

## Bantam AA Panthers runners-up in home Silver Stick



**By Jake Courtepatte**

Add it to the trophy case: it's yet another podium finish for the Aurora Panthers as hosts of the International Silver Stick tournament. The Bantam AA Panthers rode a perfect preliminary round into Saturday's quarterfinal games at the Aurora Community Centre, getting the best of the Mississauga Chiefs, Kingston Ice Wolves, and Guelph Jr. Gryphons along the way.

After putting out the fire against both the Vaughan and Clarington Flames in the quarter- and semi-final rounds by scores of 2 ? 1, the Panthers met the Nepean Wildcats in Sunday's final, where they fell by a close score of 4 ? 3 to earn the tournament's silver medal.

In the Atom AA division, then Markham-Stouffville Stars blanked the Oakville Hornets 2 ? 0, while the Atom A Mississauga Chiefs got the best of the Smiths Falls Cubs 3 ? 2.

The Stratford Aces were the queens of the Bantam A division, beating the Clarington Flames by a score of 2 ? 1, while the Bantam BB division had the St. Clair Shores U14 best the Brantford Ice Cats 4 ? 3.

All in all, 52 teams from across Canada and the United States competed in the three-day tournament, spread between the Aurora Community Centre, Stronach Aurora Rec Complex, and St. Andrew's College's LaBrier Arena.