

New arena offers the best facilities

By Colin Gibson
Sports Editor

Georgetown's newest sports facility, the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, is nearing completion. Construction has been slightly delayed because inclement weather has not allowed the ground to firm up properly, however, with milder conditions prevailing, all systems are now go.

One of the most notable features of the new arena is its spacious parking lot. The lot will be lighted and paved. It was built to hold 250 cars without overcrowding. The entrance to the parking lot will be 50 feet wide, with two lanes, providing entrance and exit. This is indeed an improvement over the old arena's parking facilities.

The lobby of the arena is much larger than its elder relative's but a decision has not yet been made whether to provide seating places in the lobby. One of the problems that arose in the old arena was that of overcrowding in the lobby. A possible solution may be to leave the new arena's lobby bare.

The snack bar in the lobby is expected to provide better and more efficient service to the patrons than the one in the old arena and, as a sort of adjunct to the snack bar operation, vending machines will be placed in the spectator area.

The arena area itself is equipped to handle at least 900 spectators, and a plus for the spectators is that there are no obstructions whatsoever to hinder their view of the ice surface. The players' benches are across the ice from the spectators' area and, other than crossing the ice surface, it is practically impossible for the fans to reach the players.

The timekeeper's box has been enclosed with shatterproof glass and, as with the players' boxes, is virtually inaccessible to the fans.

A professional style timing system has been installed completely controlled from the timer's box. As in other major arenas, once the game has officially ended, a green light will go on in place of the red light which signifies a goal. This will leave no doubt in anyone's mind whether a goal was scored before or after the game had officially ended.

The ice surface in the Alcott Memorial Arena is 185 feet by 75 feet. This size is of at least Major Junior "A" standard and is, in fact, larger than some Senior "A" surfaces. A new innovation has been the installation of boards made from polyethylene. This material will provide slightly better resiliency for the players than the old boards and is virtually damage proof.

Shatterproof transparent glass has been installed, to afford top spectator protection and, in the end seating area, the glass has been extended higher than normal to increase this protection.

Ontario Outdoors

877-3009

That's the number to call if you feel you need some help, want to know where to fish on opening day, or even if you just want to talk fishing.

It happens when checking over your equipment (that should have been done weeks ago), you discover some repairs may be needed. There is a repair depot not too far away where you may obtain the needed parts or get the repairs done for you. A. Aikman at 3010 Novar Rd. in Streetsville, has a stock of parts for almost every make of reel and rod and these may be obtained by going to his store or by mail order. Phone them at 277-3595. That can be classed as an emergency number.

Fish ladders are a great place to view the migratory Rainbow Trout. They are used to get the fish up the rivers that have dams or obstructions to their progress, and are operated by the ministry of natural resources. The ones on the Nottawasaga River and the Boyne River will be operating on the following days: April 24, 27, 30 and May 4. The fish ladder on the Boyne is at the Earl Rowe Provincial Park and will be open and working at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. On the Nottawasaga at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Take the family for a fine afternoon and an exciting look at the huge fish.

As you may well know, Michigan has been having its troubles with whirling disease in its hatcheries. Half a million Rainbow Trout and two million Coho Salmon had to

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be destroyed at a loss of about \$300,000. This disease does not effect humans, but the spores of the parasite lie dormant in the mud of streams, only to emerge years later with vast destruction to the fish in that stream or river. Michigan is the third state to be hit with whirling disease in its hatcheries. As yet Ontario is free from it but no one knows how long we can stay clean. If it is in the waterways, it is possible that the boom of American Trout may spell the decimation of our native stocks.

England and Ireland are also experiencing troubles with whirling disease. It apparently originated in Sweden. It affects the spinal and nervous system of fish.

I have a correction. Last week I mentioned Conservation Week, but gave the wrong dates. It is this week, the 18 to 26.

As expected I got some reaction to the letter to Dr. Philbrook on gun controls. One of our senior citizens—but a youth at heart—Mrs. Ferwerda, was kind enough to phone me with encouragement, and a word of agreement. Others also have voiced an opinion, and I am waiting for more from you. The more the better, and make it soon, or, as I have mentioned many times, it may be too late.

It would have to come sooner or later that I would be forced to comment on the Paper Mill Dam controversy. As yet I am not prepared to get involved in this, but do have some definite feelings in regards to the dam. Most people who have said their piece have said it wrong and don't know what they are talking about. This includes those who started this thing.

