

Say goodbye to '79 and hello to the '80s

The year 1979 had some memorable moments in the Acton sports scene along with some moments people would like to forget.

With the year coming to an end Monday, let's take a brief look at what has happened over 1979.

January 1
Acton Bantam Firefighters were the first Acton Minor Hockey team to come home from tournament play with a trophy this season, taking the consolation prize at the New Hamburg Christmas tournament. Georgetown Gemini won their fifth game of the year, beating the Acton Sabres. It was the Gem's third win over Acton.

January 10
Figure skater Kevin Parker successfully defended his Junior Divisional title advancing to the Junior National Finals.

January 21
Acton Sabres broke a two month winless streak beating Thornhill Thunderbirds. The Sabre victory clipped Thornhill's play-off possibilities.

McKenzie-Smith's girls' basketball team was unbeatable at the Acton High School Red

and White Tourney for public school teams.

January 31
The NHL Oldtimers were in town playing a charity exhibition game with the Acton Tigers of the Wellington-Dufferin-Halton Non-Contact League. The Oldtimers won 8-3 behind some solid play of Andy Bathgate, Brian MacFarlane and Wally Stanowski.

February 7
Kevin Parker placed second at the Canadian Junior Figure Skating Championships after a superb freeskating performance from Brian Orser.

February 14
The Acton Sabres finished their Central Ontario Junior 'B' season ahead of the Georgetown Gemini and out of the league cellar for the first time with a record high of 21 points.

February 21
Acton resident and University of Guelph footballer Jeff Ingalls, was drafted in the third round by the Canadian Football League's Calgary Stampeders.

February 28
Sault Ste. Marie captured their third Legion Pee-Wee Tournament title in four tries, clubbing Orangeville 7-0

in the final game.

The Acton Junior Redmen's boys' basketball team completed a successful season topping the Georgetown Rebels' Invitational Tourney. It was the fourth tournament title for the Redmen in a season where they finished with 30 wins and 11 losses.

March 14
Halton Hills council passed a rate increase that would mean ice users at Acton community centre would pay \$8 more per hour for the use of the facility.

Acton Firefighter Bantams are the only local hockey team still competing in OMHA playdowns. They advanced to the semi-finals against Petrolia knocking off Glanbrook seven points to one.

March 28
The Firefighters dropped out of OMHA playdowns losing to the eventual Ontario Champs from Petrolia.

April 1
Acton Legion Hockey held their 'Day of Champions' filling the front page of the Free Press Sports Section.

April 11
The Acton Figure Skating held their first

ever 'Pop' Concert to replace the annual Carnival. The group is contemplating a carnival every second year.

April 25
Sabres' goaltender Rob Bremner was voted the team's most valuable player and received his award at the team's annual banquet.

Acton High School Basketball player Bob McClure was named to the regional all-star team and gets a shot at the Ontario team.

May 2
Acton distance runner Frank Houston was named to the Dean's list at Abilene Christian University where he is attending on a scholarship.

May 9
Over 100 people turned up at the Acton Minor Hockey election of officers. There were two full slates running for office bringing one of the liveliest meetings ever.

May 16
Acton High School turned in their best performance ever at the Halton High School Track and Field Championships, grabbing three firsts and qualifying 20 for the Peel-Halton meet.



Rob Bremner Sabres MVP



Dave McGilloway Tennis Champ



Dave Chapman Leaf camp



Kevin Parker Second in Canada

May 20
Ted Nadhazy and Shirley Ancker were named the top athletes at the Acton High School annual Athletic Banquet.

June 6
Dwayne Hay's 76 earned him low score for the annual Acton Open Golf Classic at Halton Heights. June 27
The Milton Stags finished the Acton Merchants Industrial Fastball Tournament undefeated taking the top honors. The Merchants dropped two straight games while Acton Travel was ousted in the semi-finals.

Rockwood's Alan Swanston began training with the Canadian swim team in preparation for the Pan-American Games in Puerto Rico.

July 11
Swanston earned a silver medal at the Pan-Am Games for his part in Canada's four by 100 metre freestyle relay's second place finish.

July 18
The Acton Merchants' Fastball team enjoyed success in the Georgetown Industrial Fastball League scoring two shut-out wins that leaves them in first place.

August 1
The Merchants claimed the Georgetown league pennant finishing first over the regular season in the fastball league.

August 8
Acton tennis junior Dave McGilloway captured the Halton Hills men's singles title by defeating second seeded Bernie Kent of Georgetown in the final. Acton golfer Flo Charlebois scored a hole-in-one on the fifth hole at Guelph's Victoria Park Golf Club.

August 15
Acton Sabres began training for the 1979-80 hockey season with dryland program at Acton High School.

August 22
Rockwood hosted the Provincial Women's Softball Championships for Juvenile girls. Cobourg were the eventual winners but the Acton Sabres put in a line showing.

Former Acton Sabre Dave Chapman was invited to the Toronto Maple Leaf rookie camp.

September 12
Minor Ball held their awards day at Prospect Park with outstanding individuals being rewarded for their ef-

orts.

