

Former NHL star Fontinato never loses a fight



A former N.H.L. star, Lou Fontinato, recently bought Nordic Farms on the Eden Mills Rd.

by Mark Holmes
Twenty years ago one of the National Hockey League's greatest defensemen, Lou Fontinato was forced to cut short his career when an accident on the ice left him seriously injured.

Since that unfortunate night Fontinato has started a new life in the local farming community that he feels is just as rewarding as playing professional hockey.

During his 10 years with the New York Rangers and the Montreal Canadiens Fontinato ran a hobby farm outside of Guelph and last March he acquired the 265 acre Nordic farm just east of Eden Mills.

Fontinato was born in Guelph, January 20, 1932, and started playing hockey at age nine with his classmates at Sacred Heart School in Guelph.

"Father Ryan, the Head Master at Sacred Heart approached me one day," said Fontinato, "and asked me to try out for the school team. I must have worked out all right because a couple of years later I was signed up with the All-star team." The All-stars were all the best players picked from the school teams that played each other.

From the little ice rink at the Catholic school Fontinato found himself, at age 16, playing for the Guelph Junior B hockey club.

About that time the New York Rangers were starting a farm club in Guelph and Fontinato was asked to join.
In 1962 the Junior A club had a great sea-

son, going all the way to take the Memorial Cup.

"It was my first big season with a hockey club," reminisced Fontinato, "and I'd have to say the biggest reason for our success that year was the Rangers had a beak of a training camp."

It was with the New York farm club that Fontinato felt his hockey career had its biggest push.

With one cup championship under his belt Fontinato moved to Vancouver to join another Rangers' farm club.

He stayed with the Vancouver club for one season and then was shipped to Saskatoon for the first half of the 1964-65 season.

"During those years with the farm clubs I learned a lot about hockey and myself," said Fontinato, "and I think the talent scouts from New York must have seen my improvement as well because in the later half of '65 the Rangers brought me to New York for my first taste of the National Hockey League."

The move to New York was a step towards a 10 year career with the best hockey players in the world and Lou Fontinato looks like he never missed a play.

His shock of grey hair contrasts his still youthful, lean appearance but a wide, flat nose and a cauliflower ear is testimony to a hard played career as a tough defenseman. "I wasn't a goal scorer," explained Fontinato, "I was a policeman on the ice—a sort

of defensive defenseman."

As a defenseman he was scrappy. Fontinato battled his way through the National Hockey League shutting down his opponents and when the time warranted it he'd use his fists to keep the opposition at bay.

According to Fontinato he never lost a fight and he went on to set the record straight on his most famous fight with hockey superstar Gordie Howe.

"A lot of people thought Gordie (Howe) did me in but as far as I was concerned I thought he got the worst end of it. I just looked worse afterwards," laughed Fontinato.

"I remember Gordie was dishing out a lot of cheap shots and he wasn't getting caught. He hardly ever got caught," elaborated Fontinato.

"The two of us finally ended up against the boards. We traded a few shots and pushes and then I let Gordie have it. I'd given him some bumps to think about and he came back with a punch to my already broken up nose," said Fontinato ruefully.

"When your nose has been broken before it doesn't take much to break the darn thing again so I came out of the fight with a couple of black eyes and a busted up nose," explained Fontinato.

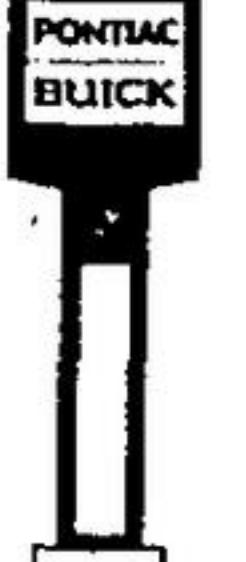
"Gordie got a lot of mileage out of that fight," commented Fontinato, as he showed off an old black and white photo of the two men being held back by wary referees.

