



# THE MIRROR

SERVING THE NORTH YORK COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

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THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011

SOUTH EDITION

## ANTICIPATION



Photo/MIKE POCHWAT

Cubs from 8th Don Mills Troop Tyler Latto, 8, left, Bianca Pienaar, 11, Zachary Latto, 11, and Armand Pienaar, 8, cheer on their cars as they race during the Kub Kar Rally at the Toyota on the Park showroom on Saturday.

## Global Day of Jewish Youth Service in North York

FANNIE SUNSHINE  
fsunshine@insidetoronto.com

Some 500 teens will scatter throughout the Greater Toronto Area and lend a hand to various organizations Sunday for J-Serve's Global Day of Jewish Youth Service.

The teenagers will meet at Adath Israel Congregation at 37 Southbourne Ave. at 11:30 a.m. for a light lunch before heading off to one of several sites across the GTA to volunteer for the day before being bused back to the North York synagogue.

"This is part of a world-wide global event," said Kerry Bernknopf, project co-ordinator with B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO), presenters of the Toronto event. "Last year was the first year we participated and we set a goal of 150 volunteers. We had over 200 teens sign up. As a parent of three daughters, it's so important to teach children at an early age to give back to the community."

This year marks the second year in which Toronto-area teens will  
**>>>SERVICE, page 5**

## Unique Flemingtondon hockey league eyes growth

ERIC HEINO  
nym@insidetoronto.com

It has been a while since blue and white hockey jerseys were seen in a playoff game, but on Sunday, hockey fans in Flemingtondon Park's Angela James Arena were thrilled to witness

Team Blue take on Team White in the The ProAction Hockey League championship game.

The league is a charitable initiative sponsored by ProAction Cops and Kids, designed to get children from the Flemingtondon Park neighbourhood to participate in ice

hockey, for free.

More than 50 fans came hoping to see their children win the coveted ProAction Cup, but the most significant aspect of the day was a ceremony before the game, ensuring that as one season ended, another could begin.

Allowing for this continued expansion of this unique league as its second season closes is a \$25,000 grant from Scotiabank's GTHL New To The Game program.

"It's great to see the kids back on the ice in a program that is run  
**>>>GOAL, page 5**



Staff photo/NICK PERRY

Team White's Igor Sayed celebrates in ProAction league play Sunday.



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Staff photo/NICK PERRY

Dan Sutton of Scotiabank, right, presents a cheque for \$25,000 to the ProAction Hockey League at Angela James Arena Sunday afternoon. The league received the money through Scotiabank's GTHL New to the Game Development Grant program. The program supports programs that attract participants from all backgrounds.

## Goal: to become independent charity

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for the local community," said arena namesake Angela James, who accepted a cheque from Scotiabank branch president Dan Sutton in a pre-game ceremony. "It's a great way for parents to get involved and for sponsorship, too. The real benefit is for the kids, who get to come out and meet new friends, understand team sports and commitment and so many other values that kids get out of the sport of hockey."

"When the program started last year, you wouldn't see the kids stick handling and skating around like they are today. That's a great accomplishment."

For most of the players, aged eight to 11, the ProAction Hockey League provides an opportunity. Many eager young players are first-generation Canadians like the Blue Team's Nikita Ba Baev. He has never been able to participate in hockey before because of restrictive costs and travel time

to leagues operating outside of the neighbourhood.

This league, however, provides donated equipment, free food after games and free ice time so Nikita has been able to develop. He hopes that one day he can play in the NHL, like his favourite players Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin.

Though Noor Dakhli's son, Anees, was eliminated from the playoffs the previous weekend, she was at the final game getting all the parents to sign a thank you card for the league organizers. She is grateful for what they had done for her son, but also articulated the effect the league has had on revitalizing the Flemingdon Park community as a whole.

"It is an amazing program because my son is a fanatic for hockey and this generates involvement from both the parents and the children. On my team, I know all the parents and we helped each other. It has made all the difference in bringing the community

together. The kids would be getting into other things like drugs or just sitting and watching TV, but now all they want to do is hockey."

In its first two years the league has doubled in size, from four teams to eight. ProAction Cops & Kids executive director, Virginia DiRoma, sees more teams taking shape in the future. She said the grant should help the league progress toward becoming a charity that can operate independently.

"This is what we are all about. We want to be able to start a program and then hope they are able to grow to the point where they can support themselves," said DiRoma.

Other sponsors of the league include Civitan, Toronto Police, Breakfast Television, Jumpstart and the City of Toronto. Part of the Scotiabank grant will also go toward Don Mills Civitan's Donaldson Diamonds hockey program, which supports hockey for people with developmental disabilities.

## Several service options available

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have the opportunity to participate in the international initiative, thanks to funding by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the PANIM Institute of BBYO.

J-Serve Toronto coincides with the kickoff of National Volunteer Week, Canada's largest celebration of volunteers, volunteerism and civic participation.

J-Serve Toronto's service options include cleaning for Passover at Ansei Minsk Synagogue, visiting with

patients at Baycrest, taking part in youth-led environmental workshops hosted by Bayview Corridor Synagogues, selling pins for the Canadian Cancer Society's annual daffodil month, assisting residents of Habayit Shelanu with gardening through Circle of Care, spearheading a cleanup of Earl Bales Park, hosting a party for Cummer Lodge residents, taking part in a series of workshops with Free the Children, canvassing to promote UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's annual

Walk with Israel, assembling education kits with Ve'ahavta to be sent to Israeli families in need, and working the phones at the Zareinu Educational Centre telethon to promote its 14th annual Moveathon.

"People can sign up on our website or register the day of," Bernknopf said, adding teens in grades 8 to 12 can participate as volunteers and adults 21 years old and older can sign up as chaperones.

To register or to find out more information, visit [www.jservice.com](http://www.jservice.com)

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