

PREMIER LAW
 BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS
 NOTARIES PUBLIC
 ROXANNE SHANK, M.A., J.D.
 CAROLYN TONIN, B.B.A., LL.B.

WE ARE BACK
 1000 INNISFIL BEACH ROAD
 SUITE 2

(705)436-6957
 WWW.PREMIERLAW.CA

sports and leisure

Scotiabank™
 G.L. (Graham) Barber, CFP Branch Manager
 Alcona Branch, Innisfil
 1161 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil
 705-431-6116 Fax: 705-431-6515
 www.scotiabank.com

Advertising works

Call
1-888-559-2287

Special Hockey International may expand to Innisfil

By Chris Simon
 Rob Chapman would love to see his son play hockey a little closer to home.

For the last four years, Chapman has been taking his 18-year-old mentally disabled son Mitchell to play for Special Hockey International's Newmarket team. But Chapman also knows there's a need for a club in the Simcoe County area. So a group of parents, including Chapman, have asked Innisfil council to donate about \$8,000 in weekend ice time between October and March, through the town's Community Reinvestment Fund.

The funding would be

vital to getting the team — which would be named the Innisfil Snowdogs — started, said Chapman.

The team would play other Special Hockey International competitors from throughout the region. The league also has teams in Brampton, Don Mills, Guelph and North York, among other locations.

"There's over 15 teams from Canada, the United States and London, England that play in this," said Chapman. "This is open to any person, five years and older, male or female, with intellectual disabilities. It give the kids an opportunity to play hockey when they otherwise wouldn't be able

to. We can't do anything until we get some ice time donated. There's not a team between Newmarket and North Bay, so this will draw from all over Simcoe County."

The team helps build self-confidence and openness among players, said Rob's wife Jayne Chapman.

"It's done wonders for (Mitchell)," she said. "He feels like he belongs to something, he has friends. He's like a different kid."

Recently, the town's reinvestment fund committee denied a request for funding from the group, because a majority of its participants live outside of Innisfil. However, the town

has since asked the committee to review the Snowdogs application, and will discuss the results at a meeting in June.

"That's only the second time council has been involved with the process, since our goal was to keep our hands off and (only) make the final approval," said mayor Brian Jackson. "I hope they work it out. We showed due diligence in trying to assist them."

Snowdogs organizer Ruth Ware estimates over 30 Innisfil students would play for the team. And, the team would meet several other criteria for funding.

"They turned us down because we're not 75 per cent

(Innisfil residents)," she said. "But we have three of the four exceptions to the rules. We're trying to get the word out there now, to show that yes, there is a need for it."

Although Jackson supports the concept of the team, he says council needs to be diligent with the way it spends reinvestment funding. The fund was originally set up to help organizations within the community that require financial help.

"The criteria is very specific for a reason," he said. "It was put in place for the residents of the town. We take about \$100,000 a year from the (OLG) slots money and put it in there.

This is a way of thanking our residents for having that facility in our town. The goal is to help individuals and organizations within our own municipality.

"We have to be accountable; it is public money. We have to make sure we are being fair and reasonable with all the parties."

The team needs to be formed by June. Registration is \$175, but organizers will work with financially challenged families. For more information on the team, call 739-0394 or 791-3452 or e-mail simcoemoving@telizon.ca or wareru@rogers.com.

Skating club ends season with golden performance

By Maureen Cassidy
Lefroy Skating Club
 The Lefroy skating Club was in its best form at the Thornhill Funskate, the last and most competitive meet of the season.

The three-day Skate Canada event was held from April 11 to 13 at the Thornhill Community Centre. With only nine skaters entering 10 events, the Lefroy club earned five first place, three second place, and two fourth place finishes.

In the CanSkate Freeskate category, Erika Montgomery skated to a first place finish in the Orange group, as did Paige Cheung in the Green group

and Samantha Clay in the Burgundy group.

Hayley Enwright placed second in the Green CanSkate group. Kaitlin Brown placed a solid fourth in the Purple group.

Cassidy Bale won first place in her pre-preliminary Freeskate Starskate flight, and also finished first in her pre-preliminary Showcase event.

Madalene Chiarotto, Ashley Eliot, and Hailey Hunter skated as The Supremes in their Group Showcase number and won second place.

Hayley and Stacey Enwright danced to a second place finish in the Canasta Family Ice Dance

competition.

For team elements, Cassidy Bale and Hailey Hunter placed fourth in their pre-preliminary category.

Congratulations to all of our skaters for their wonderful finishes and all of their hard work during the skating season.

Lefroy Skating Club trains in Lefroy from October to March at the South Innisfil Community Centre on Killarney Beach Road.

We are always looking for new skaters to join our Canskate, Starskate, and Powerskating programs. Please call Joanne at 722-6457, or Sharon at 456-7883 for more information.



Submitted photo

Members of the Lefroy Skating Club recently. Several won medals during the three day competition.

Major Midgets win league title

Innisfil Minor Hockey Association's Major Midget AE Team, sponsored by Wild Wing South Barrie, ended their season last month as York Simcoe Champions.

The team has had a very successful season starting off with winning the championship at the Pickering Thanksgiving Tournament in October.

In November, they participated in the Steel City Tournament Series in

Pittsburgh where they were defeated in the semi-finals by a Pittsburgh AA Team. Prior to bringing in the New Year, the team brought home the Regional Silver Stick Championship banner.

The following weekend, they made it to the final four of the International Silverstick, which was held in Wellesley, Ontario in which Innisfil were defeated in the semi-finals by rivals E G.

During the play-downs,

they were successful in defeating Nobleking three games straight in the first round of the OMHA play-downs. Being seeded third in the play down's, the team was given a bye for the second round. In round three, they were up against first seed E.G. and despite giving them a run for their money, were defeated in overtime in the fourth game, which sent them down to the York-Simcoe play-downs.

The team defeated TNT

in the quarter finals in a three game sweep. They were up against a much stronger Newmarket team in the semi-finals but were able to come through and win this round in five games. The final round was played against Bradford where they took home the championship trophy after winning three games straight.

Their season total consisted of 42 wins, 22 losses and two ties.

Wolfpack season schedule set

The Innisfil Wolfpack Junior C lacrosse club will open its 2008 home schedule May 13.

The game will take place at the Stroud Arena, beginning at 8 p.m. In total, the team will play eight regular season games in Innisfil this year. They take on Caledon May 20 and June 17, West Durham May 31 and June 24, Centre-

Wellington June 3, and Shelburne June 10 and July 15.

Admission is \$5 for adults, and \$2 for seniors and students.

Admission is free for children under 15, while an adult season pass can be purchased for \$20.

For more information, visit www.wolfpacklacrosse.com.