

Breakfast of Champions Spotlight: Aurora Panthers

By Melanie Hutchinson, Secretary, CYGHA

This past April, the Central York Girls Hockey Association's (CYGHA) Aurora Panthers Senior Ladies A team conquered the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League (LLFHL), with a near perfect season.



They also came home with a silver medal at the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) Provincials this past April.

‘We are a great group of ladies,’ says captain Christina Kerr. ‘I think I speak for the whole team when I say that we really just love to come to the rink and hang out with each other and, of course, we all have a common love of hockey! The highlights of the year would be winning the LLFHL, and doing well at Provincials (of course we wanted the Gold) but we always have next year!’

Christina began playing hockey in 1993/94 and eventually moved into Rep until she left to go to University in 2001. When she graduated in 2005, she realized she missed it so much she came back to play with the Aurora Panthers.

Along with the rest of the Senior A team, Christina is also very involved with the CYGHA FUNDamentals program -- a girls-only hockey program for beginners. She and fellow Senior A player, Naomi Kupferstein, got together and thought it would be great to do as a team and give back to the community.

‘We have about 3 to 5 of us each year that take control of the program,’ says Christina. ‘It’s a great program. I honestly think I enjoy it just as much, if not more, than the kids do and we have a lot of fun out there. I wish this program existed when I was first learning to play.’

But ice hockey and coaching are not her only talents.

Christina also played at the World Ball Hockey championships this summer here in Canada for Team Netherlands, though suffering an ankle sprain did not allow her to finish the tournament. Her team still went on to capture silver.

Off the rink, Christina, a talented artist, works at the McMichael Art Collection in Education, working with school groups. She aspires to teach art in the future, either in schools or through her own studio.

If you're interested in more information about the CYHGA and how you can join or volunteer, please visit www.girlshockey-centralork.com.