



**Mark  
Clairmont**

**Sports Editor**

# Hockey report a step in right direction

A 107-page report released Thursday by the government funded Ontario Hockey Council (OHC) in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and Recreation revealed plans to spend \$2 million implementing the recommendations over the next three years. The report was designed in an attempt to eliminate violence in the sport, improve basic skills, particularly at the younger levels and generally upgrade coaching and officiating.

The program will be administered by fulltime salaried employees who will be hired to oversee the carrying out of the recommendations.

The OHC will become incorporated as a non-profit organization under the new plan with four persons from the public sector added to hockey officials. It now operates under Orders-in-Council, placing it under direct control of the provincial government so as to implement the changes without interference from the province.

### 31,000 PARENTS

The report was based on a survey of 31,000 parents and their opinions of the game.

It includes such recommendations as not allowing players to play competitive games until they have passed a skills test; banning body checking for certain younger age groups; making coaches go through an apprenticeship before assuming full duties; changing the officiating to include two referees and one linesman.

With the way Canadian amateur and professional hockey has been going in recent years, the intention is good. However as with all large, old things it may be difficult to make a massive facelift without substantially deteriorating the original product. But then maybe that's what needs to be done.

Since the American Gold medal in hockey at the Winter Olympics the interest in the sport of shinny has blossomed even more than it has since the major NHL and WHA expansions down there. Now the Yanks can see that they can do it. All of the Gold medal team are products of their system. More and more American universities are opting for home-grown players rather than relying on Canadians.

A lot has happened in the American Hockey Association since their first hockey gold at Squaw Valley, Utah, during the 1960 Olympics. Their game has improved almost on par with that of most European nations.

### BLAME LIES HERE

Since Ontario is the largest of the organized hockey institutions in the country, the bulk of the load, and the blame for the way our national heroes turn out, lies here. So, rightly if there are problems that need to be rectified then this is where they should begin.

One of the largest difficulties concerning hockey is in the administration of the game. Granted it is a huge endeavor trying to co-ordinate 250,000 young boys and girls in hockey but, as the old cliché goes too many cooks spoil the broth. Is another organization needed, like the one to be set up, to make the game what it is supposed to be?

The idea of the game is to learn to play it and enjoy it while getting some exercise out of it.

The emphasis in recent years has been toward the competitive aspect of the game while just letting the less talented or competitive minded players hack it out in house leagues, just so officials can say they are providing the aspiring players with somewhere to play.

Providing proper coaching and ensuring that the players are of competent enough ability to play a game enjoyably without being bounced around or being wiped away in a game in the scoring department is a right move.

Ironically the bulk of the criticism in the report, tabled by Reuben Baetz, minister in charge of culture and recreation, goes toward the parents who contributed the most beneficial of the recommendations in the survey.

### OLD MAXIM

At one time there used to be an old maxim that went "Don't send your child to the rink, take him." Now it would seem that the saying might go "Send your child to the rink, don't bring him", implying that the loudmouthed parents need not stick around to watch. And if they do they should do so from a soundproof booth with one way glass looking out onto the playing surface where the players would be unaware of their presence. Going even further the players and parents should be banned from discussing the personal development or play of the youngster.

As ludicrous as it might sound, this may be the answer. I wonder why I wasn't surveyed?

