Minor Hockey Week



Little NHL players Bryan Lewis (left) and Ed Wylle are congratulated by some very prominent bockey contributors to Georgetown: (left to right) Ivan Crabtree, Bud Haines, Bryan Lewis became an NHL personality in adult life as he is a veteran NHL bockey referee. Last year Bud Haines won the Hockey Heritage award for his contribution to minor bockey and the Georgetown Raiders.

(Herald photo)

Our town considered Home of 'Little NHL'

It's Minor Hockey Week in Canada and for Georgetown, home of the Little NHL this week 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 sponsorship.

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 organized league was bold, creative and expensive - for the Depression was at its

Gordon Alcott, founder of the Little NHL, went to Toronto with his friend of 10 years "Steamer" Emmerson in 1935 to visit Charile Conacher, Conn Smythe and Foster Hewitt. Alcott told them he wanted to organize a hockey league in Georgetown based on NHL teams. LEAF SUPPORT

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 Conscher and Joe Primeau came to Georgetown to referee some of their

The Georgetown Little NHL league was started in 1936 with teams wearing the sweaters of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Boston Bruins.

Chicago Black Hawks,

Montreal Canadiens, Mon-

treal Maroons and the New

York Americans. The play-

ers were the names of the

stars on the teams they were

trying to pattern themselves

According to "Steamer"

Emmerson, who later

became mayor of George-

on NHL teams. The concept and later out West. After the idea caught on in

Georgetown, the league began to expand and more boys were able to participate in different divisions.

from 12 noon to 12 midnight 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: "I think one of the highlights was a game play-ed 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 Gradens that such a game has been played before the 'big' game."

The Little NHL then was organized in Copper Cilif and it soon spread rapidly throughout Northern

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." THEFIRST

The Little NHL was the first organized minor hockey league in Canada to be based blossomed around Ontario

Conn Smythe, owner of the Maple Lenf Gradens in the 30s offered his arena to Georgetown's Little NHL



town, 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

Gordon Alcott, Emmerson said, "was a good cleanevery boy should participate. take during a game that cost







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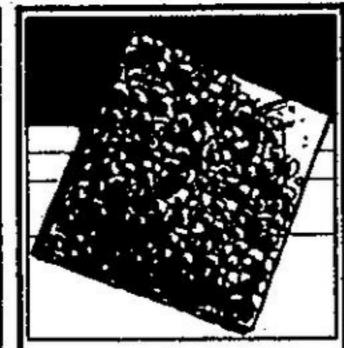


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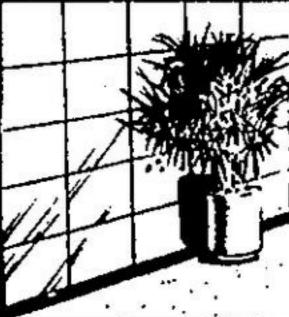
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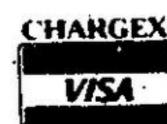


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