Jr. A graduates plan to leave mark at NHL camps

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
mhayakawa@yrmg.com

Four former members of the Stouffville Spirit are out to make an impression with National Hockey League clubs.

Patrick McEachen, Paul Geiger, Drake Caggiula and Matt Neal, each of whom are currently attending university and playing at the collegiate level, have accepted invitations to attend NHL rookie camps this month.

A 23-year-old Stouffville resident who just completed his fourth season at Queen's University, McEachen will be at the Carolina Hurricanes' rookie camp next week.

A member of the Spirit for two seasons starting in 2007, the defenceman played an integral role with the Gaels as they returned to the national Top 10 for the first time since the 1982-83 campaign, reaching as high as No. 7 this past season and finishing with a 17-6-5 record to tie the program record for most victories in a single season.

"I'm very excited for the opportunity Carolina has given me," McEachen said in a Queen's media release. "I have been working extremely hard to prepare for this, and look forward to experiencing this type of exposure. I owe a huge thanks to my coaches, teammates, and trainers over the past four years at Queen's in helping me reach this point."

Majoring in economics,

McEachen finished the 2013-14 season with 13 points in 27 games to tie his career high in points that he had established one year prior.

Geiger, who also played on defence with the Spirit for two seasons starting in 2010 and attends Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y., made his second appearance at the Vancouver Canucks' camp last week.

This past season, the 21-yearold Stouffville resident compiled five goals and 12 assists in 42 tilts during his sophomore term.

A 20-year-old forward who just completed his sophomore year at the University of North Dakota and played an instrumental role in helping them reach the Frozen Four, Caggiula is at the Buffalo Sabres' rookie camp this week. He had two goals in an intrasquad game Tuesday.

Playing with the Spirit for two campaigns, including 2011-12 in which the club won the Ontario Junior Hockey League title, the Pickering resident amassed 11 goals and 14 assists in 42 contests this past season at the University of North Dakota.

Neal, also a forward with the Spirit for three consecutive seasons starting in 2008-09, just completed his junior year at RPI and was at camp with the New York Rangers this month.

This past season, the 22-yearold from Barrie was the club's thirdleading scorer after amassing 10 goals and 17 assists in 37 games.



PATRICK MCEACHEN: Stouffville Spirit alumnus is invited to Carolina Hurricanes rookie camp next week.

Stouffville Churches Welcome You



Sunday Service at 10:00 am

www.in2one.ca 416-898-4774 19 on the Park 19 Civic Avenue, Stouffville

Lead Pastor: Graham Clinton



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Sunday, July 20th 10:00am

Celebration Service Guest Speaker:

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6432 Main St., Stouffville 905.640.3151 Rev. Joan Masterton, minister

> Sunday, July 20 Service of Worship 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 18

Final morning
Vacation Bible Camp.
Parents invited

Sunday, July 27
Matthew Eeuwes'
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at 11:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. Admission - \$10.00

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A Church in a Beautiful Countryside Pastor Walter Robbins

> Sunday Service 10:30am

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Lunch to follow

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Anglican Church of Canada 254 Sunset Blvd., 905-640-1461 www.stouffvilleanglican.ca

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8:00am & 10:00am Eucharist Nursery & Church School (Workshop of Wonders) at 10:00am

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@ Oscar Peterson Public School 850 Hoover Park Dr., Stouffville

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Sunday, July 20

10:30 am

Worship Topic: Are We There Yet?

Everyone Welcome!
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