

Ducks make waves in big ponds

Two members of the Stouffville Ducks swim team ruled the waves at the Oshawa Pentathlon Meet.

With each competitor swimming in the backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, freestyle and individual medley, Grace Harris and Laird Douglas combined to win nine.

The pair also won their age group, 10 and under, High Points Award.

Victoria Wicks, 14, took part in the Eastern Canadian Championship Meet in London and finished 15th in the 100m breaststroke and 22nd 200m breaststroke.

Wicks is the first Stouffville Duck to compete in a national level competition.

Midgets tie away from OMHA final

The Stouffville midget Clippers only need a tie to advance to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association A final.

The Clippers defeated Ajax 6-0 Thursday in Ajax to lead the series five points to one. The best-of-five, or first-to-six points, series resumes tonight at 6:10 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.

In the other semifinal, Amherstburg won the first two games over Brampton Youth, 6-1 and 6-4.

SPORTS: Ex-Clipper not hanging up stripes for good

Last call for McQuigge in OHL rinks

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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When the Ontario Hockey League season concludes this spring, Sean McQuigge will say his good-byes.

So long to all those hooking, high sticking, roughing or other infractions he passed judgment on during the course of a game.

Nor will the 42-year-old Stouffville native have to put up with what might seem like a never-ending array of complaints from players and coaches.

But in the 15 years McQuigge was involved as an on-ice official in the OHL, including the last 10 as a referee, it was an enjoyable experience.

"Being involved in the OHL is like a 'part-time hobby'," he said.

A Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association Clipper during his youth, McQuigge revealed his decision to hang up his OHL officials jersey stemmed from a combination of factors.

Foremost, he said, are the ever-growing travel demands as the league continues to enter markets south of the border to places like Saginaw, Mich. and Erie, Pa.

Just as important, McQuigge wanted to remain closer to home in Alliston and wife Kim and sons Ryan and Connor.

"My normal day job (manager in the woodworking industry) doesn't allow me to leave early like it did before to get to the far distances which the OHL requires," he said. "As well being with my family was the big



SEAN McQUIGGE: Former Stouffville Clipper retiring from 15-year OHL officiating career.

deciding factor as my two boys are getting older and I want to spend more time with my wife and sons."

He's seen change in the OHL.

"The league has changed and the players have improved," he said. "The rules have changed and the way we call the game has changed as well."

What the Stouffville District Secondary School graduate won't miss are what can be treacherous travelling conditions during the hockey season.

"I've seen more snowstorms or bad roads in 15 years than anyone would see

in their lifetime," he said.

McQuigge conceded he did not think his career would last as long as it did.

He has plenty of fond memories. Most of which were based on his merit to be chosen to work prestigious events.

Being selected to be a linesman in the 1999 Memorial Cup and as a referee for two Russian Subway Series games and the 2010 all-star game in Kingston were among his highlights.

"Another would be that I was able to keep up with the major junior hockey players when I'm just about three times their age," he added with a laugh.

What McQuigge will miss the most, though, is the appreciation in watching OHL players strive to do what it takes to try and work their way up the competitive ranks.

"I will miss the level and skill that a major junior hockey player has. As well, I will miss everything to do with the OHL. It was a pleasure to be a part of their team," he said.

"For my wife Kim and sons Ryan and Connor, thank you for making a sacrifice and never seeing me on weekends because I'm never home. Thank you for allowing me to chase my dream," he said.

While McQuigge will be leaving the OHL, officiating remains entrenched in his blood as he continues to do Ontario Hockey Association games and serve as referee-in-chief of the TNT minor hockey association in his new hometown.

WSSA NIGHT LADIES FUN LEAGUE

Softball Registration for 2011 Season
Wednesday, March 2nd
The Earl of Whitchurch
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Thurs: March 3rd & Tues. March 8th
Stouffville Arena Lobby
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

For more information call Lori @
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5-Pitch Novice (2006-2006)		\$90	\$100
5-Pitch Advanced (2003-2004)		\$90	\$100
Mites (2001-2002)		\$90	\$100
Squirts (1999-2000)		\$95	\$105
Pee Wee/Novice (1997-1998)		\$105	\$115
Bantams (1995-1996)		\$105	\$115
Midgets (1992-1993-1994)		\$105	\$115
*Family Rate (minimum 3)		\$250	\$275

REGISTRATION INFO
LOCATION: 9th Line Arena, Stouffville
TIME: 9:30am - 1:00pm
DATES: Feb 12th, Feb 19th, March 5th, March 12th, March 19th

SELECT SOFTBALL INFORMATION: Currently there are teams planned for the Mite & Squirt Boy Divisions. More information will be available at the registration desk.

Softball in 2011 is available for all children born in the years 1992-2006 (players born in 1991 may request special permission to play). If you have any other questions regarding registration, please reply to this e-mail address or call **905-887-0855**

NEW THIS YEAR.
THE W.S.S.A. IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE FOLLOWING SOFTBALL ONTARIO CLINICS:

CanPitch Program - A 6-week training program that provides each participant with the proper instruction on grip, wrist snap, arm rotation and stride and taught by nationally trained instructors. This program is designed for players who have little or no pitching experience or who want to rebuild their fundamental mechanics. Class size is limited to 6 participants per hour. All participants must supply their own catcher. Classes are 1 hour in length and begin Wednesday, March 23rd, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. or 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at Latham Hall, Stouffville. Cost is \$100.00.

Softball Skills Clinic - A 3 1/2 hr. mini clinic designed to help softball enthusiasts sharpen their physical and mental softball skills. This clinic is an excellent way to enhance and/or learn new skills and have a great time re-discovering the game of softball. This clinic is being held on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at EastRidge Church, 12485 10th Line, Stouffville from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$20.00.

Coaches Clinic - Houseleague coaches are often the first coaches a young player will meet; they are also in charge of teaching the fundamentals of the game. This clinic focuses on the essentials of Softball over one day, placing emphasis on safety, fun, ethics, teamwork and value beyond the game. This clinic is being held on Sunday, May 1, 2011 from 10:00 am. - 4:00 p.m. at Latham Hall, Stouffville. Cost is \$25.00 for W.S.S.A. members. Lunch will be provided at \$5.00 per person.

Individuals wishing to enquire about these clinics should contact
Laura Powell at **905-640-3844** or preceptpowell@hotmail.com

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Inserts for Sat., March 5, 2011

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