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## **LAKEFIELD RAGE RIDE PERFECT SEASON TO SENIOR “C” CHAMPIONSHIP WIN**

TORONTO, ON – August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Eleven wins, zero losses. Through 33 periods and 495 minutes of play, the Lakefield Rage completed their sweep of the Ontario Senior “C” Lacrosse League on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> by defeating the Huntsville Hawks 8-4 in the final game to capture the 2021 Nobile Cup.

After suffering defeat in the championship game at the hands of the Six Nations Tomahawks in the 2019 inaugural season, the Lakefield Rage made no mistakes in their first year back on floor after the cancelled 2020 season. In front of well over 100 hometown spectators in attendance at the Lakefield-Smith Arena, and back-stopped by the goaltending duo of Ryan Masters and Marco Celic, the Rage put up 8 goals against the Huntsville Hawks in the championship match to etch their names into the championship trophy. As the final seconds ticked off in the third period, the excitement on the home team’s bench spilled onto the floor and into the goal crease, with players hugging, high-fiving and celebrating their victory.

“This is what we were aiming for,” Derrick Crough told the Peterborough Examiner. Crough founded the team in 2019 and is a cousin of team captain John Crough, the first player to hoist the trophy above his head following the post-game medal presentation.

Although Lakefield remained on top throughout the final, Huntsville did not go down easily. After coming out on top 7-6 in sudden victory overtime against the Toronto Lightning in the league’s afternoon semi-final match, the Hawks managed to put four goals past Masters to keep the final game close and interesting. It was Huntsville’s third game of the day, after having also defeated the North Bay Titans 7-6 that morning in order to meet up with the Toronto Lightning. The strong showing by both teams was celebrated in the championship post-game handshake, where the Lakefield players complimented their Huntsville opponents for their determination, skill and energy throughout the final three periods of the season. “They’re a hell of a team,” said captain Crough. “Every single one of their players goes hard every shift.”

The Senior Series Lacrosse League, competing in the OLA’s Senior “C” Division, put together its four weekend schedule on short notice following the relaxing of provincial restrictions for contact sports on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The first weekend of play, just 8 days later on July 24<sup>th</sup>, kicked off the season in St. Catharines, and the second set of games was hosted the following weekend in Ingersoll. The final two weekends were played out in Lakefield, which combined to total 40 full league games.

“I’m so proud of our teams for organizing and executing a four weekend season start to finish during such a short summer window,” remarked Shelly Nobile, League Commissioner. “Our collective passion for this sport runs through everything we do. On behalf of the league executive, thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly to make the 2021 season happen, and congratulations to the Lakefield Rage on winning the championship. Our league expanded from four teams in 2019 to seven teams in 2021, and we’re already planning for great things for our 2022 season.”