

Hockey Day in Canada

Legends...

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Iafrate was happy to be back on the rink where he had started his hockey career. “If you had asked me 30 years ago when I was drafted here if I would ever be playing an alumni game with the Leafs and the Bruins where I played for all three teams, it’s something you could never imagine.”

Iafrate said he had good memories of his time spent in Belleville, and he will always remember the coaches who believed in him and got him started.

“It’s easy to not believe, but they believed in everybody.”

As for being a legend of hockey, Iafrate was very relaxed about the label.

“I guess it’s pretty neat,” said Iafrate. “I haven’t found anything in my life I love doing as much and I guess that’s why you become a legend, because of how much you love doing it.”

The day after the big game, local teams got their chance to play with the greats in the Pro-Am Tournament held at the Yardmen. Six teams participated in a two-pool tournament, with each team bolstered by NHL alumni that had been drafted the night before. In a series of matches that ran from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the competition eventually came down to a match between the RCAF Flyers and Duvanco Homes, resulting in a 4-1 win for the Flyers.

Despite the loss for Duvanco, team organizer and president of Duvanco Dustin VanSoelen was happy to have the chance to play alongside the likes of Doug Gilmour and Rick Middleton.

“It’s just a great feeling. These are the guys we’ve grown up watching on the NHL Saturday nights, and a chance to play beside them is incredible.”

The event raised \$70,000 for the hospital foundation, which will be used towards purchasing new medical equipment. Although the goal was \$80,000, the amount reached was still enough for the foundation.

“We did about the same last year,” said Jen Barrett, director of development. “We’re very excited, very happy with the results.”

Next year’s event is already in discussion.



Photo by Candice-Rose Gagnon

Noah Carisse of Orleans, 10, and Craig Anderson of the Ottawa Senators stand at attention during the national anthem. Noah participated in the Scotiabank Skaters program during the opening ceremonies at the Canadian Tire Centre in Ottawa on Hockey Day in Canada.



Photo by Julia Karpiuk

Fans wait in anticipation as the Bruins and Leafs alumni game is minutes away from the puck drop.

Pond Hockey Classic hosted by CFB Trenton

By Justin Greaves

Twenty-six teams laced up at the third annual CFB Trenton Pond Hockey Classic, which took place at the Batawa community centre this past weekend.

What started off as just a small pond and a few teams has grown into a classic, fast-paced tournament, attracting people from all over.

CFB Trenton has hosted the event every year and continues to be the backbone of the event. Over 200 players – both civilian and military – battled on the three rinks with a record number of players.

Each of the 26 teams is asked to donate at least \$300 to play, which teams do online. The team with the highest donation wins a prize. All proceeds will be split evenly between military families and the Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Organizers are hoping to surpass last year’s \$20,000 and reach as high

\$50,000.

“It’s all positive, it’s been growing a lot, we have almost doubled in teams from last year. It just keeps getting bigger and better,” said Troy White, who has directed the tournament for two years.

Numbers have almost doubled since last year’s 16 teams.

“There are a lot of good things happening, teams are having fun, it’s a great natural Canadian thing, and it’s all going to charity,” said White.

The tournament format is based on the Canadian Pond Hockey rules. To get a goal, the player must: “Score from the attacking side of half only. Shots must be taken at or over the halfway mark, which is determined by the volunteer, according to the Canadian National Pond Hockey rules manual.

Custom-made nets are used since there are no goalies.

Donations can be made online at hockeytroops.com.



(Above, left) Boston Bruins alumni player Tom Songin and Toronto Maple Leafs alumni player Mike Krushelnyski collide as they skate down the ice at the Yardmen Arena. Both players were part of the Legends of Hockey Charity Classic held at the Yardmen to raise money for the Belleville General Hospital. Photo by James Wood

(Above, centre) Garrett Logan carves hard to the net at the 3rd annual CFB Trenton Pond Hockey Classic which took place at the Batawa Community Centre on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 17 and 18. Over 30 teams took part making it the biggest year so far. Photo by Justin Greaves

(Above, right) Austin Tame-Dunkley and brothers Zach and Hutton Sheerin headed out to Meyers Pier Sunday on Belleville's waterfront for a game of shinny. Photo by Dillian Cools