

Sports Beat

By Tony Panacci
Sports Editor

Nominations for the Halton Hills Athlete of the Year and Builder of the Sports Builder Award have begun to trickle into the Herald office.

As somewhat of a veteran on these affairs, after being part of last year's athlete of the year program, I know that most of the nominations for the awards flood in as the deadline draws near. Last year there were approximately 60 nominations for the Athlete of the Year with most of them coming in the last week.

There is still quite a bit of time remaining before the nomination deadline expires for the Athlete of the Year, but for the Builder award readers have until May 14 (this coming Monday) to submit their ballots.

TOP FLIGHT

The nominations we have received so far for both awards are of the top-flight quality.

The Athlete of the Year Award was established last year to recognize the superb athletes of this area. All areas of Halton Hills have their great athletes and last year featured nominations from all over town.

The Sports Builder award was established this year to pay homage to the many people who by their efforts behind the scenes make it possible for Halton Hills athletes to compete.

There are many great organizers, coaches, managers and the like who deserve recognition. They will not be considered as possible recipients of the award unless readers fill out a nomination and either drop it by the Herald office or mail it in.

COMMITTEE

The members of the committee which select the winners and runner-ups for both awards appear elsewhere in this paper. Choosing only six members to make up what we feel is a very important committee is not an easy task. However, we feel we have assembled a group which will give all nominations received, for both awards, a fair shake and name two suitable winners and four noteworthy runner-ups.

Members of last year's committee, Bryan Lewis, Pat Doucette, Fred Kotani, Bruce Andrews, Dave Kentner and Jack Handy will remember how difficult it was to pick among the final five athletes.

When it got down to the final three, who all had a very impressive list of accomplishments, the task was monumental. How does one choose between the likes of Peter Fournier, Kris Barber and Ian Clark?

NO EASIER

The task will not be any easier for this year's committee. Georgetown athletes and teams have had outstanding campaigns with many taking very prestigious honors.

However, selecting a top athlete and top builder are only a segment of what the project was originally set out to do.

The first phase of the project is up to the readers. It is an over used phrase, but simply being nominated is in itself a large honor. For an athlete or builder to know that someone has recognized their feats or hard work is in itself quite an achievement.

Ballots to nominate people or groups of people for each of the awards appear on page 44. Because the ballots appear together it may give the misconception that two ballots have to be filled out. Of course, separate ballots may be entered.

Committee is selected to pick Town's award winners

The committee has been selected to choose the winners and runners-up for the Halton Hills Athlete of the Year and for the Sports Builder Award.

This year a committee of six will choose from among the nominees, who will be nominated by the public.

Tony Panacci, Sports Editor of The Herald, will be the chairman of the committee. He will only vote in cases of ties.

THE SIX

The committee is composed of John McCauley, Rick McArthur, Karen Harrison, Ruby Wilkes, Brian James and Michael Hollett.

McCauley is a veteran National Hockey League referee. In a poll of the league coaches midway through this current season McCauley was chosen the best NHL referee.

Unfortunately, at approximately the same time the poll was taken McCauley, a resident of Groystone Crescent in Georgetown, was attacked in a New York restaurant. He suffered extensive eye injuries because of that attack and has been forced to sit out the second half of the season.

McCauley also coached the Brampton Excelsiors to the

Canadian Lacrosse championship round two years in a row. Last summer McCauley was a coach with the Canadian Field Lacrosse team that won the World Championship in a tournament in England.

McArthur is a physical education instructor at Acton high school.

Through his job, McArthur is of course no stranger to any sport, coaching and teaching in a variety of athletic endeavors.

BASKETBALL

McArthur has shown a special love for basketball as although Acton has a relatively small population he has turned out some excellent teams by any standards.

Two years ago McArthur was the coach of the Acton Senior Redmen and he led them to a great year. Acton hosted the OFSAA championships that year and the Redmen took a third place finish in the event.

This past year Acton did not have a senior team so McArthur led the junior team. Through the regular season McArthur and his feisty Redmen took several tournament victories over schools from much bigger

centres. The team then entered the Halton playoffs and were narrowly defeated in the semi-finals.

Harrison is a school teacher by profession and she spends many, many hours of her free time as an organizer of minor sports.

PRESIDENT

Late in April Harrison was selected as the new president of the Georgetown and District Minor Hockey Support Group. She had served as the group's first vice-president last year.

