

Tri-County delegates speak up at record-setting annual meet



Notes and Quotes

from the world of sport
 By Denis Gibbons



There's a young man in town they call "The Voice of Acton". To the younger generation he goes by the affectionate title of "Ironside".

He was dubbed "The Voice of Acton" by the many minor sports organizations he has worked for voluntarily, announcing at hockey, baseball, lacrosse and other worthwhile events. He's used his gift of a strong, clear voice to help youngsters play minor sports, even though he can't use his legs to full capacity as they can, because of a handicap he's had since childhood.

In 1968 Ron McKnight graduated from the Rotary Club's Variety Village for handicapped children in Scarborough and returned to Acton determined to repay those who had in some way lent him support and encouragement during his childhood of curtailed activity and to become a useful and self-supporting citizen.

In the last three years he's given his time and talents to minor sports in Acton to a degree surpassed by few. Saturday night at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner honoring Citizen of the Year Ted Tyler Sr., Ron was presented with a special award for his outstanding contribution to minor sports.

What exactly has Ron McKnight done for minor sports in Acton?

A look at a typical mid-winter week of medium activity for Ron will tell you:

Tuesday night—He's fulfilling his duties as secretary of the Acton Rotary Club at the club's weekly meeting.

Thursday night—He's doing his usual capable job as statistician and convener for the Thursday night pee-wee juvenile Tri-County hockey doubleheader.

Friday night—8 p.m.—Off to the community centre he goes again to look after the timekeeper statistician job for the Friday night Tanner hockey game.

Saturday morning—7 a.m.—Legion Minor Hockey Chairman Kerwin McPhail is calling to take him to the community centre for the regular six hour program of Saturday morning house league hockey.

1 p.m.—Scoresheets for the six house league games all filled out in a neat and tidy fashion, Ron is still sitting in the timekeeper's box munching on a hot dog before the start of the Saturday afternoon Tri-County minor hockey tripleheader.

4.30 p.m.—The final buzzer has sounded in the bantam game, last of three Tri-County contests. Acton fortunes have not been good. After nine hours of confinement in the timekeeper's box, Ron emerges looking forward to a quiet night at home beside the TV. But wait, Acton Minor Baseball Association is holding a fund raising dance tonight. He promised over a month ago to sell tickets. Without funds raised at the dance, there might not be any minor baseball next summer. Can't have that. He grabs a snack and waits for a lift to Legion.

2 a.m.—Attendance at the dance is good, tickets sell well. There'll be minor baseball next summer. Ron winds up his 19 hour day of contribution to minor sports.

Sunday—12 noon—There's another knock at the side door of the McKnight home. It's novice coach Barry Incoe. His team has a Tri-County league game at the community centre at 12.40. Ron is off again to handle the timekeeping duties for his 12th game this week.

1.30—The Tri-County Minor Hockey Association is holding its monthly meeting in Milton. The Acton rep is unable to attend. There could be some important decisions made that affect Acton. The Bruins and Canadiens are playing on TV, but Ron knows TV bugs have never had time to help with a trivial thing like minor sports. Off he goes to Milton, up the steep staircase to the third floor of the Milton Legion to represent Acton.

6 p.m.—President Bill Rowney raps the gavel for the last time in the afternoon. He's had to do it many times to silence outbursts. It's been a long meeting. Tempers have flared on occasion and all delegates are generally exhausted. Ron is speaking to one of them on the way out. "Just two more games to do this week," he says. He's referring to the Sunday night industrial hockey doubleheader back in Acton.

7.20 p.m.—The puck is dropped to start the first game. And there's Ron McKnight back in the timekeeper's box, pen in one hand, the last portion of a hamburger he picked up on the way back from Milton in the other.

10.30 p.m.—The second game is finished. The score 13-9. All scoring plays are listed on the scoresheet, but the column for individual scoring total is still blank. Another 20 minutes out of a 10 1/2 hour Sunday won't hurt, he thinks. Have to have the totals down on paper for the Free Press, whose reporter is still panting and puffing after his short stints on the ice in the first game.

And that folks is a week of medium activity. Nothing compared to the weeks that include the Legion pee-wee tournament, the 4-town tournament, the Acton Figure Skating Club carnival and O.M.H.A. playoff games.

We haven't bothered to mention Monday and Wednesday nights, when spur of the moment Chamber of Commerce, Tri-County or Junior lacrosse meetings may be called or the efficient day in day out job Ron does in Acton's Municipal Offices. He's an executive member of the Chamber, president of the local Tri-County hockey and secretary of the Ram lacrosse club. Recently, he was named secretary of the Acton junior hockey club, which hopes to start play next season.

