

The Little NHL: It's Georgetown's contribution to minor hockey

It's minor hockey week in Canada!



In the picture at left, captains of the Little NHL teams are featured. (l to r): "Ike" Bullivant (Chicago Black Hawks), Everett Wilson (Boston Bruins), Abby Kemshead (Montreal Canadiens), Del Beaumont (New York Americans), and Doug Sargent (Toronto Maple Leafs). Del Beaumont's son Brian, now leading scorer in Georgetown's Industrial hockey league is featured in the above picture, standing in the back row, second from left.

In a tribute address to Gordon Alcott, Len Self noted, "There is one essential difference in all these tournaments from Little NHL tournaments. I refer to the matter of team selection. Every tournament, except Little NHL, cater only to all-star teams from communities. Although CAHA rules were basic to tournament play, Little NHL introduced shorter games and rules to prevent fighting, swearing and other ungentlemanly acts by players and coaches.

It's Minor Hockey week in Canada and for Georgetown, home of the Little NHL, this should mean something special. Georgetown has a proud history in minor hockey and more than its share of dedicated people

who have contributed their time and money. The story of the Little NHL, perhaps more than any other hockey story, best illustrates the interest in minor hockey in Halton Hills.

In 1935 there lived a man in a white frame house just west of Church and Charles Streets. He had a vision of organizing a hockey league for the town of Georgetown. The idea of starting an organizer league was bold, creative and expensive - for the Depression was at its height.

Gordon Alcott, founder of the Little NHL, went to Toronto with his 10-year-old friend, "Steamer" Emmerson in 1935 to visit Charlie Conacher, Conn Smythe, and Foster Hewitt. Alcott told them he wanted to organize a hockey league in Georgetown based on the NHL teams. He asked Conn Smythe and others for their support. The Maple Leafs, under the direction of Conn Smythe, were more than willing to help out - such stars as Charlie Conacher and Joe Primeau came to Georgetown to referee some of their games.

The Little NHL league was started in 1936 with teams wearing the sweaters of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Boston Bruins, Chicago Black Hawks, Montreal Canadiens, Montreal Maroons and the New York Americans. The players wore the names of the stars on the teams they were trying to pattern themselves after.

PLAYERS SIGN According to "Steamer" Emmerson, who later became mayor of Georgetown, the Little NHL players had to sign a piece of paper saying they would not swear, drink or smoke and would keep up with their school work.

Gordon Alcott, Emmerson said, "was a good cleaning athlete. He felt that every boy should participate. If a boy had made a mistake during a game that cost his team a win, Gordon would point out the good plays the boy had made during the game. It was important to him that the boys had fun when they played hockey."

Georgetown's connection with the NHL players and teams remained strong. One

of the Georgetown boys, Bud James, wore the name of NHL great Gordy Drillon. James, who still lives in Georgetown, receives a Christmas present from Drillon every year to this day.

FIRST LEAGUE The Little NHL was the first organized minor hockey league in Canada to be based on NHL teams. The concept blossomed around Ontario, and later out West.

LEAGUE EXPANDED After the idea caught on in Georgetown, the league began to expand and more boys were able to participate in different divisions. Conn Smythe, owner of the Maple Leaf Gardens, offered his arena to Georgetown's Little NHL from 12 noon to 12 midnight once every year for tournaments. Smythe's original offer to sponsor a minor hockey tournament for Georgetown has been called the granddaddy of all minor hockey tournaments.

Gordon Alcott wrote in 1966 about some highlights during the years: "Every boy was taken to the Maple Leaf Gardens to see an NHL game during the season. Some teams were taken into the dressing rooms to meet the NHL players before a game.

I think one of the highlights was a game played at Maple Leaf Gardens, prior to an NHL game, between the Toronto Maple Leafs and the New York Americans. This is the only time in the history of the Maple Leaf Gardens that such a game has been played before the "big game."

COPPER CLIFF Little NHL then was organized in Copper Cliff and it soon spread rapidly throughout Northern Ontario.

In Copper Cliff the farm team system was started to include Junior A (ages 8 and 9), American League (10 and 11), NHL (12 and 13) and Little NHL carried its organization into hamlets of 500 to 1,000 cities of 500,000 to a million. There are now an estimated 50,000 boys play-

ing Little NHL hockey - far cry from the original 90 boys in Georgetown, 30 years ago!

During the sixties and

seventies, minor hockey associations have sponsored spring tournaments patterned after Gordon Alcott's concept.