Harrison also has an extensive background in the minor baseball program in town. She is known and respected for her dedication

and tireless work. Her son Blake is a rep hockey player and soccer player and their other son Craig plays in the Georgetown District Minor Hockey Association.

Wilkes is best known for her work with the Georgetown Legion Royalettes, the defending Central Junior Girls' fastball team. This year the Royalettes will compete in the ladies' provincial loop.

Ruby and her husband Ted founded the Royalettes. Ted is the manager of the team and Ruby works extensively in the background.

The Wilkes are also very

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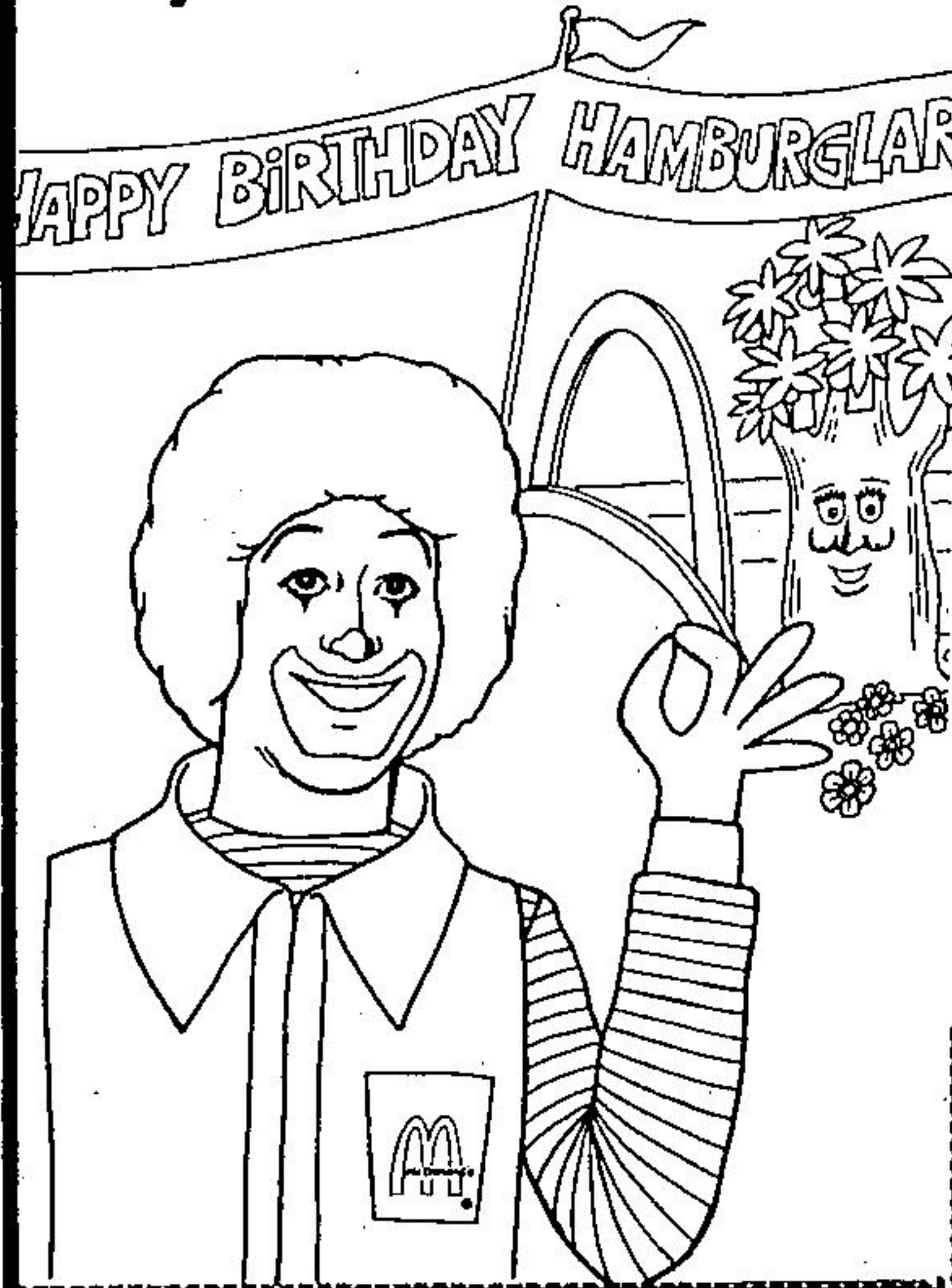


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NAME

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TELEPHONE

AGE

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- JIL MURRAY
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