



Members of the Pictou County Senior Rugby Club's inaugural team were among those who attended the club's 50th anniversary event Saturday. Alan Maltby, from left, joined Allan Little, Reg Hurst, Harold Mills, Preston Bonvie, Francis Long, Roy MacDonald and Clyde Fraser.

(Goodwin photo)

Rugby club's 50-year event filled with shared memories

By Steve Goodwin
For The Advocate

It was a rare opportunity to celebrate athletic achievement by the Pictou County Senior Rugby Club.

Present and past club members and rugby enthusiasts gathered Saturday at the Stellarton Fire Hall to share laughter and memories of a club that accomplished early and lasting success that has been called a dynasty.

The social and dinner preceded a series of speakers who encapsulated the club's provincial and Maritime championships during the 1970s and beyond.

During the 1970s alone, the club captured both the provincial and Maritime titles during its first season in 1971. There followed provincial championships the following two years and from 1975 to '78.

Pictou County won Maritime championships in 1971, as well

as 1976, '77 and '78 during the 1970s.

Francis Long, one of eight original team members who attended the event, focused on the 1970s during his address.

He posed a toast to Harold Staniforth, a rugby player from England who helped found the club when he was living and working in Pictou County. He also listed the names of deceased club members that included Staniforth.

Long was among speakers who distinguished league rugby and rugby played with union rules. League rugby was more prevalent in the area when the club was founded, he said.

"It was our first time playing union rugby," he said, while noting the club won 93 games and lost six from 1971 to 1978.

Chick Lewis examined the 1980s and how younger players joined the club. He also saluted how fellowship followed a hard-fought rugby match.

"We left it all on the field and after the game there was a social time," he said. "It was a match made in rugby heaven for most of us. There's a camaraderie in rugby that there isn't in any other sport."

Scott Taylor directed his attention to the 1990s and the more than 15 years he played for the club. He led a toast to the present and past players and coaches in the audience.

He noted the club's induction into the Pictou County Sports Hall of Fame and a trip he made with the club to the United Kingdom in 1993. It included meeting Staniforth, who had returned to England.

"I really enjoyed it," he said. "I learned how to play the game, and I enjoyed the camaraderie."

Taylor also emphasized the work club members devoted to sodding and generally building a rugby pitch in New Glasgow that was instantly considered

the best east of Quebec, as well as building a club house.

Ed Carty, a stalwart rugby player, mentor and supporter of rugby in Antigonish, was among special guests who attended.

He said the rugby club's formation in 1971 was crucial to the future of the sport in Nova Scotia.

"Rugby was at a very low ebb," he said. "Pictou County's establishment was essential to the revival of the sport."

Part of rugby's decline occurred when universities and colleges replaced the sport with Canadian football.

"That was a near death knell for rugby," he said.

Carty also lauded the provincial rugby men's roster that included nine players from Pictou County and the number of players who have helped train and develop high school rugby teams in more recent years.

Weeks Majors drop 2-1 decision in Monctonian semifinal game

It was quite a time for the Weeks Under-18 Majors.

Weeks reached the semifinal in their division Saturday at the annual Monctonian hockey tournament before bowing by a 2-1 margin to the Halifax Macs.

Drew Williams gave Weeks a 1-0 lead in the first period before Halifax tied the game in the second period and won it in the third period.

Weeks were at a disadvantage, having to play Halifax four hours after their previous game when they edged the Steele Majors from Dartmouth by a 2-1 score in overtime. Halifax had roughly double the time between their games.

Lane Lohead scored the overtime winner against Dartmouth, while Ben Wallace also scored for Weeks.

Weeks won two lopsided games to begin their schedule last week. They buried the Kings-Edgehill Highlanders, 15-2, in their opener and followed with a 12-1 win over Kings from P.E.I.

Aiden Tucker's four goals paced Weeks against the Highlanders. Lohead, Lane Sim, Ben Wallace and Cade Moser each scored twice, while Reese Smith, Mac Wallace and Owen Conrad also scored.

Ben Wallace scored three goals, while Williams, Moser and Sim added a pair apiece. Conrad, Dominic MacKenzie

and Clint MacLaughlin got the other goals.

Sim, Tucker, MacKenzie, Ben Wallace and Mac Wallace scored for Weeks in their 5-5 tie with the Charlottetown Knights.

