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Woolwich Township loves winter's game

THE RECORD

You can play hockey just about anywhere in Canada. All you need is a rink -- or even just a hard surface on which to play ball hockey. But, there may be no finer place in the entire country in which to play hockey than in Woolwich Township.

The township, which includes the town of Elmira, is small enough that everyone can be focused on a single activity such as hockey. Everyone knows everyone, and everyone offers help and encouragement as little kids attempt to replicate the moves seen on Hockey Night in Canada -- or, in the case of younger players, just try not to fall down.

Hockey fans in the township are now trying to show the CBC why they think Woolwich deserves to be this year's Hockeyville. Of course, in their hearts, they know it already has that designation, but they have to prove their point to the folks at the television network who make the decision.

This is the township that has produced NHL players such as Darryl Sittler, Dennis Wideman, and Ric and Rod Seiling as well as Dan Snyder, who died in 2003.

Fifty-six township residents sent stories to the CBC that show how deeply Woolwich loves the game. One single mother, for example, wrote about the way the minor hockey association assisted her when her young son needed hockey equipment she couldn't afford.

Woolwich residents will have to wait until Jan. 14 before hearing if the township is among the top 10. After that, voting will start for the top five. It's all very exciting -- as exciting as watching or playing hockey.

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