

History of the Canning Mudhogs – 1995 - 2009

The original settlement in the area, known as Mudge Hollow, was founded in the year 1812. It was the home of the first woolen mill in Ontario (Upper Canada), the year 1831. The settlement changed to the village of Canning in 1842. Colonel Thomas Horner first came to Upper Canada in 1793, and visited the unsettled township of Blenheim. Disposing of his holdings in the U.S., he emigrated to Blenheim in 1795. That year he completed, on Lot 15 Concession 1, the first sawmill, and in 1802 the first grist mill, in what is now Oxford County. In 1800 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the London District, and registrar for Oxford and Middlesex Counties. He served as an officer in the 1st Regiment Oxford Militia and became its colonel in 1822. Elected to the provincial legislature as Oxford's first member, Horner represented this riding in 1820-31 and 1832-34. Horner named the settlement after his hometown of Princeton, New Jersey. This is the history of the area.

The Mudhogs were formed in 1995 by a group of friends playing street hockey together in what I would like to call the village of dreams, Canning Ontario. With the wave of Inline Skating just coming into Canada, the teens figured they'd give it a shot, and the rest is history. And what a storied history it is. The first tournament that the team entered was an outdoor tournament held in London, Ontario. The group performed well there, well enough to take home second place. The finished allowed the team to qualify to participate in the provincial championship in Wasaga Beach, Ontario. The team traveled to Wasaga Beach for an exciting weekend of roller hockey, and although very young compared to most teams participating the team played some excellent hockey. However, the team did realize in Wasaga Beach just how good the competition was, and took home some valuable experiences that would help shape the team chemistry for the years to come. In 1996, the team entered a league in Brantford, Ontario, to hone their skills as a team with regular competition. The Mudhogs competed in this league for both 1996 and 1997, winning the league in 1996 and finishing as the runner up in 1997. Following the league play, the team decided that it was time to expand into more elite competition. In 1998 the team sent in their hard earned money, and headed to Toronto to play in the NHL Breakout Tournament in which they would be a regular participant for years to come. The Mudhogs played 2 of 3 games brilliantly, but were ousted from the final due to goals against. Another valuable lesson learned.

1999 saw the Mudhogs enter 3 NHL Breakout tournaments, in Toronto, Ottawa, and Buffalo. The team finished as runner up in both Ottawa and Toronto, and finally took home the prize in Buffalo with the most under rated

team in Mudhog history, qualifying the team for the National Championship in Orlando, Florida. In January of 2000, the team traveled to Orlando, and represented their small community well, finishing 10th out of 52 teams.

2000 was also a great year for the Mudhog Organization. Due to the tremendous popularity of the sport in Princeton and the surrounding area, a second team was added. The Mudhogs competed in both the Elite and Recreational Divisions in 3 tournaments in Toronto, Pittsburgh, and Detroit. The Recreational team, entered in Pittsburgh as the Truckers, took home the prize for their division, immediately qualifying them for the Championship in January 2001. The team, however, did not fare as well in Toronto or Detroit. They did gain a lot of experience though. As for the Elite team, their results are the opposite. They were unable to capture the title in Pittsburgh. However, Toronto and Detroit both produced first place finishes, qualifying the team to compete in Orlando as well for the Ultimate Championship. The Mudhogs traveled to Orlando in January of 2001, and after competing fiercely with a number of American teams, were able to improve their World Ranking from the previous year to #5.

2001 was a banner year for the Mudhogs organization. The group took two teams to the NHL Breakout Qualifiers in Ottawa, Detroit and Columbus. The team that played at the elite level went undefeated for the summer, winning all three tournaments. The second team, competing in the recreational category, took second place in Detroit, and won in both Ottawa and Columbus, bringing the Mudhogs their first back-to-back two team sweep. The team qualified to travel to San Diego for the Breakout Championships, but due to school and work commitments were unable to attend. The guys did, however, make the 9 hour trip to Newport, Rhode Island to compete at the NHL Breakout Championships. The team put in a very strong showing, returning home with a 4th place finish.

The fall of 2002 saw a shift in focus for the team from the NHL Breakout tour to the local circuit. The 'Hogs began competing in the Hyper Crusade and Tour Cup championships, both held at the Joe Dumars Fieldhouse in Detroit, MI, as well as in the Oakville Waterfront Tournament. In their first tries, the 'Hogs won Waterfront and the Tour Cup, and finished 3rd at the Hyper Crusade. The guys returned to Columbus, OH in 2003 for the NHL Breakout Championships, sending 2 teams, one each for the competitive and elite divisions. Finally, after 5 years of hard work and perseverance, the Mudhogs were NHL Breakout Champions!! Both teams won their divisions, sending the boys home with the coveted trophy. The fun didn't stop there though, and the 'Hogs continued to compete, Winning the Tour Cup in 2003, and taking silver at the 2004 Hyper Crusade, London Summerslam and World Inline Cup Tournaments.

