Legion hockey workers maintain interest and dedication to cause

by Denis Gibbons

It's been a day or two since lifesavers like Vic Masters and Gordie James put their backs into heavy snow-laden steel scrapers and circled the Acton arena ice surface soaking up the half foot of water temporarily separating anxious youngsters from their beloved game of

More than 20 years and 4000 games later, the problems of operating a minor hockey program are slightly different, but the interest and dedication shown by the Acton Legion Minor Hockey Association contributing towards important part of the town's recreation has not changed.

What started out as a conversation around once an old wood stove has developed into Acton's largest single recreational been particularly faithful in organization, supplying hockey providing facilities for fundfor 300 boys on 22 teams. There raising dances and registrations were 10 teams from the novice to and catering for banquets and bantam age brackets and about tournament lunches.

150 boys when the organization was first formed in 1952.

Legion minor hockey now occupies 10 hours of ice time every Saturday morning beginning at 7 and another hour on Sunday. Atom and midget age groups were added to the program five years ago and last year was the first that any group had as many as six teams.

Cooperation

"We actually have a very loosely-operated organization," says Gordie James, one of the founders." We don't even have minutes of meetings, but it works. We've been able to get the help and cooperation of many groups and individuals whenever we needed it."

The local Branch 197 and the Legion Ladies Auxiliary have

Kerwin McPhail now chairs the minor hockey committee, which has been made up of countless volunteers over the 20 year

Herb Woods, Herb Cook, Mike Bennett, Vic and Lorne Masters and George "Shorty Hollinger were members of the original committee. Bill Buchanan, Gord Cunningham, Dude Lindsay, Ted Pope and George Cooper and the ever popular Charlie Thomson served in later years.

On the present committee along with Kerwin are, Bob Louttet, Gord McCutcheon, Ivan Kilby, Alan Hall, Ab Irwin and John Toebes.

Fixture

John Toebes has become a Saturday morning fixture at the arcna, the same as Charlie Thomson was before his death last year. John makes sure games are started on time, referees are available and statistical reports of games get to

the peewee McPhall, Ab Irwin, Ivan Kilby and Gordie

the Free Press office. "Without John we could be in real trouble on a Saturday morning," chairman Kerwin counterparts from Georgetown,

the novice, peewee, bantam and

midget house leagues compete

once a year against their

Streetsville and Orangeville. This

year's tournament will take place

in Orangeville's brand new

community centre, Saturday,

In the organization's infant

Nights", held annually in the

arena were the sole source of

revenue. Complete with minor

hockey games, figure skating,

comical broomball contests

between local service clubs and

clowns, "Booster Nights" were

Firefighters battled Bay

Ridges to a 2-2 tie in the morning

game, but dropped the second

Ricky Holmes, one of the

team's five "mighty mites"

scored the first Acton goal in

Friday morning's game. Steve Buchanan netted the second on a

Acton led 2-0 going into the third period, before Chris Papatheodoran and Terry White scored for Bay Ridges. Robin

Inscoe was outstanding in the

Acton nets throughout the game.

Another "mighty mite", Freddie Allen alertly guided a

pass past the Bay Ridges goalie

pass from John McCutcheon.

contest in the afternoon 6-1.

McPhail admits. A plaque donated by the group in Charlie's memory now goes annually to persons making outstanding recreational contributions in town.

years the popular "Booster Also assisting as convenors for the first time this year were Clarence Hill (novice), Bruce Sears (peewee), Harry Ensing (bantam) and Gary McEachern (midget). Mrs. Dave McKnight and Ellie Toebes helped compile statistics and Ron McKnight showed up faithfully to look after an entertainment bargain. time-keeping duties.

crest and refreshments on the Day of Champions.

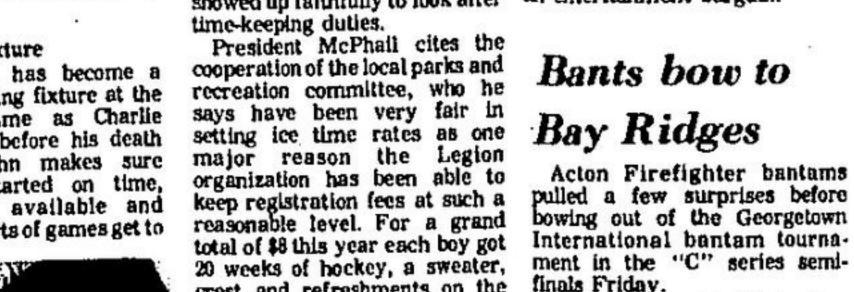
Rural lads

have attracted several district families, who previously took their boys to Milton, Georgetown or Guelph to play minor hockey. Registration figures this year showed that 40 percent of the 330 the town of Acton.

A monthly lottery conducted the local Branch, dances and the

The tournament, which was staged on the final weekend of February for the fourth consecutive year recently is one of the few in Ontario that offer house league players a chance to play out of town for a day. It has become on of the highlights of Acton's winter sports program.

The 4-town tournament, which



The comparatively low fees boys signed were from outside

annual peewee house league tournament are the association's major sources of revenue. The group's operating costs last year were close to \$7000.

4-town tourney

has been running annually since the early '50s has also been an important sidelight of Legion minor hockey. Select teams from



tournament are l. to r., Chairman Kerwin James.

