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Cochrane caught the hockey bug this weekend.

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www.cochraneeagle.com

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017

## Kimmett Cup smashes goal, raises \$165,000



Bennett Rothery celebrates a big goal during Kimmett Cup play on Saturday.

Photo by Tim Hall

By Tammy Marlowe Johnson  
*The Eagle*

A "small army of good" marched through Mitford Pond for the ninth annual Kimmett Cup last weekend, bringing in \$165,000 to help grant sick children's wishes while celebrating the playful spirit of the late Lindsay Kimmett.

"This one would rate as one of the most emotional of all," Kelly Kimmett, Lindsay's dad, said this week. "It would be sadness of course that Lindsay's not there, hope for these kids that are fighting these diseases, joy in seeing what we can bring to them – and pride in seeing that Lindsay's legacy empowers people to give."

More than 500 people on 56 teams – with players from across Canada and the United States – took part in the three-day pond hockey tournament, started by Lindsay's friends and family to honour her memory

after she was killed in a car accident in February 2008. The tournament benefits the Lindsay Leigh Kimmett Memorial Foundation, which has a number of different charitable branches.

This year, the Kimmett Cup pushed way past its goal of raising \$125,000 for the Children's Wish Foundation – and also completed the mission of raising \$500,000 over the last four years. Kimmett said Kidsport will receive \$7,000 of those funds, with the remainder going to assist local programs. The memorial organization has given more than \$2 million to initiatives in their late daughter's name.

"It's pretty neat to see how far Kelly and Dianne have taken it," said Jon Kauffman, who travels to Cochrane every year from Tofield, east of Edmonton, to play. "It's one of those moments in life that you can either let destroy you – or inspire you."

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## Two killed in plane crash near Waiparous

By Jenna Dulewich  
*The Eagle*

Two Mount Royal University instructors were killed in a plane crash near Waiparous on Monday.

Cochrane RCMP, with assistance from military and civilian aircraft, responded to reports of a plane crash on Feb. 13 at approximately 5:55 p.m. after another aircraft pilot reported seeing the crash east of Highway 40.

Less than five hours after the crash was reported, Cochrane RCMP confirmed two individuals flying a TECNAM twin-engine aircraft were killed.

Both of the victims were experienced pilot instructors from the Mount Royal University's fleet and were on a routine flight.

Jeffery Bird, one of the instructors killed, was an experienced pilot who joined the university as a Class 3 flight instructor with a total of 1,800 flying hours.

Bird's previous experience included working as a pilot instructor with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Moose Jaw, Sask., and he was also a helicopter pilot in Edmonton with the 408 Squadron.

The second instructor was Reynold Johnson, an alumnus of the University of Lethbridge. He had a 35-year career in aviation with Air Canada and then Jazz.

"As a community, we are still very much grieving the tragic loss of two experienced pilot instructors ... There were no students on board. However, we know the impact is being felt by everyone across campus, especially the students who studied under these instructors, and were colleagues," Dr. David Docherty, president of the university stated in a news release.

"Our foremost concern remains with the families of the deceased and the aviation community."

The university said the flight was a routine training flight from the Springbank Airport within the Springbank flight practice area.

Condolences were also expressed by the Cochrane RCMP and MLA Cam Westhead who wrote on social media that his "thoughts are with the family, friends, colleagues and students of the Mount Royal instructors killed in (the) tragic plane accident."

Please see "Incident," page 7

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# ▶ LEADING OFF

## Rogers brings Cochrane hockey

By Tammy Marlowe Johnson  
*The Eagle*

Justin Dowling. The Purple Panthers. Mason Raymond. The Rockies. The Generals. The Kimmitt Cup...

Cochrane's hockey heart beat loud and proud this weekend as Rogers Hometown Hockey shone its national spotlight on the town as part of its travelling sports show.

"I'm happy for the community. This is pretty special," said Mayor Ivan Brooker, bundled up amid a large crowd of hockey fans outside Spray Lake Sawmills Family Sports Centre on Sunday night as famed commentator Ron MacLean chatted with co-host Tara Slone live on Sportsnet.

"You're looking around and thinking, 'People all across the country are seeing us right now.' It's pretty incredible."

The Hometown Hockey trucks started rolling into Cochrane earlier in the week, and by Saturday afternoon, crews had transformed an outdoor section of the sports centre into a hockey-themed haven – complete with kids playing shinny and lining up for video games, former Calgary Flames' stars Curtis Glencross and Brendan Morrison signing jerseys and re-living glory days, NHL mascot Harvey the Hound handing out high fives – and scores of sports-loving families enjoying their moment in the sun.

"This is pretty neat," said dad James Clinch, as his boys took a turn at the palette-sized hockey games set up around the site. "It's bigger than I thought it would be."