In 2005 the team celebrated its 10 Year Anniversary, a huge accomplishment for an organization that began with just eight members. To go along with the banquet that was held for the 10 Year Celebration there was also a 10 Year Logo, DVD and painting to honour the organization and its members. During the banquet the group also honoured the original eight members by inducting them into the Mudhogs Hall of Fame. The members are as follows:

#4 Jason Rupert
#8 (formerly #52) Brock Murray
#10 Duke Rupert
#13 Chad Johnson
#19 Warren Gallant
#22 Justin Read
#67 Todd Gallant
#77 Mike Read

Much has been said about all the tournaments the organization competes in annually, but let's not forget about their own traditions they have created, better known as the Hog Life.

Xmas Eve Cup – Annual Ball Hockey Tournament
3 on 3 Ironman Tourney – Inline Hockey Tournament
CIRHL (Canning Inline Roller Hockey League)
Canning Classic - Golf Tournament
AGS – Any Given Sunday Winter League
Hog Bowl – Thanksgiving Football Game

2007 saw an evolution of the Mudhogs. Along with the annual tournaments, both local and into the US, as well as the CIRHL and other Hog Life events, the Mudhogs created a youth division. A number of local youths attended the home of the CIRHL to learn skills related to inline hockey. The youth program was very successful, so much so that a 3rd installment was added for the fall. The Mudhogs look forward to sharing their knowledge, skills and experience with the youth in the area interested in inline hockey well into the future.

Below is a list of all their accomplishments since their inception in 1995.

1995

Canning Mudhogs - 2nd Place Triple Crown Sports Tournament – London

1996

Canning Mudhogs - 1st Place Brantford Inline Hockey League

1997

Canning Mudhogs - 2nd place Brantford Inline Hockey League

1998

Canning Mudhogs - Semifinalist NHL Breakout - Toronto

1999

Canning Mudhogs - Runner Up NHL Breakout - Toronto

Canning Mudhogs - Runner Up NHL Breakout - Ottawa

Canning Mudhogs - Champions NHL Breakout - Buffalo

2000

Canning Mudhogs - Top 10 finish NHL Breakout Championships - Orlando

Truckers (Canning Mudhogs II) - Champions NHL Breakout - Pittsburgh

Canning Mudhogs - Semifinalist NHL Breakout - Pittsburgh

Canning Mudhogs - Champions NHL Breakout - Toronto

Canning Mudhogs - Champions NHL Breakout - Detroit

2001

Canning Mudhogs - 5th Place NHL Breakout Championships - Orlando

Canning Mudhogs - Champions NHL Breakout - Detroit

Canning Mudhogs II - Runner Up NHL Breakout - Detroit

Canning Mudhogs - Champions NHL Breakout - Ottawa

Canning Mudhogs II - Champions NHL Breakout - Ottawa

Canning Mudhogs - Champions NHL Breakout - Columbus

Canning Mudhogs II - Champions NHL Breakout - Columbus

2002

Canning Mudhogs - Champions Oakville Waterfront Tournament - Oakville

Canning Mudhogs - 4th Place NHL Breakout Championships - Rhode Island

Canning Mudhogs - Champions Tour Cup - Detroit

2003

Canning Mudhogs - 3rd Place Hyper Crusade - Detroit

Canning Mudhogs - 2nd Place London Summerslam - London

Canning Mudhogs - 2nd Place Oakville Waterfront Tournament – Oakville

Canning Mudhogs - Champions NHL Breakout Elite and Competitive - Columbus

Canning Mudhogs - Champions Tour Cup - Detroit

2004

Canning Mudhogs - 2nd Place Hyper Crusade - Detroit
Canning Mudhogs - 2nd Place London Summerslam - London
Canning Mudhogs II - 3rd Place London Summerslam - London
Canning Mudhogs - 2nd Place World Inline Cup - London
Canning Mudhogs - Champions Tour Cup - Detroit

2005

3rd Place – Hyper Blackeye – Detroit
2nd Place NARCh Qualifier - Thornhill
1st Place Kelsey's Kup - Oakville
1st Place Tour Cup – Detroit

2006

2nd Place Mission Cup – Detroit
2nd Place NARCh Qualifier - Brampton
2nd Place Oakville Waterfront Tournament - Oakville
9th Place out of 23 Teams – Men's Gold Division – NARCh Finals
5th Place Tour Cup – Detroit

2007

3rd Place Hyper Nation – Detroit
3rd Place Oakville Waterfront – Oakville
2nd Place MRHA Tour Cup Silver Division – Detroit

2008

1st Place Detroit AAU – Detroit
4th Place Tour Cup Silver Division – Detroit
4th Place Tour Cup Masters (Over 30) Division - Detroit

2009

2nd Place NARCh Qualifier 10 and Under – Mississauga
7th Place NARCh Qualifier Adult Men - Mississauga
3rd Place NARCh Finals 6 and Under – Mississauga
1st Place NARCh Finals 10 and Under – Mississauga
1st Place NARCh Finals Adult Men – Mississauga