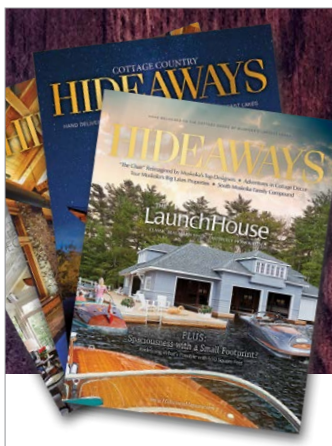
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FOUNDATION MARKS SUCCESSFUL 2017

*Submitted by W. Morris Hudasek,
VP CFM, Muskoka Coordinator CTC Jumpstart
Children's Foundation of Muskoka*

The Foundation is beginning a new year and looking forward to helping many more children experience the joy of participation in various recreational activities.

The Foundation spent over \$125,000 on children's needs in 2017. Canadian Tire Jumpstart also supported local youth activities to the tune of almost \$50,000 in 2017.

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank all our generous supporters in the community that allow us to do the things we do.

As we look forward to 2018, the Foundation is in good financial shape and should be able to assist as many eligible applications as we receive.

If you as a parent feel it to be a financial hardship to have your child(ren) participate in some activity please don't hesitate to apply. If you as a community member know a child or family that might benefit from our assistance, please let them know that financial assistance could be available. While this may be an outreaching statement, it is the Foundation's philosophy that no child in Muskoka should be excluded from recreational activities due to finances.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss, please contact me direct at 705-645-2710 or hudasek@muskoka.com.

Let's make 2018 a successful year with as many children as possible enjoying whatever activity they choose to participate in.

"The Bullpen"

JUST WEEKS AWAY

The Ontario Winter Games are now just a few weeks away. Though hosted by the City of Orillia, a few events will take place here - Gravenhurst will have Sledge Hockey, Bracebridge hosts Synchronized Swimming and Wushu while Huntsville has Speed Skating.

Over 3,000 athletes, 12 to 18 years of age, will take part in the Games which run March 1-4.

To register as a volunteer or for scheduling information and venues, stay tuned to orillia2018.ca.

THANKS VEITCHY

Though Ken Veitch Jr. sent us this quite a few weeks ago, we figured we'd save it for the right time, now.



We saved this for 2 reasons - start the New Year with a chuckle and because it's been so cold, our thoughts keep turning to ball season...it's warm, ugh.

We'll get you back somehow Veitch. Thanks Kenny.

SPEAKING OF BALL...AND SOCCER

Believe it or not, ball season is actually around the corner. Registrations and some workouts have already started or about to start. Make sure you stay on top of it - check the websites of Muskoka Hornets Baseball, Bracebridge Minor Ball, Bracebridge Soccer Club, Muskoka Lakes Soccer for updated information.

WOMEN'S WORLDS IN NORTH BAY

Also a few weeks away, the World Women's Curling Championships in North Bay. Action starts March 17 and ends March 25. This is the real deal, the real World Championships and its under 2 hours away.

Ticket info is at curling.ca/tickets. If you're keen, they're probably still looking for volunteers too.

SEND US A NOTE

Is there someone - a person, a group - that deserves a special 'shout out', that's gone the extra mile. Send us a note. Or even if you have a comment about the magazine or you'd like to see us add more, let us know. Our fundamental belief is that this is your magazine - ideas and thoughts are always welcomed. Send to submit-overtime@hotmail.com.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Haha, no not the new arena. Overtime Sports Magazine's website. Exciting, eh. Though it is presently "live", it is still under construction.

Right now you can at least read the current edition. As we progress with it, we'll be adding other features - won't tell you right now, that's a secret - and we'll let you know here.

In the meantime check it out for fun overtimemagazine.com. There's also a facebook 'plug in' as well - in case you want to 'like us'...that'd be nice.

If you are already reading us online via shopmuskoka.com/overtime or issuu.com/overtimesportsmagazine, you can continue to do so for the time being.

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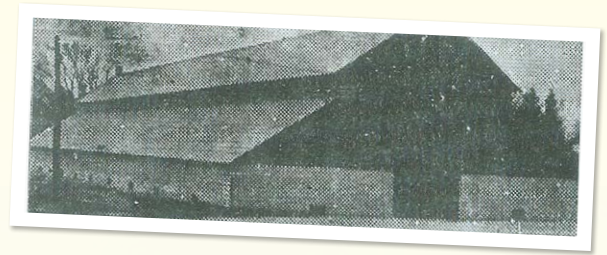
CURLING CLUB'S JAMES ST. HOME

Following the devastating fire that destroyed the Yearly skating rink on James Street in Bracebridge, those involved in curling activities got their act together a lot quicker than the hockey and figure skating organizations.

