

# Go-Kart racing is sport for many

by Jennifer Rowe  
The revving of engines, squealing tires, the excitement of the crowds and the thrill of victory. You don't have to go to the Indianapolis 500 to get it. Every Saturday evening people gather at the North Halton Go-Kart track in Limehouse, on the Fifth Line, one mile North of Maple Avenue, to experience it.

Go-Karts fans, some to watch, others to try out their machine, from the Georgetown, Acton and Milton area, as well as those from as far as North Bay, Belleville, Windsor and Hamilton come to what club executive calls, "the nicest, most attractive, track in Ontario."

Go-Karts are traditionally thought of by uninformed people as something which are made in the backyard. Director and past-president George Kennedy said he's seen many changes in Go-Karts through the years. "Go-Karts are not a backyard hobby. They are sophisticated, intricate machines which require expert handling and care," he said.

Started in 1956 the North Halton Go-Kart club is completely self-supporting. Money for maintenance of the track, improvements and trophies are all generated through entry fees for the race. The track, which is now almost quarter-mile length, was built by members of the club. President Glen Bonham said manual labour by club members was responsible for the clearing of the land and preparing for the asphalt track. Since then members have put in lights, added a hairpin turn and improved the safety procedures around the track. Hay bales cover tree trunks and St. John Ambulance is present at every race.

The land is leased by the club on a yearly basis. Mr. Bonham said the club has had problems in the past with noise complaints from nearby homes. "This year we have enforced a new type of exhaust system regulation. This new exhaust is much quieter and to date we haven't had any complaints. We don't want complaints



Revving up the engine for the big race. Driver and pit crew do a last minute check.

because we don't want to lose our track," he said.

Go-Kart racing popularity comes and goes, according to the president. It is run on a much bigger scale with more interest in the United States and even bigger in Europe. Although the equipment has gone increasingly expensive it is still the cheapest form of racing around.

The cars weigh approximately 150 to 200 pounds and reach speeds of 50 to 60 miles per hour. When competing in a race the categories are decided by the weight of the kart, the driver's weight and the age of the driver. There is a minimum weight limit in each division which drivers must adhere to in order to qualify. The drivers and the karts are weighed after the race is completed.

Minimum age for drivers is eight years old and is open for both male and female.

Contrary to popular

belief, Go-Kart racing is very safe under controlled conditions, Mr. Bonham said. "We had some bad publicity a couple of years ago when two children broke in and stole two rental carts and drove them on the road. A collision resulted in one of the children's death. However under controlled conditions with the proper equipment the sport is safe," he said.

In the past ten years the North-Halton track has had four drivers sent to hospital. The incident with the children is the only one resulting in death said the president. Rental cars are no longer available at the track!

Many of the karts, ranging in price from \$600 for a used vehicle to \$1600 new, are made in the United States or in Europe. The track has seen a few homemade karts, however they are costly to build and often difficult to handle compared to the manufactured ones.

Before a race the karts

are inspected. They must meet certain standards both to compete in the category and also for safety reasons. The engines are all inspected prior to the race.

The Saturday night races draw an average of 40 karts. "This year we found that many of those with the ambition to race, motorcycle and stock car drivers, are turning to Go-Karts as a less expensive form of racing fun," he said.

Mr. Bonham said the drivers cannot hear the crowd because of the state of concentration they must maintain. "You're constantly listening to the engine. It's a highly concentrated sport, one mistake can cost you your position."

Mr. Kennedy, past president, said he once held the track record at North Halton. In those days I was moving when I completed the track in 22.4 seconds. Now the record is 19.8. We used to have to fight the steering, now they are all carefully



Everything has to be in perfect condition for the pre-race inspection. Skyrocketing prices make maintenance an important part of Go-Karting.



Racing around the track required concentration and skill. Drivers may burn up one or two pounds body weight in a 30 lap race. Each driver is weighed in after the race to be sure he is within the minimum requirement.

engineered and designed," he said.

Go-Kart racing is a highly competitive sport, not only against the other drivers but a personal competition for each driver. Success is attained when the driver carrying the checkered flag rides around the course announcing his victory.

History repeats itself because every generation refused to read the minutes of the last meeting.

# Squirt boys ease one win off Limehouse

Acton squirt boys coasted to a 10 to 2 zip victory over Limehouse in Halton Rural softball play Wednesday in Prospect Park.

The win boosted the team's record to eight wins against four losses and a tie. Squirt boys have one game remaining against

Limehouse and a final encounter with Hornby this season.

Squirt chucker Kevin Lobsinger set down eight Limehouse batters while assisting the team's cause with a home run.

Acton earned its ten runs off four hits while

Limehouse managed one.

