

COMING EVENTS

—You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting of the Georgetown District Christian School on February 9th at 8 p.m. in the Christian Reformed Church, 7th line Georgetown to discuss the building of the proposed auditorium.

—Georgetown & District Y.M.W.C.A. 14th Annual Meeting to be held Wednesday, February 16, 1976, 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church, 89 Mountainview Rd. S. Guest speaker Dr. Frank Philbrook M.P. Topic: "The Government's Anti-Inflation Programme. Everyone welcome. No charge."

—At the Winter Programmes - second session. Register now for Canadian Homecrafts, Children's after-school crafts, Couple's social dance, macramé, men's fitness, shape up and swim and toddler's drop-in. All programmes beginning week of February 9, 1976. Y office at 89 Mountainview Rd. S. Open Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - 877-6153.

—RED CROSS—Plan to attend the Annual Meeting and Awards Night of your Red Cross on Tuesday, February 17, at 8 p.m. at the North Halton Golf and Country Club, Maple Avenue. Talk-slide show Coffee and dessert. Everyone welcome.

COMING EVENTS

—The Salvation Army pick-up service every Tuesday. Call 877-8522.

BIRTHS

MITCHELL—Dale and Harriet are pleased to announce the birth of their son Alexander, 6lbs. 4oz. on January 23, 1976 at the Guelph General Hospital. Grandson for George and Ruth Mitchell.

NORMAN—Dan and Deb Norman are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Angela Jill, 7lbs 8 oz on January 19th, 1976. First grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Norman and fifth grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Walter Campbell.

DEATHS

LAIRD—Violet Helen on Wednesday, January 28, 1976 at the Branson Hospital, Toronto. Violet Helen Laird of Toronto in her 75th year, dear sister of Percy Laird of Palmerston and Lewis Laird of Mississauga. Predeceased by two brothers and 3 sisters. Resting at McClure Jones Funeral Home, 24 Edith St., Georgetown where funeral and committal service will be held Saturday morning at 11:00 o'clock. Interment Greenwood Cemetery.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBIN—In loving memory of our Auntie Ota who passed away February 9, 1975.

Treasured memories silently kept of one we loved and will never forget. Always remembered Spencer, Kay and family, Norm Coburn.

PRIMERANO, Tony.—In memory of a loving husband Tony, ever loved and missed by wife Dana, children, Jo-Anne and Patrick.

Our prayers for you my darling are said a hundred times a day. That your life with God be filled with love so deep. That pain cannot touch you. That you have joy and laughter and good times. These things we had with you. In the music we loved so much, you taught us how to live. To love, to laugh, to have courage, to put something into each day. Songs with words such as, forever is the love that is filled with understanding. Walk through this world with me. We had joy, we had fun, we had seasons in the sun. To dream the impossible dream, to fight the unbeatable foe. We'll meet again my love, somewhere, whenever the spring breaks through.



JUST A LITTLE DAB OUGHT TO DO IT. Hannah where he wants a spot of glue. In the background is Cub Kevin Crocker, 9.

Some comments
Hockey on the decline in north?

by Colin Gibson
Herald Sports Editor

A Christmas with the family, even a belated one, is something most people look forward to. We are no exception and our family had our Christmas two weeks ago when we journeyed to Timmins to assure all concerned that we were getting along fine. We felt fine until we ran into notorious Northern Ontario weather and then, admittedly, our affection for the north waned somewhat.

Northern Ontario has been in the grip of a cold spell since early December and during the few days we spent at home, the temperature dipped to about 50 degrees below zero at night, every night, and during the day the thermometer never rose above 25 degrees below zero. We believe now that we are true southerners because believe us, even though we saw some cross-country skiers and skidoers thoroughly enjoying themselves we yearned almost desperately for something even remotely resembling warmth.

Ever the newspaperman, we discovered two things regarding sports in Timmins that intrigued us and would like to pass them along to Halton Hills readers. An Intermediate league has now been operating in the north for the past two years and in just that brief period of time, the calibre of hockey has improved to such a degree that quite possibly they could provide a challenge for Ontario honours.

The second thing that piqued our interest was the charge by a local sportswriter that quite possibly, hockey could be dying out in the north. In the next two weeks, we would like to delve into both these matters.

The Northland Intermediate Hockey League came into existence two years ago and its members include; Timmins, Kapuskasing, Hearst, Chapleau and Abitibi (Iroquois Falls). The league is still experiencing some problems, but for the most part is functioning well and should be a going concern for some years to come.

Two teams, Timmins and Kapuskasing, are classed as Intermediate "A" clubs while the remaining squads are lower down on the Intermediate rung. This is by no means a knock on their capabilities as Abitibi won the Timmins league last year then captured All-Ontario honours in their division.