With a great deal of volunteer labour they went to work quickly and were back in business in 1946 in their own building on James Street. They first operated with natural ice, converting to artificial ice provided by the new Memorial Community Centre once it was up and running across the street.

They made this location their home until 1973 when, after a hotly debated discussion of the Club, it was approved by a 96 to 8 vote to continue their operation in the new South Muskoka Curling and Golf Club. All existing assets were conveyed to a new, revitalized curling organization.

An interesting anecdote regarding the James Street building - prior to the relocation, during a routine governmental judiciary review of all publicly used buildings in Bracebridge, this writer conducted a government appointed engineer on an inspection of the structure.




Together we stepped inside and the engineer stopped and took a very quick glance at the interior, no doubt observing the long, tamarack poles that served as roof rafters, the inflammable panelling and the shifting cement blocks of the exterior walls, turned to me and said "Can we talk outside?" I knew what he meant.

In 1974, the Bracebridge Town Council purchased the property from the Curling Club for \$35,000 and in 1976 it was demolished to create a parking lot for the use of the public.

Kenneth Carman Veitch
Bracebridge Historical Resources
bracebridgemuskokahistory.com





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MUSAC SWIMMERS REACH INTERNATIONAL HEIGHTS

Submitted by Muskoka Aquatic Club (MUSAC)

Ontario Junior International 2018 meet was held recently at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre for the fourth consecutive year and for the first time ever, two MUSAC swimmers qualified for this elite event.

Samuel Kuntz, 18 and Ally Goldring, 15, each achieved qualifying times that entitled them to race against competitors from Great Britain, Japan, and USA, as well as top athletes from the Swim Canada National team and various provincial High Performance Centers across the country.

The impetus behind this meet was to bring more internationally experienced swimmers here to Canada in order to provide our swimmers with stronger competition in which they could gain more experience. And that's exactly what Sam and Ally did!

Only swimmers 18 and under were eligible for this event and each race was open to all ages, unlike other meets where swimmers typically compete against their own age group. This meant Ally was challenged by swimmers three years older in each of her five events over the course of the weekend. Her best result came in the 50m breaststroke where she placed 21st.

For Sam, making 'A' finals in both the 100m and 200m backstroke was a huge achievement. He placed 7th and 8th overall.

Both Kuntz and Goldring also broke several MUSAC club records. Attending this meet provided these two talented swimmers with exposure to another level, and there's no doubt that they'll bring this knowledge back to our small club and extend the reach of such an experience even further.

The future of swimming is bright in Muskoka! Cheers to the new year ahead.



TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. In what country was curling invented?
2. What QB has been in the most Super Bowls?
3. Who was the last Major League Baseball player to hit over .400?
4. In the 1970's, the Philadelphia Flyers were often called "The...?"
5. What sport used the term 'Home Run' before baseball?
6. What was banned from the NBA from 1967-'76?
7. The Stanley Cup was first awarded in what year?

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LEFT: The Novice Local League Envotek Team

BELOW RIGHT: Game 1 MVP - Chris
BELOW LEFT: Game 2&3 MVPs - Jaxon & John

NAIL-BITER TOPS OFF GREAT TOURNEY

Submitted by South Muskoka Minor Hockey

The Novice Local League Envotek team recently headed to Millbrook for their first tournament of the season and delivered strong, exciting hockey in all three games they played. The kids also did some team bonding and fun activities off the ice.

The first game versus Georgina Red Rockets saw the kids dominating their competition with one goal in mind: to win! The team earned many scoring opportunities with aggressive forechecking supported by a defensive force that held the blue line and limited the opponent's shots, leading Envotek to a 5-0 win.

The second game had the kids face off against the Newcastle Stars. The team played well and the forwards capitalized on rebound opportunities throughout the game. The forwards continued an aggressive offensive attack, carrying the puck up the ice for many breakaway chances. The offense was on fire and our strong defense helped by continuing to send the puck up the ice to help with those scoring chances. The team effort assisted our goalie, who allowed just one goal, to earn the 8-1 victory and a spot in the semi-finals.

After a fun-filled night, the kids faced off for our semi-final game against Cumberland.

