

Coming to Muskoka like going to Disneyland for triathletes

By Dr. Rich Trenholm
TRIMUSKOKA

Muskoka is the Disneyland of triathlons. If you're a triathlete, I may be preaching to the choir. But for those of you who still have doubts, get a load of this.

It doesn't get any better than Muskoka. The lakes are clean, the air is crisp, the terrain is challenging, and the landscape is breathtaking. And that's only the beginning.

Ever since the 1992 World Triathlon Championships discovered Huntsville and Lake of Bays, Muskoka has been a serious destination for triathlons.

I'm not joking.

Per capita, we have the most triathlon events than anywhere in North America.

This is an opportunity that our community needs to take advantage of, before it's too late.

The athletes and spectators that crash our small, little Muskoka towns are actually what you might call "textbook" guests. Let me break it down for you.

Each of these athletes, it seems, has the means to compete in a particularly expensive sport. In other words, if they can afford the fees, the high-tech equipment, and the travel costs, they also have money to spend in our quaint, little Disneyland.

In 2010, the Ironman Muskoka 70.3 weekend had a \$710,000 economic impact on our local economy (it was also the year that had the lowest number of athletes).

That's crazy if you put it into perspective: almost three quarters of a million dollars in one weekend. The math seems pretty clear.

In the grand scheme, Muskoka is a resort destination. Whether it be for sport, vacation or both, people want to come to Muskoka. TriMuskokka, an advocacy group for local and visiting endurance athletes, understands this potential.

We don't just want to be known as a resort destination, we want to be the leader in sport tourism. Muskoka has the capability of achieving this title. Swimming, cycling, adventure racing, triathlon: we have it all. Muskoka is like Disneyland for an athlete.

That's why Huntsville's local TriMuskokka club is directly promoting, two Ironman-branded events (5150 and 70.3) and a new off-road triathlon (the Muskoka Grind).

All three of these events have tremendous international and national draw for athletes. One of TriMuskokka's goals is to get these athletes to Muskoka not only for their

events, but for time outside of race weekends as well.

Obviously, the constant influx of these athletes would benefit our communities.

If you're still skeptical, come and check it out. Come out and watch the races, volunteer or simply ask an athlete.

Better yet, be a part of the action yourself and participate in or volunteer at one of these great races that we have right here on our doorstep (to volunteer, contact us at volunteer@triatlonthonmuskoka.com).

For more information visit our website or contact us at info@triatlonthonmuskoka.com. Sign up as a part of the ever-growing volunteer database, contact us at volunteer@triatlonthonmuskoka.com so you can get up close to the action.

Rich Trenholm is a member of Tri-Muskoka

Otters could start signing players soon

By Brent Cooper

The new faces of the Huntsville Otters could be known sometime this week.

General manager Brian Crozier said the team could be signing players for the 2012-2013 Georgian Mid Ontario Junior C Hockey League sometime this week.

"We are in the process of getting ready to sign some players. Our cards are arriving and when they do we will look at signing a few players. We have already talked to a lot of kids, and we are formalizing our intent to have them come to our training camp with letters."

The team is making its first foray back into the Junior C ranks after spending the past eight years as members of the Ontario Junior Hockey league.

The team was part of a contraction program this past off-season, but a new team for Huntsville was accepted into the Georgian league for this coming season.

The team will be drawing its players from across Muskoka and Parry Sound, but also have the rights from the Ontario Hockey Association to attract players from as far north as Povaasaw and as far east as Minden.

Junior C teams are also allowed four "import" players to the team from any region outside their jurisdiction.

The team is holding a rookie camp on July 28 at the Gravenhurst arena from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All players must have permission to skate from their respective teams.

For more information, call or email assistant general manager Craig Shaw at craigshaw45@gmail.com.



GOOD EFFORT: The Huntsville Strikers under-14 girls' team competed in a tournament in Bracebridge over the weekend and competed hard. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Under-14 girls' soccer team compete hard at Bracebridge weekend tournament

By Laura Marshall

The Huntsville Strikers All-Star teams enjoyed a great weekend of soccer fairly close to home.

The Bracebridge Soccer Association hosted its annual tournament involving many teams from Huntsville.

The Huntsville Forester Strikers under 14 girls' team played well and showed promise. Its first game on a very rainy Saturday morn-

ing was against a strong team from Richmond Hill. They were behind 5-0 in the first half but held them to the lead and gained a goal in the second leaving them with a 5-1 loss.

The Strikers nearly tied their second game against Sudbury but left the match at 2-1. On a hot and humid Sunday morning they played Bracebridge and were down 4-0 at the end of the first half but once again rallied to hold them to their lead in the second half with a goal scored by Shannon Marshall leaving the final

score at 4-1.

They had a strong finish against Stouffville with a 0-0 tie despite several scoring opportunities for Huntsville. They played a solid overtime that led to overtime and shootouts. They narrowly missed this victory with two goals soaring just above the crossbar.

Coaches and parents felt the girls did very well and look forward to an exciting season.

Congratulations goes to Robin Goodwin, who was named team MVP.

Novice Hawks soar during Niagara-On-The-Lake competition

By Mary Langdon

The Moller Insurance Novice Hawks lacrosse team trekked to Niagara-on-the-Lake June 1-3 for a weekend of exceptional tournament action.

Game 1 had the Hawks bringing host team NOTL to its knees as they passed, fed and devoured the Niagara team. Brandon Maw nailed the first goal 14 seconds into the game. While NOTL squeaked in a goal, Keeze Zugehoer notched the second tally with Dolan Boese securing the assist.

The third period showcased a hard-hitting and gritty Hawks team. D.J. Ball and Morgan Aubin-Varney muscled their way with dogged determination. Maw went unassisted for his second of the game while

Ball sealed the win with a rocket just inside the house. The final score was 4-3.

Game 2 was against the Newmarket 2 team. It took less than a minute for the Hawks to hit the scoreboard as Zugehoer snatched the ball for an end-to-end rush to score top-shelf. Kaiya Roberson was next to hit the net, followed by Zugehoer and Maw.

Rookies Jordan Willford and Wes Morton made several smart passes to their brothers up the floor.

Jack Lyndon took a nice pass from Zugehoer and hit the net with force. Moments later Lyndon fed Tierran Hornick-Martin for his first marker of the season.

The third saw one more goal from Lyndon, putting this game to rest with a final score of 7-4.

Game 3 had the Hawks pumped, ready to seal the day with another win, this time against Caledon. Zugehoer nailed the first two goals. The second period saw the flood gates open as goals went to Willford, Ball and Lyndon.

Colby Reynolds set up several key plays. Ayden Veitch and Kyle Mattice constantly made hard hits and forced several turnovers. The final score was 7-5.

Game 4 had the Hawks pitted against Newmarket 1 in the semifinals.

It was a dogfight from the opening draw. While the first period went scoreless, the second frame had Newmarket hitting the net three times as the Hawks simply could not buy a goal.

Early in the third period, Lyndon picked

off a pass and nailed the goal, putting some life back into the Huntsville team. Shortly after, Reynolds fired a cannon past the goaltender to put the game within reach. Zach Stephen and Morton both had strong games.

Ultimately the clock ran out and the Hawks shook hands feeling proud of their run in this tournament. Head coach Darrell Booth was ecstatic at the outcome of the weekend with the emphasis on teamwork.

Nemthing duties for all four games went to Quinton Greenfield. Greenfield dazzled all weekend as he slammed the door on almost everything that came his way.

For lacrosse game schedules and all things Hawks related, go to hawkslacrosse.com.

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