(Continued on page 3)

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Halton Hills artist Reg Finlayson's painting of a wooded landscape featuring a small red fox has been selected for the first money-raising project of Halton Hills Public Libraries. Throughout the next weeks, the painting will be on display in Acton and Georgetown and for each \$2.00 contribution to the library, donors will receive a

chance to win the painting. A resident of Georgetown for 12 years, Finlayson's work has been gaining recognition throughout the area and is known for its clarity and attention to detail. His work is also included in "The Good Earth" show currently on display at the Cultural Centre gallery.
—photo by J.H. Fishback Photograph

Kuiken tops polls in Ward 2 election

Jake Kuiken topped the six person race to become the winner in Monday's Ward 2 by election, but it was a see-saw battle right to the last poll. Kuiken took 353 votes, Peter Norton was next with 292, Dollie Moulden with 268, Tony Taylor with 202, Jim France with 121 and Rob Heaton with 92.

Three way race

Right from the first few results it became apparent it would be a three way race, with Kuiken, Moulden and Norton, trading the lead.

When 12 polls were heard from Moulden led the pack, and held it until by only one vote over Kuiken at the 17 poll point.

When 21, of the total 24 polls were in, Kuiken pulled ahead leading Moulden by four votes and Norton by 28. But with only one poll to come Norton surged ahead, caught up and passed Kuiken by one vote, and Moulden by 30.

The final and deciding poll went overwhelmingly for Kuiken boosting him to the 353 total. This poll, the closest to the Acton boundary gave Kuiken 62 votes, Norton none, and Moulden six.

Kuiken, now the councillor for Ward Two, fills the vacancy created by the death of Tom Hill. He will be sworn in at the November 7 council meeting.

In his November 1982 election, Kuiken, in his first bid for public office, was runner-up to the late Tom Hill, with Peter Norton, trailing him by approximately 100 votes.



Jake Kuiken

Friends of the Library launch fund

A campaign to raise funds for Halton Hills Public Libraries is being launched this month in Acton and Georgetown.

In their first direct appeal for financial assistance, the libraries have chosen to feature the work of a local artist, Reg Finlayson and to offer one of his more recent acrylic wildlife paintings to the

public. Members of the Library Board have formed a new "Friends of the Library" committee to implement several projects and for each \$2.00 contribution to the work of the library, the donor will receive a chance to win the valuable painting.

Rising costs and budget restrictions

have been a major problem for the Library Board for a number of years. This fall, after wrestling with severe money problems for many months, it was decided to form the new committee to assist in various ways and to raise additional funds for several needed capital projects at both libraries.

Honor Tyler November 12

Ted Tyler will be honored as Acton's Citizen of the Year at a banquet on November 12 at the Acton Curling Club.

Tyler is only the second child of a former Citizen of the Year to win the prestigious award.

The evening will begin with cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at both Family Cleaners locations and the Hide House.



Mark Bray

Mark Bray is Ont. scholar

Acton resident Mark Bray received an Ontario Scholarship and was presented with the English Department Award given to the student who has "demonstrated superior skills in Year 5 English" at the Georgetown District High School Commencement Friday evening.


Mark, son of Melanija and Joe Bray, of 142 Elizabeth Dr. has received many offers from university swim coaches, but rejected them and enrolled in a Bachelor of Science program at the University of Toronto where he hopes to follow a medical career. He is 17 years old.



Turn back the clocks on Sunday

Spring forward, fall back.
It's time to return to Eastern Standard Time. Official time to move the clock back is 2 a.m. this Sunday. If you're not up celebrating an hour's more rest, then change 'em back before you go to bed.

Inside
For a poll by poll breakdown from Monday's by-election see Page 2.
The Fabric Shoppe put on a fashion show. Turn to Page 3.
Police Beat is on Page 5.
The Library has discovered computers. For pictures and stories, see Page 8.



Why don't leaves fly south?