A strong start had Envotek up 1-0 at the end of the first period. Exciting second and third periods resulted in a 2-2 tie after regulation. A five minute three-on-three overtime brought more enthusiasm to the arena and had the parents on the edge of their seats. The overtime solved nothing, forcing a shootout to determine the winner. Cumberland finally won the nail-biting affair.

The coaching staff were very proud of the way the team conducted itself, on and off the ice. The team represented the Bears organization well, scoring 15 goals while surrendering only three in regulation play.

Every one of the players earned the trophy they received as tournament semi-finalists. Way to go Envotek!







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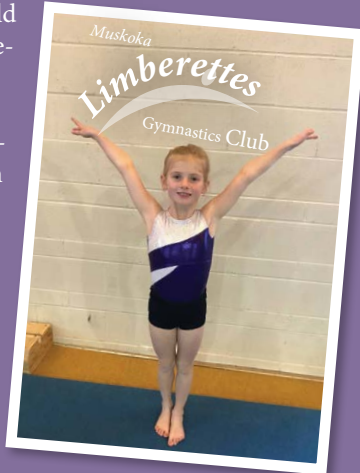
Submitted by Muskoka Limberettes

Maggie is six years old and in our three hour pre-competitive group.

Since joining the pre-competitive program Maggie has come in to the gym every day with a fantastic attitude. She always has a smile on her face and is ready to try her hardest.

Maggie has been working on her forward roll on beam, and bridge kick-overs on floor. She has been focusing on keeping her legs straight and toes pointed in all her skills.

Way to go Maggie! Keep up the hard work.



'SPIELS AT SOUTH MUSKOKA

Submitted by South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club

February sees a couple of great bonspiels as the curling season reaches its peak at South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club.

The Muskoka Lakes Association Mixed Bonspiel takes place on the 9th & 10th.

Then the 80th Annual Men's Muskoka Lakes Bonspiel runs from Feb 22 - 24. This 3-day event is played throughout Muskoka - MacTier, Bala, Baysville, Port Carling and Huntsville - with the finals taking place back in Bracebridge at South Muskoka. This bonspiel proves to be a great test in how well each team can adapt to different ice conditions and speed.

This year's 'Spring Fling' is scheduled for April 7 at the club, a great day of fun for the Ladies while raising funds for charity.

To get a team into any of these bonspiels, or to check space availability, visit southmuskoka.com for contact information.

KNIGHT HAWKS MEDAL IN NORTH BAY

Submitted by Bracebridge Knight Hawks Badminton

Kiersten Hillman, Paige Hillman, Katie Garth, Tyler Blair and Matthew Schmanda recently travelled to North Bay to compete at a provincial 'B' tournament.

Once again the Knight Hawks competed and won against larger centres. The tournament had clubs from all over the north, including two large Ottawa clubs and several players from Toronto clubs. The players competed in singles, mixed and doubles. They played so well the only matches lost were by scores of 21-19 and in third game tie breakers.

Results include one gold and two silver medals for Kiersten, two bronze and a fourth place for Katie, one bronze for Paige, one fourth place and one consolation finalist for Tyler and game of the tournament for a hard fought entertaining battle for Matthew and Tyler in doubles.

Congratulations to the team!

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VAN CUP IS HERE

Submitted by Vankoughnet Cup Exec. Committee

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

There may still be a chance to get your team into the upcoming Vankoughnet Cup.

Celebrating its 10th year, the one day event takes place February 24 on the outdoor rink in the village park in Vankoughnet.

It is a 3-on-3, no goalie format and each team may have up to 3 substitutes. There is a guarantee of 3 games and the scheduling allows a team to advance into the playdowns even if they've had an early loss.

The day also includes a goaltender's challenge in a shootout contest, video replay and more in the Village Square community building.

For information or to register, contact Mike Sturgeon at 705-646-2755 or 416-276-5216 - mikesturgeon@rogers.com.

Photo by Chris Varga.

BALL SEASON'S COMING

Submitted by Muskoka Hornets Baseball

When you look out your window and see all that white stuff, you yearn for the start of ball.

Spring, eternal hope of the season ahead. And that season is upon us as registration for Muskoka Hornets Baseball is now open online.

Visit www.hornetsbaseball.ca for full details and make sure you indicate which house league program you wish to be part of for 2018 - Huntsville or Gravenhurst.



SHIELD SIGHTS ON PLAYOFF SPOT

It's been a tough season to date for the South Muskoka Shield - but they start the proverbial '2nd half' with their sights on a playoff spot.

The Shield slipped a bit again back in December, losing 4 straight prior to a bounce back game before the break when they defeated Meaford 3-2 in overtime.

