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Sports and Leisure

THE HUNTSVILLE FORESTER (705) 789-5541 Fax (705) 789-9381 www.huntsvilleforester.com

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Winter games event moved to January

BY BRENT COOPER
 HUNTSVILLE FORESTER

Huntsville residents wanting to take in some of the 2010 Ontario Youth Winter Games will not have to wait as long as they thought.

John Cowan, who chairs the event tourism subcommittee for the town, announced at last week's economic development committee meeting that the cross-country ski portion of the games will have to be moved from March to possibly the Jan. 15 to 16 weekend.

"The event was up against the national championships. It is now a better thing because we will now be able to have the best athletes coming to Huntsville in January instead of March," he said.

The region won the right to host the March 4 to 7 youth championships after the Sport Alliance of Ontario (SAO) voted unanimously last year in favour of its proposal.

The Ontario Youth Winter Games – also known simply as the Ontario Winter Games – started in 1970 and showcase amateur sport. There are over 3,500 participants competing in each of the Ontario summer and winter youth games in 20 to 26 sports. The majority of the events will be held in Muskoka with some of the competitions – five-pin bowling, diving and speed skating – being held in Sudbury.

Games general manager Myke Malone said the organizing committee was faced with two options: move the date of the competition or remove the event from the games' roster.

"We couldn't have run the event (in March) because the provincial cross-country ski organization has a stipulation that the athletes need a certain amount of time off between competitions. The national championships were to start the Monday following (the Ontario games) and they would be done their event on Sunday. It clearly wasn't enough time for them to be ready for the nationals, which will be held in Whitehorse," he said.

The event is expected to attract more than 130 athletes and officials and possibly another 300 visitors to the community for the two days.

Malone said that moving the event to January will ensure the trails at Arrowhead Provincial Park will be in top condition. He added that the change will not impact the accommodation plans for the athletes.

"It worked out well for our accommodations. We are extremely tight for our villages in March, particularly out at Hidden Valley Resort, Delta Grandview and Deerhurst Resort. These (cross-country ski) athletes were originally slated for Hidden Valley and they are still staying there."

He said that the event will allow local organizers a chance to test their plans on running the games before the rest of the competitions start in March.

"This will be a good dry run for us. We will have the chance to put our Huntsville committee to work for one event and iron out any kinks," he said. "The timing is also nice in that it will be just after the Olympic Torch run goes through town and before the start of the Olympics in Vancouver."

Registration tonight

The Huntsville Hurricanes Track and Field Club is hosting registration for its 2009 season at the Huntsville Centennial Centre lobby tonight (Wednesday) from 5 to 7 p.m.

The club is for children in Grades 3 to 8 and will offer instruction in track and field events including sprints, hurdles, discus, javelin, shot put, high jump, long jump and triple jump, with additional instruction on starting blocks, finish line technique and relay.

Cost for the session is \$40 per athlete, which includes registration with the minor track association and a year-end party.



MINE: Kaitlyn Dafoe of the Huntsville Hurricanes junior girls' basketball team tries to keep the ball away from these Mississauga Fusion players during the semifinal game at the Canes' invitational tournament this past weekend. Huntsville managed to capture the gold medal in a 50-44 win over Owen Sound.

Photo by Debbie Bradley

Hurricanes junior girls capture gold at home basketball tournament

Huntsville was the destination of teams from around the province as they converged to take part in the Huntsville Hurricanes Junior Girls' Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Teams came from as far east as Ancaster and as far north as Timmins.

The Hurricanes opened the tournament against IEM basketball from Newmarket. The opening half saw both teams hitting their shots and the Hurricanes holding a slim 28-25 margin.

In the second half the Hurricanes actually increased their accuracy and IEM started to fall off as the Hurricanes pulled away to a 67-47 victory. Erika Schreiner led the Hurricanes with 14 points while Sam Garrod added 13 and Meghan Knapton chipped in 11. Other scorers included: Jessica Baumhour, seven; Karla Markle, seven; Natalie Connell, four; Jaime Payne, four; Bailey Payne, two; Kaitlin Dafoe, two; and Blythe Ogston with two.

In the semifinal game the Hurricanes had an opportunity to play the Mississauga Fusion, a team that had defeated the Hurricanes by four points early in the season. The Hurricanes came out with great defensive intensity and held the Fusion to six points in the first half and took a 23-6 lead.

They continued to increase their margin and won 46-24. Markle led the Hurricanes with 13 points while Schreiner had seven. Knapton added five points to the victory while Garrod, Dafoe, Ogston, and Natalie Connell added four each.

In the gold-medal game the Hurricanes' opponents were the Owen Sound Sonics. This game proved to be quite a battle as the Sonics held superior size while the Hurricanes used their quickness to control the tempo of the game.

The Hurricanes were able to open a 25-16 lead at the half, but the Sonics cut the margin to as few as four in the

second half. In the end the Hurricanes held on to win 50-44. Markle led the Hurricanes with 10 points, while Payne and Knapton added six

apiece. The Hurricanes' next action is at the end of the April as they travel to Hamilton to participate in a tournament.



CUT ABOVE THE REST: Susan Marshall got a little practice time in before the start of the Huntsville Curling Club's annual Steak Spiel by working with a frozen steak. For more curling news see page B2.

All-star Soccer Tryouts

TRYOUT DATES AND TIMES:

Thurs., Apr. 9 Huntsville High School
 U16 girls (1993 - 1994 D.O.B.)
 6 to 8 p.m. Gym AB

Thurs., Apr. 16 Huntsville High School
 U8 (2001 - 2002 D.O.B.) and U10 (1999 - 2000 D.O.B.) boys and girls 6 to 7 p.m. Gym C
 U12 (1997 - 1998 D.O.B.) and U14 (1995 - 1996 D.O.B.) girls 6 to 7 p.m. Gym AB
 U12 boys (1997 - 1998 D.O.B.)
 7 to 8 p.m. Gym C
 U14 (1995 - 1996 D.O.B.) and U16 (1993 - 1994 D.O.B.) boys 7 to 8 p.m. Gym AB

Sat., Apr. 18 Huntsville High School
 U8 and U10 boys and girls
 9 to 10 a.m. Gym AB
 U12 boys 9 to 10 a.m. Gym C
 U14 and U16 boys 10 to 11 a.m. Gym C
 U12 and U14 girls 10 to 11 a.m. Gym AB

Mon., Apr. 20 Riverside Public School
 U18 boys (1991 - 1992 D.O.B.) 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 U19 girls (1990, 1991, 1992 D.O.B.) 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

*There will be a series of 2 tryouts for U8 to U14

* Bring indoor running shoes (no cleats), water and dress to play

*** If you are interested in playing on an all-star soccer team, but are unable to attend the tryouts please leave a message at 783-3522 or e-mail huntsvillesoccer@yahoo.ca**

Online registration available at www.huntsvillesoccer.ca

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