

# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Hayward ready for busy winter

**EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

Georgetown native Brian Hayward has found hockey heaven in southern California and the independent sports broadcaster will have no shortage of work heading into his 15th season as a colour analyst.

The 46-year-old Hayward serves as the colour man for the Anaheim Ducks, NBC's Saturday afternoon contests and on the international feed for the Stanley Cup, totaling over 100 games in 2006-07, up from 96 last year, which included the Winter Olympics in Italy.

The Ducks' new owners, Henry and Susan Samueli, felt there wasn't enough TV coverage of their emerging Cup-contending team, so they bought a station in the L.A. area, meaning all 82 of their games will be broadcast and more work for Hayward.

"It's a rarity in this business for someone to stay 14 years in one spot. I've spent more years broadcasting than playing in the league," said Hayward, an NHL netminder for 11 seasons, which included three Jennings trophies in the late 1980s for having the best goals-against average while sharing time with Patrick Roy of the Montreal Canadiens.

"I won't say never, but it would be really hard to move away from the Anaheim situation for something else. The organization has treated me exceptionally well and the weather has kind of grown on me. I love to golf— even though I'm not a good golfer— and you can do it there 365 days a year."

Hayward and wife Angela have a daughter, Courtney, a high school sophomore who is "a tennis player with a focus on academics," says dad. He was in Georgetown recently for a 10-day stay, overseeing operations at the Power Zone Fitness Centre, which he co-owns with brother Bruce.

Hayward said that Samueli's mandate after taking over the Ducks from the Disney Corporation was to build a winning team as soon as possible, and with the recent acquisition of star defenceman Chris Pronger, along with several budding prospects such as Corey Perry, Anaheim's fans have big expectations for 2006-07.

"When (GM) Brian Burke pulled off the Pronger deal, people took notice and you have to say that the Ducks are a legitimate top-six team in the league," he added.

Hayward has seen first-hand how the influence of Wayne



Broadcaster and former NHL netminder Brian Hayward of Georgetown took time out for a photo with nephews Corey (left) and Cole at Hayward's All-World Hockey Camp earlier this month in Anaheim, Ca.

*Submitted photo*

Gretzky's playing days for the Los Angeles Kings has rubbed off, with a thriving minor hockey system in southern California. And while the National Hockey League takes a back seat to many other sports in the area, the notion of a Los Angeles kid making it to the big leagues isn't so strange anymore.

"People are shocked when I tell them there are 14- and 15-year-olds who are just as good as kids in Canada or anywhere else and there are so many more who are learning the game," said Hayward, who operates a youth goalie school. "Anaheim has a first-round pick, Bobby Ryan, who played for Orange County teams and looks like he's going to be something else with the Ducks. Hockey still hasn't made the impact into making it mainstream because people don't have that point of reference of having played the sport growing up."

*(Eamonn Maher can be reached at emaher@independentfreepress.com)*

## Local ball coaches enjoy national win

**EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

After losing their opening game of the tournament and struggling to generate much offence, the patience at the plate shown by the host Guelph Silvercreeks was finally rewarded as they captured the Canadian Junior Baseball Championship this past weekend at the Larry Pearson Baseball Complex.

Guelph managed to overcome its lack of output just in time, hammering league-rival St. Thomas 14-3 in Sunday's semifinal, then pulled off an improbable comeback against the defending-champion Quebec All-Stars, winning 6-5 in extra innings after trailing 5-0 in the sixth inning.

"We scuffed the ball with the bats all week until Sunday, and then the runs came in bunches," said Georgetown's Bob DeZeeuw, a coach with the Silvercreeks for the past eight seasons. "Playing small ball was our strategy and we knew that if we could start getting the clutch two-out hits that we hadn't been getting for the last three weeks, we'd just ride the pitching and it all clicked at the right time."

There was a strong Halton Hills presence on the field management staff of the Silvercreeks besides DeZeeuw. Manager Scott Van de Valk, a phys ed teacher at Christ the King High School who now resides in Guelph, has guided the 'Creeks to five Rawlings Cup league titles in the past seven years. Georgetown resident Todd Clark serves as a professional development coach with the club, while Acton's Dan Smith is the trainer.

The Silvercreeks posted a 3-1 won-lost record in the preliminary round of the 10-team, under-21 tourney.

The Guelph squad has been ranked first in the province for most of the past four years and was league winner again in 2006 with a 37-4 overall record, but Ontario-champion St. Thomas knocked off the Silvercreeks 3-1 in the best-of-five Junior Inter County League final series just before the national championship.

As part of their preparation for the nationals, Van de Valk helped incorporate the four pickups each team was able to add for the tournament by staging a scavenger hunt through Guelph, a Texas Hold-Em poker game and a team meal was held at his mother Andrea's home in Georgetown.

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## Off to nationals

The Halton Hills midget #1 Acton Home Hardware Bulldogs field lacrosse squad begin their quest for a national championship this Friday morning in Victoria, B.C. at the Alumni Cup under-16 men's tournament. The Ontario-champion Bulldogs, the only eastern Canada representative in the eight-team event, face New Westminster, B.C. in their opening game at 9 a.m. PT on Friday, followed by a matchup with Calgary at 3 p.m. The local squad has been fund-raising for their trip since winning the OLA midget A title in Kitchener back in May and went 10-0 overall. Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette (left) offered his good luck to coach Daryl Haynes and the team, who were provided with a courtesy bus from Denny's Bus Lines to get to Pearson Airport. *Photo by Ted Brown*



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