Bracebridge's Brody Tracey continues to be amongst the team leaders, displaying a combination of feistiness and scoring - 62 penalty minutes with 26 points in 23 games. He sits 3rd in team scoring and 1st in penalty minutes.

Home games coming up in Gravenhurst see the Shield host New Tecumseth - Jan 20, West Nipissing - Feb 2, Bradford - Feb 9 and Ville-Marie on Feb 16 to finish the regular season. All games start at 8:30pm.



Five road games are sandwiched in there as well.

Follow the Shield at www.shieldhockey.com.



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HOT



- 1. Ashley Costello in PAF Finals.
- 2. CurlON group at Bala Curling Club.
- 3. Joan learning finer points at Bala Curling Club.
- 4. BB Knight Hawks in North Bay.
- 5. BB Knight Hawks, not competing.
- 6. MSK Limberettes at Prov Qualifiers
(l-r: Taryn & Kiera Makale, Trista Fry)
- 7. MUSAC in Brantford *(l-r: Georgina, Chloe, Kate & Molly)*
- 8. Novice LL Envotek's Austin
- 9. Novice LL - watch the puck Ben



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While it is a national program, atMc Hockey is a local sponsorship program at heart. McDonald's owner/operator Alan Cumber supports 12 teams in Parry Sound, Huntsville and Bracebridge.

"McDonald's has always strived to be a good neighbour and hockey is important in our community so sponsoring these teams is a natural fit," said Cumber. "atMc Hockey has supported more than 300,000 players in Canada and I'm proud to do my part in the Muskoka region."

One of three South Muskoka Minor Hockey Association atMc Hockey teams, the atMc Green Bears also receive support from HRC Insurance. The squad is undefeated so far this season, a record their trainer attributes to selfless play and teamwork.

"For the most part, the players attend different schools but hockey has brought them together and strong friendships have developed," said Downey. "The friendships have extended outside of the rink as our team parents organize post-game lunches and will also be coordinating downhill ski afternoons at Sir Sam's ski resort when the team travels to Haliburton for hockey."

The local league offers players the enjoyment of playing in different arenas both against kids they know, as well as teams from nearby towns so they can develop rivalries similar to the representative teams that their other friends may play on.

"McDonald's support of the atom division is critical because for most players this is the age when comprehension of the game gets stronger and they truly begin to love the sport," said Downey. "Others decide it's not for them, but they have learned hockey skills that will allow them to play the game for life. Also, the lowered cost for parents help more players get on the ice and the sense of pride the team members have with uniforms and socks unique to their team is special."

BEARS ENJOYING STORYBOOK SEASON

Special Feature Submitted by McDonald's & South Muskoka Minor Hockey

South Muskoka's atMc Green Bears are part of McDonald's atMc Hockey / Équipe McDo program that sponsors 53,000 minor hockey players across Canada. The 2017-18 hockey season marks the seventh year of atMc Hockey providing game jerseys and coaching materials to house league players in the atom division, and bantam division in Quebec.

This season the atMc Green Bears won a random draw from the South Muskoka Minor Hockey Association for the chance to take part in the annual Bracebridge NHL alumni and OPP hockey game to support Special Olympics.

Former NHL players Brian Muir, a Stanley Cup champion with the Colorado Avalanche, Mike Krushelnyski, a three-time Stanley Cup champion as a player with the Edmonton Oilers, and Stanley Cup winner as an assistant coach with the Detroit Red Wings, and former Maple Leaf, Mark Laforest took part in the game.

The atMc players escorted the NHL alumni onto the ice and stood with them during the introductions and national anthem. During the first intermission the team played a scrimmage against each other with the NHL alumni joining in.

"The players had a blast and got autographs from the alumni after the game," said South Muskoka Minor Hockey local league director and team trainer Mark Downey. "It was truly a special experience for the team, I'm sure the players will remember it forever."



ABOVE: South Muskoka's atMc Green Bear's pose with NHL Alumni
TOP: Team photo of South Muskoka's atMc Green Bears



CURLING EXPERTS VISIT BALA

Submitted by Bala Curling Club

CurlON's very own Colin Sinclair and Dermot Quinn recently spent a full day at the Bala Curling Club offering instruction to its members through two well organized video analysis clinics.

The three hour morning session included instruction for stick curlers and sliders and the three hour afternoon session was full of sliders. Each curler had the pleasure of seeing their delivery on video right on the ice, complete with suggestions and corrections, followed up by lots of practice time to work on improvements, all under Colin and Dermot's watchful eyes.

