

HALTON'S PEOPLE

Meet 'Robin Hood' Osborne, fund-raiser

By JIM ROBERTSON Herald Special

Like Robin Hood who operated in the woods of Sherwood Forest, raising money from the 'haves' for the 'have nots', Dave Osborne can be found supporting industrial and minor sports leagues.

In summer, he's in the backwoods of Georgetown's Fairgrounds Park, and in winter, he's in the stands and dressing rooms of the Arena, with 'tin cup' in hand, seeking that almighty silver collection.

David can also be found year-round in the front offices of Georgetown's local businesses, holding them ransom in support of otherwise overlooked sporting groups.

Like Robin, he too takes from the 'richer', with those dollars providing merry times in the form of organized recreation for minor sports and the 'in-betweeners': those too old for minor sports, not good enough or don't have the interest for the pros, but still want to have a place to go with the gang when your wife catches you with your hand in the cookie jar.

It's really something to see these part-time athletes, with friends and relatives watching, talking about that 'Guy Lafleur' type goal he assisted a teammate on, during a Sunday morning industrial hockey game. Of course, most of the heated discussions take place while sipping a 'cold one' at one of the local watering holes.

The major fact of life in any organized sport, be it minor or industrial, is that it costs money to operate and it has to be raised through sponsors, dances, lotteries and ticket raffles.

If not for individuals like Dave Osborne, these organized events may never have taken place.

When you see the "Two-Armed Bandit" from Halton Hills coming at you, one hand whips out like a Colt-45 taking the loot, the other, in the same mechanical action as a Las Vegas slot machine, shoots out your raffle ticket, dance ticket, or winning score on the next industrial league game, be it baseball or hockey. If your cash poor, it doesn't matter, you can charge it on the 'Osborne Industrial Donation File'.

Unlike his Las Vegas counterpart, David sees that all the profits are put into minor baseball or hockey, but before that takes place, the industrial team that he's working with will be sure to get complete uniforms, jackets, and probably carry-all bags. In some cases where his club members have decided leather jackets are the order of the day, more than \$3,000 has had to be raised to meet the season's operating expenses.

In all cases, Mr. Osborne goes out of his way to spend the money for equipment and supplies with local operators. It's this kind of dedication by Dave "Mail-wagon" Osborne which he affectionately called, which lends respectability and an organized feeling of assent to leagues that less than five years ago had many of its teams in ragged tops or borrowed sweaters. There actually exists an air of competition among sponsors to out do each other. This leads to a healthy environment for both leagues.

In recent years, Mr. Osborne



Dave and Gerry Osborne don't get to spend too much time on their front porch during the summer months because they always seem to be out somewhere getting involved with yet another local sport. Here they get a

chance to try out two mugs they received in appreciation for their efforts. Writer Jim Robertson tells a bit more about their athletic endeavors.

has almost introduced a new sponsor each season, refusing to stay with the same team very long, even if the club is now on top of its respective league.

"He sees some other team struggling at the bottom and decides to give them a hand, and he doesn't feel badly about leaving the club he's with at the time, because he feels his job is done when they have uniforms, jackets and a bank balance which he turns over to the incoming manager," commented Gerry Osborne, Dave's wife of 27 years.

"But he always seems to return to Norval", she adds. "I guess that's because when we came here 22 years ago from Toronto's East End, (Broadview and Queen area) David got involved with Norval. For the first couple of years, he'd take Bert, our oldest boy, who was just four then, to the industrial hockey games at the 'old' arena and just watch from the stands. He first got involved about two years later, that would be 20 years ago. Norm Lockhurst is the only player from those days still actively involved in today's league."

"I can't imagine industrial hockey in Georgetown without Dave Osborne," stated "Stormin' Norman". "Quite a few clubs over the years in both baseball and hockey would have probably folded if not for Dave's fund-raising."

Mr. Lockhurst, a Georgetown resident and sportsman starred in the nets for the Norval Club and today coaches

the same team in the Industrial League.

