



Media Release

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY TEAM TO PLAY KENT HAVOC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday April 29th, 2010 – Chatham Civic Centre, Council Chambers

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Kent Havoc Rugby Football Club announced a number of important details regarding the local rugby club, with a premier message of an upcoming rugby match between Belsize Park Rugby Football Club of London, England and the Kent Havoc senior men's team.

Mayor Randy Hope, Rocky Gaudrault of TekSavvy Solution Inc. and Laverne Hanley of the Kent Havoc presented the details of the match and 2010 rugby club initiatives.

Mayor Hope opened the press conference: "On May 5th, at the Chatham-Kent Community Athletic Complex, a rugby match will be played at 8pm between Belsize Park Rugby Football Club of London, England and our very own Kent Havoc Rugby Football Club". Belsize Park was founded in 1871 and is one of the few sustaining clubs that helped define the rules and the spirit of the game of rugby. Mayor Hope commented "This is the first time our local club are playing against international rugby tourists".

Mayor Randy Hope added: "Chatham-Kent is becoming very well known as a sports destination and as a community that knows how to welcome its guests. The Kent Havoc Rugby Club, its supporters and fans have a lot to do with that. We play hard, we respect one another and we have a great time both during and after the game. I know our citizens will give a very warm welcome to the players, officials and fans of the Belsize Park Rugby Football Club. Welcome, and the best of luck to all of you!"

Kent Havoc Rugby Football Club

Laverne Hanley, of the Kent Havoc Rugby Club, read a short greeting from Belsize Park addressed to the Municipality and Kent Havoc. Hanley then went on "This game is on the heels of two very successful mens international rugby games hosted by Chatham-Kent, the local rugby club and many sponsors, supporters, volunteers and spectators. In 2008, the England Counties took the win against the Canada Selects in front of 1300 fans and in 2009 the Argentina Jaguars were victorious in their match with Canada 'A' to the delight of over 1100 spectators."

Hanley added "Both of these teams come from relatively small clubs - Belsize Park is deep in history and can lay claim to defining the game of rugby where Kent Havoc will only be celebrating their tenth anniversary in 2011. This will match will be an international challenge between 'one of the oldest versus one of the youngest'. We strive to raise the bar a litter higher each time to put on quality events that are entertaining and fun for all and I am pleased to announce that George Sims, as Town Crier, will open the event with a municipal proclamation and Jade Lester will once again sing the national anthems."

TekSavvy Kent Cup

Rocky Gaudrault of TekSavvy Solutions Inc. announced "We are once again privileged to host an international sports team in our community. The Kent Havoc have managed to attract Belsize Park to Chatham-Kent, which falls in the middle of their 'Great Lakes Tour'. Belsize Park arrives in North America on April 29th and play in Chicago first, then spend three days in Chatham between May 3rd and May 6th – finally moving on to Toronto for a game against Markham. TekSavvy is proud to continue our sponsorship of the local rugby club and distinguished rugby matches such as this one." The winner will be presented with the new TekSavvy Kent Cup. The cup will be in a similar likeness to those awarded in 2008 and 2009 but will be a more compact version. Rocky noted "We want to respect the importance of this game and recognize the rightful winner, yet we are optimistic and keenly eager that Kent Havoc will host future international professional matches where the traditional TekSavvy Kent Cup can be awarded."

Things get going at the Chatham-Kent Community Athletic Complex on May 5th at 6:30pm with a High School Girls Rugby game between Blenheim and CKSS. The kick off for the Belsize Park versus Kent Havoc will be at 8pm. Food will be provided by Blazin BBQ and the Kent Havoc will have their merchandise for sale. There is no charge for parking or entry to the event but the Kent Havoc ask that you bring a non-perishable food item in support of Outreach for Hunger. This will be the first time the Havoc play under the lights at the complex.

This is the first of several initiatives that the Havoc is involved with in 2010:

- Kent Havoc is leading an effort to bring Special Olympics Soccer back to Chatham-Kent. They are pleased to be ambassadors in this initiative that will provide access to another form of sport & recreation in the Community. The Club is proud that Matt Piatek, a Kent Havoc member, has demonstrated leadership and initiative to develop this new program. Interested athletes (age 18 and up) are invited to attend a registration session at the W.I.S.H. Centre on May 8th from 11 to 1 pm. Practices will begin on Wednesday, June 2nd at the old CCI Field at Victoria Park at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Matt Piatek at piatek10@hotmail.com
- May 17th, from 5:30pm till 9:00pm is the Kent County High School Girls Rugby Fundraising Banquet at Boston Pizza. The Kent Havoc Cup will be awarded to the county champs and the first ever girls high school rugby All Star team will be announced.
- The Kent Havoc Junior Women's team has recently been practicing at CCI on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 6:30pm and 8:30pm. The team will participate in the Southwest Ontario league this summer which gets going after high school exams are over. The league is geared toward young women under the age of 19. For more information contact Kristen Ladd at 519.917.2684 or rugby_girl05@hotmail.com
- The Kent Havoc men's team will be playing in the Limestone Rugby Festival, held Canada Day in Kingston in support of Soldier On. The team leaves on July 1st and returns on July 4th and will play on Friday July 2nd against Napanee and Saturday July 3rd against Brockville and Kingston. The proceeds from this charity rugby tournament will go to support the functional independence of ill or injured Canadian Forces personnel. <http://www.limestonerugby.com/>

For more information on the Kent Havoc Rugby Club visit: www.havocrugby.com

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