

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Important Dates
- Coaching Clinics
- Hustle Banquet
- Phoenix Updates
- Trillium Grant
- Volunteers Rock!!

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Welcome from the GYBA Executive

Whether you have one or more children involved in the Hustle and/or Phoenix program, we hope that all of you are having a great basketball season thus far. This is the first newsletter of what we intend to be a regular stream of communications with our parents, players and volunteers as a means of ensuring that everyone is knowledgeable about GYBA and its various programs and activities. More importantly, we also want to hear back from you regarding your experience with our organization. In what respects have we succeeded? Where do we need to improve? There are coaches evaluations coming out for the Phoenix division, conveners at the Hustle games to talk

to, GYBA executives listed on the back page and our Annual General Meeting you are encouraged to attend in June. GYBA will only become a more robust organization if you are willing to share your thoughts with us, so please take the time and effort to do so.

As I reflect back on what has been accomplished in less than one year, I am truly amazed at the progress that has been made. We have experienced our share of growing pains to be sure, but we have learned from our mistakes and are striving to build on our early successes – which, I might note, have been considerable. After all, last year at this time, GYBA

was no more than a vision in the minds of a few dedicated basketball volunteers, who wanted to unify the Guelph basketball community so as to offer more children and youth an opportunity to learn and enjoy the sport by maximizing our coaching and other resources. Today, GYBA is an incorporated, not-for-profit organization that offers both recreational and competitive basketball, through our Hustle and Phoenix programs respectively, for about 800 children from ages 6 to 19. More specifically, we have 24 boys and girls rep teams competing under the Phoenix banner and nearly 500 children playing recreational basketball as part of our Hustle program,
(cont on page 4)

GYBA Scores Trillium Grant

The Guelph Youth Basketball Association (GYBA) got a big boost in its first year of operation, thanks to a \$46,700 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). Liz

Sandals, MPP for Guelph-Wellington, and OTF volunteer Don Jonescu congratulated Tim Mau, President of GYBA, on December 16, 2006, during one of the Hus-

tle recreational basketball games.

“The McGuinty Government is committed to promoting healthy, active lifestyles for our youth,” said MPP Sandals. “Programs like the Guelph Youth Basketball Association provide local youth with a
(cont on page 2)



GUELPH
BASKETBALL



Hustle Boys and Girls



GUELPH BASKETBALL



GYBA's recreation league, the Hustle division, was formed from the well known and successful Hoops N Hustle league. The philosophy of having kids have fun playing basketball is still central, but it just keeps getting better. This year, for the first time ever, there is a separate girls division. The girls Hustle division has four age categories- 6 to 8, 9/10, 11/12

and 13-15. It was recognized that there was a need for a girl's only division and the participation and excitement is evidence that they are on the right track.

The boys division is alive and well. There are four age categories in it- 6 to 8, 9/10, 11/12 and 13 to 15. Hustle is also running a senior co-ed group for kids 15 and up. The structure is less

formal, but the energy and love of the game is all there. Enrollment for the entire group reached almost 500 players this season.

Besides the weekly practice sessions and games the kids look forward to the Hot Shot Competition, quickly becoming an annual event. Just before the (cont on page 4)

Phoenix teams compete across Southern Ontario and some even travel to the U.S.

The Phoenix Rise

The Phoenix has risen and it just keeps going! The Phoenix is GYBA's rep teams that compete all across Southern Ontario with several teams even traveling to the U.S. They all compete in Basketball Ontario sanctioned tournaments which culminate in the Provincial Basketball Championships from March to May.

One of the philosophies of GYBA is to have as many rep teams as there are interested players at each age group. And with only one or two exceptions they are on track. There were some transition issues at the beginning of the season partly because of the tremendous response we got from players and partly because the procedures

and expectations were not as clear as they needed to be. With teams, players, parents and coaches coming from four different city clubs, working to adjust to a brand new organization there can be wrinkles. Those will be ironed out for next year. But well into the season for most of the teams (cont on page 4)

GYBA Scores Trillium Grant (cont from page 1)

wonderful opportunity to become more physically active while having fun in a safe environment. I am very pleased that this OTF grant will assist GYBA in providing programs to support the youth in our community."

