

*From the Bench*

# Bantam AA Hawks wrap up summer hockey in fine style

As one season wraps up another begins. Sometimes it can feel almost seamless,

yet a plethora of changes will have occurred. The Caledon Hawks AA

Bantam squad, playing as the River Rats, finished their summer hockey 4 on 4

league, and in particularly fine form. Finishing second in the overall standings, they swept through the preliminary rounds of the playoffs only to find themselves against their first-place rivals known as Thunder Rocks.

The undefeated first place team was to be a formidable opponent. What better way to have a championship match? From the drop of the first puck, to the dying moments of the game, the fast paced, physical, and emotionally draining pace was pure adrenaline rush (especially for the parents).

Many credits must go to the coaches - they handled the bench well, overcame injuries, summer schedules, attitudes of 13 & 14-year-old testosterone filling bodies, and a lineup of predominantly defensive players. It was wonderful to watch and be a part of. Thanks too must go to the parents for endless support, and working around vacations, holidays, and Monday night game times.

For the team, scoring the first goal was a lift that

cannot be explained. Relentless in their pursuit of a victory, it seemed like there was something more in the wind for these players. Taking the lead to 2-0 seemed to seal the fate of the Thunder Rocks team, but refs got in the way of this match. Handing out penalties left, right and centre, the score began to change slightly. In this league you don't sit in the box; you give the other team a penalty shot. The game was 3-3 with less than one minute on the clock. All of the goals for Thunder Rocks came on penalty shots whereas all of the goals for the River Rats came on puck control, passing, digging out of the corners, and crashing the net. With 11 seconds left in the final period, there was a face-off in the opposition's corner. The draw was won and with 4 seconds left in

the game the boys pulled it off. Scramble in front of the net, and victory was in hand. 4-3, final score. The previously undefeated Thunder Rocks walked off the ice, without even a congratulatory handshake.

Awesome, for sure, and a great end to a hard-fought battle. Honorable mentions to D. Leone who rang one off the post with 3 minutes left, J.T. Gore for scoring 2 and assisting on one, B. Libawski for scoring the game winner and assisting on 2, and first class honors to M. Koster for an absolutely stellar performance in net.

We can look forward to an even more exciting winter schedule as the Hawks play their season opener at the new Caledon East rink Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

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## CALLING ALL 1997 GIRLS!

The Bolton Wanderers 1997 girls' rep soccer team will be holding tryouts Sept. 22 at the Valleywood soccer fields and Sept. 15 and 29 at the Edelweiss fields in Bolton. Tryouts are from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and all are welcome. For further information please contact Pedro Gonzalez at [boltonu9girls@sympatico.ca](mailto:boltonu9girls@sympatico.ca).

## Expanded programs at Caledon Skating Club

Caledon Centennial Skating Club is pleased to announce its fall and winter sessions which will be held at both Lloyd Wilson Arena in Inglewood as well as the new arena in Caledon East. This small but lively club offers something for every skater wishing to improve his or her skills and have fun doing it.

Skaters as young as 3 years of age are welcome to participate in Kinderskate and CanSkate programs. Group lessons are provided at this level. Skaters work on basic skills including forward and backward skating, stopping and turns.

After CanSkate, skaters can progress to the junior, intermediate and senior levels. These offer the skater the opportunity to work on jumps, spins and dances. Also popular with this level of skater is the Creative Expressions class. This is a back-to-basics program focusing on edges, power, flexibility, etc.

New this year is an adult class. This program offers a group lesson for those over 18. As well, the more experienced skater will have the opportunity to work with a private coach.

Hockey players are not ignored either at Caledon Centennial. Due to popular demand, Power Skating classes have expanded. This program is designed to improve skating skills for hockey players and recreational skaters as well. Focus is on increasing speed in forward and backward skating, stops, pivots, turns and transitions.

Yes, there is something for everyone at Caledon Centennial Skating Club. Registrations will be held 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13 and Tuesday, Sept. 18 at Lloyd Wilson Arena, McLaughlin Road just north of Olde Base Line in Inglewood. For more information please call Cathy at 905-838-2246 or visit the club Web site: [www.ccsc10@yahoo.ca](http://www.ccsc10@yahoo.ca).

Please note, unfortunately the club will not be offering September skating on Thursdays in Caledon East as previously announced.

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## Burn ban is now in effect

Caledon Fire and Emergency Services is advising residents that a total burn ban is now in effect for the Town of Caledon and will remain in effect until rescinded by the fire chief. This ban applies to all outdoor burning.

The burn ban has been implemented as a result of exceptionally dry fuel loads, high winds and high temperatures. This ban is expected to be in place for some time to allow for soaking rains to saturate fuel loads.

In response to the high fire risk, Caledon Fire will be supplementing the normal response to brush, grass and rubbish fire with additional apparatus and an ambulance.