With the fishing seasons coming into their own in the days ahead, it is good to know that there are those things that may enhance your pleasure in this sport. Of course a good knife is important, and especially a filleting knife. Rapala now makes three of them, one for each of the three main sizes of game fish. They come in four-inch, six-inch and the new, nine-inch blades. The small one for Stream Trout and Panfish, the six-inch for Bass and the like, with the nine-inch for those lunkers that we all like to tie into. They will last you for a lifetime if treated right and kept sharp, and they will pay off in better handling of your precious game fish.

This Saturday is the long awaited day, the opening of the Trout Season in our region of Ontario. We are classed in Zone Four of the summary of the 1975 fishing regulations. It will open at midnight for you that want to be out at that time. I have done it so I know that there are those that will be out then. Remember to watch and check for closures, and sanctuaries. There may be as many as 20 or 30 of them, so check with the ministry for the area you intend to fish. Ignorance is no excuse for the law.

It is hard to predict the water conditions but it should be good, with at least fairly clear water, and low or non-existent flooding. Almost any of the streams in the Halton area, will hold Trout. If the water is muddy, look in the deeper water for the fish, where the flow is weaker, and food is swept to them. If the water is clear, then they could be almost anywhere, quite often under the bank of the stream where the current has cut it out leaving a safe place of shelter from the sun and predators.

A worm or small spinner drifted under this bank may produce some of the largest fish of the stream. Don't forget, small hooks, light line, and little or preferably no lead. For the fly fisherman, they always have their favorite fly or streamer, but for those just starting into it, in the early season, streamers may be the best and don't worry about "matching the hatch", if using dry flies. If using worms, try a small earth worm or red worm, and when the water is muddy then try a dew worm, but not for eight-inch fish. Common sense should dictate what to use and what size, and experience will teach the rest.

Walleyes are running in the Talbot River and many are going after them to beat the Trout rush. Of course other rivers hold spawning runs of Walleyes and some areas are open now. I would appreciate any news you may have in regards to fishing and how you have done. Please call me at the above number, preferably between six and nine p.m. News is the name of the game and your news is important. Good luck and enjoy Ontario Outdoors.

The new facility features six dressing rooms, all with different colour schemes and, at 19 feet by 19 feet, are probably the largest of any dressing rooms in any arena in Ontario. Each dressing room has shower and washroom facilities and all six are located close to the ice surface.

The new arena will feature a skate shop and a first aid room, the latter to be fully equipped to handle any minor injury. There will be one Men's and one Ladies' washroom and both have been equipped to handle wheelchairs. Five main exits are available in the new complex. This should relieve congestion and provide for orderly filling out should an emergency arise.

A feature which will please fans is the new "People Heaters". They have been installed throughout the spectator area and will provide ample heat without affecting ice conditions. The refrigeration plant for the Alcott arena is capable of making summer ice and the facility will be available to the public in the warmer months.

In the upper part of the new arena, space has been provided for a banquet area and offices. The banquet area is capable of holding up to 150 people but no decision has been made as yet by council as to who has priority for the offices.

The Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena provides Georgetown with a second arena complex. It is on par with the majority of new arenas in the province and, in some ways, provides even better facilities. The second ice surface was sorely needed and now that the need has been fulfilled, Georgetown will not have to take a back seat to any area in terms of arena activities.

To the Editor of the Herald:

I started to write this letter last spring following a successful completion of a theory course on sports at Sheridan College and for one reason or another never did finish it, maybe appropriately so, for I feel we have just completed a real topsy-turvy hockey season in Georgetown.

developing our youth in the most critical years of their lives. Yes Mr. and Mrs. Parent, your son or daughter's coach does, in some cases, have more effect on their lives than school teachers and church.

to have the quality of pride of achievement.

I want my charges to have a sense of humility yet to be generous but humble in success and discourage boastful and bragging displays.

A minor coach speaks out

You entrust to coaches one of your most prized possessions in this world; your son and/or your daughter. But most of you can only get off your rear ends once or twice a year to see them perform, normally at playoff time. Then to hear the comments of "Kick Him", "Knock him down", "Hammer Him" really upsets this writer.

We, as coaches, must realize that our attitude and philosophy are reflected in many ways in our own team members. We must look at our perspectives and our objectives and balance and define them to ourselves first. If we, as coaches, allow ourselves emotional outbursts towards officials, no matter how poor they are, our team will react in a similar manner.

Success must be met with stability; adversity with the same stability.

If a boy or girl only experiences victory during his competitive career, he will be poorly prepared for life, for life has many pitfalls for them as well as their coaches. As defined in the books of coaching, there is redemption in defeat. Losses usually occur because of human error and much can be learned from mistakes. A coach finds his mind more receptive towards correction after a loss than a win. A deeper sense of humility and renewed desire to win are often results of a loss. The leadership qualities of a coach are never more tested than after defeat.

