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## Georgetown hurler Abram drafted by San Diego Padres

**EAMONN MAHER**  
emaher@theifp.ca

Ben Abram can tick one of his lifetime goals off the list.

The six-foot-eight, 240-pound right-handed pitcher was selected in the 37th round (1,101st overall) of the Major League Baseball Draft on Wednesday by the San Diego Padres, although it's unlikely the Georgetown District High School graduate will ever play for the organization.

Abram, considered to be one of Canada's best young prospects, is set to start his freshman year with the University of Oklahoma Sooners on full scholarship this fall and if that goes as well as his four years with the Ontario Terriers' club team, he'll be drafted by another big league club down the road.

The 18-year-old has also shone for Baseball Canada's junior national team at international events such as the Dominican Summer League trip earlier this year along with last year's under-18 World Cup, with a fastball that has surpassed 90 miles per hour.

Abram is the first local resident to be taken in the MLB Draft since Shawn Hill, who'll be inducted into the Halton Hills Sports Hall of Fame later this month.

Hill was selected in the 33rd round by the Padres in the 1999 draft but didn't sign and was drafted again the following year in the sixth round by the now-defunct Montreal Expos.



Baseball Canada photo

**Ben Abram of Georgetown was taken by the San Diego Padres in the 37th round of the 40-round MLB Draft on Wednesday.**

## 5 things you perhaps didn't know about Town of Halton Hills aquatics

**EAMONN MAHER**  
emaher@theifp.ca

Looking for some fun times in the water this summer?

The Town of Halton Hills offers a wide array of water-related activities in its aquatics programs, from life-saving courses to basic learn-to-swim lessons, to plain old recreational swimming, at locations in Georgetown and Acton.

Masters swimming, aqua fitness, lane swimming and adult swimming lessons are among other programs available, apart from clubs such as the Halton Hills Blue Fins, Acton Aqua Ducks, Halton Hills Lifeguard Club, Georgetown Waves Special Olympics and Halton Hills Synchro.

"Swimming is a survival skill and a life skill," said Heather Morris-Stokes, recreation supervisor, aquatics.

"As our community grows, over the years, we've added programs to meet the needs of our residents, and we're always looking at different trends."

Recreational swimming takes place at the three Halton Hills public pools: the Gellert Community Centre, the Georgetown Indoor Pool (in Georgetown District High School) and the Acton Lions' Indoor Pool (in McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School).

"It's certainly a great way to have fun and cool down in the warmer weather," Morris-Stokes said.

"You can practise some skills if you are taking swimming lessons or reinforce what you're learning in your classes. Sometimes people with mobility problems have a new-found freedom when they're actually in the water, so it's an excellent place for anyone with ongoing physical concerns or for rehab, things like that."

Here are five things you may not know about the town's aquatics programs:

. Free youth swims (age 12+) offered on Mondays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Acton Lions' Indoor Pool and on Fridays at the Gellert Community Centre from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

. For the summer programs, daytime recreation swims, aqua fitness and evening classes begin July 2; daytime lessons start on July 3.

. Approximately 1,200 people of all ages registered for one of the town's learn-to-swim programs, in both 2016 and 2017. There were 125 registrants in advanced life-saving courses last year.

. As well as swimming and life-saving lessons, the town also offers snorkeling and diving lessons.

. Morris-Stokes noted that the spring and fall program sessions are generally busier than the summer schedule.

For more information on the town's summer aquatics programs, visit [www.haltonhills.ca/guide/index.php](http://www.haltonhills.ca/guide/index.php)

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