

Mountain biking continues to gain popularity, says Porter

(From page 14) attracts 25 to 30 regulars, with nine local area riders being added to the lineup this year.

Porter said the mini-series is a great introduction to mountain biking.

"It's great for junior riders between 11 and 15," said Porter. "It gives them a chance to try out the sport."

Porter reported that local rider Ryan Copithorn placed third in the junior standings for the season, which ended last weekend. Riders are timed as they complete the five-km. course, with points accumulating throughout the season.

Porter said interest in mountain biking is growing in recent years as more people discover the satisfaction and relative safety of taking to the trails.

He pointed to the annual Durham Durango and Ice Breaker Enduro competitions, held annually in the Durham Regional Forest near Claremont as examples of nearby events.

Porter said sales of upscale mountain bikes at Boyd's have reflected

the trend towards better bikes being purchased by people who have been enjoying the sport for several years. "This year has seen great

growth in specialized mountain bike sales in our store. You have to spend \$500 to \$800 to buy a good bike, but

when you consider you have to spend \$500 to outfit a kid for hockey, that's not bad."

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MICHAEL MULLIGAN

Unionville resident Michael Mulligan received a hockey scholarship recently at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. The 18-year-old Mulligan played the last two seasons with the Wexford Raiders of the Metro Junior Hockey League as a centre-left winger. Prior to that, Mulligan toiled in the Markham Minor Hockey Association. Not only did Mulligan earn the scholarship based on his hockey abilities but he also recorded good grades while attending Brother Andre Catholic High School.

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