The team with sound leadership will point the finger of criticism at themselves, not at team-mates, and will strive more diligently for elimination of individual error. Many times defeat integrates teams that have been winning, solely because of superior personnel but with inferior effort. They will realize that only maximum effort can bring about maximum results.

A minor league coach, coaches for play. His ideals, goals and methods very often differ from those of the coach who is coaching for pay. There is room for both to co-exist. If minor sport is to survive and keep its lofty place in our society a sound philosophy must be made to contribute to man's advancement, to aid him in his pursuit of happiness and to give him a sense of worthwhileness. Otherwise it will be a liability and may lay the basis for his destruction.

I have often heard my fellow coaches grumble about the time they spend at the arena or park with no financial returns like those received by our umpires and referees in minor sports and no word of thanks is received from the parent or fan. Gentlemen this is nothing but B.S. We derive our benefits from the boys and girls, our relationships and seeing them grow up and succeed with the guidance we have given them.

It is sad to say that some coaches in baseball, hockey, soccer, etc. are only on an ego trip, but this is true. Their prime concern is to win and at any cost to inflate their image, to others through what they consider to be success.

The success of any team normally depends upon the mastery of fundamentals with success. Why? Because clinics as run by C.A.H.A. Level III and O.B.A. instructions (which I have just completed) have taken the philosophy of teaching fundamentals and skills and left some very important aspects of a coaching—such as the physical, spiritual, mental and social well being of our youth—to the community colleges who don't reach our grass roots coaches.

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To those who don't, may the good Lord have mercy on you and the misguided souls you produce.

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The most important thing about any coach is his philosophy. It sets the scale and shapes the pattern of his thinking and living. It helps us, as coaches, to decide what we want to happen to people on the ice, on the playing field, in the gymnasium, or pool and I honestly believe the "What" and the "Why" should precede the "How".

It has been said a coach leads by example, he should be sure his leadership sets a good example. I once coached a Junior Club in Oakville and its manager's pet saying was "We are all in minor sports for the fun of it, and it's no damned fun losing." I've learned a lot since then, for his virtues were win at any cost.

I hope as a coach, have met my responsibilities as a teacher of youth as well as a coach. I hope through my leadership, I have set an example of clean living habits and helped develop, to an extent, the individual personalities of my boys. I have tried to stabilize their emotions to meet adversity as well as success, ingrained in them the spirit of sportsmanship, to cultivate moral integrity as well as physical development; and to prepare our youth for a place in society, including a well developed attitude toward the game and the players we compete against.

I do not say, do away with winning. To the contrary, a coach should attempt to encourage a winning spirit within the group that will enable his team to meet its competition more favourably. I have always wanted my teams, individually and collectively,

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Neil Young races to top spot

The G.T. Motor Sport Club held a Driving Skill Test over a slalom course this past Sunday in Zellers parking lot. The test was open to non-members as well as members, and a total of 18 drivers took part in six classes of cars.

In class one, under 2,000 c.c.'s, not stock, Neil Young of Georgetown, driving an Austin Healy Sprite garnered first place. His time of 48.5 seconds was also the fastest run of the day for all classes. In recognition of the fastest time, Neil won the trophy donated by Joe Idz. Vern Dale-Johnson, with a time of 47.4 seconds, took second place, while Glen Broomhead of Etobicoke was third with a time of 47.5 seconds.

Class Two, A stock, for larger sports cars, was won by Neil Young in a Datsun 240-Z. His time was 50.0 seconds. Vern Dale-Johnson was second with a time of 50.8 while Jim Parr of Mississauga took third place; his time was 51.9.

Class Three, C-Stock, was won by Brad Watson of Milton. He clocked 52.2 in a Capri V-6. Bill Flett of Brampton finished second with a time of 52.8. Garth Sheldon of Brampton placed third. His time was 56.4.

The Class Four, D-Stock winner was Geoff Birkbeck of Georgetown. His Mazda 800 toured the course in 52.0 seconds. John Eckeraly of Mississauga, with a time of 52.9, was second, while third place, with a time of 54.4, was taken by Norm Hanson of

HHMBL

Series tied

The Cougars, behind the 13-point performance of Jim Ridley defeated the Warriors 39-31 to even their best three out of five Halton Hills Men's Basketball League, finals at one game apiece.

The third game in this final series will be played this Thursday night at the GDHS gym. Game time is set for 8:00 p.m.



THE AWARDS for the March Winds Rally, held on March 23 staged by the GT Motor Sports Club were presented at the club's monthly meeting on Monday night. (Front row, from left) Dan Cooper and Sue Milne won trophies in the Novice Class, (back row, from left) Norm Hanson and Larry Broadfield won trophies in the Experienced Class.