

# A Christmas story

By the Herald's Ontario Outdoors columnist, Bob Olivier

Living alone far from civilization, Jack had a hard time keeping track of time. After all, what did it matter. The seasons came and went in absolute regularity. Spring would follow Winter etc. as it had for thousands of years.

If he needed food, Jack would hunt or fish until hisarder was stocked with enough to last through any storm. Plant enough corn so there would be enough after the deer and small animals had their fill. At a leisurely pace in late winter, enough wood was cut to last the full year for cooking and warmth. And building the cabin with the woodshed attached, and containing the year round spring in the corner of the shed was a brilliant idea.

Self-sufficiency, what a life. Going "out" only to trade a few furs for tools or parts for the stove. That's what we do today, he told his dog Chain. The pup was running from wolves with a chain dragging from his collar in danger of being snagged up at any moment in the brush. Two years had filled out the pup and made them inseparable friends.

Jack jerked venison and dried corn from the garden, enough dried fish for Chain. Extra moccasins with rabbit fur lining and the prime bear skin taken last year for a sleeping robe.

Funny, that dog seems to know we are going "out", yet this is our first trip together into town. What fantastic scenery, so familiar yet always changing in so many ways both small and great.

Fifteen miles today I figure, good traveling on snowshoes. Fire reflecting off the rock face, warmed inside with sumac tea, corn bread and jerky. What else does a man need? Yet the very question made Jack feel uneasy for some strange reason. Chain still watching me, when he is usually asleep as soon as his belly is full of fish.

Sun up - get up. Why so anxious to get moving? Shouldn't make town by sundown. Well there it is. Who smelled it first, Chain or Jack, the town with its smell of horses, fires and stuffiness, or did Jack just imagine the latter. Should see it round the next group of Cedars.

"Look at these lights" what the...oh, it must be Christmas. And the feelings came rushing in to smother Jack like a hot room. Check into the clapboard hotel, and eat at the little restaurant.

Folks sure are friendly, maybe I miss people more than I realized, thought Jack. Memories of a past Christmas, filled Jack's mind - Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary, the Christchild.

Figure the Wisemen and Shepherds needed the assurance of goodness in the world as much as me.

If I moved a little closer to town.....



# Town readies for bantam tourney

Preparations for Georgetown's international Bantam tournament are starting to build as the week of March 21 to 28 looms closer to the application deadline.

The international event will bring more than 700 boys from 41 teams from Canada and the United States for the week long barrage of games. As with last year, more than 2,000 people will be involved in bringing the 79 games of hockey to Memorial arena. The round robin finals will be held at Gordon Alcott the last day.

The list of people dedicated to the tournament is endless - many of them willing to take a week's holidays to help participate in the event.

### NEW CHAIRMAN

This year's co-chairman of the Bantam tournament, John Clark, says one of the unsung heroes of the tournament is Karen Harrison, a fireless woman who has been the billing chairperson for the past two years. Harrison, who has spent much of her time in the past five years with minor hockey in various executive positions, is now the Georgetown convenor to the Tri-county Division of the O.M.H.A. Last year, the Lions Club of Georgetown selected Karen Harrison as the Citizen of the Year during their awards banquet for her devoted work in hockey circles.

One long time participant of the tournament who has again graciously offered her services to the tournament is Jesse Hayes, the Catering Supervisor for the event. Mrs. Hayes, who has been catering supervisor and chef extraordinaire for the past 20 seasons with the tournament, says she is again looking forward to the event.

Mrs. Hayes says she enjoys meeting new people at the tournament as well as visiting the more familiar faces that come by and see her each year during the week of hockey. She remembers one year when a team came in the dining hall with their coach and manager. The team was very noisy and annoying. She asked them to leave and they did, but two days later they came up to her and apologized. The team then presented her with a nice rock



The Major Bantam team of Georgetown are traditionally the team to represent Georgetown in the largest bantam hockey tournament in Canada played here in Halton Hills. The United Fire Safety team members are (left to right): Back Row: Dennis Doucette, Ralph Fletcher

(manager), Bill Merman, Paul Smith, Paul Campbell (Ass't coach), Stephen Fletcher, Mark Moody, Mark Lunnag, Sean Finn, Jamie Spiller, Harold Golmer (coach). Front Row: Rory Kennedy, Mark Zebeder, Mike Clouvitt, Joe Balsun, Terry Dixon, Chris Pearson, Craig Nicolucci.

sculpture as a gift for all she had endured having to discipline them.

### GIRLSHELP

A lot of the girls that have helped her have now grown up and married. Each year Mrs. Hayes has about 14 girls helping her, ranging from the ages of ten to sixteen. She says there have always been romances between some of the visiting players and her girls, but the boys then go back home and the girls ask her, "Oh, Mrs. Hayes, will he be back?"

