

Hockey Pucks to be Shot instead of Cannon Balls in 2012

Once again, participants at this year's annual International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) Conference will place themselves against each other in a test of international collaboration: an ice hockey game of Team IAGLR USA versus Team IAGLR Canada.

In 2011, the game was held as an evening event during the 54th Annual IAGLR Conference, which was held on the shores of Lake Superior, in Duluth, Minnesota, the world's busiest freshwater port. "We were hit by foggy weather that took a bite out of our teams and their equipment that were travelling here by air. But with the conscription of standouts from a local high school team, we managed to keep this tradition alive, and most importantly continue to raise money for the IAGLR Scholarship," says Clarkson University Associate Professor Michael Twiss who has organized these annual events since 2008. Twiss took time before the game to insist that all the high school players go on to university afterwards. The MVP of the 2011 game was Ryan Hladniuk (University of Western Ontario) playing for Team IAGLR Canada, who remarkably placed five goals behind former IAGLR President Matt Simcik.

Players for Team IAGLR USA were Matt Simcik (Univ. Minnesota), Don Uzarski, Neil Shock, Cody Webster, and David Branson (all of Central Michigan University), Henry Quinlan (USFWS), David Hart (Univ. Wisconsin), Tom Holsen (Clarkson Univ.), LCDR Bill Woityra (US Coast Guard), and coach George Bullerjahn (Bowling Green State University). Team IAGLR Canada was coached by Brian Huberty (USFWS) and composed of Ryan Hladniuk (UWO), Mike McKay and Paul Morris (both of BGSU), Andrew Muir (Great Lakes Fishery Commission), and Michael Twiss (Clarkson). Thanks to the high school hockey players pressed into play as well as Ben Oyserman and Nigel D'souza of BGSU who helped collect donations.

"There is indeed some professional rivalry among scientists in these two countries that share the largest source of surface freshwater on Earth," says Twiss. In Cornwall, Ontario, the teams will once again vie for the "Defy Cup," a trophy created from Potsdam Sandstone and Adirondack maple, donated by Clarkson University President Tony Collins. Clarkson University, located in Potsdam, in the northern reaches of New York State, has 87 years of tradition playing collegiate hockey and the Defy Cup befits this initiative. The game will take place at the Besnson Center, 800-7th St W, Cornwall, Ontario on May 15 from 7-8:30 pm.

The IAGLR teams are balanced with the intention of maximizing the skill equality. This means trading players of one nationality to play on the other team. This may seem to defy convention, but international collaboration is not new to these researchers. These two nations have agreed to peacefully share these waters since the War of 1812, and from an environmental view point, the Boundary Water Treaty of 1909 specifically outlines sharing these waters to protect their integrity. With the one hundred year anniversary of the War of 1812 taking place during the IAGLR conference at Cornwall this year, the game will undoubtedly take on some historic bearing.



Figure caption. Survivors of the fourth annual scholarship fund raising Defy Cup hockey challenge game between teams composed of members of the International Association for Great Lakes Research. The 2011 game at the Duluth Heritage Sports Center in Duluth, MN, was hosted by Team IAGLR USA who came up three goals short in a 8-5 final. Since 2008, these tests of hockey skills, international collaboration, cooperation and participation have raised over \$1,000 for students studying the Great Lakes. Photo credit: Nigel D'sousa.

Contact

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