

- 2007 / 2008 SLEDGE HOCKEY SEASON STARTS SEPTEMBER 22ND.
- ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GOLF TOURNAMENT
- OUR SPONSORS
- DID YOU KNOW...
- ATHLETE PROFILE – JOSHUA WATSON
- OUR NEW MEMBERS
- TRACK & FIELD SUMMARY
- TERRY TERRIER TOURNAMENT
- 2007/2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cruisers *chronicle*

OUR MISSION

TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES THROUGH SPORT AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Cruisers Make Transition to Sledge Hockey Season

After a successful track & field season, the Cruisers are ready to strap themselves into their sledges for another exciting hockey season. This year, the Cruisers intermediate teams will be restructured. One team will be open to all and a second team will include players who demonstrate skill, teamwork, dedication and desire to win at tryouts. Both teams will participate in the Ontario Sledge Hockey Association league and the teams will enter tournaments together. This new structure presents exciting opportunities and will certainly benefit all our athletes. We expect team rosters for the intermediate teams to be set by the end of October.

Ken Hall will coach the tryout team, which will be called the All Blacks. Second year coach **Chris Gee** will coach the Silver Streaks. Both coaches are enthused to get the season started and get their new teams together.

There will be no structural changes to the junior team, but will see a lot of changes to its roster. Ninth-year player **Josh Giles**, defenceman **Peter Wakelin** and Rookie of the Year **Robbie Carmichael** are moving on to one of the intermediate teams this year. These players will be great additions to the intermediate program. Although they will be hard to replace, their departure will open up some ice time for our up-and-coming junior players. The junior team extends warm "welcome back" to last year's

late addition, **Robbie Armstrong**. The team is also happy to welcome 10-year-old **Michaela Rye** and **Olivia Smeenk**, who joins her brother Austin on the team.

Isaiah Christophe will move out from the goalie position this year to play forward, while **Austin Smeenk** puts on the pads to play in net.

Coaches **Alex Szerenyi**, **Tony Gale** and **Kelvin Johnston** look forward to the new season and hope to improve on the silver medal earned at the London tournament over the weekend of January 25.



Robbie Carmichael, Josh Giles, Peter Wakelin

Once again this year the Cruisers expect to enter a team in the Winter Para Provincial Championships in Collingwood. As the only participating club in the Toronto area, we will once again be representing the entire Toronto region at the championships, being held February 15-17. We will be cheering on the Cruisers to represent us well as they did last year when they earned a silver medal in Huntsville!

Another Successful Golf Tournament

Generous Sponsors Help Cruisers Raise Funds at 8th Annual Golf Tournament

Our annual golf tournament was held September 11th at Banty's Roost with 77 golfers participating. The day was a success, raising more than \$11,000 for the club! The Cruisers would like to thank **Ken Hall** for his hard work and dedication, once again organizing a great tournament. Ken had a hard-working organizing committee in **Mary Bennett, Cindy Pettibone, Americo Morais, Chris Gee** and **Jenna Gee**

Donated items filled the prize table and we had an entire room dedicated to our silent auction. We would like to thank all the companies and individuals who contributed prizes and donations. Please see below and also refer to our website to see all who donated. We would also like to thank the following for generously sponsoring a hole: *Blazers Wheelchair Sports, Sunview Doors, Trutech Doors, The Self Management Resources Corporation, Cover Logistics, and Kris Hansen.* The tournament was a success thanks to the generosity of these sponsors.

Congratulations to our Men's Low Score team of Bob Wallen, Maxroy Powelland and Dave Lewis.



We also wish to congratulate our Women's Low Score team: Sharon Pettibone, Anita Milojevic, Kathy Ludwig and Cindy Pettibone.



We hope to see our sponsors and golfers again next September.

Pledge-a-Sledge and Silent Auction

On November 17 we will hold our Silent Auction and Pledge-a-Sledge day. Last year's event raised almost \$10,000. The success of this fundraising event is thanks to members who collected money for the sledge-a-thon and provided items for our silent auction. A number of Cruisers raised a great amount of money by collecting sponsorships.

We would like to thank all of the donors and members who provided items for the silent auction.

Future Events

- Luncheon – December 22nd
- London Blizzard Sledge Hockey Tournament – January 25-27.
- Winter Para Provincial Championships – Feb 15-17
- Awards Banquet – Spring 2008
- 9th Annual Golf Tournament – September 2008

2007 Golf Sponsors and Donors

Joshua Watson	Manson Muir	Paralympics Ontario
Toronto FC	Queensway Machine Products	Trutech Doors
Staples	Mary Bennett	Sharon Pettibone
Anne Marie Burry	Golf Clearance Warehouse	Pizza Hut
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Frank Hall	Crocodile Rocks	Ryerson Metals
Louisiana's Seafood	Delta Toronto Airport West	Cindy Pettibone
Kelsey's Bramalea	Banty's Roost Golf and C.C.	Hub International
Fortino's	East Side Marios	Delta Meadowvale
Athletics Canada	Old Dutch	Tony & Anna Gale
Boston Pizza	Courtyard Marriott Mississauga	Swiss Chalet
Residence Inn Marriott	Brenda Hall	Pizza Hut
John Hansen	TD Canada Trust	Casey's Restaurant
Sleemans	Crabby Joes	John Manley
Loblaws	Ontario Cerebral Palsy Sports Association	

DID YOU KNOW...

