

Aeros give Storm early Christmas gift - September 16, 2014



The Toronto Aeros hockey teams (minor bantam and minor peewee, their parents and coaching staff) stand in front of the collection of donated hockey equipment for the Highland Storm and nearby South Muskoka Bears of Bracebridge on Saturday, Sept. 6 at Camp Northland in Eagle Lake. The collection was part of the team's Pay It Forward campaign that was started a little more than a month ago, as method to teach the players in selflessness. The teams' campaign also prompted a company to donate close to 900 skates, divided for the two hockey associations. The Storm will distribute the skates within the area and to surrounding associations. Photo submitted.

By Darren Lum

The Pay It Forward campaign's other recipient included the South Muskoka Bears of Bracebridge, who also received a similar amount of equipment and hockey skates, numbering more than 400.

After filling his pickup truck with the equipment, MacInnes met with the team's coach Stephen Rain and gave him enough Storm pins to give to each of the Aeros player as a gesture of thanks.

Aeros team trainer Rick Lamanna, who is also the owner of the North Park Cleaners that helped clean everything donated, said his players are learning a valuable lesson in life through this campaign.

"This goes beyond the Xs and Os of everyday hockey skills that we teach the kids," he said. "These are life skills as far as paying it forward and teaching our kids that you have a lot to be thankful for. There's a lot less fortunate kids that don't so it's not all about every year you get new skates, you get new sticks. You're fortunate to have all that."