First batter up Brad Demone put Acton on the score sheet. He was brought home by Lobsinger. Gary MacEachern and Gord Mitchell also accounted for runs in the first frame to give the squirts a 3-0 lead.

Lobsinger, Chris Cooney and Richard Fellows upped the ante to 6-0 in the second inning. All three again tallied for

runs in the third inning, while Tom Bartolac also tallied for one.

Other members of the squirt gang are: Spencer Smith and Michael Cunningham

# Mid-season race at Go-Kart track

North-Halton Go-Kart club held their annual mid-season race on Sunday afternoon. Two 30-lap races were held during the day.

Results from the race in Limehouse are Stock medium class, first Stu Johnstone, second Colin Jennison, third Kevin McIntyre, fourth Norm Eberschlag, fifth Norm Jennings.

In the Reed heavy division first place went to Paul McFadyryen, second Jim Johnstone Jr., third Roy Shaw and fourth John Welch.

Winner of the hobby senior was M.J.

McDonnell, rookie junior winner Steven Bogert with second going to Glen McGarvey.

The Reed junior first place was captured by Craig McGarvey. Reed light went to Glen Bonham, second Wally Pilgus, third Paul Neate and fourth Dave Buchanan.

First in the rookie senior competition was Ken Brown, second Hank Lamout and third Jeff Runnalls.

Highpoints for the largest class of the day was won by Stu Johnstone who received the Carling trophy.

# Teacher appointed

Halton Board of Education appointed teacher Leanne Case to a position at Brookville School starting in September.

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# GIFL all-stars raise \$501.26

The Georgetown Industrial Football League's pair of all-star games Sunday and Monday were a financial bonanza for the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded.

Sunday's contest resulted in a take of \$272.86 while \$217.40 was raised Monday for a two game total of \$501.26.

The Rexway Towing team donated \$20, DRG Stationery \$15, Milton Stags \$10 and Halghee Farms \$10 Monday night. The remainder came from the silver collection and private donations.

Sunday's second annual Georgetown Industrial Football League all-star game was a huge success as a charity fund raiser.

Fans dug deep and came up with \$99.85 for the silver collection and the umpires, Barry Jenkins, Ken Nokes and Glen Cooper, donated their fee totalling \$33.

Seven teams, Philip Publishing, Acton Merchants, Akers-Clark Real Estate, Crichton Bros. Sports, Curwood Packaging, Hornby Greenhouses and C. and S. Plumbing all made donations.

B8... (Continued from Page B1)

Dick Spear, Don Richard, Al Densmore, Tim McChesney, Al Moore, Bill Stoneman, Terry Masales, Gord Stanbridge, Phil Dobbin, Chris Tennant, Bill Kirby, Bill Yakimishyn, Doug Anderson, Bob Marchand, Wayne Farrow, Brent Telford and Bob Jarrett.

# GIFL stars down Milton

Georgetown Industrial Football League all-stars' bats were booming Monday as they clobbered Milton Industrial league stars 9-4 in the first ever meeting between the best of the two towns.

Georgetown scored four runs in the opening frame, one in the third,

three in the sixth and one in the seventh.

Bill Routledge, Terry Masales, Wayne Farrow, Gord Stanbridge, Doug Anderson, Chris Tennant, Al Densmore, Al Moore and Keith McKinnon all scored for Georgetown. McKinnon, Anderson and Tennant smacked homers.

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(2) Monday, August 20-Friday, August 24 for ages 12 & over, 8-10 a.m.  
(3) Monday, August 20-Friday, August 24 for ages 6-11, 7-9 p.m.  
(4) Monday, August 27-Friday, August 31 for ages 6-11, 8-10 a.m.  
(5) Monday, August 27-Friday, August 31 for ages 12 & over, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
(6) Monday, August 27-Friday, August 31 for ages 6-11, 10:30-12:30

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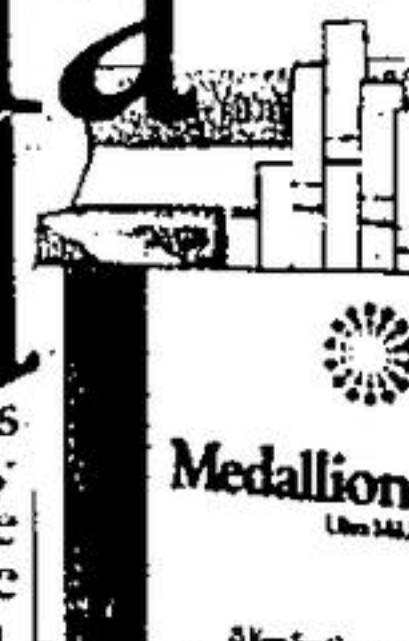
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WE USE GM

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