"I did my hockey cheer: One, two, three, four – come on Panthers, shoot and score!" said seven-year-old Keela Kerr, a player on the Purple Panthers novice female squad, one of several teams who participated in the Cheer Like Never Before contest on the main stage. "It was fun. There were more (people in the crowd) than how many people were at my school."

"It certainly puts Cochrane on the map," said sports centre general manager Robin Mitchell, who had three staff on the organizing committee of Hometown Hockey, and also praised the more than 100 volunteers who worked tirelessly to put on the event.

"I thought it was a great experience," added mom Sara Busby, whose daughter Ella plays pee-wee hockey. "It was a good weekend, all in all."

As part of the festivities, Sportsnet aired Sunday's matchup between the Montreal Canadiens and the Boston Bruins on big screens at the site – where the boys from Beantown shutout the Quebec team 4-0.

But it was Cochrane that truly took centre stage during the live broadcast.

Hometown Hockey showcased the town and its devotion to and fervour for hockey – profiling Cochrane-ites Justin Dowling (who recently made his NHL debut with the Dallas Stars) and former Calgary Flames player Mason Raymond, giving a shout-out to the Cochrane Generals' scoring leader Slater Ransom, and portraying the lasting legacy of the late Lindsay Kimmitt.

MacLean – who arrived in Cochrane Sunday afternoon after a harrowing flight from storm-battered Toronto – said there was no shortage of stories from





# to Canada

this hockey-loving community for the broadcaster to share.

"Dan Gendur, coach of the Generals, (Generals' general manager) Jacqueline Hurlbert – I can't wait to meet her, discovering her story ... and what a woman Lindsay (Kimmett) must have been," MacLean said before arriving at the sports centre. "We certainly go out of our way to share stories that mirror all the ways you can come to hockey – and to life.

"If you just start the conversation ... it's really a chance to learn. I believe it's more about Canada – and way more than hockey."

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**COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** The Cochrane Rockies celebrate hometown hockey; Draiden Inverarity squares off with Brendan Morrison during an autograph signing; Tara Sloan, co-host of Rogers Hometown Hockey, stands with Alberta country music star Paul Brandt and Rogers Hometown Hockey host Ron MacLean; The Cochrane Generals had the chance to visit the broadcast booth (Supplied photo). The team was one of Cochrane's hockey icons to be featured during the Rogers Hometown Hockey broadcast; Calgary Flames' Mascot Harvey the Hound was on hand to give out high-fives to participants; Christie Arsenault and Beth Sleeme show their support for the Atom Boys Tigers Hockey team.

*Photos by Tim Hall*



## Community paints hometown legacy

**By Tammy Marlowe Johnson**  
*The Eagle*

Amid the sea of shinny at Spray Lake Sawmills Family Sports Centre this weekend, artist Sue Penry passed out paintbrushes and pressed sports fans to get in touch with their artistic side for her Rogers Hometown Hockey legacy project.

"For wellness in our lives, we need both sport and creativity," said the Cochrane-based fine artist. "To me, they just fit so well."

Penry parked herself in the lobby of the sports centre for two days, and started off Saturday by painting two hockey players on a blank canvas – then asked passersby to "make their mark" around them.

As the weekend continued, the palette became more packed with pictures of hockey parapherna-

lia, team names and logos, abstract designs ... and lots of love.

"Look at all the hearts," said Penry, as she admired the artwork. "As you look, you see the layers underneath."

Penry said the Town of Cochrane will ultimately decide where the legacy project will make its home to commemorate the hockey weekend – it may remain at the sports centre, or possibly hang at the Cochrane RanchHouse.

No matter where it ends up, she said the painting carries with it the spirit of the sport and the warmth of the weekend.

"I picked up on the energy and the spirit, which goes along with it," she said. "This community (has) that spirit."

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## Players share their love for hockey

**By Tammy Marlowe Johnson**  
*The Eagle*

Rogers Hometown Hockey provided a platform for one young hockey player to share his passionate message with the students of Manachaban Middle School.

On Friday, hundreds of students packed the school gymnasium for a pre-weekend pep rally that included former Calgary Flames star Robyn Regehr, two-time Olympic gold medallist Gina Kingsbury and half a dozen members of the P3 Sports Cochrane Hockey Academy.

"They ... came with a theme of fair play and what it means to be on a team," said Manachaban principal Anne Kromm. "All the students wore their favourite team's jersey or team colours as a celebration of sport."

While Regehr and Kingsbury each worked up the crowd with words of wisdom about teamwork and sacrifice – it was 14-year-old Dace Carlson, a forward with the Alberta Minor Midget AAA League's AC Avalanche – who impressed the group the most with his heartfelt speech about how hockey has helped him build "character skills, being a good sport, and sticking up for your teammates."