Indeed a schedule staggering enough for an able-bodied person. But desire can overcome all obstacles and "Desire" is Ron McKnight's middle name.

Congratulations Ron, keep up the good work, and congratulations Chamber of Commerce on presentation of a well-deserved award.

Tri-County banquet set for Sat. May 8

Closing banquet and trophy presentation for the Acton Tri-County Minor Hockey Association will be held in the community centre, Saturday, May 8 at 6.30 p.m.

The Association's annual meeting and election of officers is slated for Sunday May 30.

Referees for all midget and juvenile Tri-County league games will be appointed next season, as a result of a proposal approved by a majority of delegates at the annual meeting of the Tri-County Minor Hockey Association in the Milton Legion Sunday afternoon.

A second proposal, submitted by the Acton Minor Hockey Association, that an average mileage between all 11 Tri-County towns be figured out and

that appointed referees be paid a set rate, was defeated by a narrow margin. Later in the meeting, delegates approved a Georgetown Minor Hockey proposal that a list of referees be drawn up and issued to all towns, along with a list of referees so that there will be no disputes over fees for referees travelling from other towns.

Record attendance
 Sunday's meeting set records for both time and attendance.

Well over 100 delegates and visitors from all 11 towns took over four hours to discuss and vote on proposals and elect a new executive for the 1971-72 season.

Bill Rowney of Milton was acclaimed president for a second term. Don Hargreaves of Burlington was acclaimed first vice-president for a second term, while Herb Robinson of Georgetown and Vern Gowing of Preston were returned unopposed to their positions of

secretary and treasurer respectively.

In the only two elections necessary, Hespeler's Erwin Nelson upset the sitting second vice-president Lloyd Mabey of Guelph, a longtime Tri-County member and Denis Gibbons of Acton lost out in a bid for a second term as third vice-president, bowing to Brampton's Ken Russell in a three way race. Al Smith of Chinguacousy also stood for the office.

Controversy arises

One of the most controversial amendments, one requiring all teams to meet all group schedule commitments during the period from the conclusion of the O.M.H.A. qualifying round until they are required by the O.M.H.A. secretary-manager for provincial playdowns carried, but an Oakville Minor Hockey proposal asking that qualifying round winners be awarded the Tri-County championship trophies and eliminated teams enter a Tri-County tournament and play for appropriate trophies was defeated.

Delegates from triple "A" towns approved an Oakville Minor Hockey proposal that triple "A" towns be allowed to use

first year players only on their second or minor teams. Oakville rep Phil Bennett explained the purpose of the proposal was to ensure more first year players have the chance to play Tri-County hockey and also that Triple "A" population towns do not overrun the league.

Defeat proposal

Georgetown Minor Hockey proposals that leading scorer trophies be abolished and that O.M.H.A. regulations be changed so that all O.M.H.A. midget and juvenile playoff games are officiated by a referee and two linemen instead of two referees, were both defeated.

Tri-County convener Jim Kinkley and life member Bill Burrell, both officers of the O.M.H.A. conducted the election of officers. O.M.H.A. executive member Elmer McFadden of Woodbridge, a guest at the meeting, counted the ballots.

Representing Acton at the meeting were Tri-County rep. Fred Buchanan, president Ron McKnight, novice manager Don Van Fleet, pee wee coach Don Legate, pee wee manager Charley Harrison, bantam coach Harold Townsley, midget coach Jim James and juvenile manager Carl Timbers.



MILTON'S BILL ROWNEY was acclaimed president of the Tri-County Minor Hockey Association for a second term at the association's annual meeting in the Milton Legion, Sunday afternoon. Pictured following the election of officers are front row l. to r., a newly-elected 2nd vice-president Erwin Nelson of Hespeler, President Bill Rowney, 1st vice-president Don Hargreaves of Burlington and treasurer Vern Gowing of Preston. Back row l. to r. are convener Jim Kinkley of Etobicoke, life member Fred Hammond of Oakville, immediate past president Don Jarvie of Georgetown, life member Bill Burrell of Malton, newly-elected 3rd vice-president Ken Russell of Brampton and secretary Herb Robinson of Georgetown. Attendance at the annual meeting set an all time record. The meeting lasted over four hours. —(Staff Photo).

OUR READERS WRITE:

Sports Editor,
 Acton Free Press,

Dear Sir:

Having just read your sports section, I feel compelled to write to you as a Hockey Mother.

The Legion Minor Hockey League had their annual banquet, last Saturday. It is wonderful that they have this to bring the boys of all ages together, have fun, food and then hand out the "Glitterware" — trophies.