"But hockey is a great experience for the kids, especially tournaments, where they are able to see another side of life," Harrison says. "Even for the parents, they get to know other parents from visiting communities and develop friendships through hockey."

Wendy Stewart, president of the Georgetown and District Hockey Association, says that minor hockey teaches the youngsters to get along with other children in a group. She says that fellowship and teamwork developed through hockey is very important for a boy or girl. "Our constitution pretty well says it all," Stewart says.

FELLOWSHIP "To develop and encourage sportsmanship, community spirit, citizenship, good fellowship among all participants to the betterment of their physical, mental and social well-being; to promote, organize and to control team competition."

President of the Tri-County league in Georgetown, Karen Harrison, says that hockey games are valuable because, "the youngster learns to be a good loser as well as a winner; he learns self-control. Quite often there are problems with the refereeing and some judgement calls are not favorable to the players. But the players have to abide by what the referees say."

Harrison says that "some coaches have to realize that it would be better to get off the bench and sit in the stands to see the game from a different view." She admits that today there are some problems in minor hockey - such as finding dedicated coaches or parents who worry too much about a game that has been poorly played.

Kenner says that with the travel involved in minor hockey, some players are able to meet a lot of other young people. Such tournaments as the Midget tournament and the Bantam tournament serve the players well as they can be the good-will ambassadors for Georgetown and Canada as a whole.



Karen Harrison

LOTS OF WORK "A lot of parents don't realize the work that goes on behind the scenes to develop a hockey program," Harrison says. Georgetown Chrysler-Raider general manager Dave Kenner says that minor hockey "provides a tremendous outlet for the energies and aspirations for young hockey players. It is an opportunity for some players to experience the game as winners and losers. Minor hockey provides a young boy to reach beyond his family and establish a niche for himself as a person."

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Herald Scoreboard

HOUSE LEAGUE HOCKEY

House League Game Results: Jan. 11 Midget

Mac's Mountaintop Plaza 7, Trio Mart 2
Goals by Mac's: Mark Waters, Kevin McArthur (2), Kevin Phillips (2), Peter Coffey, Steve Tancoo with assists by Kevin McArthur, Paul Guistini (2), Steve Williams, Paul Clark (2), Mark Waters, Mike Pierce.
Goals by Trio Mart: Andrew Braun, David Wood, with assists by David Leslie, Mike Schuetz and Duane Wilson.

Scotia Bank 6, Masson Motors Pontiac's 4
Goals by Scotia Bank: Don Turner, Kevin McCarty, Rick Watterson (2), Bruce Patterson, Mark Ezard with assists by Chris MacDonald, Rick Watterson (2), Steve Ferguson (2), Kevin McCartney (2), Scott Reed, Don Turner.
Goals by Masson: Richard Sedore, Scott Reed, Tim Kuhl, Shaun Kirkpatrick with assists by Tim Kuhl, Don Casselman, Scott Reed.

Halton Cable T.V. 7, Standard Products 6
Goals by Halton: Gary Lockwood (3), Robert Brown, Eric Clark, Darrell Weir, Greg Lawr, with assists by John Verhey (2), Eric Clark (2) and Darrell Weir (2).
Goals by Standard Products: Rod Cook, John Vaughn, Andreas Hack (2), Shawn Dockeray, Gary Cuthbertson with assists by Gary Cuthbertson, Grant Irwin, John Sellar, Ian Seaton, Rod Cook, Scott Peck.

House League Game Results: Jan. 11 Juvenile

Exchange House 3, Jim's Steering 3
Goals by Exchange: Mike Milton, Joe Domingos, Paul Mercier with an assist by Mike Milton.
Goals by Jim's: Jim Massena, Terry Moustard, Mark Milton with assists by Todd Cronkright and Rick Donaldson.

Jr. Raiders 5, Roger's Shell 2
Goals by Jr.: Kevin Hughes, Scott Osborne, Scott Haines, Kevin Fitzgerald, Mark Heidman with assists by Kevin Fitzgerald, Kevin Hughes (2), Scott Haines.
Goals by Roger's Shell: Brian King, Ron Coffey with an assist by Kevin Willcocks.

House League Game Results: Jan. 10 Minor Atom

Curwood Packaging 6, Depco 5
Goals by Curwood: Gary Cunningham (1), Stuart Vogt (3), Gary Cowling with assists by Gary Cunningham, Gary Cowling (1), Stuart Vogt (2) and Mark Mininch (1).
Goals by Depco: Greg Onoprijenko (3), Mike Wilkins (1), John Wilson (1) with assists by Steve Veltman (2), John Wilson (2), Greg Onoprijenko, and Mike Wilkins.