JOHN Toebes checks dressing room designations. (D. Gibbons photo)

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(D. Gibbons photo)



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Standard Products spiel at Acton curling club

By Bob MacArthur Saturday was "Standard

Products Day" at Acton Curling

The sizeable plant in Georgetown makes auot parts and is just one of the Canadian branches. Other plants are at Stratford and Windsor. The Stratford and Georgetown plant took part in the bonspiel.

A full 16 teams lined up for the two games with some teams from each plant and other teams as combinations of both plants. The winning team was skipped

by Les Cook with his wife Jean. They come from Stratford. The other part of the winning combination

Georgetown, Bill and Norma The Stratford players chartered

Walter Najorsen, president of

a bus for the ride to Acton. Supper was served the curlers the Canadian operations, took and all partock of the dance that part and presented the trophy.

Orangeville ousts A-Bs

Wellington league ousted Acton A-Bs from the league playoffs in three straight games, wrapping up the series with a 3-1 win in Orangeville last Wednesday

Gary Lumbers scored the Acton goal on a pass from Todd Cook in the first period.

Orangeville novices, first place Orangeville bounced back to finishers in the Waterloo- score twice in the second period and once in the third.

"It was won of our better efforts against Orangeville. We outshot them, but couldn't connect on enough changes," manager Del Cook reported.

Orangeville won the first two games of the series 6-0 and 3-0.

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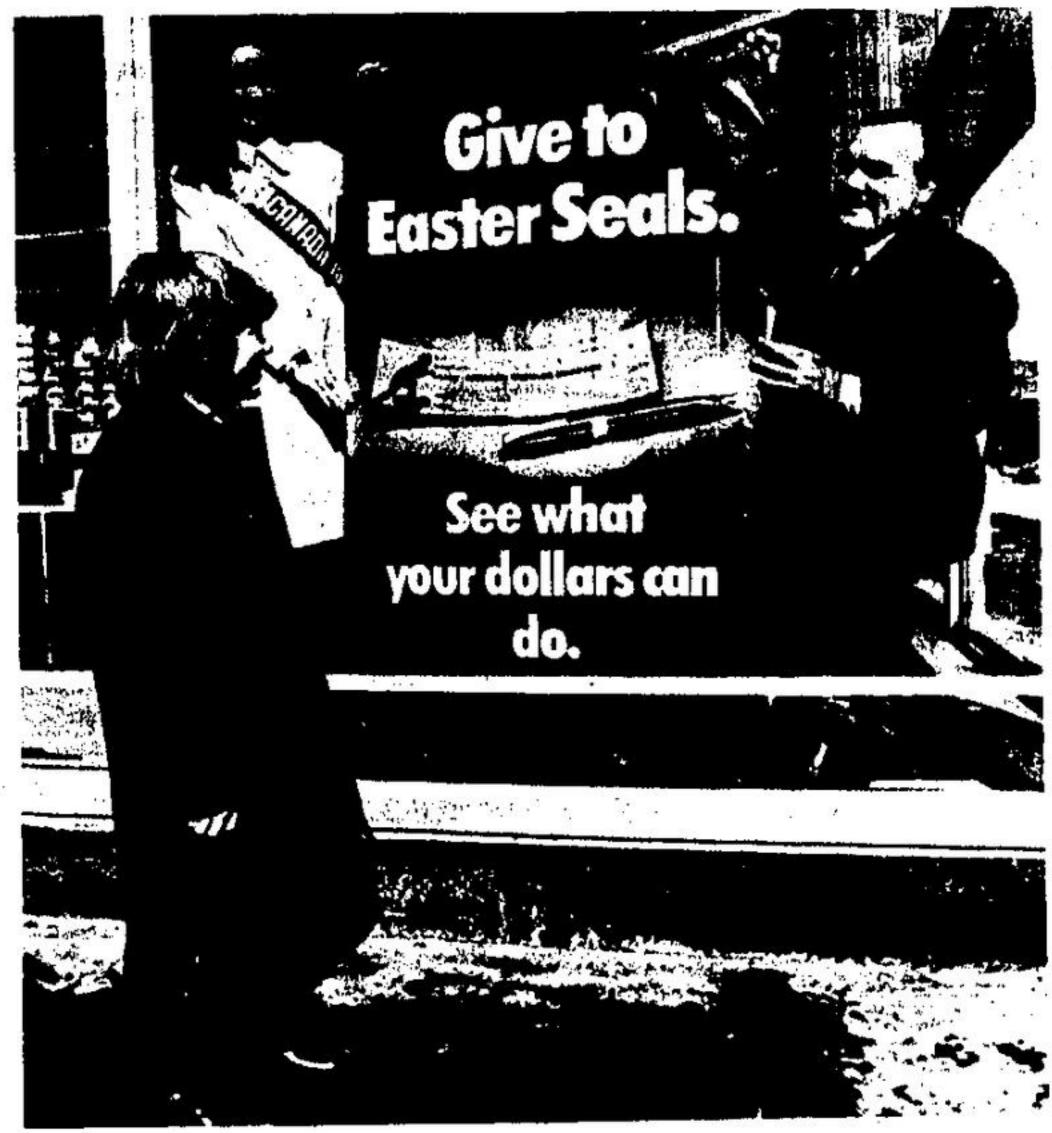
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