The Cruisers have teamed up with the Brampton Battalion to perform during an intermission at the following games: Oct 14th, Dec 7th, Jan 10th, and Feb 7th.

Scott Legassie, our webmaster, has redesigned our website. You will find current information, athlete profiles and lots of pictures. Visit the new site at www.cruisers-sports.com.

Austin Smeenk was awarded the Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association's Rookie of the Year Award for 2007.



Austin Smeenk

The Cruisers received \$1,500 from the Rick Hansen Foundation this year. Some of our athletes took part in the Mississauga event on June 10th to help raise funds for the Cruisers.

Renee Foessel and Anthony Protomanni are the current ambassadors of Friends of We Care, a charity that raises funds for Easter Seals.



Renee & Anthony, 2007 We Care Gala

Renee, her sisters and a neighbourhood friend held a bake sale on their street during the rain on a Sunday in September and raised over \$100 for the Cruisers!

Olivia Faraone donated \$1,230 to the Cruisers by winning a draw amongst the Principal and Vice Principals of the Dufferin Peel Catholic School Board.

Athlete Profile



Joshua Watson

Originally from Exeter, Ontario, Joshua moved to Mississauga in 1999 to pursue employment opportunities. He is a graduate of Lambton College's Hospitality and Tourism diploma program. For the past two years, this 28-year-old has worked for Citi Group Fund Services as a Client Services Representative.

Joshua joined the Cruisers last year and his first hockey season was a successful one. He achieved many of the goals he set for himself, including improving his skills and meeting new people while enjoying the opportunity to exercise and the recreation of playing hockey. After the hockey season, Joshua decided to try his hand at shot put, discus and javelin and found these new challenges exciting. His hard work earned a chance to participate at the 2007 Provincial Games in Sarnia where he earned a medal in the shot put event.

One reason Joshua enjoys our club is he never has to discuss his disability – there are never any questions to answer or explanations to give. Outside of his time with the Cruisers, Joshua enjoys sports, all types of music, television medical dramas and John Grisham novels.

We wish Joshua the best of luck for the upcoming hockey and track and field seasons.

A Big Welcome to the Newest Cruisers!

Michaela Rye is a new member of our junior sledge hockey. A grade-five student from Keswick, she loves interior decorating and fashion design. Her hobbies include photography and listening to music. She is having a ton of fun with the Cruisers.

Dianne Laird is nine years old and attends St. Kevin's school in Brampton where she is in grade four. She likes to play boccia, shot put and wheelchair sports. She also likes to play with her brother. Dianne is proud to be a Cruiser!

Madison Ciccone is 14 years old from Mississauga. Her hobbies include club throw, boccia, listening to music, reading magazines, watching sledge hockey and hanging with her friends. She is a grade-nine student at St. Joseph's school in Mississauga.

Jordan Cullum joined the Cruisers this year, but he's not new to the sport of sledge hockey. Jordan played with the Hamilton Sledgehammers for the past four years and has also played with our National team.

Olivia Smeenk is no stranger to the Cruisers. She has been coming to the rink and out to the track for the past five years to watch her brother Austin. Olivia is excited to participate as a player and we know she will do great!

Cruisers Enjoy a Successful Track and Field Season

Our track and field athletes competed in several meets this past summer. The Cruisers were well represented at two regional meets in Mississauga and Hamilton as well as the Para Provincial Summer Games in Sarnia. Some of our athletes took part in Sherbrooke, Quebec and at the Boiling Point Wheelchair Classic and OCPA enhanced meet in Windsor.



At the Canadian Championships, held in Windsor in July, **Curtis Thom** won gold medals in the 200m, 400m and 800m races. He also won a bronze medal in the 1500m race. **Chelsea Clark** won silver medals in the 100m and 200m races. **Robert Hughes** and **Kyle Pettey** won gold medals in the discus and shot put events respectively. **Renee Foessel** set a provincial record in shot put.

Kyle and Robert also went to the Para Pan American Games in Rio

de Janeiro in August. Kyle won a gold medal in shot put and set a Canadian Record. Robert placed second in the shot put.

On October 13th, Curtis Thom participated in the Canadian National Wheelchair 10K Championships where he finished in fourth place.

On October 28th a number of our racers participated in the Casino Niagara Marathon and 10K races.

Our track and field athletes achieved many personal bests this season.

Congratulations to the athletes, to track coaches Ken Thom and Dianne Christophe and to field coaches Ken Hall and Cindy Pettibone.

On October 6th, the Cruisers gave a demonstration at the opening ceremonies of the **Terry Terriers Tournament** in Mississauga. This tournament has a 20-year history and boasts the best AA teams in North America. Our players enjoyed a fantastic response from the 500 fans that watched the 20-minute demonstration. The Cruisers would like to thank Ken Wolff, Jack Brooks, the Terriers' executive and the players and fans who gave us such a warm welcome.



Photos by Jill McVicar



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