



CPRA ACPL

REACHING EACH AND EVERY ONE

Success Story

Recent game officials clinic participants. We trained women to be officials, help promote women in sports. These are players and some coaches to broaden their skills and understanding of the game. The training was at the Palgrave Park in Caledon, Ontario.

Caledon Cavaliers Rugby Football Club expands its reach

AT THE CALEDON CAVALIERS RUGBY Football Club, four-year-olds gleefully played rugby – carrying a ball that was nearly their size across the field.

The club also welcomed other female players, many of whom discovered their passion for the sport.

These young athletes were able to experience the comradery and friendship associated with team sport, thanks to funding from the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association's Reaching Each and Every One: A Community Sport Intervention program. This program, which was funded by Sport Canada's Community Sport for All Initiative, seeks to remove barriers and increase sport participation rates for equity deserving groups across Canada.



CALEDON CAVALIERS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, ONTARIO

Canada

This project is funded by the Government of Canada



End of the year mini last practice rugby is a game for all ages and we had players from 4 to adults playing various forms. We practice at the turf field.

“This has opened pathways for these young women in the wider community for coaching at the recreation centres, and it also provides them an opportunity to referee for Rugby Ontario which is a paid position. So that’s helped them a lot.”

Mike Iacovelli, president of the Caledon Cavaliers Rugby Football Club

The Caledon Cavaliers Rugby Football Club’s program, Ensuring Access and Equity Through Sports in Caledon, provided members of the greater Caledon community access to sport, through sponsored club memberships, coach training, and transportation support. The program was created for female players aged 13 to 18, as well as low-income families within the community.

“This funding put smiles on so many faces, it’s unbelievable,” says Mike Iacovelli, president of the Caledon Cavaliers Rugby Football Club.

As part of the program, the club partnered with the Caledon Community Services organization to reach low-income families who might be interested in registering their children for rugby.

Iacovelli says this was an eye-opening experience, as he realized that many families face a significant barrier to the registration process.

“It’s not as if little Johnny or little Jane could just go to the field and pay their club fees. Families all need a computer to register; it’s all automated. But of a lot of these families don’t have access to a computer,” he explains.

Members of the club volunteered to bring their laptops and meet with families identified by Caledon Community Services, to walk parents through the process, Iacovelli says. This helped them overcome that initial barrier to registering for sport programs.

In addition, funding allowed the club to offer the rugby program free of charge to these children, which helped overcome another major barrier: cost.

Iacovelli says the funding also helped the club purchase more equipment and significantly expand its female player program.

“We wanted to support women and girls in sport, and encourage that because apart from rugby, there aren’t many contact team sports that girls or women can participate in,” he says. “The funding allowed us to open our doors and provide the support that they typically wouldn’t get anywhere else.”

The program also helped junior female players receive National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) training, and allowed the club to train 10 female and junior players to be referees.

“This has opened pathways for these young women in the wider community for coaching at the recreation centres, and it also provides them an opportunity to referee for Rugby Ontario which is a paid position. So that’s helped them a lot,” Iacovelli says.

Mark McLenaghan, Community Liaison for the rugby club, adds that the program also supported regions outside of Caledon including Brampton, Alliston, Vaughan and Oakville.

Women and girls in those regions were able to participate in this rugby program in their own communities – breaking down barriers to access, and making an impact on their lives.

“Just watching them play, it gave them a sense of belonging,” McLenaghan says. “They went into it not knowing each other, and have emerged as teammates. What we were able to achieve this year would not have been possible without this funding from CPRA.” 🍁