The Acton Ram Oldtimers came out of retirement for one game nipping Mississauga Oldtimers 8-4.

September 28
The increase in ice rates seemed to hurt the group users. All groups reported registrations were down.

October 3
Dave Chapman headed to the Flint Generals of the International League after a good Leaf rookie camp.

The Acton Sabres opened their new season earning a tie with the Georgetown Gemini.

October 17
Rummer Les Jones ran a marathon in New York October 31

October 22
Ron McKnight and several other staunch Montreal Canadiens fans returned from a weekend trip to Montreal where they saw the Habs and the New York Rangers. The group also took in a football game between the Alouettes and Toronto Argos. McKnight had a special privilege of visiting the Canadian dressing room and meeting all the players.

The Acton Sabres scored their first win of the season after a dismal start, nipping the Thorn-

hill Thunderbirds 8-3.

November 7
The Acton Junior Girls' Basketball team capped a successful seven win and no loss season by beating J. A. Turner of Brampton for the title at their own tournament.

November 21
The junior cagers reached the Halton County finals before losing a 39-32 decision to Burlington's M.M. Robinson in a battle of the undefeated.

Sabres' coach Fred Buchanan called it quits feeling he wasn't getting the best from his players.

The OHA ruled in the Sabres favor on an issue that returned Scott Malcolm to Acton from Georgetown.

December 5
Rockwood horseman Ron Waples was named 'Horseman of the Year' by the Ontario Jockey Club. It was the third time in as many years Waples had earned the honor.

The Acton Sabres escaped the Central Ontario Junior 'B' cellar defeating Milton 10-6.

Skater Kevin Parker placed second at the Senior Men's Divisional Championships qualifying for the Canadian Senior finals.

Free Press sports and recreation

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Buffalo nips Acton in Sabre skirmish



Glen 'Motor' Murray flipped the puck into the Buffalo net for Acton's second goal of the night against the Junior 'A' American team. Few penalties were earned in the wide-open engagement. Acton peppered the Buffalo net with 58 shots while the visitors tested Rob Bremner with 50 shots. The visitors nipped Acton 7-6 during an end-to-end crowd pleaser of a game.

The Acton Sabres proved that they could play a good, fast hard skating style of hockey at the community centre on Friday night as they hung tough before dropping a 7-6 thriller to the Buffalo Bulls Sabres.

The game was the first ever international competition for the Acton team and they represented not only themselves but their league, the Central Ontario Junior 'A' league, well before one of the largest crowds of the season.

Buffalo is a powerhouse in their Junior 'A' league having won 14 straight decisions. In exhibition play the Buffalo team has lost only once to an Ontario Junior 'B' team, that being Welland in preseason. Since then the Buffalo club has disposed of three Ontario teams. They topped Port Colborne and Fort Erie twice each and have taken Niagara Falls in a single contest.

Acton scored the games first goal after only one minute as Denis

Charbonneau lit the lamp with help from Steve Miller but it seemed the goal spoiled the hungry Acton attack as they sat and watched the Buffalo team come up ice with three unanswered goals before the frame was seven minutes old.

The local Sabres picked up the pace as Glenn Murray found the range from Wade Vickery and Charbonneau at the eight minute mark. Before the period ended the Acton side tallied two more goals giving them a 4-3 lead. Neil Anderson scored both Acton goals with the go-ahead marker coming while the Acton team was short-handed. Pat Fung and

Rob Jeffries earned assists on the first Anderson goal while it was a solo effort that earned Anderson his second marker.

Buffalo evened the count early in the middle stanza and then forged ahead with two more goals before Acton could get back on the score-sheet with Wade Vickery's powerplay goal with 3:52 remaining in the frame.

The visitors regained their two goal lead with 14 minutes to play but Acton cut the lead to one as Denis Charbonneau fired his second of the game with four minutes to go. Neil Anderson and Steve Miller earned assists.

The Sabres forced Buffalo over the final three minutes but had a goal called back with a minute remaining to give Buffalo the 7-6 victory.

Acton had a number of chances to put the game away in the first and second periods but a solid goaltending effort from Brian Willison kept Buffalo in the contest. Willison faced 58 shots over the course of the game while Acton's Rob Bremner saw 50 come his way.

Former Acton Sabre Joe Hurley pitched in with the Buffalo scoring netting a pair of goals against his old team.

Acton coach Jules Russiani was not disappointed in his

team's effort but said after the contest that he hated to lose any game. "We didn't control the play," said Russiani. "They were a more disciplined hockey team than us," he added. "They are good skaters and they come at you all the time."

Buffalo coach Jim Lorenz was impressed with what he saw in the Acton squad. "They overchecked us well," said Lorenz. "They just kept pouring in on us."

The game was a treat to watch from a fans standpoint with several good passing plays and good solid checks thrown. Both teams picked up five penalties.

The two clubs are

planning a return match for the Buffalo Memorial Auditorium and have set a tentative date of January 6 for the confrontation.

According to Russiani if Acton is to play as tough in Buffalo as they did in Acton, they will have to change their style. Russiani feels that the big ice surface will help the fast skating Buffalo squad.

