

# Local youth top-ranked Pokémon player

**TED BROWN**  
Staff Writer

When most people hear the word Pokémon, they think of the Nintendo video game, or the trading cards.

But there is an underlying game that is played with those cards, more sophisticated and intricate than most people are aware.

And Georgetown's Koehler family can boast of having Canada's number one and number seven-ranked players.

Quinn Koehler, 9 and his brother Patrick, 6, have been playing Pokémon competitively for almost two years, and, along with their dad Terry, compete in an 'organized play' league schedule, which plays regularly at Mold-Masters Sportsplex. Terry oversees the organized play league, which is sanctioned, awarding points to maintain the world-wide standings.

It was Quinn who got them started, after he acquired a Pokémon trading card from a friend. He did some research and discovered there were literally thousands of different cards out there, and he became bitten by the bug—originally as a collector.

But when the family realized there was also a game to be played with those same cards, they jumped into the game circuit and never looked back.

Terry explains that the game is similar to chess, but each player builds his own deck of 60 playing cards. The various cards have strengths and weaknesses over other cards, and use energy cards, which can enhance that card's capability to

attack the opponent's cards.

With so many variables and strategies to draw on, as well as trying to second-guess what the opposing player has in his deck, each game strategy becomes unique.

"There are about 700 legal cards available," says Terry, "And the players must build their personal decks of 60 cards from those 700. In addition, the players really need to know the capabilities of all the cards, so they can make the appropriate play in the game."

There are basically two groups who play seriously, said Koehler. "The first group are the younger players, 8 to 9 years of age," said Terry, "but there is also the university crowd, who are attracted to the prizes which can be quite worthwhile, as well as scholarships."

Terry said world level players can receive prizes in the \$7,500 range, as well as free transportation to the tournaments and free accommodation.

"Quinn is in charge of deck-building for us," said Terry, "He builds seven or eight combinations and we learn how to play each particular deck. He knows what each card can do and how to play it to the best advantage. If someone throws down a certain Pokémon card, you'd better know what it does and what strategy to use. We say that Quinn is our walking encyclopedia of Pokémon cards."

Terry said that skill is certainly paramount in the game, but there is also an element of luck, since both player must shuffle their cards prior to starting the game.

The Koehlers have played in com-

petitions as high as the national level, last year in Toronto, and this year the family has plans of competing nationally in Edmonton this summer.

Before Christmas, Quinn took first place at the provincial level tournament in Hamilton, and currently holds the number one spot in Canada. Patrick, age 6, also competed at the Hamilton tournament, being the youngest competitor there that day.

Terry admits he's more of a 'trainer' than a player, but does enjoy the game as well. Both Quinn and Patrick play at the Junior level (ages 11 and under, and there is a Senior level (ages 11 to 15,) as well as the Masters level (age 16 and up.)

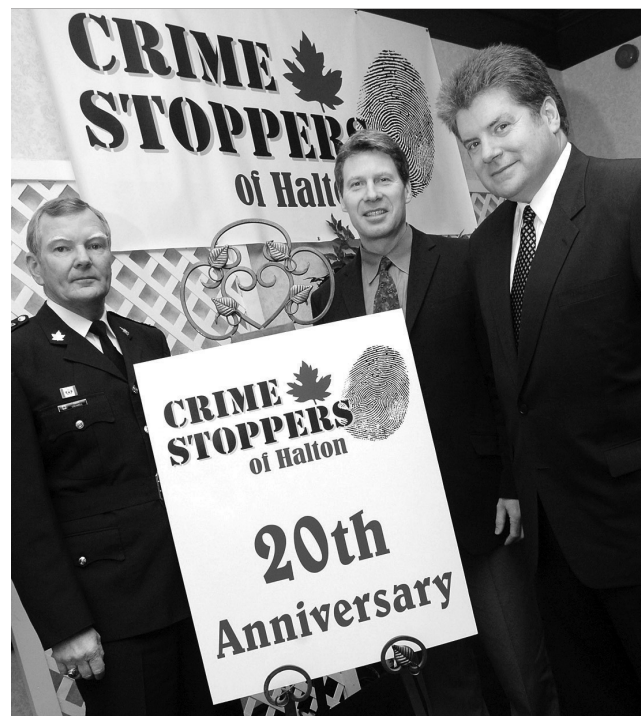
While Terry runs the local league here in town, he said March 1, there will be a Provincial level tournament at Mold-Masters SportsPlex, which he will facilitate, but not run.

