

SPORTS & LEISURE

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GRC to host Cambridge Cup

The Georgetown Racquet Club has again been selected this year to host a special event as part of the prestigious Cambridge Cup Squash Tournament.

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, a main-event match between two of the top players in the world will be held at the local club, one of only five venues in the greater Toronto area chosen this year to host the competition.

Four-time world champion Amr Chabana of Egypt, the planet's eighth-ranked player, will take on #13 Tom Richards from Guildford, England beginning at 7:15 p.m. An exhibition between top-ranked junior players will precede the feature match at 6:30 p.m.

Some of the world's best squash players will compete in Cambridge Cup Tournament, in which the prize money is over \$60,000.

The GRC has one of the largest viewing galleries for squash in the Toronto area with a capacity to seat 150 people.

"It is a great honour for us to host internationally top-ranked squash players" said club president Christine Kogon.

"The Georgetown Racquet Club may be a relatively small club but like Georgetown itself, it prides itself on producing nationally ranked athletes, top level competitive teams and now, bringing to Georgetown, the best world-class squash players."

Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$65 at the door. There will be an opportunity to meet the pros, raffles for selected items and door prizes.

For tickets and information, contact Cheri Massey at 905-877-0848 or e-mail clmassey@cogeco.ca

Spiel champs

What began with 61 teams from around the region ended up in victory for the Denis Cordick foursome from The Club at North Halton at the 45th-annual Halton Peel Bonspiel held at the local curling club earlier this month. The event featured teams from the North Halton, Acton, Brampton, Milton and Orangeville clubs. Sixteen rinks advanced to the final day of competition, with Cordick's rink prevailing 13-5 in six ends over the North Halton team of skip Darryl Hartman, Peter Milliken, Dave Bugden and Bob Boyle. Pictured above (from left) are winning team members Dwayne Bushey (second), lead Richard Garden, third Kevin Stringer and skip Cordick.

Submitted photo



First for Impact volleyball club

Cailin Wark of the Georgetown Impact under-15 girls' team passes forward during an Ontario Volleyball Association Premier Division tournament match recently in Keswick. The Impact won all five of its matches to claim the championship and has dropped just one set so far this season, winning two under-15 events and, moving up an age group, captured the under-16 title at a tournament in Kitchener last weekend. Coach Kevin Hughes's side has been elevated to the OVA's Premier Division in both age groups, a first for a Georgetown Impact team. Next up is an under-15 tourney in Richmond Hill Feb. 9 leading up to the provincials at RIM Park in Waterloo April 12-14.

Photo by Glenn Heshka

High-calibre cycling challenge will roll through Halton Hills

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
Metroland Media Group

On perhaps the coldest morning so far this winter, interest in area cycling quickly heated up at the Halton Region Museum.

That was thanks to the official announcement of an event that organizers hope will strengthen Halton's status as a cycling hotbed.

But while drawing the support of three-time Olympic medalist Curt Harnett and likely to attract many top-level competitors due to its 140-kilometre challenge, organizer Michael Merrall stressed the newly-created PwC Epic Tour Halton isn't a race.

Or at least not just a race.

"It's about getting people more active," said Merrall at today's event launch. "We

wanted to create an event that anyone can participate in."

With that in mind, PwC Epic Tour Halton— to be held Sunday, Sept. 8 in and around the Kelso Quarry Lake— will include four different distances in an effort to cater to all types of cyclists.

Along with the 140k GrandFondo— an Italian-oriented concept that now has thousands of similar races in the U.S.— there'll be an Aspire 80k, Fit 40k and Family 20k. Racing will begin and end at the quarry, although the longer events will take riders through parts of Burlington and Halton Hills.

A prominent member of the sports marketing industry, Merrall described the area as an ecological gem and that PwC Epic Tour Halton will serve as a lifestyle experience for cyclists of all ages and skill levels.

"We thought it was high time this area had one of these events to call our own," he said. "We believe that if riders come here once, they'll want to come back again and again and again. It's all about healthy citizens."

A strong supporter of grassroots cycling, Harnett described his initial discussion with Merrall about the PwC Epic Tour Halton as a "serendipitous opportunity."

"The more Mike told me about the event, the easier it was for me to get behind it," said Harnett, who also touched on Milton's soon-to-be-built velodrome and how many different groups will be working to ensure its long-term viability. "I'm excited for this event but I also don't want the summer to blow by because there's a lot of preparation for this. We all

have a goal for ourselves, and it starts today."

PricewaterhouseCoopers will serve as the title sponsor of the event, which will include a corporate challenge, with teams combining cycling kilometres to work towards sponsorship funding.

PwC Epic Tour Halton has also partnered with Halton Healthcare Services, with a portion of the proceeds to go to area hospitals.

Held in conjunction with Halton Region Museum's third annual Alexander Farm Day, the cycling event will feature a variety of activities, including live entertainment, a wine garden, police bike rodeo and possible visit from Mountsberg Conservation Area's birds of prey.

For updates on the event, visit www.epictour.ca.