Weeks have two games scheduled this weekend in the Nova Scotia U-18 Major Hockey League. They will visit the Cole Harbour Wolfpack on Saturday before hosting the South Shore Mustangs on Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Pictou County Wellness Centre.

Bombers

Wear Well Bombers won one game and lost two in the U-15 division.

Jacob Campbell and Xavier McArthur each scored twice as the Bombers defeated the Ice Pak from Newfoundland and Labrador, 5-3.

Evan MacIntosh, Tanner Hayden and Dawson MacAulay scored for the Bombers in a 4-3 loss to the Moncton Hawks.

Carter Anderson and Nicolas MacKenzie scored for the Bombers in an 8-2 setback against the Halifax Wolverines.

The Bombers will resume action in the Nova Scotia U-15 major hockey League this weekend when they visit the Dartmouth Whalers on Saturday and host the New Scotland Storm at 11 a.m. Sunday at the Wellness Centre.



Ed Carty, left, exchanges a conversation with Allan Maltby during the 50th anniversary celebration of the Pictou County Senior Rugby Club.

(Goodwin photo)



Hugh Munroe, left, and Chick Lewis share a laugh during the Pictou County Senior Rugby Club's reception to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

(Goodwin photo)

Selects host Flames for two female hockey league tilts

The Northern Subway Selects will host the Western Flames from P.E.I. for two games this weekend in the Maritime Major Female Hockey League.

The games are at 4 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday at the Hector Arena. The Selects are also scheduled to visit the Eastern Stars of P.E.I. Friday.

The Selects lost possession of first place in the league standings after settling for a 1-1 tie with the visiting Cape Breton Lynx on Saturday in Pictou, despite outshooting the Lynx by a 40-17 margin.

The Lynx tied the game with 12 seconds left in the third period after Karys Ross scored the Selects' lone goal in

the second period.

The tie was the Selects' first after 11 straight wins to open the regular season.

The result left the Selects in second place with 21 points, three fewer than the Lantz-based Penguins, who have played two more games. The Penguins have won 12 games and lost one.

Kendall Doiron is tied for fourth in points with 10 goals and 10 assists, while her Selects teammate Olivia Marks has nine goals and 10 assists for 19 points.

Jorja Burrows has a 0.63 goals-against average to lead the league, while teammate Gabby Arseneault is next with 0.78 goals against.

Pictou County Athletics hosting free relays for youth

Youth in grades 3-6 in Pictou County will have a chance next month to test out a relay.

Pictou County Athletics is hosting free relays on Dec. 2, 9 and 16, 5:30-6:45 p.m. each night. Relay teams of four or

five can register, as well as individuals.

A sign-up link is on the Pictou County Athletics page on Facebook; those interested are to find their school on the sign-up link and register.

MANAGING YOUR MONEY

Reset Your Career



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You've been working hard for years and want a change or you're about to be downsized. How do you go about doing something different? Here are some tips on hitting your work "reset" button.

GOING FREELANCE - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Don't ditch the benefits - You may be eligible for medical, dental and life/disability insurance through a professional association's insurance partners or a spouse/partner's employer.

Set up a contingency fund - Your cash flow will likely be more unpredictable so build a financial cushion to fall back on during any slow periods. Consider a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA).

Pay the taxman - Put aside a portion of your earnings to pay income tax and GST (if applicable) - you may pay annually in the first year then move to quarterly instalments if you exceed your province's net tax owing threshold in both years.

Deductible expenses - Be sure to keep all business expense receipts - if you're principally working from home, the portion of your household expenses related to the workspace may be deductible from your income for tax purposes.

Lifestyle - Be prepared to adjust your spending habits (for example, vacations may have to wait until your business is established), especially during the critical start-up period.

THE UPSIDE TO BEING DOWNSIZED

Job loss may be the best thing that's happened to your career. The key to quickly moving on is proactive planning.

Consider your options now - Will you retire early, go back to school, look for another job or start a business?

Research government programs - Through the federal government-funded Self Employment (SE) program, you may be eligible for special EI benefits in addition to income generated by your start-up, plus business skills training (eligibility requirements for the SE program may differ by province).

Put money aside - Save enough money to ease financial stress while focusing on starting your new business. Those savings, along with severance pay and employment insurance (EI) benefits, can keep you financially afloat until your business becomes profitable.

To be sure your home-based business "starts up" on the right financial footing and that you stay on course for all your financial objectives, talk to your professional advisor soon.

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