

MEDIA RELEASE

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Medal Haul for Kelowna Gymnasts

It was another great weekend for the Okanagan Gymnastics Centre. Kelowna gymnasts competed at the home Ogoopogo Invitational competition over the weekend at UBC-O and took home a total of 47 medals. Gymnasts from across BC, Alberta, and Ontario competed at this event.

Top finishers from this event were Alison Hainc, Nicole Pavia, and Hunter Geiger who won the National Open, Provincial 2 Argo and Provincial 1 Argo (1998) categories, respectively.

Hainc, 17, has moved to Kelowna from Surrey for this competitive season to train in Kelowna with coaches Sergei Chelest and Heather Ivanitz. The Ogoopogo Invitational was her final artistic gymnastics competition and will return to Surrey at the end of June when she finishes high school at Rutland Senior Secondary. Hainc has been living with a billet family this year as her family still lives in Surrey. Hainc finished her competitive career with a gold medal in the all around in the National Open category. Hainc took the gold medal on the vault, uneven bars, and floor exercise.

Nicole Pavia, 8, finished with the gold in the Provincial 2 Argo category. Pavia also won the uneven bars and floor exercise and took home a bronze medal on the balance beam. Carissa Sebelius, 9, finished with a bronze medal on the balance beam with team mate Pavia. Sebelius finished fourth in the all around. Emma Morel, 10, took home the silver medal on the uneven bars and finished sixth all around. These girls competed in the largest category of 34 athletes.

Hunter Geiger, 10, won the title of all around champion on the Provincial 1 Argo (1998) category. She also won the uneven bars. This is Geiger's first year of competition.

Emaree Handley, 9, finished with a silver medal in the all around in the Provincial 1 Argo (1999) category. Handley won the balance beam and took a silver medal on the floor exercise. Teammate Brooke Murray, 9, finished with a silver medal on the uneven bars and bronze medal on the balance beam and took fourth in the all around. Hannah Butcher, 9, finished with bronze medals on the uneven bars and floor exercise and took sixth place in the all around.

Muriel Stroda, 8, finished with a second all around in the Provincial 1 Argo (2000-01) category. Stroda won the uneven bars and finished in second place on the balance beam.

Rachel Stone, 12, looked great in the Provincial 4 Tyro category finishing with a silver medal in the all around category behind an athlete from Ontario. Stone won the uneven bars and took a bronze medal on the vault and balance beam.

Alison Watters, 12, also competed in the Provincial 4 Tyro category finishing with silver medal on the uneven bars and a fourth place in the all around.

Emily Crichton, 13, competed in the Provincial 4 Novice category taking second place in the all around also behind an athlete from Ontario. Crichton is the BC Provincial Champion in this division. Crichton took home a gold medal on the balance beam, a silver medal on the uneven bars, and a bronze medal on the vault.

Meghan Fehr, 16, won the silver medal in the all around in the Provincial 4 Open category. Fehr won the balance beam and placed second on the floor exercise and vault.

Adele Lefevre, 10, competed in the Pre-Novice Elite category and finished with a second in the all around. She finished with a gold medal on the uneven bars and floor exercise and a silver medal on the balance beam.

Makinli Handley, 11, finished second all around in the Pre-Novice Aspire category. Handley also finished with silver medals on the vault and balance beam.

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