

Juvenile hockey making return

Juvenile hockey has been absent in Stouffville over the last two seasons.

But when the puck is dropped to start the 2010-11 campaign, the Clippers hope to resurrect a juvenile team.

Don Easter, Whitchurch Stouffville Minor Hockey Association president, said several factors have led to the possibility of fielding their first juvenile team since the 2007-08 season when the Clippers captured the Ontario Minor Hockey Association title.

First and foremost, Easter said, is the presence of an additional playing facility in Whitchurch Stouffville with the recently opened Clippers Sportsplex.

"The construction of the new Clippers Sportsplex has provided us with sufficient ice to add a juvenile rep team next season," he said.

Another consideration, Easter noted, is the comeback juvenile hockey appears to be making as evidenced by the number of entries in the York Simcoe league.

"Several years ago we were down to a handful of juvenile teams. But this past season there were eight teams in the York Simcoe juvenile loop," he noted.

With the Stouffville midget Clippers entries experiencing a high degree of success over the past few years, Easter noted the graduating players have expressed an interest in continuing their competitive careers.

Barring an opportunity to play at the junior A level, that leaves juvenile hockey as the other alternative.

However, many players might not make a

decision until later this year when they have a clearer picture if they will move away to attend university or college.

"We believe there are a number of talented players from the 1991 and 1992 birth years who may be interested in extending their competitive careers," he said.

"The team will also be able to sign up five players born in 1990 as over-age players."

Andy Cartright, current Clippers midget assistant coach, has agreed to be head coach of the new juvenile team.

As past president of the association, Cartwright is excited with the prospect of seeing juvenile hockey return to Whitchurch-Stouffville and is optimistic the timing is right.

"When I was president of the association we had juvenile hockey when a team in Markham asked us if they could play their home games in Stouffville.

"It was a good opportunity at the time to bring juvenile hockey back to Stouffville and it worked out well. But Stouffville eventually got crammed for ice and it fell by the wayside.

"But now with two new pads there's ice-time and I'd like to see it come back. It's good timing to bring it back," he said.

Although tryouts won't take place until late August, Easter said interested candidates can e-mail their names and contact information to the association's office at: info@wsmha.com

— Michael Hayakawa

Stouffville golf coach wins national leadership award

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Stouffville's Henry Brunton has been named the Jack McLaughlin junior leader of the year by the Canadian Professional Golfers Association.

Brunton, who also serves as the Royal Canadian Golf Association's national men's coach, won the award Monday.

Known for having a strong passion for developing junior golfers, Brunton said he could not point to one specific area that might have helped him earn the award.

Rather, he speculated several factors might have factored into the equation.

Among them is a citation he received in October as the Ontario PGA Junior Teacher of the Year.

Internationally, Brunton was the Professional Golfers Association of America keynote speaker in various places, including Australia, Germany and Puerto Rico.

Brunton also gained notoriety for developing the Royal Canadian Golf Association's national player development program along with being honoured by the CPGA in 2008 with its highest standing — Master Professional.

In addition to his work with the Canadian men's and junior boys national teams, Brunton leads Strive for Excellence, a year-round coaching and training program for aspiring high-level junior and collegiate golfers at

Eagles Nest Golf Club in Maple.

Last year, Brunton found the time to publish his first book, a comprehensive guide to competitive junior golf for youths and their parents, Journey to Excellence: The Young Golfer's Complete Guide to Achievement and Personal Growth.

Winning his latest honour, which was decided through a vote overseen by a national selection committee that evaluated nominations from more than 3,600 CPGA members across Canada, Brunton said it ranked right up there with others he's achieved.

"To be recognized by your peers on a national level in my area of specialization is great," he said.

Clippers avoid elimination

The Stouffville atom Clippers staved off elimination in their best-of-five or first-to-six-point York Simcoe final series against East Gwillimbury after winning the third game 2-1 in overtime in East Gwillimbury Wednesday.

Tyler Ribí scored both goals for the Clippers, who now trail the series two games to one. McKayla Major earned an assist.

The fourth game of the series will be played today at the Clippers Sports Complex at 5:10 p.m.

— Michael Hayakawa

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