

## MUDHOGS SECOND IN SENIOR SLAM

The London Senior Slam Tourney had a lot on the line with \$1500 dollars in cash prizes to be won in both the Gold and Silver divisions. The Gold team turned in a second place performance after a tough fought battle with an old nemesis Force Sports in the Championship Game. While the Silver team just missed the finals and had to settle for third place!

It was a tournament that seemed to favour the local London teams, but that didn't stop the Mudhogs from competing. The Gold team cruised through the round robin and the semis with scores of 12-2, 10-0 and 8-4. From there it was onto the final where a familiar rival awaited. The Hyper Canning Mudhogs and Force Sports faced off in the championship game that was filled with plenty of rough play and stick work. When the horn sounded Force Sports came out the winner in this battle with a score of 6-4. The Mudhogs may have lost the battle but they didn't lose the war that would ensue after the game with a few good tussles. Let's just say that next year's Senior Slam has the makings of a real classic when these teams face off again!

The Silver team, on the other hand, may have come out on the losing end in all three of their games but it looks like this team may have finally found their stride. With the right nucleus now in tact this team looks to step up and compete when they play in Oakville at the Waterfront tourney later this month.

Both teams will be back in action on June 20-22 in Oakville. The Gold team is the defending champions at this tournament and will be looking to repeat while the Silver team is looking to follow in their footsteps. Stay tuned.....

## CIRHL SEASON TWO IS UNDERWAY

After some intense scouting during pre season play all 4 teams came to draft day with a plan in mind. Just as unpredictable as all drafts are, the CIRHL draft was no different and had it share of surprises.

Mellow Yellow used its first pick to take rookie goaltender James Carrigan and that set the tone for the rest of the draft. The 2nd pick overall was likely the biggest surprise which saw stay at home rookie defenseman Jon Zombeck being selected by Green Machine. 3rd pick went to the All Blacks and they chose rookie Paul Sullivan in hopes to add some much needed offence to their defensive team. The 4th and final first round pick went to White Lightning, last year's Canning Cup Champions and they chose Brian Warosz who finished in the top 10 in scoring last season.

## THE CANNING MUDHOGS: THE TRADITION CONTINUES . . .

It's hard to believe something as simple and fun as a group of friends hanging out after school playing road hockey on the neighbour's laneway could turn into something so special.

That's what comes to mind when I reminisce about all the tournaments, events, parties and above all good times that have taken place over the last 7 years within this group we call the Mudhogs. Just think it actually goes back further than that for those other Canning dwellers, more like 12 years. There is not a day that goes by that I don't take a look at one of the many pictures I have gathered over the years and feel proud. Proud to be part of a tradition that started with a group of 8 kids playing a simple game of road hockey. Who would have thought that something as simple as a game would bring us a wealth of friends and good times? I find myself asking this question .... "Would I have made as many friends had we all not shared this one common bond?" I know my answer to that question. Not only can I say that no I would not have, I can also say that coming from a family of 2 sisters it sure is nice to have this many brothers.

We have had many guys come and go over the years, with each person adding something a little different. Those that have stayed have become a part of the tradition and those that have parted have left us with some funny campfire stories. Sure we may be a little competitive, and hell we may even like to yell at each other every now and then. But when it's all said and done we usually manage to have a bit of a laugh! That is what makes this Mudhog group so unique. Over the years I have played my share of team sports, but I can't think of one that I am more proud to be a part of! There is nothing better than getting together with the Mudhogs hanging out, partying, playing hockey or whatever the function may be.

All in all I think it's fair to say that this group means something different to every single person involved. However, I think I speak for everyone when I say we are all better for having been a part of it!

By Brock Murray

#### 4TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE CUP

The 4th Annual Christmas Eve Cup was held on December 24th, 2002, at the home of the Mudhogs, Gallant Gardens. It was great to see all of the regulars show up, helping to continue the tradition for another year. This year the teams competed for a Mudhogs T-shirt, a Bubba o' Canadian, and most importantly of all, bragging rights for the rest of the year. The day was marked by some great action on the blacktop, with a total of 4 teams competing for top prize. Through the round robin, the team of Justin Read, Mike Kipp, Chris McCormick and surprise anniversary dodger Duke Rupert sucked big time, finishing the round robin in last place. However, the group, after having lost Duke to those anniversary commitments, rallied back during the playoff round, and was able to take the championship from the Paris boys, Dave MacDonald, Mat and Andrew Kerr, and Chad Leman (who had also left due to a sore ankle flashback or something). Congratulations guys, and to everyone on a day well enjoyed.

#### THE VOTES ARE IN, AND THE WINNER IS....

The first annual Canning Cup came to a conclusion with an overpowering White Lightning team coming out on top after sweeping the underdog Green Machine. But with the season now behind us the players of the league were then asked to vote upon 6 categories for the CIRHL "thehogsden.com" Awards. The votes are in and 81% of the players in the league have cast their vote for their choice of this year's winners. Congratulations to this year's winners!

