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- SPORTS
- EDITORIAL
- COLUMNS
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- CONTACT US
- AFFILIATES
- HOCKEY POOL RESULTS

Woolwich makes bid in Hockeyville

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By Chuck Kuepfer Staff Reporter



Woolwich Township's bid to win the Kraft Hockeyville 2009 contest is in full swing.

A camera crew from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation was in Elmira, Tuesday, to talk to those involved in hockey locally, as well as gather footage for an upcoming television show that will reveal the top-10 finalists.

Among those to face the bright lights of the TV cameras was Jacqueline Hanley, an Elmira hockey mom who wrote a 500-word essay that described the supportive role that the local hockey community has played in her life.

"I chose to just submit it because of what the community has done for me," said Hanley. "I decided I should submit it on behalf of the community."

Hanley, a single mother of three children, relocated to Elmira four and a half years ago. It was through the generosity of the community, with hockey equipment miraculously appearing on her doorstep, that her son was able to begin to play the game.

That support and tales of how hockey is more than just a game is echoed in the 56 stories of those who submitted comments for Woolwich's Hockeyville bid. The entry deadline ended Dec. 6.

Kraft Hockeyville's Top 10 Show will air on Jan. 14 at 8 p.m. on CBC.

The voting period starts after the show. Up for grabs is a chance at \$100,000 in arena upgrades from Kraft for the contest winner, while the remaining top four receive \$25,000. The winner will also have the opportunity to host an NHL pre-season game, while all communities that make the top five will host a CBC broadcast of Hockey Night in Canada.

While in Woolwich, CBC cameras rolled during a tour of new Woolwich Memorial Centre, also capturing children skating at Three Bridges Public School.

"This is our chance to show them why we should be Hockeyville," said Graham Snyder, a member of the local Hockeyville campaign.

Woolwich is up against strong competition from other communities across the country, including Ontario entrants Hearst and Lincoln, where hockey supporters have submitted 989 and 755 stories respectively.

Previous winners have been Saloman River, NS (2006), North Bay (2007) and Roberval, Que (2008).

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