

# Sports & Leisure

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AWARD WINNERS: The Stouffville Amateur Hockey League conducted its annual year-ending awards ceremonies at the Cedar Beach Pavillion on Saturday. Among those receiving accolades this year included (front row, front far left): Gord Smith, Joe O'Connor, Gary Carr and Bob Little. Those in the back row included (from far left): John Carrick, Jo Infurniri, John Boyd and Jim Gray. Photo by CHERYL JOHNSON

## Top players and teams earn recognition from SAHL at annual banquet

**BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

They paid homage to this year's heroes, as well as a veteran warrior, at the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League's annual season-ending banquet at the Cedar Beach Pavilion on Saturday.

The league honored its regular season and playoff champions, along with its individual award winners.

But the biggest hand was saved for long-time executive member Jim Wagg.

Wagg attended the banquet despite an ongoing illness, and was given a standing ovation when he presented the Jim Wagg Award for 30 and Over Division's most gentlemanly player, Brian Henderson.

SAHL superfan Alice Hamm,

who was forced to miss several games this past season due to illness, also received a loud applause.

Gord Smith was named 40 and over Most Valuable Player, while John Boyd was acknowledged as the division's top goalkeeper, despite playing with a bad back for part of the season.

Jim Gray and Doug Todd were tied for the divisional scoring lead.

Bruce Mehaffey was given the Roy Ireland Award as the unsung hero.

Bob Little was given the Ambrose Pullen Award as the player exemplifying teamwork and positive attitude.

The 30 and Over Division named super goalie Randy Osbourne its Most Valuable Player.

John Carrick received the

goalkeeper's award, with Dave Mahaffey the leading scorer.

The Al Parker Memorial unsung hero award went to Joe O'Connor.

Craig Glenn was named 20 and Over Division Most Valuable Player, with Kelly Garrick top goalie.

Mark Paganelli won the sportsmanship award, with brothers Dan and Dave McNaught co-winners of the unsung hero award.

The Ken May Real Estate Whalers, Williamson Motors Jets, and Bruins were honored for their playoff victories in the 40, 30 and 20 and Over Divisions respectively.

First place in the standings went to the Occasions Catering Blues (40 and Over), Boyd's Sports Shars (30 and Over) and the Bruins (20 and Over).

## Local ball talent almost became reunited once again

Sports  
Notes



*Bruce Stapley*

Close, but no cigar.

The 1997 fastball season almost saw former long time teammates Scott Evans, Rich and Chris Burkholder, and Byron Baranieski all sitting on the same side of the diamond for the first time since the quartet led the Stouffville Merchants to their first of two (almost three) Ontario Junior championships back in 1990.

Evans is to pitch some games for the Claremont Rebels this season between weekend tournaments with his main team, the Midland (Michigan) Explorers senior mens squad. The other three went looking for a team after the Greenbank Gamblers folded at the end of last season. Rebels coach Frank Hendy was anxious to sign all three, figuring they could lead him to a provincial senior title. But the trio got together with Uxbridge Bandits player/coach Barry Ferguson, who was about to pull the plug on his team, and convinced him to reconsider. With the Rebels and Bandits both moving to the Oshawa City and District Association this season, Evans will likely face his former mates on occasion.

Stouffville fastball fans can only hope the day comes when these four outstanding fastballers suit up in town colours once again. Meanwhile, Howard Burkholder, who coached the Merchants in the early 1990's, is still laying fallow on his Stouffville area farm.

**COACHING CLINIC**

Calling all coaches and would be

coaches.

Durham College's Uxbridge campus is offering level two coaching theory clinics this spring. The sessions qualify under the National Coaching Certificate Program. To be certified, coaching candidates must have their theory, technical and practical.

The theory sessions are for people who want to coach any team sport, and include sports safety, skills analysis, and growth and development of athletes. The level two program is set for May 24 and 31, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For registration information call 852-7848, ext. 22 or 25.

**CPGA CHAMPIONSHIPS AT MANDARIN AGAIN**

The CPGA Championship returns to the Mandarin Golf and Country Club Aug. 7-10 this summer. Richmond Hill's Chestnut Hill club, located on Leslie St. near Bloomington Rd., will host the Infiniti Championship for the second year as well July 17-20. The OGA Bantam Championship is scheduled for the Stouffville area Pheasant Run Golf Course Aug. 5-6.

**BOYD'S TEAM CYCLE UP A STORM**

**AT PLEASURE VALLEY**  
The Boyd's Sports Mountain Bike Team was out at Pleasure Valley near Claremont April 26-27 for the Backwoods Bash Ontario Cup Cross Country Race No. 1.

The team's Terry Porter was an impressive fourth out of 15 riders in the expert men's class. Jon Barnes was 18th out of 35 in the pro elite men's class. Eric Broughton was 17th out of 55 riders in the Cadet Sport Male event, while Kyle Epp was 20th and Paul Bouchard 30th.

## Spirit to play home games on Thursdays

**BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

Thursday night will be Junior A hockey night in Stouffville as the Spirit of Stouffville head into their third Ontario Hockey Association Provincial Junior A Hockey League season this fall.

The team, which had been unsuccessful in drawing large crowds on Saturday nights during its first two seasons, was given the Thursday night slot when the Orillia Terri-

ers switched from Thursday to Friday nights.

With the coming of the second ice pad in Stouffville, team officials had been hopeful of making a switch to a more acceptable night.

But while the Spirit now have the home date they were looking for, the club is still in the process of interviewing candidates for the roles of general manager, and assistant coach.

Head coach Don Larmer says there is no sense of immediate urgency to fill the general manager position left

vacant when Wally Crowder stepped down at the end of the 1996-97 season.

"We've got a few more interviews this week," said Larmer, "we want the best person available, not just the best person available now."

Larmer said now that the Junior A playoffs are completed there may be a few more candidates for the position. He said he is currently handling the on-ice general manager decisions, while the team's board of directors is tending to

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