

Raiders making moves

It would appear that the Georgetown Raiders will have a solid base of players to work with when the Ontario Junior Hockey League returns to action in a couple of months.

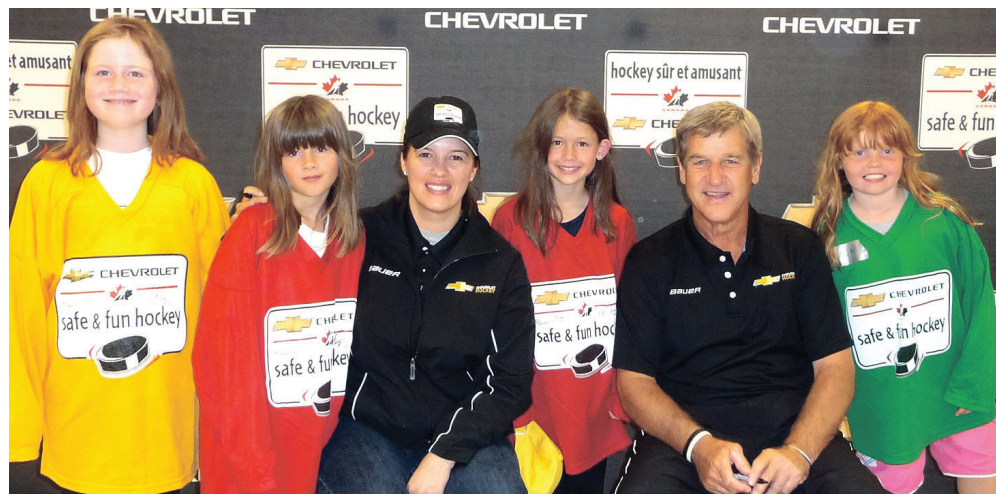
Seven players from last year's club have re-signed and four newcomers have been brought into the fold, including 17-year-old Zach Fung of Georgetown.

Second-year head coach and general manager Greg Walters also made

changes behind the bench, bringing in former Burlington Cougars' bench boss Dan Currie to be the associate coach, while Terry Richardson takes on the assistant coach's role along with managing duties.

"I played pro with Dan and we're very good friends. He's going to be a huge help because he's good with the kids and is really offensively minded," Walters said.

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Some Halton Hills residents were among the 100-or-so young players aged 5-8 from southern Ontario invited to skate and share some laughs alongside former Team Canada captain Cassie Campbell-Pascall and Hall of Famer Bobby Orr during the recent Chevrolet Safe & Fun Hockey Festival at RIM Park in Waterloo. The program was developed by Hockey Canada for players, parents and coaches with an emphasis on positive attitude, teamwork and fair play. There was some on-ice instruction that included stickhandling with rubber chickens as well as off-ice activities promoting respect and responsibility. Parents were also encouraged to attend seminars at the festival. Pictured with Campbell-Pascall and Orr, starting above (from left), are: Members of the novice B North Halton Twisters team, Emma Gormley, Kelly Campbell, Nicole Campbell, Lauren Carter. Bottom left: First-year player Katelyn Anderson, 7. Bottom right: Seven-year-old Leah Chubb, also just having finished her first year.

Submitted photos



As a 12-year-old, Ryan Oehrlein of Georgetown placed fourth overall in the boys' 11-13 age group at the recent Canadian championships and he's got another year to go at that division to upgrade to medal status. *Photo by Eamonn Maher*

Oehrlein earns spot with Gymnastics Canada team

Georgetown's Ryan Oehrlein narrowly missed out on getting a medal at the recent Elite Canada Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Charlottetown, P.E.I., but was nonetheless thrilled to learn he had earned a spot on the national team.

The 12-year-old member of Milton-based Gold Medal Gymnastics placed fourth all-around in the High Performance Argo division out of 44 competitors for boys aged 11-13.

Oehrlein finished fifth in his specialty, rings, was sixth in vault, pommels and parallel bars, 10th in the floor exercise and 11th on the horizontal bar.

His coach at Gold Medal, Nistor Sandro of Georgetown, said that Oehrlein's eagerness to train has led to his rapid development. He was seventh at the provincials in April and 22nd at last year's national championships in B.C., with a year left to compete at the HP

Argo level.

It's the first time a Gold Medal member has achieved national team status and the top six all-arounders in each age group qualify to represent Gymnastics Canada at competitions, along with trips to developmental training camps across the country through the year.

"It's a great achievement for Ryan and he's got amazing potential," said Sandro.

"He wants to learn all the stuff that the bigger guys in the gym do and he's always searching on the 'Net for new ideas, or inventing his own. All he can do to get better, he does it. His desire is to keep on improving."

Oehrlein attends Etobicoke's Hollycrest Middle School, which has a High Performers Program for elite athletes that offers a flexible schedule to allow them to compete and train at a high level.



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