Royal Pizza, Norval, Harley Motors, Turks (Halton Rapid Print), Way-Jay's, and Philips Publishing Co. Ltd. are some of the sponsors that Dave Osborne has represented in both the Georgetown Industrial Hockey League and the Georgetown Industrial Baseball League.

Philips Publishing last year, for the first time in many a moon, under the management of Dave Osborne, took the championship away from Norval. Up until then, most people were considering renaming the G.I.H.L. to the 'Norval Industrial Farm System'. It was ironic that Norval, a club that has consistently picked off the better players from other teams in the same league, (who were too impatient to build a winning team of their own) were defeated by a team away from the arena in disgust over on-ice or even ball diamond scraps."

Gerry Osborne herself is quite involved in sports. Even before she met Dave she played baseball in the old 'Coxwell Stadium' in Toronto's east end.

More recently she has served on the Gemini's executive and still is a director. Last year she coached in the Georgetown Industrial Men's Baseball League.

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The Osborne family has not been without tragedy, as Bert's 26 year old wife Linda, recently passed away. The whole family has shared in Bert's sorrow and her presence was deeply missed over the Easter holidays.

Wherever Dave and Gerry are, Ron, 22, their next oldest, is not far behind. Ron also lives in Georgetown with his wife Karen and their two-year old daughter Tanya.

Still at home are Debbie, 16, who attends Georgetown High School and George, 14, who goes to Centennial Senior, also in Georgetown. All the Osborne children are heavily involved with various sports. "Dave is not a violent person, but he stands up for his rights and won't back down from anybody," Gerry commented. "He is still like that today; he doesn't like the violence in minor hockey or any sport. I've seen him walk away from the arena in disgust over on-ice or even ball diamond scraps."

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were left over after its own expenses were paid.

Proceeds were raised through tournaments, dances, raffles, and silver collections worked by Dave Osborne and his band of merry men.

Last year's all-star games originated by Bryan Lewis and the G.I.B.L. netted the North Halton Retarded Children \$600, another Osborne effort.

"Dave doesn't like to see any child go without playing organized sport because of a lack of funds," Gerry remarked, when asked why he puts on all these hours. "We didn't have those opportunities when we were kids, so it's a real joy to watch them have so much fun. We kind of grew into this whole program as our kids came along."

"I attend the bingos, but only if sports aren't happening. Monday nights it's the Elks, Wednesday nights it's the Legion. I can't help but support the Elks, what with the hall they donate to minor sports for fund raising, and what can you say about the Legion that hasn't already been said. If you took away their support, you'd have a hole in the minor sports programs the size of Lake Ontario."

"Dave Osborne has contributed more to both special interest sports groups and minor sports in Georgetown probably more than any other citizen in town. His fund-raising efforts are tireless and too numerous to tally and I know personally what

they mean to the recipients" Mayor Pete Pomeroy commented.

"Dinners, like the Hockey Heritage were created to honor men like Dave Osborne, but he is such a 'low-profile' guy, you couldn't get him up to receive his award, unless he was riding a 'slapshot' by Lanny MacDonald," stated Ken Adams, a longtime acquaintance of the Osbornes and well known sportsman around town.

"Dave Osborne's big fund-raising dream is to run a lottery that raises a million dollars for Georgetown minor sports organizations by selling tickets with coupons for free hamburgers at the A and W and drinks at the Way-Jay," joked Bob "Silver Fox" Burke, the Don Rickles of Norval.

"Dave's contribution to industrial sports has been invaluable, Dave should be mayor. Every citizen would receive a \$100 tax rebate and get a new jacket every year," stated Don Fendley, president of the Georgetown Industrial Hockey League.

Like Robin Hood and his band of do-gooders, I hope the Osbornes, led by David, continue in their giving way. But I do think we could all help by recognizing what is being done and all throw in our own contributions.

Next time you see the "Two-Armed Halton Hills Bandit", dig down deep, and don't ask, just buy. It's going to help your community, and besides, you just might have fun at the dance or win the raffle.

