

Bonspiel season is here!
Ladies Open goes on February 17



Sports

Indoor Soccer from 4:30 - 6:00, Mon., Tues., Wed. Northern Lakes College Gym For all age groups.

AJHL game quite a treat for Slave Lake fans

Not to mention a boost to minor hockey

Joe McWilliams
 Lakeside Leader

About 500 people took in the first-ever Alberta Junior Hockey League game played in Slave Lake last week on Jan. 25. The regular season game between the league-leading Spruce Grove Saints and Bonnyville Pontiacs was an intense, hard-hitting affair that resulted in a 2 - 1 upset victory for the Pontiacs.

The game grew out of an idea Saints' governor Darren Myshak had after he heard the news about Slave Lake getting hit by wildfire last spring. Having grown up in Swan Hills, Myshak was very familiar with the town and wanted to do something to help out the minor hockey program. The league agreed, and the Spruce Grove home game was moved to Slave Lake as a benefit for minor hockey in Slave Lake.

SLMHA President Owen Gourley says it was a great boost for the organization, which was facing financial challenges, partly due to the fact it waived registration fees this season for all players whose fami-

lies lost their homes in the May wildfires.

"We're very happy with the way it turned out," Gourley says.

A big part of last

Wednesday's crowd consisted of minor hockey players who were able to attend free of charge. Gourley says he thinks it was good for

them to see hockey being played at such a high level and hopes it was inspiring to them.

As for the financial benefit, Gourley says

about \$3,000 was raised through various raffles at the game. Proceeds from the gate will come via a cheque from the AJHL at a later date.

Gourley hopes this isn't the last time the AJHL comes to town.

"We're going to try to do it again next year," he says.



Special occasion

Nick Carpenter, a Slave Lake Atom hockey player, drops the puck in the ceremonial face-off at centre ice in the CCS arena on Jan. 25, between the team captains of the Spruce Grove Saints (David Glen, left) and Bonnyville Pontiacs (Kevin Carthy). Also pictured, left to right, are Spruce Grove Governor Darren Myshak, Slave Lake town councillor Tyler Warman, Alberta Junior Hockey League President Craig Cripps and Slave Lake Minor Hockey Association President Owen Gourley.



The Bonnyville Pontiacs turn the puck up ice in last Wednesday's AJHL game against the Spruce Grove Saints. The two teams put on a great show, with Bonnyville upsetting the Saints 2 - 1.

Hawks win

Getting their last two points of the regular season phoned in wasn't exactly what the Slave Lake Winterhawks were hoping for. They would have preferred a big crowd on Saturday for the defending league champion Drayton Valley Wildcats, but they'll have to settle for first-place overall and a likely meeting with the Wildcats with more on the line.

Please see Page 20