We had a chance to view several games during our sojourn to the north and while the hockey displayed is entertaining, in my opinion, the Timmins league participants are still several years away from the party with their southern counterparts. They play a rough brand of hockey and our main knock against them is that at times, the physical aspects of the game take precedence over everything else.

Should the unexpected occur however and a northern team should challenge our southern Intermediate "A" favourites it might be a good idea to keep some names in mind.

Timmins looks like they will cop league honours and they have several outstanding players. Playing coach, Jim Mair, played several years in the National Hockey League with the New York Islanders and the Vancouver Canucks and is a bruising defenceman, while Timmins goaltender Jim Young, who incidentally leads the league in this department, played for the Fort Worth Wings. John Solomon, who was born in Kitchener, toiled for Pennsylvania University, while Bob Reade got his hockey education while playing for the University of Waterloo Warriors.

The Timmins Northstars, bolstered by players from other teams in the league, played host to the Finnish National team in early January and while they lost badly undoubtedly picked up the experience that will stand them in good stead as they and their league develops.

The charge that hockey could be dying out in the North, stems, we feel, more from the local sportswriter's dissatisfaction with the hockey played at the professional level than from any real sign of decay in the northern area. The north has produced a vast number of professional hockey players—the NHL's Rookie of the Year for two of the past three years has come from Timmins. Don Lever of the Vancouver Canucks and Eric Veil of the Atlanta Flames—but fan support for the game has been declining at a steady rate.

The main reason for this seems to be the same as that which plagued the Georgetown area until this year. Until the inception of the Northland Intermediate League, the highest level that Timmins hockey buffs could view their favourites was Juvenile. Then, any promising player left for the south to hone his talent. The calibre of play at the Juvenile level has declined over the last few years in Timmins and this could likely be cited in explaining while fan support has decreased.

To get to the grass roots of the question, we talked to a good friend, Gerry Dubois, an outstanding Junior hockey player years ago, and he claimed that hockey is flourishing in the north but that people's tastes have changed. Gerry is a certified coach working in the Timmins Minor Hockey system and it is his belief that the discriminating fan is turned off by the style of hockey that is displayed at the higher levels and, more and more, is being turned on by the hockey played at the minor level.

Gerry's team plays once a week and the fan turnout is considered exceptional. With improving coaching techniques and more stringent requirements coming into effect regarding the selection of coaches the game of hockey can only improve, not only in the north, but wherever the sport is played.

No, hockey is not declining in the North, the emphasis has merely shifted to a different area and maybe this is where it should remain. Complaints about the brand of hockey played at higher levels usually fall on deaf ears and to a degree, the scions of professional hockey are justified in ignoring the brickbats. They cater to the whims of the "Almighty Fan" and the end product is a result of consumer demands.

Similarly, it is in the area of minor hockey that changes must come about. A hockey player develops his feel for the game over many years. While it's true to say that his raw talent is improved through the various levels, it's also true to state that the style he shows at the professional level is a culmination of his many years of training. If the finer aspects of the game are stressed throughout his learning period then they will come to the fore in his later years.

Its sad to say, but unfortunately over the last few years many minor hockey systems have been direly lacking in this area. It is here and only here that our "National Game" will improve.

Signs are surfacing that finally, hockey people are accepting this basic fact and while it might take some time, the new attitude will work its way to all levels. When this occurs, hockey will once again thrill the multitudes and provide our youngsters with an enjoyable and exciting pastime.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR DEADLINE NEARS

Halton Hills - The deadline for final nominations for the Georgetown Citizen of the Year is Monday, February 9th.

The Georgetown Lions Club, which sponsors the Annual Contest, urges citizens who want to nominate an individual or a group to enter names by Monday.

The 1975 winner will be honored at a dinner & dance on March 26th at the Georgetown Lions Club Hall here.

Contact either EL. Lloyd 877-8631, Bill Hunter 877-3723, Dave Barrager 877-5313 or Ron Johnston 877-2607.

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CARD OF THANKS

FIEBIG—The family of the late Wes Fiebig wish to express their thanks to all friends, neighbours and relatives for their many kind acts for floral tributes and charitable donations at the time of their bereavement. Special thanks to McClure Jones Funeral Home, the staff of the Georgetown Hospital and the Georgetown Ambulance Service. And the Reverend Peter Barrow.

Canadian Red Cross Society
Georgetown & District Branch

WHAT: Annual Meeting and Awards Night

WHERE: North Halton Golf & Country Club, Maple Avenue

WHEN: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1976

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT: talk-slide show "Physical Education Abroad" by Mr. Denis Gibbons—Sports Editor

WHO: all VOLUNTEERS, including BLOOD DONORS, and interested persons are cordially invited

REFRESHMENTS: Coffee and dessert

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BELIEVE ME. Dave Mather, an instructor with the Dale Carnegie Course, sponsored by the Herald, outlines the aims and possible achievements obtained by taking the course. A special preview meeting of the course was held Monday evening at the Lions Club Hall.

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