



Photo by Maggie Naylor

Spectators of the CFB Trenton pond hockey classic tournament watch the game from the window in the warm comfort of the Batawa Community Centre.

Canadian-style hockey

By Thomas Surian

Clear skies and frigid temperatures welcomed the fourth annual CFB Trenton Pond Hockey Classic to Batawa last weekend.

The games took place on four ice rinks that surrounded the Batawa Community Centre. The event was in support of Soldier On and the Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation.

CFB Trenton's 436 Squadron and the Batawa Lions Club organized the event. Twenty-nine amateur hockey teams competed for a stone trophy made to resemble the tail of an airplane.

The event kicked off Friday evening with a fundraising dinner. The guest speaker was Sgt. Chris Downey, a veteran who was wounded in Afghanistan, who was a part of the trek to the Antarctic with Prince Harry in 2013.

Downey spoke on behalf of Soldier On, a foundation that supports members of the Canadian Forces with visible and non-visible injuries, helping them to reacclimatize to normal life.

Hockey began Saturday morning. Playing on open ice with no boards and no goalies, it was common for pucks to fly off the ice. There were plenty of young children that delighted in running around retrieving pucks on the snow.

A team of around 50 volunteers from the military, as well as the Batawa Lions Club, worked throughout the year to organize the weekend. The hard work seemed to pay off. The event appeared to run with military-like precision.

"It's probably the best year we've had so far. The ice has been great. All the teams are enjoying everything, and that's all I can really ask for," said Capt. Troy White, tournament director and a Hercules aircraft pilot with the 436 Squadron.

Each team fundraises a minimum of \$300 in order to compete. This year's goal was to raise \$40,000 for Soldier On and Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation. The hospital foundation works to provide funding for healthcare initiatives in the Quinte area. The money from this year has not yet been counted, the amount will be announced in the next few weeks.

The final game took place Sunday afternoon on a rink overlooking the old Batawa shoe factory. The BCA Rangers hockey team took the win and was presented with the coveted hand-made trophy, along with t-shirts and LCBO gift cards.

"This event is getting bigger every year. We've definitely been growing by leaps and bounds every single year. The planning for next year will begin as soon as this one is over," said White.

"We will begin with talking about lessons learned. Planning will go through the summer."

For more on the pond hockey event, go to:
<http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=48568>



Photo by Maggie Naylor

Frank Bailey holds up the CFB Trenton pond hockey classic tournament cup while his team, BCR Rangers, look up at him after a group hug.



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Chris Colins skates past an opponent during a game at the CFB Trenton pond hockey classic tournament.



(Above) David Vandertoorn (right) poke checks an opponent during game action. The tournament is held in support of Soldier On and the Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Photo by Andrew Johnson

(Left) Jordan Bailey of the BCR Rangers looks back at the puck during a pond hockey game.

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