

# Spirit grad takes flips-flops to Memorial Cup

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Marc Stevens has been going to the hockey rink these days donning his summer attire.

That's a good sign for the former Stouffville Spirit forward.

Especially since Stevens and the rest of his Guelph Storm teammates still have some games to play.

To be skating into this Victoria Day long weekend and a bit beyond signifies the Storm have made it to the prestigious MasterCard Memorial Cup championships in London.

The Storm earned that honour after skating off with the Ontario Hockey League championship by defeating the North Bay Battalion in their best-of-seven finale in five games culminating with a 4-3 victory in Guelph Friday.

"It's pretty surreal, it's an amazing feeling," said the 18-year-old. "Any time you get to the rink wearing flip-flops you know that you've had a long year and that's what every player strives for."

Compiling two goals and eight assists in 43 regular season games, the Storm's fifth-round pick in the 2011 draft logged the majority of his ice time on the club's fourth line.

That situation was something he fully anticipated and accepted after joining a club that was gear-

ing for a run at the OHL title and subsequent trip to the national championships.

"With the team that we had I just tried to go out and play the best that I can when given the opportunity," he said.

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Conceding there was an adjustment period after coming from Stouffville late last year in which he was a go-to player and had four goals and seven assists in 21 games with the Spirit, Stevens was satisfied with the progress he's made this season.

Along with adjusting to the game on the ice, where he cited there's a higher skill level, Stevens was quick to note he had to make some changes away from the rink in terms of scheduling his day with sleep, school and practices.

"The big key is in understanding what you have to do," he said. "It took me a couple of months to get

into that groove."

A nephew of Los Angeles Kings' assistant coach John Stevens, Marc acknowledged he's feeling some butterflies in anticipation of making his debut in the Memorial Cup which will begin when they play the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League champions tomorrow at 7 p.m.

At the same time though, he's

quick to acknowledge it's not every day when this opportunity arises and he hopes his teammates can make the most of it.

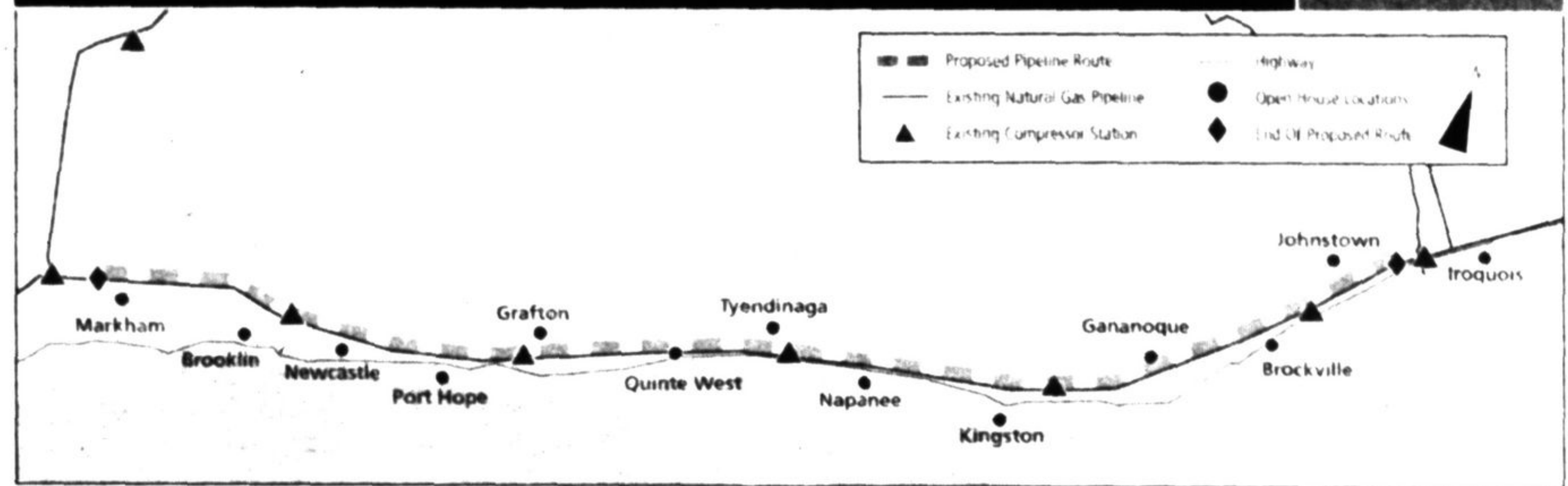
After all, it was their objective when the season began.

"It's such a great team that we have and we're excited to get things going in London," he said. "It was our intention from the start of the year to get to the Memorial Cup.

We set our goals as high as possible and to beat North Bay in five games (in the OHL final) was special and to know we're going to the Memorial Cup that's pretty close to home.

"We know there's four unbelievable teams that will be in the Memorial Cup and anything can happen. But we've prepared all year for this."

## Open House Eastern Mainline Project



TransCanada is proposing to construct new natural gas pipeline facilities primarily along our existing pipeline corridor between the City of Markham and the community of Iroquois located in the Township of South Dundas. If you have questions about the Eastern Mainline Project, come to the open house nearest you between 4 and 8 p.m. and meet with key experts from TransCanada's Eastern Mainline Project team.

Tuesday, May 27  
Markham Village Community Centre  
6041 Hwy 7  
**Markham, Ont.**

Wednesday, June 4  
Batawa Community Centre  
818 Plant St.  
**Quinte West, Ont.**

Monday, June 16\*  
Brockville Convention Centre  
7829 Kent Blvd.  
**Brockville, Ont.**

Wednesday, May 28  
Newcastle Community Hall  
20 King Ave. W.  
**Newcastle, Ont.**

Thursday, June 5  
Grafton Community Centre  
718 Station Rd.  
**Grafton, Ont.**

Tuesday, June 17  
Township of Tyendinaga Recreation Hall  
363 McFarlane Rd.  
**Tyendinaga, Ont.**

Thursday, May 29  
Brooklin Community Centre  
45 Cassels Rd.  
**Brooklin, Ont.**

Tuesday, June 10  
South Edwardsburgh  
Community Centre  
24 Sutton Dr.  
**Johnstown, Ont.**

Wednesday, June 18  
Strathcona Paper Centre (Lafarge Banquet Hall)  
16 McPherson Dr.  
**Greater Napanee, Ont.**

Tuesday, June 3  
Port Hope Lions Club  
29 Thomas St.  
**Port Hope, Ont.**

Wednesday, June 11  
Lou Jeffries Recreation Centre  
600 King St. E.  
**Gananoque, Ont.**

Thursday, June 19  
Days Inn and Conference Centre (Salon B)  
33 Benson St.  
**Kingston, Ont.**

\*Due to the upcoming provincial election the Brockville Open House has been moved from Thursday, June 12 to Monday, June 16th.

[easternmainline.com](http://easternmainline.com)

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Marc Stevens, who skated for the Stouffville Spirit in 2012-13, is at the Memorial Cup in London this week with the OHL-champion Guelph Storm.