Everyone found the clinics to be amazing and well worth the time and effort.



ST. DOMINIC WINS MUSKOKA CLASSIC

Submitted by St. Dominic Catholic High School

A full team effort led the St. Dominic Junior Girls Volleyball team in winning the Muskoka Volleyball Classic last month.

After finishing in 2nd place in round robin play, the team knocked out Huntsville High School 2 games to 1 in the quarter-finals, then eliminated Espanola 2-0 in the semis to set up the finals match against the strong Georgian Bay Secondary School team from Midland.

St. Dom's stayed focused and ended up sweeping Georgian Bay 2 games to none to capture the title.

It was an excellent tournament for the team as it provided valuable court time and the experience of competing under pressure.

The team hopes to build on this performance as they get into the second half of the season.



ABOVE: Colin and Dermot offering up their curling knowledge. RIGHT: Catherine getting tips to improve her game.



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HORNETS SAY GOODBYE TO MORIMOTO

Submitted by Muskoka Hornets Baseball - Coach Peter

Last February I received an email from Logan McKnight, one of our starting pitchers for the Muskoka Hornets Midget Elite team. Logan indicated that a Japanese exchange student at school in Huntsville, Kiyohiro (Kiyō) Morimoto, played baseball and was interested in coming to our winter workouts.

I told Logan to bring Kiyō to work out with us. The following weekend, Kiyō showed up with his Made in Japan Mizuno pitcher's glove and decked out in a Nippon Ham Fighters t-shirt. He threw a bullpen for our coaching staff, a normal introduction for a pitcher to a new team.

It was evident this kid could play, he had flair. Kiyō signed with the Hornets shortly after this workout, and after receiving approval from his Japanese agent and local house parents, Bill and Liz Weber.

Kiyō arrived in Huntsville in December 2016 on a one year overseas school program to help Japanese students adapt to life away from home. In his program, Grade 11 students live away for one year and are only allowed to communicate with family via regular mail. Kiyō's first correspondence after joining the Hornets was to ask his mom to send the rest of his baseball gloves.

Kiyō fit right in with his Canadian teammates, learning to joke about cultural differences and to make fun of his baseball brothers in a polite, but quirky manner. One thing every teenager has in common is social media, and Kiyō often texted in the team's group chat about his activities in Huntsville, including a volunteer job posting at a local hair salon.

Under Kiyō's school program, he's not allowed to work locally and is not permitted to travel without his agent's approval. Despite this, Kiyō joined the Hornets local umpire crew for our annual Muskoka Cup tournaments. Kiyō's umpiring experience in Japan involved his own team's games. Players not involved in games in Japan are responsible for umpiring, significantly different from North American baseball.

While Kiyō did a fine job umpiring, the language barrier and the odd chirp from parents limited his interest in wearing blue for our tournaments.



Given the amount of travel for the Midget Hornets, which included two US trips, Kiyō's school activities sometimes overlapped with his Hornets duties, forcing him to decide which event to choose. Where possible, he chose baseball.

However, in one instance, he had no choice but to participate in a school function that overlapped with our first US tournament - his school's trip to visit universities in San Francisco and Toronto was mandatory.

Kiyō asked me to speak to his agent about bypassing his school trip. I was told there was absolutely no way he could attend this tourney. Somehow, Kiyō himself, convinced his agent to let him play, and off he went to Indiana with the rest of the Hornets, bunking with teammate Scott Adams for the 5-day tournament.

Looking back on the season for the U17 Elites, having Kiyō join our team was the highlight. He made everyone laugh constantly with his Japanese idiosyncrasies, lack of understanding local culture and his teammates' quirks. And, he did a great job as a starting pitcher. Combining discipline, focus and consistency, he logged over 41 innings with an ERA under 3.00.

Most importantly, Kiyō was (is) a great person. To say good-bye, we hosted a surprise party for him and gave him a game-worn Team Canada baseball jersey with his name and favourite number 11 on the back in honour of his favourite baseball player, and soon to be major-leaguer, Shohei Otani.

Unfortunately, Kiyō's path back to Japan will cross over with Otani's path to North America. However, no one in the Hornets program will be surprised if Kiyō is back atop the 10-inch bump at McCulley come summer 2018. We could only be so lucky to see him there.

On behalf of the entire Muskoka Hornets program Kiyō, we wish you best of luck (がんばろう).