"It's a great game," says Terry, "It is not only entertaining, but also enhances other skills for those kids playing it. The game requires the use of reading, math and memory skills to play the game."

The new season in Halton Hills starts tomorrow (Saturday), and all are welcome to attend to try the game, said Terry.

"We're happy to teach the game, and let others enjoy it," said Terry, "We hold about 5-6 tournaments during the season upstairs at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex."

Anyone wishing to take part, or receive more information about playing Pokémon in town, can contact Terry by e-mail at precambrian.trading@gmail.com



## Reach milestone

During the recent launch of Crime Stoppers Month the program's annual statistics were announced along with some initiatives for 2008 that will help Halton Crime Stoppers celebrate its 20th anniversary. On hand for the launch were Halton Regional Police chief Gary Crowell, Detective Gary Gold and Crime Stoppers International President Gary Murphy.

Photo by Liesa Kortmann

## Dufferin to host information meeting

Dufferin Aggregates is hosting a public information session to discuss future activities at the Acton quarry Monday evening.

Dufferin is proposing an extension of its Acton operation both to the north and south of the existing quarry, with the applications anticipated to be filed in March.

The session will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in the hall at the Acton Arena, 415 Queen St. A presentation and discussion will begin at 7:15 p.m.

For more information call 905-532-3209 or visit [www.dufferinactonquarry.com](http://www.dufferinactonquarry.com).

www.independentfreepress.com

HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM REGISTRATION

for September, 2008

Registration for those families who wish to enrol their child in the French Immersion Program in the Catholic Elementary Schools in Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills will be held at all designated schools as listed below on:

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2008**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008**  
**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- student must be entering **grade 5** in September, 2008 in a Halton Catholic School;
- in person only - parent, guardian or other adult with a letter indicating they are acting on the parent's behalf;
- registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis and is to take place at the French Immersion school designated for your attendance area;
- enrolment for the French Immersion Program is limited;
- transportation is not provided;
- click on the following link to access the list of feeder schools and dates for Parent Information Sessions in your respective area:  
<http://www.hcdsb.org/frenchimmersion/>

#### DESIGNATED FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOLS

Area	Schools
Burlington	St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary School
Georgetown/Acton	Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School
Milton	Guardian Angels Catholic Elementary School
North Oakville	St. Matthew, St. Bernadette & St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic Elementary Schools
South Oakville	St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School

Alice Anne LeMay  
Chair of the Board



Lou Piovesan  
Director of Education

### JUNIOR / SENIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

for September, 2008

HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Advanced Registration for those children who will be attending Junior Kindergarten or Senior Kindergarten in Halton Catholic Schools in Burlington, Oakville, Milton, and Halton Hills (Georgetown/Acton) will be held at all schools on:

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2008**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008**  
**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

#### AGE OF ADMISSION AND REQUIREMENTS

Junior Kindergarten	Senior Kindergarten
Children are required to be 4 years of age on or before December 31, 2008.	Children are required to be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2008.

- Roman or Eastern Rite Catholic Baptismal Certificate is required.
- Proof of age is required.
- Before registration is finalized, a child will have completed the prescribed program of immunization for diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps and rubella. Parent(s) must provide evidence of immunization record.
- For further information or alternate registration date, please contact the principal of your nearest Catholic School.

Please Note: Children currently registered in their Catholic school's Junior Kindergarten program are not required to register for the Senior Kindergarten program. Placement in the Senior Kindergarten program will be processed by the school unless otherwise notified by the parent(s)/guardian(s).

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