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Sports Magazine - March 2017

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MARCH 2017

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BANTAMS CARRY ON



The OMHA playdowns took a toll on many South Muskoka teams, despite a few getting past the Muskoka-Parry Sound loop.

The Norstar Novices ousted Huntsville, then played a tight series with Parry Sound. Virtually all one-goal games, the Bears succumbed to the Shamrocks 3 games to 2.

In Atoms, the Zarmac AE squad swept Huntsville, took 3 of 4 against Collingwood before bowing out to powerful Napanee. After taking out Huntsville in 6, the Castle Peak Retirement reps were knocked out by Midland.

The disposing of Huntsville continued with the Fowler Peewees getting past the Otters. However, in a low scoring affair, Collingwood took the series in four, eliminating the Bears.

Huntsville managed revenge in first-round play knocking out the Peewee AE's and Progressive Waste Major Midgets.

The Greavette Midget AE's reinstated the Huntsville elimination theme, icing the Otters in 5 followed by extinguishing Penetang in 6 including two offensive outbursts in the final 2 games. Unfortunately, the offense fizzled in being swept by Ennismore.

Both Bantam teams carry on. Both swept- guess who - Huntsville. The AE's battled Douro, taking out the Dukes in 5. At press, the AE's were in their series versus Penetang. The Cavalcade Bantam reps convincingly eliminated Collingwood, moving on to face the Lindsay Muskies.

Follow both Bantam teams, visit southmuskokahockey.com. **OT**

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

This is our first anniversary. When we started, it was suggested to us, by many, that nothing was going on in local sports.



We've had an OMHA Championship, Ontario Grand Master Curling title, Hall of Fame inductions, a 'new' Hall created, Brian Moore - and more. Hmm, nothing's going on.

The concept - give all our sports a voice. To promote, share, tell their stories.

We've heard of kids giving 'Overtime' to their grandparents because they're in it, meeting Ron and Gerry (curling) and absorbing their sense of accomplishment, learning of Bennett our #1 fan, hearing the zeal in Mike Crawford's voice...maybe we're helping bring back the pride, passion and loyalty of the sports community.

We thank the organizations and individuals who had faith in us and the business owners who share our vision about the importance of sport in our towns.

We thank you, the reader, for picking us up every month...making us your #1 choice for sports magazines in South Muskoka...wait, we're the only one (little inside joke...ever notice all media is #1?).

If you could walk in our shoes you'd hear it. Then, you stroll away casually thinking, yep there's nothing going on.

\$47.5 MILLION - QUICK THOUGHTS

Before one thinks 'too much' or 'not enough', can we add some thoughts about what may be appropriate in a new arena/recreation complex for Bracebridge. We're not architects or engineers. We did watch the webcast. We're fully aware this was a preliminary feasibility exercise to act as a starting point.

Though public input was invited in 2014, this magazine didn't

exist then, nor were we aware of it. This is a 'start', not the final plans. That means there's still time.

Included were the obvious - 1000 seat arena (single pad) and a modern library. There are other items that perhaps, since '14, should be looked at again.

Meeting rooms, banquet, lecture areas - between the Sportsplex, Rene M. Caisse Theatre, Rotary Centre, hotels/resorts, other businesses - we have enough. There seems to be plenty of time available at existing facilities where we may not need these. If we do, hotels can benefit by booking more.

The 'fieldhouse' is proposed as 'non turf'. Basically, a big gym offering tennis, pickleball, basketball and indoor soccer training. Pickleball's being played at the Sportsplex, basketball and soccer use school gyms. Soccer training on a gym floor, we assume, is relatively limited. Some soccer people go south for indoor turf. Councillor Mark Quemby suggested players could stay here while the facility could attract Huntsville, Orillia, etc. as the closest indoor facilities are in Alliston, Bradford and Sudbury. It was suggested a retractable hard floor could be put over turf, depending on cost. One reason for no turf, can't put on a car show. Do you want cars on this type of floor anyway? Could they use the arena floor? Could turf re-establish a touch football league, winter soccer leagues, ultimate frisbee, etc.

If it is built 'non-turfed', what happens if soccer and basketball stay with the schools, because of, say, cost? Who uses the 'fieldhouse'? Will turf guarantee soccer's usage of the facility? Technically, we assume, it does not...but it would help!

