

# Renaud looks to build on breakout 2008-09 season

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Hamilton AAA squad that reigned supreme at last spring's provincial championships.

"Obviously having the top two players from the best midget team in Ontario is an important piece of the puzzle for us," said Piett, whose team wrapped up its exhibition stand with a 1-2 showing at this past weekend's Woodchuck Classic in Vermont.

Milton's owner also expects big things from winger Trevor Hunt, an eighth-round pick of the London Knights in 2008 who led last year's Mississauga Senators.

The trio join a forward unit led by third-

year veteran Curtis Renaud, who developed into the IceHawks' best all-around performer last season, collecting 31 goals and 31 assists along with providing a fair amount of grit to a lineup in short supply of that.

Noted Piett, "Basically we don't need Curtis to do anything differently than he did last year. He's definitely a top player."

Also back from the forward ranks are Ryan Stroz, Justin Periera and Skylar Ell.

While the blueline remains a work in progress, the IceHawks have acquired 19-year-old Scott Fasano from Villanova and 18-year-old Mike Miller — who spent last sea-

son with Brockville of the Central Jr. A League and is off to Bowling Green next fall — to help stabilize things.

Goaltending is another question mark right now, but from a more positive standpoint, as 18-year-old OHL prospect Craig Rylett is now back from the Sudbury Wolves — joining 2008/09 call-up Brian Betts and Montreal's Jake Williams, who backstopped Jr. B Elmira last year.

Piett offered no indication just who should emerge as the number one man between the pipes, stating only that Milton will likely carry three netminders for the time being and that all three are capable of becoming the starter.

Just eight of the Ontario Jr. A League's 15 teams will now see post-season play, making a playoff berth a rather lofty goal for young developing clubs like the IceHawks.

But Piett feels the stricter cut-off mark will be to both the fans' and league's benefit.

"It's going to put more teams in a dogfight for a playoff spot and make every game intense throughout the season," he said. "The NCAA coaches and scouts are certainly in favour of the change."

With Memorial Arena still undergoing major renovations, the IceHawks' home opener won't be until Sunday, Sept. 27, when they take on Oakville at 3:30 p.m.

## Big finish for Under-14 Magic boys

Rebounding from their only loss in a month, the Under-14 Magic boys punctuated their regular season with a 1-0 victory over Brantford City Monday night at Lions Sports Park.

Cesar Galarreta earned his fourth shutout in the last five games, while Armaan Neemunchwala was the lone marksman, burying a low shot from about 20 feet out early in the first half. From there the short-staffed Magic maintained the lead with a rock-solid defensive effort — highlighted by Adam Lauder, who neutralized the visitors' top offensive threat — and some exceptional play from midfielder Ricky Vieira.

Stepping things up after a challenging start to the season, with seven new players joining the mix, Milton finished at 6-7-3.

The Under-14 boys close out 2009 this weekend at the Richmond Hill Tournament.

### Novak joins IHL

Fresh off an impressive stint at Oswego College, Mike Novak is now set to begin his pro career — having signed with the International Hockey League's Muskegon Lumberjacks last weekend.

At six-foot-three-inches and 202 pounds, the 23-year-old defenceman brings a fair

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amount of size and toughness to the Michigan club. Part of the Oswego Lakers' Division 3 national championship win in 2007, Novak had 14 points and 104 penalty minutes in 85 NCAA games.

"Mike was recommended to us by Atlanta Thrashers head coach John Anderson, who believes Mike can fill the bill in what we are looking for from our young defense group," Lumberjacks coach Rich Kromm told the Muskegon Chronicle. "Mike is big and strong and will give us a lot of size on the back line."

### V-ball tryouts starting

The Mountain Athletic Club (MAC) volleyball program is currently seeking female players between the ages of 13 and 18 for its 2009/10 season.

The Hamilton-based club begins tryouts for its five competitive teams this weekend (starting Saturday) at various high schools. There's a one-time tryout fee of \$25. The boys' tryouts will be held later in the fall.

For more information, visit [www.macvolleyball.com](http://www.macvolleyball.com) or contact Jos Nederveen at (905) 528-0214, ext. 465.

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**Saturday/Sunday**  
**September 19 & 20**

Times applicable for all above dates (Year of Birth in Parentheses)

**Junior Rookie (2002) & Senior Rookie (2001) 9:00 Am – 10:00 Am**

**Minor Mosquito (2000) 10:00 Am – 11:00 Am**

**Mosquito (1999) 11:00 Am – 12:00 Pm**

**Minor Pee wee (1998) 1:00 Pm – 2:00 Pm**

**Pee wee (1997) 2:00 Pm – 3:00 Pm**

**Minor Bantam (1996) & Bantam (1995) 3:00 Pm – 4:00 Pm**

**Minor Midget (1994) & Midget (1992/1993) 4:00 Pm – 5:00 Pm**

**\$10/Player**

Proof Of **BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED.**  
Players Will Not Be Permitted To Tryout Without Valid "Release" From Their Home Centre, If They Do Not Reside In Milton. For Any Other Information, Please Contact David Clark.

[Dclark88@sympatico.ca](mailto:Dclark88@sympatico.ca)

**Oakville's Oldest Club Is Getting Younger**

**Atom Girl's (Under 11 Years) Basketball Tryouts**

<b>Saturday, Sept. 12</b> 5:30 - 7:00 pm <b>Syl Apps Youth Centre</b> 475 Iroquois Shore Rd., Oakville	<b>Saturday, Sept. 19</b> 3:00 - 4:30 pm <b>Clearview Christian Reformed Church</b> 2300 Sheridan Garden Dr., Oakville
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For more information and directions visit our website [www.oakvillevytis.com](http://www.oakvillevytis.com) or email: [info@oakvillevytis.com](mailto:info@oakvillevytis.com)

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