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Dave's Diversions

Christmas gifts for the great outdoors

By David Featherstone

The holiday season is upon us once again. It is a time to give and, if you've been good, maybe a time to receive. So, in the spirit of giving and receiving, I have decided to hand out some great Christmas gift

ideas guaranteed to warm the cockles of your favorite outdoorsperson! Hikers always seem to need a new backpack, whether it is a small daypack or one guaranteed to hold enough supplies for a troop of hungry Boy Scouts. Lightweight camp-

ing gear is also high on the list of serious hikers. But beware, lightweight items are not necessarily light on the pocketbook! Birdwatchers can always use a new bird guide, even if they already own three or four. A pair of binocu-

lars comes in hand for active "birders" while a bird feeding station or bird house will be appreciated by more passive viewers.

Hunters are always on the lookout for a new gun. Geese and duck calls make great stocking stuffers. Game scents, while not conducive to romance, are perfume to the hunter's nose. Clothing is very important to hunters. You can't go wrong with anything in neon orange or camouflage!

Anglers are easy. They're always suckers for the newest "miracle" lure, the one that claims they will never get "skunked" again! Put a few old standbys in their stocking, just in case. A pair of neoprene waders will warm an angler's heart and, more importantly, warm their legs, feet and other assorted goodies in the spring and fall.

Some gifts are suitable for all who enjoy the outdoors. Everyone can use a pair of good winter boots. Make sure to buy them a little on the large side. Nothing makes feet colder than tight boots! A set of

breathable, waterproof rainwear can make the difference between a good trip and a miserable one. Finally, the gift of a free day or two to a favorite destination never goes amiss.

Well, there you have it! Have a good, safe holiday season and get outdoors to work off some of those excess calories (and enjoy your gifts).

By the way, the other day I saw a brand new, reinforced titanium Russian ice fishing lure complete with positive hook setting action. You know, I always did wonder what they did with decommissioned submarines...

A biologist by profession, David Featherstone devotes a large portion of his spare time to volunteer groups which are working to protect and enhance the environment.

David hopes to provide readers of Halton Hills This Week with a mix of interesting and informative outdoor and nature articles.

Promar holds student karate tourney



The Promar Karate Club held its Senior Students Tournament on Saturday at Cedarvale Gym. Listed below are the results from this event.

Senior students tournament
Senior Grand Champion - Lance O'Dell (of Shelburne)

- 1st - Demo
- 2nd - Advanced Kata Division
- 3rd - Intermediate Sparr
- Junior Grand Champion - Derek Harrison (of Georgetown)
- 1st - Sparring-Junior Division
- 2nd - Advanced Kata - Junior Division
- 2nd - Advanced Self Defense - Junior Division
- 3rd - Demo
- 4th - Judo

Georgetown Student Results
Judo Division

- 1st - Byron Luff
- 2nd - Jeff Pentland
- 3rd - James Harrison
- 4th - Derek Harrison
- 5th - Randy Merritt
- 6th - Russell Hyde

Senior Beginner Kata

- 2nd - Phil Donohue
- 3rd - Kris Johnson

- Demo**
- 2nd - James Harrison
- 3rd - Derek Harrison
- 4th - Russell Hyde

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A pair of combatants spar during action last Saturday's Promar student Karate tournament at Cedarvale gym. At top, a pair of contestants in the judo competition square off. Photos submitted

Raiders plan meeting to discuss GM issue

There will be a meeting of the minds this weekend to try and clear up the issue of a general manager for the Georgetown Chrysler Junior Raiders.

Currently, Finn Poulstrup is handling the duties, but that's over and above those of club president, which is the post he was elected to at the team's last annual meeting. When Poulstrup was considering applications for a replacement for former coach Charlie Hanman, who stepped down two weeks ago, Poulstrup was looking for a candidate who could handle both the coach and general manager's jobs.

However, Poulstrup is technically still the general manager after he and a team committee selected Gary Ford to replace Hanman, the affable bench boss who lead the Raiders to a fourth-place finish and berth in the division semifinals in his rookie season with the club last year. This weekend, Poulstrup, Ford, assistant coach Jay Anderson, who was in the running for the coaching position, and new assistant Tony Reis will gather and banter suggestions around about a possible general manager.

While Ford, who was one of nine coaching candidates considered by the Raiders, arrives with a fine hockey background, having played 10 seasons in the International Hockey League and taken a leadership role in leading the Georgetown Chrysler Intermediate A Raiders to the Hardy Cup, symbolic of Intermediate hockey supremacy in Canada, his role with the Junior club will be behind the bench.

Poulstrup has no plans to continue wearing both hats either.

"These guys all have ideas and I want to hear them," Poulstrup said.

Poulstrup figures filling the general manager's job isn't as imperative as finding a new coach was. All Ontario Hockey Association-



Finn Poulstrup

based junior hockey teams have to make their final roster decisions by Jan. 10. Currently the Raiders have five blank cards with which to make late-season acquisitions the club hopes will net it a post-season playoff berth.

The Raiders can sign imports up to Jan. 28 and add non-imports until Feb. 10. Currently the club has only signed two imports, which means three of the five remaining cards could be used to sign players who played hockey outside of Halton Region in the past year.

"Then there's also the possibility of making player trades," Poulstrup said, adding currently neither he nor the Raiders have any irons in the fire.

The Raiders (4-20) would love nothing better than to end a 21-game losing streak this weekend, not only in an effort to secure a post-season berth in the playoffs, but add some badly needed confidence to the players. The Raiders are presently tied for seventh place in the Central Ontario Junior Hockey League's East Division standings. The top six advance to the playoffs.

One of Georgetown's wins was

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