Do redundant meeting rooms, banquet/lecture areas become the gyms used for basketball, pickleball, tennis, etc?

We admit, as 'the sports magazine of South Muskoka', we don't know the actual size of each organization. However, we suggest the top 5 in no order are: hockey, minor ball, swimming, soccer and gymnastics. Three - ball, swimming, gymnastics - have modern facilities. Hockey will get theirs, shouldn't soccer?



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ERA OF SUCCESS ENDS – PERHAPS NEVER TO RETURN

It was remarkable that the modest population of Bracebridge in the early 1900s could produce the extraordinarily talented athletes that made Bracebridge 'Canadian Champions' in field lacrosse.

Reference is made in Bracebridge History texts that there was a very active sports "association" in that era, perhaps providing good training, fitness and enthusiasm that made Bracebridge National Junior Lacrosse Champions in 1901, '06, '08 and '09. Those were the years they won the title. It is a matter of record that they were finalists in a number of the years between those victories. The fact that the



games received coverage in Toronto's newspaper, the "Telegram", gives credence to the fact it was a prestigious event and substantiates the local press in their extensive coverage, and declaration of Bracebridge as Canadian Champions.

As those players moved out of the junior age bracket, they didn't drop from sight. They went on to form the nucleus of a remarkable Intermediate Lacrosse squad that brought Bracebridge 'Ontario Intermediate' Championship titles each year from 1910 - '13, 1915 - 16 and twice more in 1919 - 20.

Lacrosse continued to be strong following those two decades of success, but the championships became more elusive. During the '20s and '30s local teams were active, suffering no doubt by tough economic times in the years of the Great Depression, and finally faded into the background as hockey and baseball became the preferred local sports activity.



A brief revival of a local lacrosse organization took place in the mid-1970s under the guidance of Lacrosse Hall of Famer Bucko McDonald, but the arrival of the Toronto Blue Jays interfered and caught the attention of the community.

The golden era of Lacrosse in Bracebridge was gone, perhaps never to return.

Kenneth Carman Veitch
Bracebridge Historical Resources
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TRIVIA

QUESTIONS: BALL & PLAYOFFS START

1. After 108 years, the Chicago Cubs finally won the World Series. What team now holds the longest championship drought, last winning the World Series in 1948?
2. Despite their long histories, the Leafs & Canadiens have only met 5 times in the Stanley Cup Finals. Who has the better won-loss record?
3. What is the name of the NBA Championship trophy?
4. Between 1985 and their World Series win in 1993, how many times did the Blue Jays make the playoffs?
5. Who is the only Swedish born player to have 500+ goals in the NHL?
6. Where did the Vancouver Grizzlies move to?
7. Kevin Costner, Susan Sarandon & Tim Robbins starred in 'Bull Durham'. What was Robbins' character's nickname?



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The Many Benefits Of Rowing

Submitted by Muskoka Rowing Club

Rowing is a low-impact sport which offers many advantages for your body. This aerobic sport helps improve your cardiovascular health, decrease stress, build muscle and strengthen your stabilizer muscles.

Despite its 'appearance', rowing is a full body workout, focusing mainly on hamstrings, calves, gluteal muscles, and your core, with the added benefit of some bicep strengthening. It is a fun cardio workout that can also have a fun, competitive component.

Being on the water during a beautiful summer morning is calming and peaceful. Occasionally, you may share the water with otters, herons or local water birds. This environment, plus the rhythmic activity, can help alleviate stress.

Registration will be announced shortly as we continue preparation for the season ahead. Visit us at www.muskokarowingclub.ca, Facebook: Muskoka Rowing Club on Twitter MuskokaRowingClub @muskokarowing.

Ringette Of Gold - ROYALS TAKE TOURNEY

Submitted by West Muskoka Ringette Association

The West Muskoka Royals U16 ringette team won gold at the Newmarket "Ignite the Ice" Ringette Tournament in mid-February. Over 50 teams from across Ontario and Quebec from the U8 Division level to 18+ participated.

The U16B division included eight teams from Sunderland, Mississauga, Richmond Hill, Whitby, Newmarket, Niagara Falls, Muskoka and Pierrefonds, QC.

Muskoka started the tournament taking on the tough Richmond Hill Rays. The tight game saw stellar goaltending on both sides which resulted in a 1-1 tie.