In league play this week the Acton Sabres will attempt to avenge an early posting when they are home against the cross town rival Georgetown Gemini in a Friday night contest at the Acton Community Centre. Game time is 8:30 p.m.

Pee-wees tie Orangeville 6-6

When the Acton Beardmore Minor Pee-wees got together for a Waterloo-Wellington no one knew what to expect.

The last time the Acton squad and Orangeville met in battle the Beardmore team dropped a close fought 1-0 decision. On Wednesday night at the Acton Community Centre the story was entirely different with neither team showing any defense, skating to a 6-6 tie.

The Acton team held the lead for a total of six seconds throughout the contest but kept battling scoring with 2:41 remaining to earn the draw.

Orangeville netted a quick pair to start the game off but Acton came

Minor ball going to bat 1980 executive named

A short time ago Acton Minor Ball was on the verge of being wiped out with no support or persons interested in running the operation.

In a special meeting December 11, a group of concerned citizens met and were able to form the AMBA (executive for the 1980 season ensuring ball would once again be part of summer for the youngsters of Acton).

The personal commitment involved in organizing and operating this program for local young people was certainly present according to newly elected president Bob Johnston.

"The executive was created by people who were interested in preserving minor ball," stated the new pres. "It was encouraging to see many busy people volunteer their services to fill the various executive positions," he commented.

With the new executive bringing in several newcomers to the organization the AMBA has seen necessary to have an executive or advisory council made up of three experienced people who will act as special advisors when the situation entails it. "Pop" Main, Don Lindsay and Bob Paul will make up the special committee. Helping Mr. Johnston with the ball chores this season will be vice-presidents Andy Williams (Halton Rural), and Ed Sankey (Tri-county). Evelyn Cadenhead will look after the secretary's job for the 1980 season with Doug Lobsinger looking after the financial reports. Dale Billington and Bill McGrath will share the equipment manager's duties for the group in the new year while Marilyn Dryden will handle the house league convening job.

Tri-County league conveners are Brian Canary and Ed Sankey while Bob Paul and Andy Williams will handle the same job for teams playing against Halton Rural competition.

Gary DeBruyn is one of the few members of the executive returning and will remain as umpire-in-chief. The Minor Ball clinic organization will be handled by Bob Paul and Don Lindsay.

The only position not filled at the election of officers meeting was that of both conveners.

In addition to forming a new executive the group forwarded their new season diamond requests to the Halton Hills Recreation Department for consideration.

The new executive will get right to work on a new season of pitching and batting as soon as the holiday season has passed. The new group will meet on January 21 to discuss the year end business and make registration plans for 1980.

Putting fun into lessons aim of new ski instructor

Trying to make ski instruction both fun and interesting is the goal of Doug Leeming who just recently was named head ski instructor at Glen Eden Ski Area in Kelso Conservation Area.

Leeming represents the new breed of ski instructors who combine learning techniques with appropriately devised games meant to improve the skills by making the lessons fun.

The influence of the European and Japanese sport systems recently has spread to skiing with the goal of a more interesting approach to the sport.

"My job as an instructor is to make it fun and interesting and improve their skills," says Leeming. "What I'll be doing is designing specific programs for age groups."

"You've got to make the lessons interesting if skiers are to improve. For example, children are not prepared to stand on a hill and listen to instruction. You've got to get them moving. Adults want more technical information. They don't mind standing on the hill for a while as the techniques are explained to them."

Leeming will design the nature of all lessons (group and private) as well as keeping his crew of 40 certified instructors on their toes with the latest techniques.

He stresses the need for enjoyment as a part of the lessons. "Enjoyment has to come out of every lesson. What we try to do in teaching is for them to enjoy the sport. Once they enjoy it they're likelier to pick it up."

The 30-year-old Etobicoke native comes from Kitchener where he served for six years in a lesser capacity with Chicopee



Taking over the reins as the ski school director at Glen Eden is Doug Leeming. The avid skier comes from Chicopee Ski Club in Kitchener.

Ski Club. He is married and spends his summers managing the Cedar Creek Equestrian Centre near Guelph.

In terms of the standards implemented by the Canadian Ski Instructor and has passed half of the Level 4 which is the last step of the ladder.

He said he was impressed with the potential of Glen Eden. "We have the unlimited potential to grow because it's so close to large municipalities. Skiers can come home from work and come here for a couple of years while they're learning the sport. Then they can go to the larger ski resorts like Huntsville and Collingwood on their holidays, if they like."

"The terrain is challenging. The hills are the largest in the surrounding area."

"This place should be just swamped. Not that it's not being used because we have 13,000 lessons last year. But there can and will be a lot more people here in the future."

There is a long-range plan to increase the skiers' needs on 5-10 year plan. The area has equipment for artificially-made snow. There are three t-bars and two rope tows. The vertical fall of the hill is 2,040 feet.

Registration for the lessons was held earlier but those interested in signing up can still do so by calling the ski lodge.

Scheduled lessons start during the first week of January although some lessons will be held during Christmas week. Complete rentals are available for an \$8 fee for all day or \$6 for half a day.

For information on snow conditions call 878-5333.