"Those are the things that you hold on to," said

the teenager. "That's what I love about hockey."

Avs coach Kenton Levesque, who also works at P3, said he was proud of his player for bridging the gap so eloquently for the students between sport and life.

"(It was about) what you learn from playing sports, the respect factor of playing hockey, the friendships you make ... everything it teaches you along the way," Levesque said. "He did an awesome job."

"I think his message was really great," echoed ex-NHLer Regehr, a Stanley Cup champion. "I really enjoyed it – all those things that he's been learning while playing hockey. In my opinion, that's the most important."

Carlson is starting to map out a plan for himself that hopefully takes him through junior hockey to a scholarship with an NCAA team – then on to the big show himself, just like Regehr.

The former pro said, no matter what path Carlson takes, his understanding of the skills hockey has taught him – both on and off the ice – will give him what he needs to be a success.

"It's cradle to grave," said Regehr of the lessons of the game. "That's what's going to help him transition on to life."

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# Kimmett Cup gives children a chance to



FROM LEFT: The Kimmett Cup drew hundreds of people to Mitford Pond on Feb. 11. Children's Wish Foundation 2017 Kimmett Cup Ambassador Addison Willis holds up a puck at Cochrane Arena. Kelly Kimmett takes to the ice with his team We Are Family, which won the recreation final. **PHOTOS BY TIM HALL**

## Continued from Page 1

While most of the weekend's action took place on Mitford Pond, Cochrane Arena also hosted a handful of Children's Wish Foundation recipients, some who joined doctors and nurses on the ice for a friendly game, as others – like Tristan Garrett – watched from the stands.

"I just thought it was good to come out for this," said Garrett, who is currently undergoing treatment for a recurrence of Ewing's sarcoma, an uncommon form of bone cancer.

The Calgary teenager put his most recent round of chemotherapy on hold so he could take in the tournament. While he's not yet ready to fulfil his already-granted wish of flying an airplane, he said being able to spend time at events like the Kimmett

Cup uplifts him just the same.

"It's a really good cause," he said.

"These types of events – they're almost like mini-wishes in themselves," echoed Kyla Martin, director of the Children's Wish Foundation of Alberta & Northwest Territories office. "It's great; there's so much energy. The Kimmett Cup has been part of the family ... It means so much to us."

Geoff Claypool also watched his six-year-old son, Kipton, chase a puck around the rink.

Though Kipton is fully recovered now, the boy battled kidney cancer from the time he was two and a half. Children's Wish helped him visit Disneyland and spend time with Lightning McQueen from the movie *Cars*.

Claypool said Kipton's trip gave him a welcome

reprieve from the rigamarole of his hospitalizations.

"It was good to have something to look forward to," he said.

Addison Willis was certainly looking forward to her upcoming wish trip, as she played in the bleachers with her brother Declan. This year's Children's Wish Foundation Kimmett Cup Ambassador and her family leave on their Disney Cruise in a couple of weeks.

The four-year-old – who has Congenital Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura, a rare disease that puts her at risk of low blood platelet counts causing blood clots in her veins – said she was excited to be "kissing a dolphin" and had just found herself a brand new bathing suit with "Minnie Mouse" on it.

## Annual Family Day Event

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\*Please check schedule for times

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# COCHRANE Eagle

Have a sports event or accomplishment that you would like to share with the community?

Contact sports reporter  
**Tammy Marlowe Johnson**  
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# enjoy day without thinking about illness

Dr. Nicola Wright of the Alberta Children's Hospital Dream Catchers hockey team – one of the hematologists treating Addison since she was a baby – was happy to see the ailing little girl having such a fun time.

"It's great to see kids like Addison come out to something like this," said Wright.

Back at Mitford Pond, pediatric intensive care unit nurse Jessica Oleksiuk put together a team for the first time with about half a dozen of her hospital colleagues – and she also helped organize a bevy of baked goods for sale at the Lindsay K Café.

She said it is pure pleasure for professionals like



her to see children being given a chance to put aside their pain – even only for a little while.

"To have that moment in their day, even if it's one hour or two, where they can legitimately forget about their illness ... that's what a childhood should be like," she said. "That's what matters. It feels so rewarding ... to know it's helping kids. It just makes me so happy."

The donation page at [www.kimmettcup.com](http://www.kimmettcup.com) will remain open until Feb. 28, and videos commemorating the event are available on the Kimmett Cup Facebook page.

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## COCHRANE MIXED SLO PITCH LEAGUE Annual Spring Meeting & Registration



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**Spray Lake Sawmills Family Sports Centre**  
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