In Game 2, Muskoka faced a very strong Mississauga Mustang team. The girls fell short with their first, and what proved to be their only loss, losing 6-3.

Needing a win against league rival Whitby Stars to make the semi-finals, the girls played a hard fought game to defeat Whitby 4-3.

The semi-final game saw the Royals up against the Sunderland Stingerz. Muskoka dominated the game and defeated Sunderland 6-2 putting them into the finals for a rematch with Mississauga.

In the gold medal game, Muskoka saved their best for last in playing their strongest game of the weekend. The score was tied late in the game when, with 25 seconds left, Muskoka took a 3-2 lead. The Royals then added another with six seconds remaining to beat the previously undefeated Mississauga team 4-2, earning the GOLD in a packed Newmarket arena.

Megan Cambuzzi led all U16B in scoring with 11 points followed by Kaitlyn Schofield with 10. Goalie Kirsten Schofield was third overall with a 2.0 GAA.

What made this accomplishment even more special, was that Muskoka iced only eight players and one goalie throughout the entire tournament!

GREAT EFFORT BY ALL OF THE GIRLS!!!

Regional playoffs for the Royals take place April 7-9 in Oshawa to end the season.

For more information regarding the sport of Ringette call 705-687-1688 or 705-646-1071.

GO ROYALS!!!!



A Strong Finish To The 2016/17 Season

Submitted by the Bala Curling Club

With playing and social members on the rise, the Bala Curling Club enjoyed a memorable season.

Highlights included the Club's traditional Meet & Greet in the fall, the Burgess Bowl Jitney in January, and the Men's New Windsor. The Ye Olde Weismiller Timbermart Bonspiel, the club's biggest event, saw the Kingston team take top spot again - 3rd title in 4 years. Congratulations Kingston!

The season wrapped up with outdoor curling on Johnston's Cranberry Marsh in February, the Ladies Ides of March Bonspiel and the Hockey Night Hot Shots evening.



The Club hosted 14 days of Masters, Grand Masters and Ladies Interclub games plus Men's, Mixed Social, Ladies and Competitive Night draws weekday evenings from November to March.

For information or to join the club next season, contact us at: balacurlingclub@gmail.com.

ABOVE: Team Kingston (L to R) - Drew Ramsay (alternate from Bala), Laurie Winter, Mike Stone and Doug Bruce

2ND DRAW WINNERS

Submitted by South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club

Congratulations to the Thursday Businesswomen's League 2nd Draw winners. The team (pictured, L to R) consists of Marianne LaRose, Vicki Veitch, Kathy Sander and Andree Baillargeon. The trophy is being presented by Nancy Raynor, for Raynor's Tree Service, Sponsor.

And, congrats to the Tuesday Evening Ladies League 2nd Draw winning team. Picture L-R are Andree Baillargeon, skip; Nancy Raynor presenting for sponsor, Raynor's Tree Service; Rae-Anne Dion, Second; Donna Pinney, Vice; missing from the picture is Petie Thickett.



ABOVE: Tuesday Evening Ladies League 2nd Draw winning team.
RIGHT: Thursday Businesswomen's League 2nd Draw winners.



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HEADING INTO THE 2017 SOCCER SEASON

Submitted by Bracebridge Soccer Club

With our view to offer enhanced soccer playing opportunities to the community, the Bracebridge Soccer Club fully implements our new logo for the 2017 season. This traditional “shield” design, popular with many soccer clubs of all levels throughout the world, incorporates the long-standing club colours - red, black and gold.

“Our team is very excited!” said John Miller, Club President. “A great season is planned with new and continuing programs and events, and our new logo will be featured prominently in all our activities”.

The club again offers numerous programs for all ages to enjoy the sport with friends and to learn, develop and display their skills in various environments starting outdoors in early May:

- It begins at age 4, in the “Timbits” Introduction to Soccer community recreational programs. This is the club’s largest growing program, with almost 250 children aged 4 to 8 learning and playing soccer in activity based game format in two sessions per week until the end of June.
- At 7 and 8, our players get access to a higher level of skill training, and get their first taste of game competition against other clubs. Entering its’ 3rd year, the Club Development Program at this age group is a “transition season”, providing the opportunity for girls and boys to experience the representative team concept where they can play in District soccer festivals.
- From 9 to 18 years, children can be part of representative teams, playing against other clubs based primarily in Simcoe and Muskoka. The club expects to have 10 girls and boys teams representing their community, many of which have already started training indoors!