Carnation sales to help abused wives at Women's Place

By LORI TAYLOR Herald Staff Writer

Volunteers will be selling carnations this Friday and Saturday in Halton Hills to help pay the operating costs of Halton Women's Place, the hostel for abused wives and children.

The carnations will be sold for 50 cents in plazas, banks and the other usual places, by mothers and teenage daughters where possible, for Mother's Day. Any women who would like to help can contact Michelle Corney or Jan Kron.

The proceeds of the sale of the carnations will be used to help defray the operating costs of the hostel, Mrs. Kron told The Herald. Its location is 48 High St. in Milton.

The hostel will be operating mainly on an emergency basis, Mrs. Kron said, responding to wives and children who leave their home, usually in the middle of the night, and have no place else to go. Once the wife and children are out of the home, and away from the abusive husband, the wife must decide whether to return home or to make the separation permanent, and "there will be help and support for either decision," Mrs. Kron said.

CONTRACT CLAUSE

Women who decide to return home can now set up marriage contracts with their husbands, one clause of which prohibits the husband from striking the wife, Mrs. Kron said. Wives can also set up conditions which must be fulfilled before they return, such as the husband seeking counselling.

Should the wife decide to legally separate from her husband and seek a divorce, there is counselling available for her in job and career planning, financial skills, and legal assistance.

Marriage counselling usually tries to put marriages back together, Mrs. Corney said, but some people need separation and divorce counselling to support them through a divorce. While there won't be formal divorce

attention, or when a relative or friend of the family comes in while the husband is beating her, and takes her out of the home.

"Most people wonder why a wife stays in a home where she is constantly being beaten," Mrs. Corney said. "Usually it's because it's the only home she has, and because the constant mental as well as physical abuse has so destroyed her self-esteem that she doesn't feel capable of leaving."

CAN'T PROVIDE "She's also concerned about not being able to provide financially for her children. In a home where abuse is taking

place, the husband often has emotional problems, sometimes complicated by drug abuse."

"The atmosphere is one of fear when the father is home, because the wife never knows when she might be hit. The children stay out of the home as much as possible, and they have problems at school."

"The women are so devastated and so lost, they just don't know what to do," Mrs. Kron said.

"The abuse is physical and mental," Mrs. Corney said. "If you have a black eye or a split lip, it will heal -- the emotional scars last."

halton women's place



An Emergency Shelter for Abused Women and Their Children

About the Hills

NHAMR open houses

The North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded will be holding open houses at both Tinkerbell Nursery on the grounds of Milton's E.C. Drury School and at the Countryside residence on Trafalgar Road just north of Steeles Avenue next Wednesday. Commemorating National Mental Retardation Week May 11 - 17, the open houses at Countryside take place 2 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., and at Tinkerbell 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Margaret Laurence onstage

The Halton Hills Public Library Board will be presenting "The Women of Margaret Laurence" at St. John's United Church hall May 27 at 8:30 p.m. The presentation stars Norma Edwards, who will portray two characters from the novels of Canadian author Margaret Laurence. The two characters in the play here will be Stacey, the heroine of the novel, "The Fire Dwellers", and Hagar, heroine of the novel, "The Stone Angel". Tickets are available at the library.

JACKIE LEARNS ABOUT SAFE CYCLING WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM DAD



Jackie Shaw may not have the training wheels off her bicycle yet, but she already knows the importance of bicycle safety, because she came to the bicycle rodeo Saturday morning at Holy Cross School and went through the various tests, with a little help from her father, John. The tests



included driving between ever-narrowing pieces of rope, riding around pylons, and riding in a simulated traffic situation. The riders were given a certain number of points at the beginning of each test, and points were subtracted for every mistake. The rodeo was run by Constable Ra



Swaminathan, Halton Regional Police Safety Officer, with the assistance of the Georgetown Optimists Club.

(Herald photos by Lori Taylor)