'LEARN TO CURL' CROWNS CHAMPS

Submitted by Gravenhurst Curling Club

You may have read somewhere about a very successful 'Learn to Curl' program that ran this year. The final session for the program took place recently and was followed the next week by the 2017 'Learn to Curl' Championship Game.

Six teams participated: Segwun, Wenonah II, Wanda III, Lady Elgin, Nipissing and Lady Eaton!

Each team was comprised of three members of the 'Learn to Curl' program and one member of the Gravenhurst Curling Club. It was pretty serious stuff, with lots of hooting and hollering and players dedicated to making the right shots to win.

With points for winning, ends and for points scored, teams considered how to best run up a score tally for each and every end, as well as enjoying the friendly competition.

Afterwards, all retired to the lounge to nurse our wounds or buy the first round while the scores were calculated.

After six ends of play and all the scores tallied, two teams were tied for total points. Team Nipissing and Team Segwun each finished with 21.5 points. By rules of the game, distributed in advance of play, the winner would be determined by comparing the score gap of their games.

With a difference of only 0.5 in score gap between the two finalists, the winning team was announced.

Team Segwun emerged as the 2017 'Learn to Curl' Championship Team. Team members Wanda Tickner, Liz Etter, Rick McGuire and skip Ron Roberts received congratulations and their prize for the competition – a gift certificate for the bar!

Good fun for the afternoon and a great way for them to kick off their first season of curling.

Congrats Team Segwun, may this be the first of many championships for you all!


Muskoka Power

The Powerhouse Armwrestling Federation (PAF) Finals took place last month in Orlando, Florida and South Muskoka's Ashley Costello came home with some top finishes.

In total, 'Team Canada' cleaned up to bring home 7 awards in total.


Ashley took 2nd in the 125 lb class, 2nd at 143 lb and 3rd in the 144+ category, all right handed. BC's Angie Rose beat out Ashley in the 143 category to earn 1st while Manitoba's Ward Drake wrestled to top spot in the 180 category, right handed.

Team Canada's pictured, left to right, Ashley Costello, Martin Langois (Vancouver), Ward Drake (Manitoba), Angie Rose (Vancouver) and Joey Costello.



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The Dance...To Wemindji

Over many years at the studio and in competitions, she developed a passion for dance. Though never 'the star', and only periodically in the middle of the front row, her effort was unquestionable.

Madison Michel recently graduated from the concurrent education program (teacher) at Nipissing University, where she also joined the dance club.

Finding a teaching position in south-central Ontario is next to impossible. She looked North and, with boyfriend Chase, landed a full-time position in a community called Wemindji, located halfway up the James Bay coast in Quebec. Population about 1200, no cell signal 3km out of town. The next closest 'town' is 4 hours away. Isolation.

She teaches a grade 5 class. Around the same age group as when she started dance.

Wemindji has some sports, hockey's the main one. Madison took a shot, started a dance club.

Not sure if it would be accepted by the kids, "I was hoping for 5 or 6, make a little routine," she said. About 40-45 showed up for the first couple weeks. That's declined a bit - dance isn't for everyone - to typically 25-30 ranging from about 5 years old to 16.

Madison enrolled the help of Kelly, fellow 1st-year teacher and neighbour. Kelly has some dance experience and helps keep things in order.

As the kids began learning moves, mainly tap dance, Madison would try to explain how tap shoes made 'clicking' noises when performing the moves. It's difficult to explain, 'this is what it would sound like...' or 'this move would be easier if we had dance shoes.' The light came on.

An email was sent to Tammy and Meagan at Muskoka Dance Connection, Madison's former studio here in Bracebridge.

"I thought if Emily, Kristyn (Meagan's daughters) or Mary (Tammy's daughter) had some shoes hanging around, maybe I could get a few pairs. The kids could share them, like what they do with hockey equipment, then they could get an idea of the sounds and movement," said Madison of the original intent of the email.

From there, Muskoka Dance Connection ran with it. "We thought it was a great idea," Tammy said. "Our Madison's wanting to teach her kids up there dance. We're excited for her, and we wanted to help the kids."

"We emailed our parents about what Madison was doing and asked if they had some shoes hanging around that weren't being used anymore," stated Meagan. Shoes started coming in.

Then another email - the 'big one'.

Every year the studio promotes a 'shoe exchange', similar to that of ski, hockey exchanges - where one can purchase previously used items. There was a large number of shoes in the studio.

"We asked parents to either pick up the old shoes, or donate them," said Tammy. "We said what Madison was doing and all we got back was donate, donate, donate. It was amazing."