As part of our commitment to provide high-quality opportunities to local youth players, the club is continuing and expanding

its’ partnership with the Premier Soccer Institute Academy. The Academy team, led by National licensed coach Ray Wright, provides elite-level soccer training during three seasonal indoor and outdoor programs.

New this year, the club will be hosting a four-day summer soccer camp with the Premier Soccer Institute Academy, July 4th – 7th at Bracebridge’s Gostick Park for children 9 to 14! “This is another demonstration of our efforts to grow soccer and provide opportunities in Muskoka for fantastic youth athletes that love soccer and dedicated to improving,” said Miller.

The club’s efforts in player development have particularly been noticeable in the thriving collaboration with Huntsville Soccer and the Muskoka FC U14 girl’s competitive team program. Led by Scott Wood, Dino Tomassoni, Sandra O’Dell and Lynda Cranney, many of the girls have participated in the Premier Soccer Institute programs. A successful 2016 campaign included a strong 2nd-place finish in the Huronia District U13 girls division and excellent performances at the Ontario Cup, Muskoka Early Summer Soccer Tournament and Woodbridge Classic. As a result, the girls’ earned promotion to the Central Soccer League, where they’ll play teams from stronger soccer areas in the GTA. An exciting season for the team, and supporters, lie ahead!

Seeing that soccer is for all ages, the adult co-ed recreational and competitive team programs are back for an exciting season. Convenor Dan Gardiner, and committee, are revitalizing the recreational program with new ideas to make the program more enjoyable and to encourage more first-time players to come out and play!

For information, and how to register for 2017 soccer programs, visit www.bracebridgesoccer.net.

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SHIELD'S SEASON TOPPED WITH NEW TEAM RECORD

Submitted by South Muskoka Shield Hockey

Once again your local Junior 'A' hockey team, the South Muskoka Shield, have finished with a winning record (26-10-6) - good enough for 3rd place in the tough North Division of the Greater Metro Junior Hockey League.

Individual accolades for our players by the league continued. After Lucas Lahay received rookie honours in November and Schiller September's Defenseman award, team Captain Carl Lyden from Karlstad, Sweden was awarded Forward of the Month for January.

Carl also set a new Shield record by recording back to back 50 goal seasons (2015/16 & 2016/17) and tied the Shield record for most points in a single season with 129. Carl finished the season as the league's leader in points, 2nd in goals with 55 and 2nd in assists with 74.

We were fortunate enough to qualify for the League College Showcase Tournament again where a number of our players were scouted for higher leagues.

The Shield organization is very proud of the players efforts this season. They conducted themselves with class and respect on and off the ice. Our boys come to us from across the globe and they loved their time here in beautiful Muskoka thanks to our wonderful fans, housing families, and members of our incredible community.

The Shield would like to thank all their volunteers, fans, housing families, sponsors and staff for another successful and fun season.

Playoffs started mid-February vs the 6th placed Almaguin Spartans. For up to date results, visit www.shieldhockey.com



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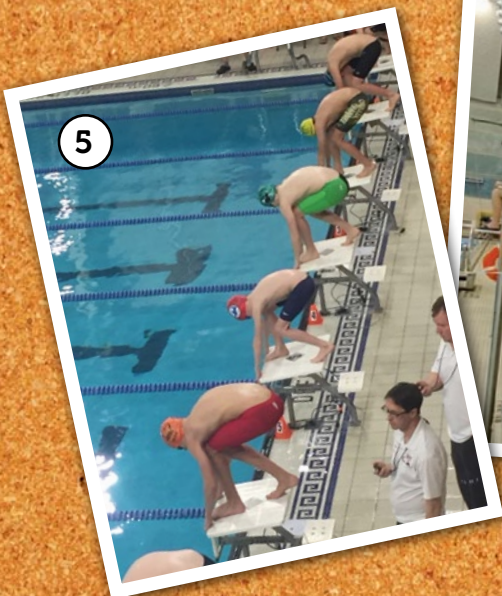
1. Referee Russ Wright, photo courtesy South Muskoka Photography.
2. Muskoka Royals - Tournament action.
3. Bala Curling Club - Marsh Preparation.
4. Vankoughnet Cup '17 action - photo courtesy Chris Varga.
5. MUSAC - Ethan Thomas (blue suit, red cap - 2nd from bottom).
6. MUSAC at Winter Fest - Daniel, Branwyn, Catrice, Ian & Ethan.
7. Jenn Low Highland Dancers: (from back left) Sage Nakamoto, Kira Tempest, Bridget Johnson, (from bottom left) Tessa Johnson, and Margo Johnson.
8. Emily Nicholson from the Muskoka Limberettes looking over her shoulder.
9. From left to right: Kiera Makale, Abigale Rushton & Taryn Makale from the Muskoka Limberettes.

