

Economist & Sun/Stouffville Tribune

SPORTS

Local lifeguards make waves

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

Whitchurch-Stouffville swimmers made waves last Saturday in their first-ever National Lifeguard Games held at the Etobicoke Olympium.

"Amazing," said aquatic supervisor Micole Ongman, "they put our town on the map."

Twenty girls and boys, ranging in age from eight to 15 years, took part in a meet involving close to 100 entries from all across Canada. Three Stouffville swimmers established Canadian records.

"Some of our swimmers had never before taken part in competition at this level," Ongman said. "Parents were blown away."

One swimmer, 14-year-old Jan Viljoen of Stouffville, electrified the meet with his skill.

"It seemed he wasn't touching the water," Ongman said. "He skimmed over the surface like a hovercraft. I've never seen anything like it. He was awesome."

Viljoen established a mark in the Obstacle Swim. Other record-breakers were Erin Demelis, 9, Throwing Accuracy and Erik Eastman, 13, Lifesaving.

In addition to Ongman, the Stouffville contingent was accompanied by aquatic programmer Carol Bain and coaches Yorick Tong and Ryan Bolton.

Other results were as follows:

Obstacle Swim, 8-9 Female: Samantha Girard, (second); Amy Bray, (third); Alyssa McManningwell, (fourth).

Obstacle Swim, 8-9 Male: Kevin Beckett, (fourth).

Obstacle Swim, 10-11 Female: Samantha Barrett, (15th); Krystie Bray, (16th).

Obstacle Swim, 10-11 Male: Greg Clubbe, (sixth); Julien Busse, (seventh).

Obstacle Swim, 12-13 Female: Jessica Neumann, (11th).

Obstacle Swim, 12-13 Male: Christopher Girard, (10th); Scott Bolton, (11th).

Obstacle Swim, 14-15 Male: Jan Viljoen, (first); Dan Flaherty, (fifth).

Throwing Accuracy, 8-9 Female: Erin Demelis, (first); Michelle Cinnamon, (second); Alyssa McManningwell, (third); Kirstie McDowell, (fourth); Samantha Girard, (fifth).

Throwing Accuracy, 10-11 Female: Samantha Barrett, (ninth).

Throwing Accuracy, 10-11 Male: Greg Clubbe, (fourth); Julien Busse, (11th).

Throwing Accuracy, 12-13 Female: Jessica Neumann, (ninth).

Throwing Accuracy, 12-13 Male: Scott Bolton, (fourth); Erik Eastman, (10th).

Throwing Accuracy, 14-15 Female: Jessica Aprile, (fifth).

Throwing Accuracy, 14-15 Male: Jan Viljoen, (fourth).

Lifesaving, 8-9 Female: Erin Demelis, (first); Kirstie McDowell, (third).

Lifesaving, 12-13 Male: Erik Eastman, (first).

Lifesaving, 14-15 Female: Shannon Smyth, (seventh).

Lifesaving, 14-15 Male: Jan Viljoen, (first); Dan Flaherty, (fourth).

Object Support, 10-11 Female: Krystie Bray, (eighth).

Object Support, 12-13 Male: Christopher Girard, (eighth); Erik Eastman, (12th).

Obstacle Relay: Whitchurch-Stouffville, (third).

Medley Relay: Whitchurch-Stouffville, (fourth).

Cost to the Stouffville swim entry was subsidized through The Mayor's Youth Fund. All medals will be placed on display next week at the Lebovic Leisure Centre.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

PUTTING THEIR BEST FEET FORWARD

Stouffville District Secondary School's Erin Knights (left), tangles with Unionville High School's Tiffany Tang for possession of this ball in Tuesday's YRAA girls' soccer contest at Unionville High School. The host Wolves won the match 2-0. For Stouffville, the loss was their first game of the regular season. However, they will have a chance to make amends today when they host St. Robert Catholic High School at 3 p.m. in their home debut. For more high school sports news, see page 36.

Award-winning lifesavers 'the envy of other towns'

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and several of its residents, have been honoured by the Lifesaving Society of Canada.

