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Local pools to be more accessible

By Dianne Cornish

Halton Hills' aquatic programs are fully accessible to those with special needs, but community and staff awareness of the many different types of needs "out there" requires increased attention. That's the thinking behind the Active Living project currently under way in the town.

The project, funded jointly by the town and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, is a five-month contract job that was taken on in September by Toronto resident Sean Fergus.

Fergus, who recently completed a two-year stint as special needs co-

ordinator with Toronto's parks and recreation department, is responsible for assessing the town's aquatic facilities and programs and their ability to meet the needs of disabled people.

At the end of his contract as special needs project manager in mid-January, he'll make recommendations to Joanne Bodnar, aquatic supervisor with the town's recreation and parks department.

Besides focusing on an assessment of facilities and programming, the project includes updating training packages for staff and volunteers, as well as increasing community awareness about available swim programs, Bodnar explained.

"The pools are there and they're open to everyone," she said, noting that all town programs are integrated. "Anyone can attend, whether it be for a recreational swim or a learn-to-swim program."

Fergus has completed his assessment on both of the town's indoor pools which are shared facilities owned by the Halton Board of Education.

"Both facilities are accessible to people with special needs," he said.

The Georgetown indoor pool, in Georgetown and District High School, and the Acton pool, in McKenzie-Smith Middle School, have level parking lots, ground level entranceways, wheelchair-

accessible doorways, pushbars and changerooms, Fergus observed.

To help obtain "a professional view of the needs of the disabled" in his assessment of local aquatic programs, Fergus has met with representatives of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Handicapped (NHAMH), Erin-Oak Rehabilitation Centre in Mississauga and the Easter Seal Society.

He has also put together a training manual to assist pool staff and volunteers in recognizing and dealing with those with special needs.

Because aquatic programs for people with special needs "depend quite a bit on one-to-one support,"

there's always a need for volunteers.

Bodnar and Fergus are certain that the Active Living project will help increase community and staff awareness of children and adults with special needs.

They are also doing their part to inform the media and town residents about the project.

"We're open for business," Fergus said, inviting enquiries from volunteers and other community residents who want to know more about the project or provide input for the study. He can be reached at the town hall at 873-2600.

Calling all sports groups...

Halton Hills This Week wants to publish your results!
Drop them at our office, 232 Guelph St., Georgetown or fax us at 873-3918

Blue Fins Swimmers of the Month



Halton Hills Blue Fins awarded their Athletes of the Month for October recently. Nick Gamotte, Shannon Sommerville, Aaron Scarlett and Laura Simmons were all rewarded for their effort. Photo submitted

Bantams enjoy five-point week

A total of five points were gained in recent games by the JDP Computer minor bantams Hurricanes last week. The Hurricanes lost a 5-4 decision to Chinguacousy, beat Oakville 7-3, battled to a 4-4 tie with Oakville before finishing off with a 4-2 win over Guelph.

Halton's game against Chinguacousy on Nov. 10 was frustrating because Chinguacousy jumped out to a 4-0 lead after a period and a half.

Darin Finlayson finally put the Hurricanes on the scoreboard with a low wrist shot, with assists going to Justin Davis and Matt Vervoorn. Chinguacousy made it 5-1 on a power-play tip in near the end of the second. In the third period, Robert Haringa powered in a slapshot at 14:27 with a setup pass from Davis. Finlayson, with his second of the game, put in his own rebound with assists going to Peter Mashinter and Davis again.

Tom Baynton hammered in a slapshot with 2:38 to play to pull Halton to within a goal. Matt Rimmer and Jon Atley drew assists. However six Hurricanes' penalties stopped the Halton club's momentum.

A three-goal performance by Baynton led the Hurricanes to their 7-3 victory over Oakville on Nov. 11. Baynton opened the scoring after the team had three straight close-in shots on the Oakville goaltender, with Rimmer and Ryan Taylor drawing the assists. Mashinter then took a long pass from Richard Trotter and slid in a

nice backhander for Halton's second goal of the game. Centre Doug Janjevich off a goalmouth scramble netted the Hurricanes's third goal, with help from Curtis Carr.

Danny Haw raised the curtain on the second period with a wrist shot, with help from linemates Janjevich and Carr, to lift the Hurricanes into a 4-0 advantage before Oakville got its first goal of the contest.

Baynton netted back-to-back goals to round out his three-goal performance at 5:24 and 4:04 of the second to put the game out of reach. He had superb stick-handling help from Davis, Steve Roy and Stuart Colvin. Rimmer's short-handed breakaway goal wrapped up the seven Halton goals. Roy and Taylor drew assists.

Halton penalties again came back to haunt the Hurricanes, this time allowing Barrie to claim a 4-4 tie Nov. 14. Halton took an early two-goal lead on goals by Rimmer and Haringa, with assists going to Roy and Davis.

Barrie came back in the second to tie the score before the Hurricanes again stormed out to a two-goal lead, thanks to Baynton and Davis, with help from Rimmer and Vervoorn. But in the third Barrie regained life with two power-play goals to net the win. This one was a Halton giveaway. At Victoria Arena in Guelph on Nov. 14, the Halton squad gained two points in what was yet another penalty-filled game.

Davis, as usual, opened the scoring on a wraparound goal with Finlayson drawing the assist. At 4:54, Janjevich one-timed beautifully a quick pass from Roy to give Halton a 2-0 lead before Guelph came back.

In the second, Janjevich slammed in his second goal off a good pass from Carr. Davis took a short, soft centre-ice pass from Finlayson and found the top corner for Halton's fourth goal of the game. Geoff Beuparlant was at his best in the Hurricanes' goal, and he had to be due to the high number of Halton penalties.

The minor bantams have lost just three of 15 league games and are still contending for top spot in the overall standings.

Rangers down struggling Raiders

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders have sunk as low as they can go.

The Central Ontario Junior Hockey League team dropped a 4-1 decision to the Royal York Rangers on Wednesday night. Not only was the loss Georgetown's 15th straight, but it also put the Raiders last overall in the East Division standings.

While both Royal York and Georgetown are tied for sixth with eight points apiece, the Rangers get sixth based on having defeated the Raiders twice in as many meetings so far this season.

The Raiders began well enough, opening the

scoring with Trevor Elineksy's power-play goal. However, the home team came back to take a 2-1 lead late in the period, with the go-ahead goal coming with 58 seconds to play.

The Rangers went ahead 3-1 early in the second, then added a short-handed goal midway through the third to round out the scoring.

The Raiders announced after the game that forward Jim English has returned to the Erin Junior C Shamrocks. English, who had spent three years with the Junior C club when it was based in Acton, and the Raiders parter on amiable terms, club general manager Finn Poulstrup said.

"Ken (Erin coach Ken Steen) said Jim would fit in there and that he would love to have him back," Poulstrup said. "He spent three seasons there and was happy there, so I have no qualms sending to Erin if that's where Jim's going to be happy."

The schedule doesn't get any easier for the Raiders, however a solid argument could be made that last-place team's schedule never gets easier. Anyway, on Friday night the club hosted Brampton, and will take on the Burlington Cougars at the Alcott Arena tonight.