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THE "WRIGHT" CALL

- 30 Years Given To The Game

Of all the things that could have happened, of all the justifiable reasons to leave, a seemingly innocent mishap ended a long-time career. He was screamed at, scoffed at, questioned, surely blamed for playoff losses and, more than likely, had things thrown at him back in the day of demonstrable disrespect. But, that mishap last November in Bala dislocated his shoulder.

Now, after all that, at 69, Russ Wright - referee, coach, executive - has retired from hockey.

Wright's career began as an OMHA official in 1973 in Port Carling. He refereed in minor hockey until 1980 when he moved to the OHA, working his way to a 'Level 4' in order to do games up to Junior and Senior 'A'. During that time, Wright and Don Stinson took over assigning officials to OMHA games throughout Muskoka.

Officiating all levels of OMHA All-Ontario Finals and travelling from North Bay to Woodbridge to Collingwood in "the O", in 1988 he took a break from the stripes.

Wright served on the Bracebridge Minor Hockey Executive from '85-'90 including two years as President and 4 years of coaching rep and house league. It was 'vacation time'!

For reasons only Russ knows, perhaps his ears needed another workout, he returned to ref OMHA in 2003.

"He would do any game, any level. He mentored younger officials and advised us older refs," exclaimed Don Collison, Referee In Chief, Muskoka - Parry Sound Hockey League. "You saw his love of hockey before, during and after every game."

He gave a lot of time to hockey, to the kids who play...an honourable, unselfish man.

At the end of a note Russ sent to Collison, he said, "...thanks for your support these past 14 years." No Russ, the hockey community thanks YOU! Keep the skates sharp. **OT**

(OT thanks Bryce Davidson and Norm Webb for letting us know about Russ' retirement. A very big, special thanks to Don Collison who was able to get info from Russ without him knowing what we were doing here...hopefully the surprise was kept)



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- Community youth soccer at Gostick Park and local school fields!
- For Ages 4 to 6 – "Introduction to Soccer" - Learning through play!
- For Ages 7 to 8 – "Club Development" – Enhancing Fundamental Skills!
- Ages 9 to 15 – "Community Recreational" – Playing and having FUN!

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Representative Teams			
Development	2005 to 2008	\$250	\$275
Youth (Huron District League)	1999 to 2004	\$300	\$325

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CURLERS OFF TO QUALIFIERS

Submitted by Gravenhurst Curling Club

Despite several warm days and a drizzly start, the Vankoughnet Junior Curlers, Ryan Godfrey with his sister Jenna, are part of the Summit Mortgage mixed team heading into the mixed qualifiers in Barrie this month. The Godfrey's objectives at the qualifiers are to move on to the Provincials.

Summit Mortgage, their sponsor for 3 years, along with their home rink Gravenhurst Curling Club, are proud of their curling careers. Both wish the Godfrey's well in their endeavours and a follow up will be here in Overtime.

ABOVE: Ryan and Jenna Godfrey with sponsor Leslie McCann of Summit Mortgage.



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- The 31st Muskoka Classic Invitational

Submitted by Muskoka Limberettes

The Muskoka Limberettes Gymnastics club hosted their 31st Annual Muskoka Classic Invitational Competition and Provincial Qualifier February 17th - 19th. It drew almost 500 gymnasts, some as far away as Thunder Bay. Athletes ranged from seven years old to 18-plus, competing in levels one to ten.

Women's Artistic Gymnastics is comprised of four events - Vault, Uneven Bars, Balance Beam, and Floor Exercise. Each athlete competes in all events and their scores are combined for an 'All Around' placing. Levels 1 to 5 compete compulsory routines, while level 6-10 athletes have optional routines.