Meagan and Tammy topped it off. They added a bunch of costumes. Madison was not aware of what was going on.

The studio emailed Madison before she came home for the holidays saying they had a few things.

They met at the studio. Then a multitude of boxes and an old, big, overflowing laundry basket came out. There were easily 50-plus pairs of shoes - ballet, hip-hop, tap - plus close to 50 costumes, with gloves, 'jewellery' and the like.

"This is amazing," Madison said with a huge smile. Virtually in a state of amazement she expressed, "My kids are going to love this. Thank you so much."

Madison added her appreciation for the efforts put forth by Muskoka Dance Connection and is grateful to the parents and students at the studio. "I can't even begin to tell you how much this will mean."

Once the package is shipped, Madison plans to open the box with the kids at their first gathering. "They are going to be excited, I know that."

An enjoyable activity that started over a decade ago developed into a passion. Now, it's Madison's turn to give it back. The dance continues... in Wemindji, Quebec.



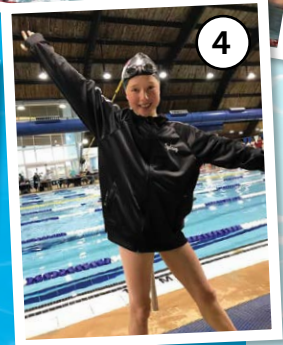
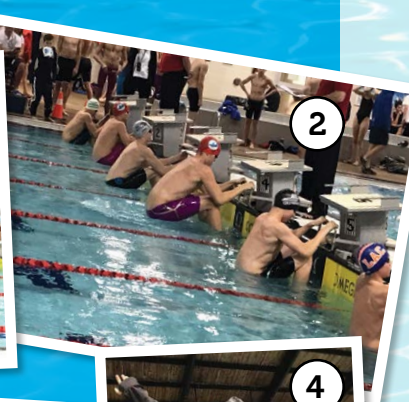
DIVISION II SECURED

Submitted by Muskoka Aquatic Club (MUSAC)

The Muskoka Aquatic Club (MUSAC) recently brought 40 of its top swimmers to the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre in Brantford to compete in Ontario's Division II Team Championships.

We are proud to announce that we have secured our spot in Division II, placing third out of 25 teams! Our men placed second overall! The meet boasted the majority of best times for our athletes, many qualification standards achieved and several club records. Here are our swimmer highlights:

- Emma P. – 10 second best time in 200m breaststroke
- Aidan – 3 gold medals, all top 8 finishes and 100% best times
- Mark – 3 gold, 2 silver and one bronze medal
- Mitchell – 3 gold, one silver medal and 100% best times
- Hayley – 2 silver, 2 bronze medals
- Sydney – 100% best times
- Neil – 12 second best time in 400m free
- Molly – 100% best times
- Taylor – 100% best times
- Duncan – Qualified for regionals in 50m freestyle
- Andrew G. – 100% best times and 7th/8th place finishes
- Benjamin – one silver, one bronze medal and four other top 8 finishes
- Maddie – 100% best times
- Georgina – 5th place 100m fly
- Kate – 100% best times
- Megan – 6th place 100m breaststroke
- Harrison – 15th 400m free
- Matthew – 100% best times and 12th in 200m breaststroke
- Jasper – 100% best times
- Aaron – 15th 200m back and 100m free
- Andrew M. – Qualified for Provincials in 200m breaststroke
- Ian – Qualified for 'AA' Champs in 1500m freestyle
- James – 100% best times
- Tashi – 100% best times
- Dale – 5th, 6th and 7th place finishes
- Chloe – Qualified for Regionals in 50m freestyle
- Daniel O. – Qualified for Provincials in 200m freestyle



1. Georgina Henderson and Hayley Oake
2. Lane 2 Ian Markham, Lane 4 Mitchell Cox
3. Sr. Boys Relay - Mitch Cox, Mark Cox, Daniel Ortiz and Andrew Markham
4. Sydney Freeman

- Daniel P. – 100% best times and 4th/5th place finishes
- Owen – one gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals and 100% best times
- Mia – 100% best times
- Emily B. – 23rd in 200m fly
- Sam R. – 22 second best time and 4th 200m fly
- Abby – 11th 200m fly, best time 200m back
- Branwyn – Qualified for Provincials in 100m and 200m backstroke
- Kellan – Top 8 finishes in all events
- Lucas – 7th 800m free and 100% best times
- Eva – Qualified for Regionals in 100m breaststroke
- Evan – 100% best times
- Vienna – 15th 200m breaststroke
- Tyler – Qualified for Festivals in 400m free



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2. Tom Brady
3. Ted Williams .406 in 1941
4. Broad Street Bullies
5. Cricket
6. Slam Dunk
7. 1893 (Montreal Amateur Athletic Assn)



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**TUESDAY AFTERNOONS
IN GRAVENHURST**

Submitted by Gravenhurst Curling Club



Many members of the Gravenhurst Curling Club don't realize that there is great fellowship and mixed curling competition on Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm.

