

# Goalie breaks neck, now dedicated to hockey clean-up



Rockwood teenager Pat Barr broke his neck in a collision in a non-contact summer hockey league this summer and will now dedicate himself to working to clean up the sport he loves.

by Gord Murray  
A severe injury in a hockey collision has merely hardened the resolve of a Rockwood teenager to go into coaching and stress clean play and fun to youngsters.

Pat Barr, 17, broke his neck recently while playing goal in a non-contact summer industrial hockey league in Guelph. He's fortunate, he can walk and will recover.

Even before he was hurt so badly he was planning to get into minor hockey coaching, as well as take sports administration at Durham College in the hopes of doing what he can to clean-up a game he loves.

Now, despite the fact it is possible he would be physically able to resume playing in the future, he is retiring. His desire to play the sport he loves has been dwindling as cheap shots have become more and more common and his injury has killed all desire to play.

An eight year veteran of guarding the mesh, Barr had never been seriously hurt, though there had been lots of bone bruises from slashes, bumps around the crease, and high sticks.

In the game in which he was hurt, in the dying seconds of the opening period a loose puck was coming down the ice. He skated out and then slid to it on his belly near the blue line to knock it away. He had just cleared the puck when he saw an opposing player, appearing to be off balance after going around the defence, coming close. The player crashed into him. It was only a fleeting glance, so he's not positive if the other player was sliding or still up when they collided. People who witnessed the collision and have talked to Pat or his parents about it since then can't agree on how the accident happened either.

In any event Barr's head connected with some part of the other player's body. The goalie spun 180 degrees on the ice and was out for a few seconds. He came to and found his arms tingling and shoulders numb. He was also shaking. Barr rolled onto his back and eventually got up and was able to go over to the bench.

Next he went to the dressing room, struggled out of his bulky hockey equipment and then waited for his friend, Scott Petty of Everton, to finish playing.

Petty insisted Pat go to the hospital. He was in pain, though he was able to move, and very uncomfortable. First they went to St. Joseph's Hospital, but were referred to Guelph General Hospital. He underwent extensive examination and X-rays there before it was determined by doctors that he had broken his neck. Later he was transferred to Hamilton General Hospital for more extensive treatment.

His C5 vertebra was slammed down and cracked and broken in several places in the collision and the disc below was also damaged.

His doctors are quite amazed by a couple of things about his injury.

Usually this type of injury results in the vertebra shattering with the spinal cord being badly damaged and paralysis the result. Obviously Pat was very lucky.

However, the physicians are equally amazed the injury took place innocently in a hockey game. The force of impact needed to break a person's neck is more consistent with a serious car accident than a collision in hockey.

Now he will be wearing a silver halo neck brace for six to 12 weeks and then a soft neck collar for another four months.

Barr's lucky, he can walk and prognosis for full

recovery good, though doctors aren't certain he'll be 100 per cent.

His physicians are also quite surprised he was able to get off the ice after being hurt and then managed to get out of his goalie equipment.

What upsets Pat and his parents Mac and Jenny (Mrs. Barr is a former Free Press writer) is that such a thing could happen in a hockey game.

There wasn't a penalty after the collision, though there is supposed to be penalties for body checks in the league.

Pat allows hockey is a rough game, albeit he feels rougher than it needs to be these days. There is bound to be the odd collision since players are moving around so fast. While he accepts there is going to be some roughness, Pat feels all leagues, not just the one he was playing in, are accepting too much stick work, cheap shots and rough play.

The injury he sustained simply shouldn't be accepted as a normal part of the game, Pat feels. There are too many accidental collisions. If all aspects of hockey were tightened up, if there were penalties called for the smallest infraction, he thinks there'd not only be less cheap shots, but also a lot fewer collisions and accidents.

And he sees it not just at the teen and adult level of the game, but also in minor hockey. With youngsters skating faster and mastering the skills better these days, other players are using sticks and everything else imaginable to slow them down.

"The game's become too damn violent," Barr declares.