Bill Garbutt 7, Varian Canada 2
Goals by Bill: C. Herman (4), K. Campbell, A. Deruchie, M. Chapman with assists by G. Dean, C. Herman, B. Bray, M. Chapman.
Goals by Varian: S. Sutherland, S. Lee with assists by Jason Grasman (2) and S. Sutherland (1).

Thruway Muffler 2, Georgetown Rental 1
Goals by Thruway: Billy Tutt (2), with assists by Daryl Sproule and Glen Thomas.
Goals by Georgetown Rental: Nick O'Donnell with an assist by Robbie Bouskill.

Chicken Villa 8, Lion's Club 0
Goals by Chicken: Brian Leslie (3), Derek Politt (2), Sean Gambles (2), Derek Treffy with assists by Derek Treffy (2), Sean Gambles (2), Brian Leslie with the shutout going to Scott Compton.

House League Results: Minor Pee Wee Jan. 10

Kenner's Dairy Bar 8, Baz Motors 0
Goals by Kenner's: Mike Bray, Ray Fisher (2), Jason Bew, Dave Fisher (2), Mike Huffman, Geoff Goodfellow with assists by Mike Huffman, Mike Bray, Geoff Goodfellow (3), Chris Gillard, Dave Fisher (2), Sean Dwyer, Jamie Parker and Ray Fisher with the shutout awarded to Terry Smith.

North Halton Sports 3, London Life 3

Goals by North Halton: Mark Hillier, Ken Duncan, Roby Heideman with assists by Terry Paddle (2), Randy Dowdall, Kevin Lindberg.
Goals by London: Roger Moore (2), Scott Mizener with an assist by Jim Clark.

Murray Motors 2, A and S Trophies 5
Goals by Murray: Jimmy Mannings, Paul Simmons with an assist by Jimmy Mannings.
Goals by A and S: Robin Cocks, Yanne Letarnee (2), Todd Norton, Tim Bennett, with assists by James Xanthes, Todd Norton (2), Robin Cocks (2).

MINOR PEE WEE LEAGUE STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	T	L	F	A	PTS
A and S Trophies	6	4	1	1	24	12	9
Kenner's	6	4	1	1	30	17	9
North Halton	6	3	1	2	29	16	7
Murray Motors	6	3	1	2	19	25	6
London Life	6	2	1	3	23	25	5
Baz Motors	6	0	0	6	8	40	0

MINOR ATOM RESULTS

Team Standings as of Jan. 10, 1981

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Georgetown Rental	3	1	0	16	5	6
Thruway Muffler	3	1	0	10	7	6
Curwood Packaging	2	1	1	15	9	5
Bill Garbutt Plumbing	2	1	1	11	7	5
Chicken Villa	2	2	0	16	9	4
Varian Canada	2	2	0	12	17	4
Depco Metals	1	3	0	12	15	2
Lion's Club	0	4	0	2	24	0

TRI-COUNTY HOCKEY

Tri-County Game Results: Jan. 6 Labelmasters Minor Mtd.

Georgetown 3, Burlington 8
Goals by Georgetown: Greg Robertson, George Osborne, Scott Murray, with assists by Rick Greenwood, Blake Harrison and Jeff Sargent.
Three Stars: Blake Harrison, Howie Oram, Scott Murray.
Shots on goal: Georgetown 12, Burlington 22.
Comments: Georgetown couldn't muster up too much of an attack against a fired up squad in Burlington. Although Georgetown scored two of their goals within 23 seconds late in the second period.

BOWLING

GOLDEN AGE RESULTS JAN. 9, 1981

High Single Flat: Edith Mills 218, Anne Nicholson 215, Bob Harris 243, Ken Ackerland 232.
High Single W-Hand: Edith Mills 268, Vi. Hewitt 265, Ken Ackerland 272, Bill Everson 255.

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Pee wees win against Burlington

The United Fire Safety Minor Pee Wees defeated Burlington 5-2 last Tuesday. Burlington took an early lead with two goals but were unable to put any more in Georgetown's net. Georgetown pummeled their opponents during the second and third periods in a strong effort by the whole team.
Goals came from Bill Herman, Mark Moody, Stephen Fletcher, Terry Dixon and Mike Chloviti. Assisting were Mark Moody 2, Stephen Fletcher 2, Dennis Doucette, Mark Dunning, Bill Herman, Craig Chantler, Jamie Spiller and Rory Kennedy.

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