Tuesday afternoon offers all members a chance to curl with friends in a relaxed atmosphere of an easy curling game or two.

All members who can curl in the afternoon should look at the names of those who are already signed up. You will find friends, first time curlers and experienced curlers. You'll also find Joe Hradi - a curler who is 92 years old and still on the ice.

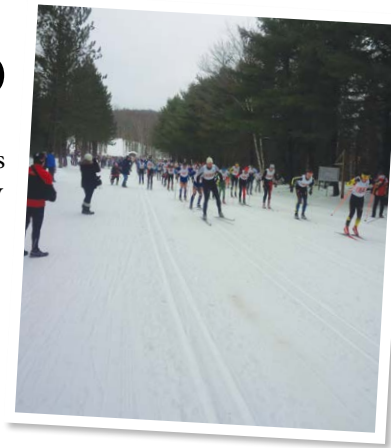
After we curl, we gather for coffee and conversation. Come and join the conversation.

For more information about Tuesday afternoon, call the league convenor, Gord Haugh, at 705-687-6808 or just sign up on the club site, www.gravenhurstcurlingclub.com.

**LOPPET AT
ARROWHEAD**

The Arrowhead Nordic Ski Club hosts 'The Muskoka Loppet' on Sunday January 28.

Part of the SOD Paraffin Race Series, the Loppet is open to all ages with 3 different race lengths - 5km, 15km and 30km. The race starts at 10:30am at Arrowhead Provincial Park in Huntsville.



You still have time to register online at www.arrowheadnordic.ca. Registration closes on January 25 and, of special note, there will be no race day registration.

If you don't ski, the Loppet is open to the public to attend and watch the event.

For more information and race details, visit the club's website. If you would like to know more about the race series, you can visit www.xcontario.com.

See you on the trails for this great event.



PIONEERS CONTINUE TO IMPRESS

The Bracebridge Pioneers entered their well-deserved Christmas break going 'six and four' in their last 10 games. Time to recharge.

In their inaugural season in the CPJHL (Canadian Premier Junior Hockey League), the Pioneers look like they belong. With a 15W - 7L record, they sit comfortably in 3rd in the West division behind Essa and Coldwater - 4th overall in the league - adding Smith's Falls from the East.

Though the offence is solid in averaging just over 5 goals a game, it's been the 'D' and goaltending that's put them right in the thick of things. Only Essa and Smith's Falls have a better GAA than Bracebridge. Quite a feat for the first year club.

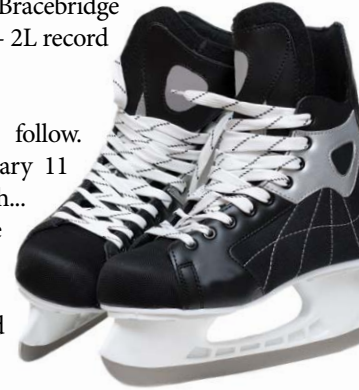
Local boys Doug Ledger, Nathan Lyndon, Carson Jacklin and Oliver Hammond have been producing a balanced attack. Defenseman

Lyndon's offensive output continues in averaging just over a point per game. Ledger's balanced attack sees him 2nd in team scoring behind catalyst Kristian Luptak, who's averaging almost 2 1/2 points per game.

Upcoming home games include a January 27th tilt against the league's best offensive team, the Maniwaki Mustangs - game time 6:30pm. Then the struggling Seaforth Generals come in on February 3rd for a 7pm start. Both games are at the Bracebridge Arena - where the Pioneers had a 10W - 2L record at deadline.

Three tough, divisional road games follow. The Pioneers are in Coldwater February 11 and 17, then in Essa on the 19th... critical games as both are ahead of the Pioneers in the standings.

Schedule and game times can be found at www.bracebridgepioneers.ca



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
	West MSK Ringette	www.westmuskokaroyals.com
SOUTH MUSKOKA	SMSK Curling & Golf	www.southmuskoka.com
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