With his passion to play the game virtually extinguished now, he has been approached about coaching, something he'd already been eyeing. "I want to show younger players the fun and clean side of hockey. Goalies aren't as into the rough stuff as

other players. We can see the game better than guys on the bench and can see the clean aspects of the game." By taking sports administration he hopes to become involved in minor hockey at the national and provincial level and work for clean hockey. "Hockey is a great sport if it is played the way it used to be."

Pat doesn't look at himself as a martyr or someone deserving sympathy. He came forward to tell his story in the dire hope that his message will twig with players of all ages and more particularly coaches at every level.

"People can clean up the game, but the ones who want changes have to come out of the woodwork. Some coaches just aren't good for hockey. There are some that are too egotistical."

His parents are almost incredulous about the incident. His mother simply can't believe such a severe accident is accepted as just part of the game by coaches, players, leagues, etc.

Why aren't there qualified medical personnel at games, Mac asks. He says someone with St. John Ambulance or another qualified person wouldn't have allowed Pat to get up off the ice after he was hurt.

"I'm lucky to be alive or not more badly hurt. This kind of injury is becoming more common in hockey. I hope it never happens again to someone else, but I'm sure it will. I just hope I can help clean up the game a bit," Pat concludes.

A sidelight of this whole story is an upcoming visit Pat will receive from former New York Ranger and Montreal Canadian great Lou Fontinato whose own career ended suddenly when he suffered a broken neck in a contest. Fontinato farms in the Guelph area and will be dropping by with words of encouragement.

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## Report clears Dr. Cole Cher Home charges

Allegations of improper conduct levelled against Halton's medical officer of health are completely unfounded, according to a confidential report submitted to a committee last week.

The report was prepared following charges by Milton Councillor Bill Johnson that Dr. Peter Cole had acted improperly when conducting an investigation of Cher's Rest Home in Acton last year.

Recommendations contained in the report stated the Region should apologize to Dr. Cole for the charges made against him and urged the adoption of a practice for handling such complaints in the future.

Johnson had charged that Dr. Cole broke the lock on a medicine cabinet at the home and had examined a resident without the proper concern for her privacy.

Although the recommendations of the confidential report were released by committee members, the balance of the document is being kept under wraps until its release is approved by regional council.

Although Johnson's accusations were levelled in public, Halton chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin had first urged that consideration of his report should be done in a closed session.

"Just because the mistake was made in public doesn't mean it should be repeated here," he said. "I think we should follow our policy."

Normal policy at most levels of government is to

hold closed discussions on questions concerning personnel, legal matters and property purchases.

"I think it's a very bad move to discuss personnel matters in public," he said.

Perlin argued that councillors have libel protection that isn't available to regional staff and that the only way to ensure a frank and honest discussion of the questions involved was to hold an "in camera" session.

Not all councillors agreed with that need however.

"If we don't clear this thing up in public then it will never be totally cleared up," commented Councillor Carol Gooding (Oakville).

"This is an extreme example of an asinine way of dealing with something," said Councillor Dave LaCombe (Burlington). "No matter how we deal with it now the matter has already been blown way out of proportion."

The allegations made by Johnson concerned a 1981 inspection of Cher's Rest Home conducted by Dr. Cole.

During the inspection, according to statements made at the first meeting, a lock on a medicine cabinet was broken. Although Dr. Cole has denied forcing opening the cabinet, others present at the time said he did.

Acton realtor Gordon Dawe, whose company holds a mortgage on Cher's rest home, was called to the scene after Dr. Cole's party arrived.

He stated several times at the committee meeting that he saw Dr. Cole remove the lock from the cabinet, but later, admitted that his view of the cabinet was screened by several people at the critical moment.

Later still he said the lock had not been torn off the cabinet.

"He (Dr. Cole) just fiddled with the side of the hasp and off it came," he said.

Originally, a lawyer representing the owners of the home had been slated to appear before the committee as a delegation. He did not appear and neither did the owner, Tryphena Cherwoniak, until summoned at a later point to state "he (Dr. Cole) was the one who took the lock apart."