14 Muskoka Limberettes performed in front of the home crowd. Friday saw Emily Nicholson, age 9 level 2, earning 4th place on Vault and Balance Beam. Also competing Friday was Maiya Dyni and Regan West, both age 10 level 2. Maiya won her category with gold in Vault, Balance Beam, and Floor. Regan had a strong 9th place finish on Vault and Floor. Danica Clark, age 11 level 2, took 6th on Vault with a 7th all-around. Our youngest competitors, Ava Cutting, age 8 level 2, and Marley Wicks, age 8 level 3, performed well at their first competition. Ava won Balance Beam, received silver for Vault and bronze for Uneven Bars. Marley, the only athlete in her category, received a gold medal for her routines. Last up were Hannah Barnes and Julia Lamb. Both level 4, Hannah, age 12, placed 9th on Balance Beam and Julia, age 14, placed 5th.



Meet Maddy Denne

Submitted by Muskoka Limberettes

Maddy (pictured above in purple) is 8 years old and in our 4 hour pre-competitive group. Maddy is being recognized as February's athlete of the month because of her diligence in the gym. Maddy has shown that she is ready to learn, always paying attention to her coach, making the corrections she is given and, in turn, improving on all of her skills.

Maddy put on a great performance during the Muskoka Classic Demonstration February 18 - 19. Congratulations Maddy, keep up the hard work!

Saturday kicked off with Abigail Rushton, age 9 level 3, earning silver for her Vault and bronze on Beam. Next was Trista Fry, age 9 level 4, winning gold on Balance Beam. Taryn and Kiera Makale, both age 10 level 4, had steep competition. Taryn placed 4th and Kiera 6th on Vault. The final competitor Saturday was Ella Plested. Competing level six for the first time, Ella, 13, performed a beautiful floor routine in earning a 7th place finish.

Sunday saw Muskoka Limberettes' two provincial athletes performing. Up first Alexandra Marsden, age 9 level 6, placed first on floor and received a bronze medal for Vault, Balance Beam, and Overall. Zoey DaPonte, age 10 level 7, competed against athletes aged 11 and 12. Zoey placed 3rd on Vault and grabbed silver on Uneven Bars, Floor, and All Around.

"The competition was a great success! It was many of our athlete's first competitions and we're very happy with how they did", says coach Kelsey Davis. Zoey and Alexandra will hopefully be off to Provincial Championships April 6 - 9, while the rest of the Muskoka Limberettes will compete in Orangeville April 20 - 23.

LEFT: Team Picture of the Muskoka Limberettes.

RIGHT: Trista Fry with Muskoka Limberettes Coach Kelsey Davis.

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MLA BONSPIEL- A HUGE HIT

Submitted by South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club

The 55th Annual Muskoka Lakes Association Mixed Bonspiel took place early February at South Muskoka Curling and Golf Club and Port Carling Curling Club. Sixteen teams ranging from Bobcaygeon, Brampton, Shelburne, and Sarnia entered this year's bonspiel and, as anticipated, the competition was better than ever!

The Friday evening had all teams participate in their first, 8-end game of the weekend at one of the two clubs followed by an evening get-together. The 2nd and 3rd games took place throughout Saturday with Port Carling graciously hosting many teams despite running their own 'Rock and Ribs' event as part of Winterfest. The weekend culminated with all 64 curlers and guests treated to an amazing roast beef buffet dinner, capped off with prize presentations and a dance.

The Robert W. Purves Trophy, awarded to the winning team by Mr. John Bowlby (right) of the Muskoka Lakes Association, was presented to the South Muskoka Curling and Golf Club team of (L to R) Cheryl Post, Steve Post, Jenn Josiak, Ross Gilbert (skip).

In 2nd place, taking home the A.W. Shier Insurance Brokers Ltd Trophy, was the Willemse team out of Orillia/Hamilton Curling Clubs. The trophy was presented by representatives Mr. David Denyer and Mrs. Lori McCormack.

Finishing 3rd was the McNorgan team from Galt.

It's rare for any event to find itself at 55 years of tradition. It is extraordinary that such an event is sponsored by the same group for such a long period of time. The committee and participants thank the Muskoka Lakes Association, its Board of Directors and the membership for their continuous support of this great event.