Barbara Byers, the society's marketing director, attended a meeting of council yesterday at which time she paid tribute to the municipality and 12 individuals for their work in support of its Water Smart initiatives.

The Water Smart Award, explained Byers, is presented annually to an affiliate of the Lifesaving Society for outstanding community service to drowning prevention education in Ontario.

Each year, said Byers, the Lifesaving Society certifies 200,000 Canadians, 100,000 in Ontario, in lifesaving, lifeguarding and leadership training programs.

"Our goal," she explained, "is to teach Canadians how to save themselves and how to save others."

Byers noted that to accomplish this, the training program had to extend beyond the pool deck into the community. Thus was borne the Water Smart campaign.

"We could not reach as many people as we do if we did not have the resources and creativity of committed affiliates like the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville," she continued.

She described the town as "a force to be reckoned with in drown-prevention education," and

praised the efforts of aquatic supervisor Micole Ongman for, what she described as "a remarkable job in a short period of time."

Whitchurch-Stouffville, she said, is truly on the map as a dynamic and innovative community.

"Through creative and imaginative ideas, your town is the envy of many municipalities," she told council, "ideas that undoubtedly will be adopted in other parts of the province."

In her remarks, Byers also praised support provided by Tom Graham, director of leisure services and aquatic programmer Carol Bain.

Both Ongman and Bain are members of the Lifesaving Society's public education team.

In pinpointing reasons for Whitchurch-Stouffville being selected as a winner of the Water Smart Award, Byers said the team here, had been able to reach out to residents through its association with many community events including: the Strawberry Festival, the BIA Bed Race, Timber Creek Day, McDonald's Day, Spring Fling and more.

Water Smart honors were presented to the following: Carol Bain, Sue Sherban, Leanne Cushing, Sara Aprile, Lori Laufert, Lori Dale, Zoe Liadis, Brenda Lobraico, Laura Volpe, Kristi Haines, Chris Larkin and Sue Munroe.

"On behalf of the Lifesaving Society, my congratulations to Whitchurch-Stouffville and its aquatic staff for dedicated support of our drowning prevention mission," Byers concluded.

Skaters hope to figure well in final show

BY LISA MEHAK
Special

After nearly 15 years of practice, the Stouffville Figure Skating Club's top performers are ready for their grand finale.

This weekend, the skaters will take the ice for Stouffville's 41st skating carnival.

For five senior girls, this marks their last ice show. For a few of the five, it also marks their last season of high school before moving on to college or university.

Stouffville District Secondary School students Alison Wannop, Heather Penny, Lauren Warner, Ashley Wells, and Jessica Wilcock, are all preparing to skate their last performance.

All of the girls have fond memories of their years of skating. Some of them have skated since they were toddlers, and feel like the sport is a part of who they are.

"I started skating as soon as I could walk," said Penny, who began skating in her Stouffville backyard when she was two years old.

The girls can still remember their first carnivals. Wells even stole the show at her first ice show.

"I was a 'hairy little monster,'" she cited, "I had to be carried on and off the ice. Some woman went up to my mom and told her I was the worst skater in the club."

The Disney theme is featured in the carnival, highlighting classic Disney characters. Several other themes are included as well, such as a Canadian celebration, Mamma Mia and "Seen any good movies lately?"

All of the skaters involved have been practicing intensively since mid-April, often putting in four-hour or longer practices.

Most of the girls found that balancing school, skating and other priorities has been difficult.

"My grades dropped and school-work started coming second," Wilcock confessed. "It was okay by me, but my parents weren't so happy."

None of the girls will ever forget the hard work they've dedicated to skating, and they have the scars and injuries to prove it.

"I had a concussion once," Wells remembered. "A girl fell on top of me and her pick got stuck in my head."

Wilcock wins the prize for repeated injuries.

"I've dislocated my knee and torn tendons five times," she revealed.

Warner, who claims, "none of the joints below my waist work anymore," seems to have had better luck lately. "Look!" she exclaimed, pulling up her pant leg. "I don't have any bruises this week!"

The girls give high praise to their coaches and carnival directors, Hans and Judy Ahlgren.

The Ahlgrens have been with some of the girls since they laced up