The one-year grant will be used to train coaches and purchase new uniforms and equipment.

"We really appreciate the Ontario Trillium Foundation's commitment to our Association," said Tim Mau, President of GYBA. "It is an excellent investment in the health and well-being of our youth in this community."

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives \$100 mil-

lion annually from Ontario's charity casino initiative. The Foundation allocates grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts and culture, environment, human and social services and sports and recreation sectors. For more information, please visit www.trilliumfoundation.org.

Help Wanted !!

GYBA like many great community based organizations, works because individuals dedicate time to make it work. As a new organization there is a lot to do. GYBA is looking for coaches in both the Hustle and Phoenix divisions. It can use people to help with registration, communication and fund raising. There are positions on committees

such as the selection committee and review committee.

Whether you have a few hours a week, a few hours a month or would like to get involved in a special event, there is a place for you.

Please contact any one of the Executive Members listed on

the back page. They would be happy to answer your questions and be thankful for the help.

“They are on the front line every week and in many ways are the face of GYBA”

Thanks to Our Volunteers/Coaches

We have a great team of dedicated people supporting GYBA. Without them there would be no Hustle and there would be no Phoenix. There are people behind the scenes organizing gym times, raising money, keeping track of money, ordering equipment, organizing coaching clinics, writing and re-writing policies and procedures and helping

to steer this new and exciting organization.

Then we have the coaches, assistant coaches, managers and conveners. These people put in countless hours on the court with the kids and countless more hours organizing and preparing. They are on the front line every week and in many

ways they are the face of GYBA. These people represent the association at tournaments, to parents and of course to the players.

To all the volunteers and coaches throughout GYBA, a heartfelt thank you, for all you do!

Coaching for Excellence

Superior coaching is one of the critical elements to a successful basketball organization. Whether the coaching is for 7 year old boys who have never played basketball before, or for a senior girl’s team vying for a provincial championship, great coaching is key. That is one of the reasons GYBA has put a major emphasis on attracting great people and making them better coaches.

season and there is one more planned for June. The first one was conducted by Mike McKay, Technical Director for Basketball Canada. The second one, done in January was run by Ganon Baker from Virginia, a world renowned basketball clinician and personal trainer of many NBA and college players.

He is also an official Nike Skill Development Trainer.

Both of these events and the one planned for June are geared toward both the Phoenix and Hustle coaches. Every coach, assistant coach and prospective coach is invited and encouraged
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GYBA has sponsored two coaching clinics already this



GUELPH BASKETBALL



The Phoenix Rise (cont from page 2)

and things are running smoothly.

There was a small glitch with the supplier of the new uniforms for the teams, but it was rectified and every team is now sporting some very high quality, home and away uniforms in white and black. There were also supply problems with the

spirit wear, but that has been cleared up and everything is tracking.

At GYBA Day at the U of G, during half time at the men's basketball game on January 13th, the Major Bantam Boys #1 team scrimmaged for the crowd. They were selected for selling the most East Side Mario's

Coupons during the fundraising event. Several coaches commented on the ability of these youngsters and in particular the teamwork that they displayed.

The Phoenix are in flight and rising. Both the girls and boys divisions are doing well. They are looking forward to a fantastic end of season run.

Hustle Boys and Girls (cont from page 2)

Christmas break each age group competed in the shooting competition. The two best players from each category were identified. Then, on January 13th at half time of the U of G Gryphon

Ladies basketball game there was the final Hustle Hot Shot shoot out! It was all part of GYBA Day at the University. Everyone had a wonderful time,

lots of fun and got to see some great basketball.

Welcome from the GYBA Executive (cont from page 1)

which represents nearly a 50 percent increase in the enrolment numbers in Hoops and Hustle last year!

