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Community Day conclusion

Rec. department should co-ordinate leave programming to community



Jock Tock

By John Bottomley

This job is nice, but sometimes it can be more trying than others. This is one of those times. There is no more hockey; baseball, lacrosse, soccer, tennis and all the other nice summertime sports have not yet really started, and there is an awkward hole in the sporting seasons.

Still, the paper must be produced, and sports stories must be written. The lack of sports activities makes this a bit of a problem.

In fact, I spend more time trying to think of things to write about than actually doing the writing. This is quite a change from hockey season, when absolutely no thought is required, and very little expended. I know that on Tuesday evening enough people will come in with score sheets to fill up my pages, and consequently I don't worry.

Now, however, I am forced to go to great lengths to fill my pages. This column is one of those lengths. I would like to suggest some sports activities which could be run during this in between season to make my job a little easier.

Co-ed competitive house cleaning is one possibility which rises immediately to mind. Winners could be judged on the volume of junk removed, pro-rated on the basis of house size and length of time available to accumulate the jetsam. People who have been married longer, and keeping house longer, naturally have an advantage over newlyweds, who have scarcely had time to furnish a house, much less fill it to the eaves with souvenirs and last year's fashions.

For those with an artistic bent, style and variety of junk could count for points, but I think this might be going a bit too far.

Water treading marathons could also be investigated, with the prize going to whoever stays in the water longest with the stipulation that no prizes be awarded posthumously. Winners must still be capable of enough motion to accept their trophies, which could consist of polar bear shivering next to a blazing fire.

Early suntanning contests could be initiated, with all Florida vacationers barred from competition.

If none of these new sports appeal to anybody in the Acton sports universe, then maybe we could work out a rearrangement of the schedules, to make overlapping seasons. Industrial hockey, for instance, could run regular season games until the ice was out of the arena, then switch to ball hockey on the wet and very dangerous floor for their play-offs.

Baseball could always be moved up some, to give Acton a starting date approximately coincident with the opening games of the National and American leagues. Batting helmets and warm toques would be required safety equipment for the first month of play.

These suggestions might not seem too appetizing to many people, but they certainly improve when you compare the alternative, which consists of columns like this one, which would never see the light of day if space did not need to be filled. Think about it and avoid further such literary explorations by giving me some sports to cover.

Halton Hills recreation department should not be involved in programming, but serve as a co-ordinator for community groups organizing recreation programs, in the opinion of 44 representatives of community organizations who attended the department's Community Information Day at Cedarvale community centre in Georgetown Saturday.

Most of those attending were from Georgetown. Acton recreation co-ordinator Karen King was disappointed that more people from Acton did not attend.

Presently, the department offers more than 20 programs ranging from physical fitness classes, to summer playground for children and a 10 week dance program. Some of the programs are similar to those already being offered by organizations like the YM-YWCA and private groups like the Way-Jay Club.

Representatives met in five groups in the morning to assess the strengths of the community's program providers, libraries, Boards of education, churches, conservation businesses, community groups, service clubs and the recreation department.

Recreation director Glen Gray summed up the feelings of the five groups, who were led in discussion by facilitators, John Kavanagh, John Roe, Gretchen Day, Mary McEwen and Ron Jeffrey. The consensus was that the recreation department should serve in providing resources, planning and facilities and play its major role as a coordinator.

Libraries' strengths were listed as resources and facilities, boards of education - facilities, churches - facilities, conservation authorities - planning and facilities, the Ys - resources and programming and in a small way, planning, private commercial businesses - planning, programming and service clubs - resources and, in a small way, facilities.

Gray said the YM-YWCAs



A TOTAL OF 44 reps of recreation groups in interested citizens showed up for Community Information Day at Cedarvale, Saturday. Expressing their views are l. to r., Renate Euteneier of Parents Without Partners, Marion

can play a big role in resources because of their huge volunteer corps.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson pointed out one exception to the feeling that the recreation department should not be involved in programming. If a program were not being offered by any other group in town, she said, the recreation department could initiate it, then let the participants take it over, later. Barb Heller, who attended as a representative of the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration, had a slightly different view. She said the recreation department should first turn to the community groups and urge them to offer the specific program.

Gray also reported that some reps feel a need for a recreation advisory committee which may or may not look like the present committee. Ralph Ursel, representing the Halton Hills Arts Council, suggested that service clubs be allowed representation on the advisory committee.