The MLA Mixed is one of the highlights of the Muskoka curling season. The committee acknowledges and appreciates the support from A.W. Shier Insurance Brokers Ltd, sponsors of the runner-up trophy for 6 consecutive years. Everyone involved with the Bonspiel thanks Tiggs for Him & Her, Martins - Framing, Gallery and Art Supplies, Phil & Dianne Lyndon, Jay-Jay's Gardens, Ted Mooij, Darrick Harrop and Papa Shop Wood Creations who generously supported the event by donating items for our prize and raffle tables. They were a huge success!

Planning for next year is underway. We look forward to seeing you February 9 - 10, 2018.



1ST

South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club team.



2ND

*Williemse team
(L to R) Jeremy Klumper, Ben Willemse, Amanda Lee, Ann Willemse, Jess Willemse, John Willemse, Dave Denyer (Shiers), Lori McCormack (Shiers).*



3RD

*McNorgan team
(L to R) Jason Campbell, Bev Jamieson, Heather McNorgan, Kevin Dias.*

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Rock Peewees Making Noise In Playoff Update

Submitted by Muskoka Rock Hockey



Tough opponents and rumblings of a streak mark Muskoka Rock Playoffs.

The Midgets kicked off against old rivals Almaguin. Muskoka Rock came out flying in the first weekend, securing a tie in Almaguin and a win at Port Carling.

This seemed to awaken Almaguin, who won the next two to set up the pivotal game 5 in Sundridge. Fighting hard, the Midgets trailed 3 – 2 with just minutes left. The goalie was pulled, the strategy worked, the Rock tied it with less than a minute remaining. Luck ran out in overtime as Almaguin scored to end the series. The Midgets are (at press) in the Muskoka-Parry Sound playoffs looking to advance.

The Atoms 1st-round opponent, the Essa Eagles. Many of the Eagles had won OMHA's last year, so a tough challenge was anticipated. Though our kids fought hard, Essa won the series, eliminating the Rock. However, the MPS playoffs beckoned. The opening best of 3 series was against the Huntsville Atom AE team. Having played them numerous times this year, we knew what to expect. The Muskoka Rock Atoms emerged victorious with 2 straight wins. Next up, South Muskoka Bears Atom AE; the winner being crowned the Muskoka-Parry Sound Atom B Champions!

The Muskoka Rock Novice team started playoffs by hosting the Muskoka-Parry Sound Novice Championships. This season's seen some highs and lows, but the team's improvement has been phenomenal. In October, our Novices suffered a 21-0 loss to the Highland Storm. They met again in the MPS Championships. Highland held a 2-0 lead midway through the 3rd. With their never say die attitude, Muskoka Rock sent the game to overtime. In a thrilling spectacle, with chances at both ends, the Storm squeaked out the victory in triple-OT. What an improvement for our kids. Next, the OMHA playdowns, with the Dundalk Storm our first-round opponent. While our kids played hard, and were in every game, Dundalk took the series with a slim 3-2 victory in the final game.

The Peewees, in a large group of 32 teams, knew there was a lot of hockey ahead to achieve success. Our first-round opponent, the Coldwater Wildcats. With so many teams, a short series was setup. Muskoka Rock proved stronger and progressed with hard-fought 2-0 and 2-1 victories. Next up, the Creemore Valley Hawks. With some one-sided wins, the Rock swept Creemore with not much of a challenge. Entering the quarter-finals, Muskoka Rock found itself up against Dundalk Storm. The Muskoka Rock Peewees continued their unbeaten streak in sweeping Dundalk 3 straight, marking their 9th straight win in OMHA playdowns. Next, a semi-final showdown with the Norwood Hornets .

(At press, that schedule had not been set - visit muskokarockhockey.ca for the latest)

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Successful Month for Highland Dancers

Submitted by the Jenn Low School of Highland Dance

The Jenn Low School of Highland Dance had a busy month! Many of the girls were in two shows for Robbie Burns' celebrations. Another competed in an Eastern Canada Highland Dance Association (ECHDA) competition.

Robbie Burns Day, a celebration of life for the works and spirit of the Scottish poet, happens every year around January 25th. These gatherings include a highland dance performance, and our Muskoka communities are lucky to have the Jenn Low School of Highland Dance students attend. Each dancer performed at each Gravenhurst and Huntsville show, and did a fantastic job showcasing their talents! The group consisted of Sage Nakamoto, Kira Tempest, Bridget Johnson, Tessa Johnson, and Margo Johnson.