GYBA's vision is to be a model basketball program that represents our membership and unifies the Guelph basketball community in a quality athlete-centred experience. We value fair play, fun, skills development, enhanced confidence and self-esteem, sportsmanship and barrier-free access. We have been greatly assisted in achieving our vision and fulfilling our mission in our inaugural season by virtue of a generous grant of nearly \$50,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This money will enable us to purchase equipment for our two programs as well as to provide

quality coaching development opportunities for our volunteers.

GYBA also has the Hoop Help program available for both the Phoenix and Hustle division. This is a fund set up for families that may not be able to afford the registration fee for the league. It is part of the philosophy of making the game of basketball accessible to as many kids as possible.

It has been a great pleasure working with such a hard-working and dedicated group of volunteers over the past twelve months. Everyone involved in the organization has given so much of their time, energy and expertise to ensure that GYBA is a huge success. I extend my sincere debt of gratitude to each

and every one of you. However, there is still much that needs to be done to ensure the future vitality of this organization; as such, I would encourage you to consider taking the time to volunteer with GYBA, be it as a member of the executive, taking the time to coach in either the Hustle or Phoenix programs or serving on one or more of our committees. I hope to see you at our AGM on June 13th at College Heights C.V.I. – and I look forward to working more closely with you in the upcoming season.

Sincerely,

Tim A. Mau
President

Sponsors Come Through

Money is always one of the big hurdles in any not-for-profit, community based organization.



GYBA does fund raise and we have received money from the provincial government through the Trillium Foundation. But we would like to recognize the ongoing support of our local



sponsors right here in Guelph.



They help out in so many ways, both big and small. Sometimes it is for particular services they can offer. Often it is in the form of cash donations. But whatever it is, it is given in the true spirit of community involvement and assistance.

On behalf of the players, coaches, parents and volunteers thank you for your ongoing support.



“The Hustle Banquet is set to go Saturday, March 3rd at College Heights S.S.”

Hustle Banquet Set To (Bin)Go

The Hustle Banquets have been set for Saturday, March 3rd at College Heights S.S. They will be held in the cafeteria. Yes, that’s right, because of the number of players this year in Hustle, there will be two banquets.

The girls and boys in the 6/7/8 and 9/10 age groups will have their banquet from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. The boys and girls in the

11/12, 13/15 and 15/17 age categories will have their banquet between 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm.

There will also be an opportunity to pre-register for next year’s Hustle division. Registration forms will be available at each of the banquets. There will be an early bird draw for everyone who registers at that time.

They will also get to take advantage of the early registration fee of \$95.

And not only will we have one of our long time supporters and sponsor, Domino’s Pizza helping out, but Dairy Queen has offered to supply the desert!! There will also be bingo and prizes all afternoon long.

Coaching Excellence (cont from page 3)

to attend.

Another aspect of great coaching is feedback and improvement. To that end, the Phoenix division is sending out two evaluations giving the parents

and players an opportunity to give constructive feedback to the coaching staff in order to make everyone’s experience a better, more fulfilling one.



Baker puts players through paces for the coaches



GUELPH BASKETBALL



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Mark Your Calendar

Executive Board Meeting	Sunday February 25 th 7:00 pm	Stone Road Mall Office
Hustle Banquet	Saturday March 3 rd 12:00 - 1:30 pm 2:00 - 3:30 pm	College Heights S.S. Cafeteria Boys and Girls 6/7/8 and 9/10 Boys and Girls 11/12, 13/15, 15/17
Coaching Clinic	Saturday June 2 nd 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (lunch provided)	Centennial C.V.I.
Annual General Meeting	Wednesday June 13 th 7:30 pm	College Heights S.S. Cafeteria
Hustle Registration 2007/2008	Hustle Banquet Dates in June TBA	East Side Mario's, Stone Road

Check the Website for other upcoming dates. www.guelphbasketball.com