

Daughters were inspired by moms in growing triathlon

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
Special to *The Champion*

With over twice the number of participants signed up to compete, this year's Women's Triathlon Milton promises to hold at least double the excitement of last year's inaugural event.

This Sunday's event at Kelso Conservation Area will be the first triathlon for many of these women, and for others only the second if they're returning from last year. For a select few however, including some talented local athletes, the race is just one more summer challenge.

Grade 8 Brookville student Ashleigh Snow, 13, will be competing in her first Women's Triathlon Milton this Sunday but is no stranger to the three-event sport. A regular competitor in the Kids of Steel series, Ashleigh is following in her parents' athletic footsteps.

Janice and Calvin Snow are both members of the Milton Runners Club who took part in the 100th anniversary of the Boston Marathon this spring. Ashleigh's most recent efforts leading up to this weekend were in Peterborough two weeks ago, when she placed fifth in the under 20 division.

"I beat my mom by three minutes," said Ashleigh, who swims with the Milton Marlins. "My best event is running but I'm not so

good at biking."

Ashleigh will be joined by a couple of her Marlin teammates, Stephanie and Kassie Sliemers. The local sisters had the opportunity to compete with mother Anna Morris last year. Morris has opted to help organize the event this time around and will not be competing.

"It was really good to compete with my mother last year. I ran with her the whole way," recalled 11-year-old Stephanie, a grade 7 student at W.I. Dick.

Another Kids of Steel regular, Stephanie took fifth place Saturday in Clarington. In her debut Women's Triathlon Milton, she completed the 300-metre swim, 10-kilometre bike, 2 km run in just over 40 minutes for fifth place in the 10-15 age group. "I'm hoping to improve my biking this time around," she added.

Older sister Kassie — a grade 9 student at E.C. Drury this fall — completed last year's event nine seconds ahead of Stephanie for a third-place finish. The sisters were less the seven minutes behind the overall winner.

Kassie, 14, recently raced near Ottawa where she took fifth in the 13-14 age group. She said having an all female triathlon is "neat", and that she's hoping to do even better this time around.

As a solid competitor with the Marlins, she's expecting to jump

out to a good start in the water and build up momentum from there.

A number of the sisters' friends will also be competing including Rebecca Johnston and Chrissie Henderson, who has chosen to race the duathlon instead.

More than 150 women in all will be part of Sunday's event, which is scheduled to begin at approximately 8 a.m.

Midgets fall just short in lacrosse finale

The Milton Mavericks midget lacrosse team turned in a great run recently in Arthur, but in the end came up a few strides short of capturing the Ontario Provincial B title.

Ending their hopes for the gold in the championship finals was Orillia. The Mavs fought hard until the bitter end, with sniper Jason Ford counting his 10th goal of the tournament with just 12 minutes remaining in the third to tie.

Unfortunately, Orillia needed just 92 seconds to take another lead and cruise to a 9-6 triumph.

Ford's offensive showcase highlighted what was an extremely impressive tournament for Milton, who finished first in

league play over the regular season and strung together four wins in Arthur before faltering in the finals.

Samia led 7-6 with under eight minutes left in the semifinal before Milton knotted the score and Ford notched the go-ahead goal with 2:55 on the clock. His crew ended up with a 9-7 margin of victory.

Ford unloaded with four goals in the game while goalie Ryan Young made some critical saves down the stretch to preserve the win.

A lacklustre second period, which included a shaky performance by netminder Mike DeBoer, helped Scarborough keep things close with Milton in game three. Scarborough managed to climb back

from a 4-0 deficit and draw even with Milton at 6-6 in the middle frame. DeBoer regrouped in the final stanza to shut down Scarborough while his teammates went ahead to stay and won 8-6.

Anchoring the offensive efforts in this one was Kyle Artem with four goals.

Milton's other efforts included a 12-9 win over local rival Burlington, with Cory Leigh and Kyle Imrie turning hat-tricks and Artem and Shawn Weatherall netting two each, and a 14-3 bombing of Brampton. Hat-tricks in this one came from Ford and Blair Beaulieu while Artem and Weatherall tallied twice.



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Correction Notice Re. Town of Milton Fall/Winter Leisure Guide



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