Ella Stevenson (135), one of the school's newest competitive dancers, performed in the ECHDA competition in Toronto. This young dancer did a phenomenal job! Not only did she come home with two Gold medals, one Silver, and a Bronze, Ella was the Overall Dancer in her age group in her category. She was also awarded with the special award, Most Promising Dancer, over all dancers in the morning categories. Way to go, Ella!



Thank you for all of your dedication and determination girls!

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VANKOUGHNET CUP – RAIN DIDN'T DAMPEN THE SPIRIT

Submitted by Vankoughnet Cup Exec. Committee



Despite several warm days and a drizzly start, the Vankoughnet Cup played out the 9th annual edition on Saturday, February 25th.

An annual 3-on-3 outdoor hockey tournament, the Vankoughnet Cup usually takes place on an outdoor rink at the village park in the community, located just east of Bracebridge. With 12 teams lined up for this year's competition, the weather forced play to ball hockey on the paved court at the Village Square.

The "three games guaranteed" format allows a team to recover from an early loss and stay in the hunt for top spot if they can find their winning ways to the end.

This year, the winners went undefeated in all five games. Defeating the Black River Bruins 12-8 in the final, the 'Jagerbombers' won their 2nd championship in as many years. Adding to the days' activities, the shootout contest showed 24 shooters, winding down to the last 2 who failed to score, giving goalie Kyle Kennedy his 3rd win in a row of the annual contest. A good day was had by all, despite the lack of ice. Good spirit and good fun won the day for everyone.

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Red Hot At Ontario Winter Festival

Submitted by Muskoka Aquatic Club (MUSAC)

The short course season is at its height, and MUSAC is red hot!

The club had 7 swimmers qualify for the Ontario Winter Festival (14yrs & under), held February 18-19 in Etobicoke. Results included 3 medal performances and several more qualifying times for the next higher level meet!

Daniel Ortiz led the charge in bringing home 2 GOLDS, in 100m & 200m free, qualifying him for Provincials!

Owen Jibb's bronze in 100m breaststroke also earned him a trip to Provincials, plus he finished 4th in 200 IM, 5th in 200m breaststroke and club records in 100/200m breaststroke.

Ian Markham qualified for AA champs in 200m backstroke and 800m free. Branwyn Shaw came 7th in 800 free and is qualified to attend Provincials. Catrice Black had a best time in 400 IM and made a festival time in 200 IM. Ethan Thomas had a personal best in 100 Fly, and Ben Guerriero swam a best time by 4 seconds in 200 free!

MUSAC also had enough talent to enter a 13-14yr old boys relay team which broke several club records.

MUSAC finished 21st out of 57 teams!!

(Note: Ontario Spring Provincial Championships and Ontario AA Meet occurred shortly after deadline. Results in the next edition of Overtime)



1. Branwyn Shaw & Catrice Black.
2. MUSAC's 13-14yr boys relay team: Daniel Ortiz, Ian Markham, Owen Jibb, Ethan Thomas.
3. Festival medalists: Daniel Ortiz - 2 gold Owen Jibb - 1 bronze.
4. Winter Festival Team: Daniel Ortiz, Ian Markham, Ethan Thomas, Ben Guerriero, Catrice Black, and Owen Jibb. (Missing from photo- Branwyn Shaw)

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SHORT COURSE - BIG RESULTS

Submitted by Muskoka Aquatic Club (MUSAC)

The Huronia Region Short Course Championships were held early-February in Barrie. This meet is the first level where swimmers need to make qualifying times in order to compete.

MUSAC's success came with a 3rd place overall finish, out of 11 swim clubs, behind only Collingwood and Barrie. While earning over 30 medals, our swimmers broke 16 club records.

Catrice Black, Owen Jibb, Ian Markham and Ethan Thomas added to their number of qualified swims for Festivals and Branwyn Shaw qualified for AA Champs in two events which took place earlier this



month in Brantford. (Results in the next edition of Overtime)

TOP: Pictured is Ian Markham of the Muskoka Aquatic Club.

BOTTOM: Left to right is Catrice Black, Branwyn Shaw, Mia Pitts, and Arden Leadston.

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

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