## Playoff action this week

<b>Minor Atom vs Oakville</b> Thurs. Feb. 29 Sat. Mar. 1 Thurs., Mar. 6 Sat., Mar. 8 Sun. Mar. 9	Geo. 3 - Oakville 3 Geo. 2 - Oakville 1 6:45, Memorial 10:30 a.m., Oakville 12:30, Alcott	<b>Juvenile vs Guelph</b> Wed. Feb. 27 Fri. Feb. 29 Sun. Mar. 2	Geo. 3 - Guelph 9 Geo. 2 - Guelph 5 Geo. 1 - Guelph 7
<b>Major Atom vs Stratford</b> Sat. Feb. 23 Thurs. Feb. 28 Sat. Mar. 1 Tues. Mar. 4 Sat. Mar. 8	Geo. 3 - Stratford 4 Geo. 8 - Stratford 7 Geo. 5 - Strat. 2 7:40, Stratford 5:40, Memorial	<b>Major Pee Wee vs Brampton</b> Thurs. Mar. 6 Sun. Mar. 9 Thurs., Mar. 13 Sun. Mar. 16 Sat., Mar. 22	8 p.m., Memorial 2:15, Brampton 8 p.m., Memorial 1 p.m., Brampton 5:45, Memorial
<b>Minor Bantam vs Guelph</b> Thurs., Feb. 28 Sat. Mar. 1 Sun. Mar. 2 Sat. Mar. 8 Sun. Mar. 9	Geo. 7 - Guelph 0 Geo. 3 - Guelph 3 Geo. 5 - Guelph 2 7:25, Guelph 4:00 p.m., Alcott	<b>Tyke</b> Friday, March 14 Friday, March 21 Friday, March 28 Sunday, March 30	<b>Second Round (Full Ice with Referee)</b> Team A - Winner of A Series Team B - Winner of B Series Team C - Winner of C Series Team D - Winner of D Series 4:30 - 5:30 Tykes C - D A - B A - C Tykes B - D B - C A - D Tykes "CHAMPIONSHIP DAY"
<b>Major Bantam vs Brampton</b> Georgetown won three straight, completing series Sun. Mar. 2; 4-3, 3-2, 4-0.	<b>Minor Midget vs Dundas</b> Tues. Feb. 26 Fri. Feb. 29 Sun. Mar. 2 Thurs., Mar. 6 Fri., Mar. 7 Thurs., Mar. 6 Sun., Mar. 9	<b>Novice</b> Friday, Mar. 14 Friday, Mar. 21 Monday, Mar. 24 Friday, Mar. 28	<b>Second Round Robin (With Referees)</b> 1 - 3 4:30 - 5:30 New Arena 2 - 4 3 - 4 5:30 - 6:30 New Arena 1 - 4 4:30 - 5:15 Old Arena 2 - 3 5:15 - 6:00 Old Arena 1 - 2 6:30 - 7:30 New Arena

## Sports Travelcade here today

The Ontario Sport Travelcade which shows people how to become more active in sports, will be at the Gordon Alcott Arena in Georgetown today (Wednesday) March 5 and tomorrow (Thursday). It will be at the Acton Community Centre on Friday. Hours are from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

While in Halton Hills the Travelcade staff will provide

sports clinics for the students and teachers at Hply Cross School, Stewarttown Public School and St. Joseph's

School, Acton, on Thursday. There will be a clinic for Five Pin Bowling enthusiasts on Friday at 6:00 p.m. at the

Georgetown Bowl. Workshops in Cycling and Basketball will be held for all interested in attending.

### This Weeks Specials at

# STEDMANS

Save \$8.36 <b>HAIR BLOW DRYERS</b> Only <b>\$13.63</b>	Save \$20.62 Soft sided 3 piece set of <b>LUGGAGE</b> <b>\$42.33</b>	Save \$6.16 <b>NORTH STAR JOGGERS</b> From <b>\$9.83</b> pr.
Save \$4.13 Whistling <b>KETTLE</b> <b>\$7.66</b>	Save \$1.26 Embassy <b>ORLON YARN</b> 225 g pkg. <b>\$1.83</b>	Save \$3.86 <b>Brown Betty TEA POT</b> 6 cup size <b>\$4.63</b>
Save \$20.18 Polaroid One Step <b>CAMERA</b> <b>\$29.81</b>	Save \$7.67 <b>LEVI'S For LESS</b> <b>\$10.32</b> Irregulars	Save \$3.57 <b>ALARM CLOCK</b> Only <b>\$4.42</b>

Buy for Less at

# STEDMANS

**DOWNTOWN ACTON**

## Flag football action

Preparations for the 1980 Georgetown Flag Football season were substantially completed during meetings held by the new executive the past two weeks.

The league heads into its fourth season on solid footing both financially and in terms of support. Last year's eight team league was the biggest of its kind in Ontario and is now recognized as a member of the Canadian Amateur Football Association.

Since the league has such a solid base of teams it has been decided to gear this year's registration toward team entries rather than individual signings. Thus the draft has been eliminated and teams having a minimum of ten and a maximum of 18 players may register. Individuals may still register for a fee of \$25 and will be assigned to a team.

The league hopes to once again go with eight teams with the season beginning in June and the schedule consisting of 14 regular season games and the playoffs.

A general meeting open to all league members or those interested in playing will be held Sunday, March 9 at Georgetown Terminal Warehouse on Armstrong Avenue.