Last year, as I understand it, there was a ruling put into effect to try to bring the House League and Tri-County Hockey into a more workable arrangement, as far as the boys are concerned. This being, that all boys at the beginning of the season must 'try-out' for the Tri-County team. The coaches and managers of the Tri-County work with these boys for three or four weeks maybe longer to separate the "players" from the "All-stars". They have until December 31, I think to make their decision as to who is going to be on their team and who will be playing House league.

It was my understanding that if a boy "makes" Tri-County, but decides he would rather play house league, if he were bantam say, in his last year, in order to play house league he must "move up" to midget so as not "to be a star" on the house league team. I think this is a good ruling.

A lot of thought, time, talk and an interest in the boys goes into making up rules and

regulations to go by. There are a lot of men, coaches, managers, fathers, bachelors, referees, executive members, etc., who have their "get-together" to hash out the problems of running hockey in our town. They are doing a good job, I think, to bring hockey into the right perspective, but what does it take to "crack" the executive and make them stand by the rules they make.

There were boys this year, who "made" the Tri-County team, but decided, I guess on their own, that they preferred to play town league. But did they "move up" as they should have done? No, they did not. They stayed in their own age group and played on their regular team. They were not told you have to "move up", if you want to play house league. The result being, they, some of these boys, were the stars on their team.

Now don't get me wrong. There are stars on every team. There is also a first line, second line and third line, each with their own part to play on the team. A boy on the third line is just as important to his team, as one of the first line is, as far as I'm concerned. I'm only an interested mother, with a boy who plays hockey. I enjoy hockey. I wouldn't miss a game he's playing. I'm one of his fans.

In conclusion, Mr. Sports Editor, may I say you are doing a fine job on your paper. Sports is well presented. The pictures are good, you have some fine photographers working on your paper. Keep up the good work and just sign me.

An Interested Hockey Mother.

Tri-County girls Schedule

Six teams, Moffat, Rockwood, Glen Williams, Belwood, Hillsburgh and Ponsonby have entered the Tri-County Minor Softball Association's division for girls 12 and under.

Parks notes

At their regular monthly meeting Tuesday, April 20, Acton Parks and Recreation Committee:

—Received a letter from the recently formed Acton Junior "C" hockey team executive, informing them they will be interested in renting ice time next winter. The letter mentioned Thursday night as a night the team might prefer for home games.

—Authorized the purchase of an air-conditioner for the arena booth at a price not to exceed \$350.

A complete schedule of games follows:

TRI-COUNTY MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOC.

1971 Schedule
 Division: 12 and under Girls
 Convener: George Smith

- May 19—Ponsonby at Moffat; Hillsburgh at Glen Williams.
- May 22—Belwood at Rockwood
- May 23—Moffat at Hillsburgh
- May 25—Rockwood at Ponsonby
- May 27—Glen Williams at Belwood
- May 29—Moffat at Rockwood
- June 1—Glen Williams at Ponsonby
- June 3—Hillsburgh at Belwood
- June 9—Belwood at Moffat; Rockwood at Glen Williams.

- June 12—Ponsonby at Hillsburgh
- June 16—Moffat at Glen Williams
- June 17—Ponsonby at Belwood
- June 19—Hillsburgh at Rockwood
- June 22—Moffat at Ponsonby
- June 24—Rockwood at Belwood
- June 26—Ponsonby at Rockwood
- June 27—Glen Williams at Hillsburgh
- June 30—Hillsburgh at Moffat; Belwood at Glen Williams.
- July 3—Belwood at Hillsburgh
- July 7—Rockwood at Moffat; Ponsonby at Glen Williams
- July 10—Glen Williams at Rockwood
- July 13—Hillsburgh at Ponsonby
- July 15—Moffat at Belwood
- July 17—Hillsburgh at Rockwood
- July 20—Belwood at Ponsonby
- July 21—Glen Williams at Moffat.

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Hillsburgh champs

Hillsburgh intermediates have been awarded the Ontario Rural Hockey Association Intermediate "D" championship. The O.H.A.A. disqualified Erieau, the team that had beaten the burgers in the finals, for using illegal players.

The teams split the first two games of the best of five series. In the third game in Blenheim Erieau iced almost a completely new team, which aroused suspicions on the part of Hillsburgh officials.

Erieau won the game and the fourth, but Hillsburgh protested the third game. Last week the protest was upheld.

Durham down

Durham Huskies dropped the first two games of the O.H.A. Intermediate "B" finals to Napanee on the weekend, 7-2 and 4-3. Both games were played in Napanee.

Third and fourth games are slated for Durham Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Both teams polished off their semifinal opponents in straight games. Durham ousted Strathroy and Napanee sidelined Preston.

Seaforth champions

Seaforth Beavers eliminated Cheltenham Harvesters four games to one, to capture the O.H.A. Intermediate "C" championship. Beavers have won provincial titles four times in the last seven years.

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