Co-chairman, John Clark says he started out sending invitations for the tournament at least a month ago. The teams are selected on a first come, first served basis. The tournament is established so that if a team makes it past their quarter final playoff, they are not allowed to play in the Georgetown tournament. This is so the playoffs will not conflict with the tournament.

### LOTS OF WORK

The entire tournament is supported by the \$125.00 entry fee each team must pay for the tournament. This money goes towards feeding the players, rental for ice time and the purchase of trophies.

### Rookies pay their way

# Rebel wrestlers take 5th spot

By HAROLD BRANSCH Herald Special

The GDHS wrestling team attended the prestigious Bishop Ryan Invitational wrestling tournament in Hamilton last weekend and placed a respectable fifth among twelve teams from all over Ontario.

The young team produced no weight division winners as three veteran wrestlers couldn't attend the meet. Coach Bob McKay said, "Our rookies wrestled very well, and they were our strong point of the day."

Some strong placings for the day were Doug Gillespie, second in the 112.5 pounds class, followed by teammate Mike Sweezie who was third in the same weight class. Tim Dixon fared well in the 90 pounds division to place a fourth overall.

Fifth place was attained by Tom O'Brian in the 97 pounds class, and in the 119 pounds division Jim Wittmeier placed fourth.

Other notable performances came from Mark Dehook in the 134-141 pounds class who placed fourth and Mike Wroblewski who achieved a fifth place status in the same division.

Mention should also be made of Bob Sweezie who had to withdraw because of a back injury but showed potential of

at least a third place finishing. Although not finishing in the top six, Brian Stone and Pat Delguidice showed promising signs as rookies.

"I was pleased with our outcome. It was a high class meet and we have been doing more weight training and little

actual practice," said coach McKay.

The winner of this meet was the host, Bishop Ryan, followed by Lakesort, Bayview, Assumption and Georgetown. These teams are very talented, as they represent some of the best teams in Ontario; they

will be the major competition for the Rebels for the OFSAA championships.

After the holidays the Rebels will be attending the Highlands wrestling tournament Jan. 10. Later in the season Georgetown will be hosting their own invitational wrestling meet.



Some of the 25 members of the Acton badminton club show us their swing skills that they used so effectively last week against Elora. Shown above are: (l. to r.) Vic Morris, Jean Morris, John Wright, Jeanette Hlaski, Rene March.

# Basketballers win first games

By HAROLD BRANSCH Herald Special

The GDHS junior and senior boys' basketball teams started their official seasons on a winning note by defeating Oakville Trafalgar this past Tuesday. Unfortunately, on Thursday both the midlevel and senior teams lost out to Queen's Park in a doubleheader.

In the doubleheader against Oakville Trafalgar the juniors played a commanding game, to defeat O.T. by a score of 68 to 52. This game was paced by the play of Jeff Smith who obtained an amazing 31 points for the team. Special mention should also be made to George Adams, Terry Pottruff and Tim Varney.

**BEAT OAKVILLE**  
During that same doubleheader the seniors also defeated Oakville by taking the lead for the entire game and ultimately winning 54-44. High scorers for this game were Kevin Neill with 17 points and Mike Sherrard with 8.

In another doubleheader this time at Queen Elizabeth Park, the seniors were defeated by a score of 59-44. According to coach Leking "it was a well played, fast paced game".

High scorers for this game were Mark Nelstrop with 18 points; Shawn Hill with 10 points; and Kevin Neill with 8 points. The record for the seniors now stands at one win and three losses.

# Acton badminton players have fun chasing birdies

The Acton badminton club play for the birds - those birds of a plastic variety with a rubber ball on the end, that is. And they seem to be very successful at what they do.

Every Monday and Thursday the 25 members of the Acton badminton club get together at the Belle public school gym for some relaxing games of badminton. The team plays mostly for the exercise and the social aspect involved with team play. There is no pressure for the players to win games, but they can play seriously.

Last week in Elora, the Acton team played that town and came away with a sound victory over their opponents. The Acton team plays different towns in tournaments over the

year. Team spokesperson, Joan Morris says that the team has beat Elora in the past and Erin is about even with Acton.

Milton, Orangeville and Georgetown are teams that are traditionally strong so Acton will have to at their best when they play any of those teams.

Morris says the calibre of men should be better than last year. The team is still looking for more ladies to strengthen their team in the mixed competition.

Morris says that you need quick reflexes to play badminton and you have to be co-ordinated, to some extent, to play. She says it's great exercise: "You come into the gym frozen from the cold, but you're hot and sweating in five minutes from playing."

Anyone who plays tennis can pick up the sport fairly quickly, Morris says, but there are some differences in the game from tennis, just as there are some differences between backyard badminton and the indoor type. "The hardest part of badminton is probably learning to serve," Morris says.

The Acton badminton club plays their tournaments at leisure, usually having one when a member contacts another town and wants to arrange a meet. At the end of the season, there is an annual bash to congratulate each member on their exploits and renew friendships made over the season.