The recreation director

said reps felt the arrangement which allows the community to use school facilities through the boards of education, should be pursued, even if it means helping absorb increased operating costs of keeping the schools open after hours.

Morning discussion also revealed that it's likely more

Hunter of the Ashgrove Women's Institute, John Day, newest member of Georgetown's recreation advisory committee and Bryan Lewis, president of the Georgetown Industrial Football League.

than 50 per cent of the area population has been living here for less than 10 years. Some reps suggested that there is not much activity available for the teen and senior citizen age groups. Others felt that the recreation department should make a better effort to make the public aware of what's going

on in town. The department already circulates a supplement to local newspapers twice a year.

An important question raised was "What can be done to firm up the political view of a recreation department and give it credibility?" Almost everyone agreed that community groups (e.g. the

minor hockey associations, Little Theatre) should be looking after a good deal of the programming.

"The three key words that came out of the discussions," said Gray "were communication, co-ordination and community development."

Julie Dowdle, representing Maple Nursery School, complained that children under the age of 5 are being ignored. She suggested a wading pool and a properly co-ordinated playground be constructed for them.

Gray pointed out that the problem with Halton Hills parks is that they're not properly developed, for example, to suit a need like a playground. He said the town's master plan for parks and recreation, currently being worked on, is addressing itself to that problem.

He also pointed out that there are a large number of backyard pools, particularly in Ward 4, and the question of whether or not money should be spent on a wading pool arises. National statistics show that half the people in Canada are spending their holidays at home, he said.

Mrs. Dowdle said a Canada Works grant can be obtained to assist with the construction of adventure playgrounds for children.

Doug Brownlee, president

of the Georgetown and District Minor Hockey Association, asked for an update on the situation in Hungry Hollow where land has been fenced in on both sides of the Ninth Line. He noted that there were Halton Hills councillors present.

Gray admitted it doesn't sit well with him to see the area fenced in, but said it is privately-owned land and the owner has the right to fence it. Neither Councillors Serjeantson nor Pete Pomeroy, both present at the time, commented.

Norm Cornwell of the Halton Off-Road Riders said people should be aware that a landowner can be held legally responsible for any injury suffered by persons while they're on private property.

"I think you'll find that his reasons are almost purely political," Brownlee replied.

Councillor Pomeroy asked about what continuity would be applied to the Community Information Day and Gray replied that each of the reps who attended will receive a personal phone call for their comments within the next little while.

Pomeroy suggested that the groups get back together again in the fall and Gray assured him that, "If that's what comes across in the phone calls, we want it, too."

Local runner to enter championship marathon

Glen McKenzie's major goal is to finish the race when he runs in the 26 mile Capital Marathon May 14.

"It's my first marathon, and I'm just looking to finish," he told the Free Press.

The winner of the race, held in Ottawa, is regarded as the Canadian champion, and the two top finishers go to the British Commonwealth games.

McKenzie runs for the

Scarboro Optimists, and his usual distance is a half mile to a mile. "Most marathon runners run 130-140 miles a week. I do about 60-70 and it's plenty for me."

He is not sure how he will be going, and is trying to drum up some interest among local people to go to the race. If enough people are interested, he might rent a van and share driving duties.

McKenzie is also not sure where he will stay before the

race. "I have a sister in Kingston, and I might stay there Saturday night, or I might drive through and check into a hotel."

Whatever he does, the money is coming out of his own pocket. The Optimists are paying only his entry fee, and leaving the expenses to him. "If I had run a marathon before, say in 2 1/2 hours, they would probably send me," he said.

If McKenzie, as a first time marathon runner, does win the event, he will be following a precedent already set. Last year's winner, Mike Dyon, was running his first marathon when he took the title. He will be running again this year, according to McKenzie.

One famous Canadian marathon runner might not be in the race. Jerome Drayton, who garnered international recognition when he won the Boston marathon two years ago, has dropped out of two recent races, and might not be entered in this one. According to McKenzie,

Pair fall in bird meet

Shirley Ancker and Lisa Near made a good run at it but were stopped last Thursday in the Peel-Halton badminton finals after losses to Clairmont and Oakville-Trafalgar.