MVP – Mike Read – White Lightning  
Most Improved Player – Farzan Tashvigi – Green Machine  
Best Goaltender – Todd Gallant – Green Machine  
Best Defenseman – Brock Murray – All Blacks  
Best 2-Way Player – Brock Murray – All Blacks  
Most Sportsmanlike Player – Kenny Butcher – Green Machine

#### WHITE LIGHTNING CLAIM FIRST EVER CANNING CUP!

White Lightning capped off a very successful season by sweeping the underdog Green Machine team in 2 straight games to capture the first ever Canning Cup. The team was led by a great cast of players and they include Mike Read, Todd Bowler, Brian Warosz, Derek Manning, Darryl Tabor, Ryan Mundie, Darrin McKenna and goaltender Aaron Hill. In the Consolation Final the All Blacks won game 2 by a score of 14 – 9 to even the series with Mellow Yellow. After the game the two team captains decided to call the series a draw and close the door on a very successful season for all 4 teams that competed in the "Quest for the Canning Cup".

#### MUDHOGS FINISH 4TH AT NHL BREAKOUT

The Mudhogs travelled to Newport, RI to play in the 2002 NHL Breakout, July 19-21, and put on a great showing. The 'Hogs trampled through the round robin play, finishing as one of three teams that went undefeated. Not only were they undefeated at a record of 4-0, but the plus-minus for the team through the round robin was +27 (30 GF, 3 GA). Following this excellent play, the team was rewarded with a bye into the semifinal action, where they were to face the runner up team from 2001, Team Koho. The Mudhogs played valiantly, but lost in the semifinal game. For more on the NHL Breakout Tournament, visit the official site here. To see the results of round robin play, click here. And to see the brackets for the quarter, semi and finals, click here.

Congratulations Mudhogs. Yes, we lost, but we are still the 4th best team to go to Breakout. Best finish ever!

### MUDHOGS GO UNDEFEATED INDOORS

The Canning Mudhogs took their show indoors for the Oakville Waterfront Tournament held on June 21 – 23. The outcome was a first place finish in the Men's Gold Division! The Mudhogs were undefeated in the tournament winning 8-3, 5-3, 9-2 and 9-7. In the Championship Game the Mudhogs met up against a familiar opponent in Team Easton and found themselves down by a couple with 2 minutes to go, but eventually rallied to win 9-7. The team also earned the MVP award which went to Todd Bowler and Top Goalie honors went to Aaron Hill and Todd Gallant. Other members of the team are Justin Read, Mike Read, Chris McCormick, Brad Boakes, Jason Rupert, Warren Gallant, Matt Norris and Brock Murray. The Mudhogs next tourney is The Invitational NHL Breakout Championships in Rhode Island from July 18 – 21.

### MUDHOGS EYE INVITATIONAL BREAKOUT CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year the Mudhogs have set their sights on 3 tournaments, 2 of which have been announced and the third to be announced in the upcoming months. Oakville will be the first stop for the Mudhogs where they will take their show indoors to compete in one of the biggest NARCh Qualifiers, the Oakville Waterfront Tournament on June 21-23. The second stop will be Rhode Island, home of the NHL Breakout Invitational Championships July 17-21.

The highlight of the summer schedule will be the Rhode Island tournament which will see the Mudhogs teams compete for the Outdoor World Championships. The teams have been very successful over the past 3 years, but one thing that is missing from their list of accomplishments is the NHL Breakout World Championships which they would like to change this year with a win! The Mudhogs Organization has developed two very strong teams over the years with a ton of experience at the outdoor game. This year when they compete for the Championships both teams will be the favorites to win their respective divisions. Check back for the final rosters to be announced in the upcoming months.

### CANNING CUP THE FOCUS OF CIRHL

Each year the Mudhogs Organization becomes stronger and stronger and this year will be no different with the addition of the CIRHL (Canning Inline Roller Hockey League). Although nothing will top the weekend outdoor games that have been a tradition with this team since its inception 7 years ago, the CIRHL will look to capture just a little of the attention when opening night begins Wednesday April 17th! This league will consist of four teams, 9 players per team, with most of the players coming right out of the Mudhog Organization. The league will be sanctioned by the Canadian Inline Hockey Association and unlike many of the indoor leagues will be played with a Z-Ball, not a puck! The league will run every Wednesday night and will begin play on April 17th and conclude on August 23rd. However, let's not forget the main focus of this league, which will be the Canning Cup! Teams will battle it out for the honour of having their names placed on this prestigious trophy. It is the hopes that this league will follow right in line with the many traditions that this organization has already built, and in the coming years begin to add more teams as it seems fit.

### SPONSORSHIP FROM HYPER

It goes without saying that this has been something very long overdue for the Canning Mudhogs. This is a very talented group of friends that have been together for many years and for them to finally be able to gain this recognition is a testament to the level they are at.

The gentleman responsible for this is Shayne Arsenault of Hyper Hockey. Shayne resides in California but is formerly from Prince Edward Island, Canada. Originally an ice hockey player he also fell into the game of inline hockey and is now a member of the Hyper Pro Team.

What this sponsorship includes is Hyper product at discounted pricing. Teams are selected based on meeting a list of criteria put together by Hyper. More importantly the Mudhogs were chosen to be ambassadors of the game of roller hockey. Hyper demands sportsmanship, enthusiasm and a positive attitude from everyone involved with the team. As a sponsored team the Mudhogs directly reflect Hyper by everything they do on and off the rink, which once again says a lot about the players involved in the Mudhog Organization. Congratulations Guys!