(Continued on page 2)



Windsurfing lessons all last week brought a lot of color to Fairy Lake.

## If no announcement on import quotas today Jelinek will raise in House tomorrow

If the Liberal government doesn't announce its decision on the repeated calls for re-instatement of shoe import quotas by today (Wednesday) then Halton MP Otto Jelinek intends to remind them again in the House tomorrow (Thursday).

Like many involved in the industry, Jelinek has heard there will be an announcement on shoe import quotas issue today, but he isn't holding his breath. He had been told personally by cabinet minister Herb Gray that it would be included in the recent federal budget, but the issue wasn't mentioned. Also, numerous other times he had been

assured by government officials that an announcement would be made soon, and then nothing happened.

He heard from industry and trade officials an announcement would be made today and when leather and shoe workers marched on Parliament Hill last month with Jelinek and other Tory MPs joining in another cabinet minister, Ed Lumley, said there would be word on the government decision either the last week of June or the first week of July, Jelinek recalled.

Jelinek and his colleagues have been keeping the

pressure on the government on a daily basis with questions in the House, letters, and in personal appeals.

While the industry is pressing for a re-instatement of import quotas even a negative answer would be better than further delay. Jelinek noted the industries can't even make contingency plans in the present situation.

Jelinek added he hears the constant delays on a government decision is the result of a cabinet split on the issue.

### inside

AHS has eight Ontario Scholars. Turn to page 5.

There was a little noise from the Yugoslav Centre on Sunday but nothing like last year neighbors say. Details page 3.



## Trudeau remark annoys thousands of Ukrainians

Comments attributed to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau during his recent European tour were brought to the attention of thousands of Canadian and American Ukrainians and annoyed many at a rally at the Ukrainian Camp just outside Acton on Sunday.

Yuri Shymko, Tory MPP for High Park - Swansea, said in an interview that he told the audience that when he was in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, a few weeks ago Trudeau said "it is a matter of national policy to discourage public meetings in Canada which are unfriendly to other countries."

Shymko complained that Trudeau's statement means that meetings such as the 33rd Annual Rally of Americans and Canadians of Ukrainian Descent at the camp on the Fourth Line north of Highway 7 are discouraged by the federal government.

Trudeau's statements fly in the face of the Charter of Rights he fought so hard to enact. Shymko said, noting the Charter guarantees freedom of association and freedom of expression.

The member of the provincial Conservative caucus plans to bring his concerns to the attention of Premier William Davis and added former federal conservative cabinet minister and now Tory finance critic Michael Wilson, who also spoke at the Ukrainian rally, said he would raise the issue of Trudeau's comments in the

House of Commons.

Besides the thousands of Ukrainians in the area Sunday there were also thousands of Yugoslavians in the area Saturday and Sunday as Canadian-Yugoslav Days were celebrated at that recreation centre south of Acton on Highway 25.

Other dignitaries at the Ukrainian celebrations included Dr. Petro Mirchuk from the United States, of the Society of Veterans of Ukrainian in surgent Army, Most Rev. Bishop Isidore Borecky and Tony Ruprecht, Liberal MPP for Parkdale.

At the Yugoslav picnic Sunday afternoon the audience heard from Mayor Peter Pomeroy, Yugoslav Ambassador to Canada Kristo Bulajic, Deputy Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs at Queen's Park Donald Stevenson and MPP David Rottenberg, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Leaders of the Canadian Yugoslav Community also spoke.

Pomeroy praised the hard work of Nick Cajic and other Yugoslav leaders at the recreation centre to solve the noise problem which has upset neighbors and resulted in two court cases. The Mayor noted if noise is kept down then the Yugoslavs will be welcome in Halton Hills.

Rottenberg paid tribute to the greatness of Canada, a nation where people from other lands are encouraged to retain the customs and traditions of their homeland.



Ukrainian and Yugoslav dancers entertained thousands at the two cultural camps outside Acton over the weekend.



Spectacular fireworks lit up the skies over Fairy Lake Sunday night as thousands watched the annual Acton Firefighters Canada Day weekend fireworks display.