They fell in their first game of the day to two sisters from Clairmont, "big girls" according to team coach Joan Morris. The loss sent them into the consolation rounds, where they won their first game by a solid 21-8 margin over Cawley Park before bowing 21-6 to Oakville-Trafalgar.

The Oakville-Trafalgar pair took top honors in the Halton finals, and finished second to Gordon Grey High School in the Peel-Halton. Both schools will go onto the OFSAA finals in Sudbury.

"They played well all throughout," said Mrs. Morris of Near and Ancker.

Boxla Srs. nix league, may play in industrial loop

Ontario Lacrosse Association officials have been unable to present Acton with a suitable deal for joining a senior lacrosse league, so local players may wind up playing in an industrial league against a few other nearby cities, according to Howard Dwyer.

Dwyer has been a force in local lacrosse since its inception, and is one of the prime movers behind the push for a senior team.

"Basically, the league wants a lot of money, for entry and bond," said Dwyer. The entry fee would allow them to play against other

teams considering joining the league, which at present consists of only Orangeville. These other teams come from as far away as Cornwall and Windsor, and Dwyer feels the travel time would be too much just to play lacrosse.

He added that some of the teams considering joining the league were playing for fun, while others were seriously competitive. The Acton team were one of those looking for recreation, and Dwyer believes that putting a team like that against a serious team does not make sense.

Playing in the senior league would have given Acton the opportunity to play for the Canadian championship. As it

Ladies' tryouts slow

Sunday morning's first tryout for the Acton entry into the Halton Ladies' softball league saw eight players turn out at Prospect Park.

Manager Ed Wood said he was not disappointed by the small number, saying he figured the time of the tryout, 9 a.m. Sunday morning, was too early for most.

The ladies who showed up were interested in competitive ball instead of recreational play, he said. A couple of them have played before in the Halton Ladies' League, and have to get re-



WINNING bowling team Olympia Drive-In, at Saturday night's Industrial-Commercial banquet are from left to right, Bruce Shultis,

Dan McGilloway, Bob Lowin, Larry DeForest, team captain, Dee DeForest, Shorty Lowin, Wayne DeForest.

Merchants' schedule

- May 14: Acton Merchants at Way Jay Sportsmen (8.30,C)
- May 18: Harley Motors at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- May 24: Acton Merchants at Fobert's Flyers (8.30,C)
- May 25: Way Jay Sportsmen at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- May 28: Acton Merchants at Fort-a-mix (6.30,C)
- May 30: Acton Merchants at Hornby Farmer Jacks Jrs. (8.30,H)
- June 1: Yankees at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- June 4: Hornby Farmer Jacks Jrs. at Acton Merchants (6.30,B)
- June 8: Peel Regional Police at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- June 11: Acton Merchants at Royal Trust Company (6.30,C)
- June 12: Acton Merchants at Rexway Towing (8.30,C)
- June 15: Yankees at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- June 21: Acton Merchants at Royal Trust Company (6.30,C)
- June 22: Way Jay Sportsmen at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- June 25: Limehouse at Acton Merchants (3.30,C)
- June 29: Fobert's Flyers at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- July 5: Acton Merchants at Harley Motors (6.30,B)
- July 6: Rexway Towing at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- July 10: Royal Trust Company at Acton Merchants (6.30,B)
- July 13: Glen Williams at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- July 18: Acton Merchants at Hornby Farmer Jacks Jrs. (8.30,H)
- July 20: Limehouse at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- July 24: Acton Merchants at Glen Williams (6.30,B)
- July 25: July Acton Merchants at Fort-a-mix (6.30,H)
- July 27: Fort-a-mix at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- July 31: Acton Merchants at Fobert's Flyers (6.30,B)
- August 3: Peel Regional Police at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- August 6: Acton Merchants at Glen Williams (8.30,B)
- August 8: Acton Merchants at Limehouse (6.30,H)
- August 10: Harley Motors at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- August 16: Acton Merchants at Peel Regional Police (8.30,C)
- August 17: Rexway Towing at Acton Merchants (8.30,A)
- August 24: Acton Merchants at Yankees (8.30,A)

Last named team is home team. "A" is Acton Fairgrounds, "B" is Georgetown Fairgrounds B diamond, "C" is Georgetown Fairgrounds C diamond, "H" is Hornby Park, "G" is Glen Williams park.