

Our salute to Minor Hockey Week

'Why do you like hockey?'



DAVE INGLIS
I think it's fun because it's fast and I can keep up with the other guys.



TYLER JORDAN
I like it because it's competitive and I really have a good time playing.



SCOTT COMPTON
I like saving the goals when they're on the breakaways. I just like being in net because it's a challenge.



BRIAN SNOW
I like playing. I like learning how to shoot better and practise skating. I don't like getting penalties.



TOMMY CRAWFORD
I don't know. I like Minor Hockey because it's fast. I'm as fast as everybody else.



BRAD PHEE
Well it's better than rep because you don't travel as much. I just like it better. You get more goals.

A lasting impression

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not treated as seriously as it should be in the community?"

John Chantler: "Well, we are one of the highest per capita enrollment in hockey in Canada. And because of that it shows the interest that the people in this town have in hockey."

"Once you get involved, your boy gets involved in hockey, your whole social life, a good part of your waking hours are spent at arenas and travelling to and from arenas and so forth."

"...they have met the challenge and have taken it very seriously, almost too seriously to the point where a lot of bickering takes place, a lot of in-house fighting takes place. And conversely there has been a lot of good friendships developed through hockey."

The Herald: "As far as Minor Hockey Week goes, we don't usually celebrate it in Georgetown per se, ...the Minor Hockey Week question was: is there any message you would like to convey to I guess three different areas, to the players, the coaches and the fans about what Minor Hockey should mean to them?"

John Chantler: "The coaches have got to remember that they're dealing with boys' various temperaments, very impressionable boys. You ask a boy when he's a young man in his 20s who he remembers most from his youth. He'll mention his teacher, he'll mention his parents, he'll also mention his hockey coach. That coach leaves a very lasting impression on the boys and they must remember they are there to provide and teach. There's more to the game than winning - there's developing the boys' personalities and the boys' character."

"To the parents and fans, leave the boys to play the way they should play. Try not to lead them in any way against their coaches or the referees."

Once they leave the arena, forget hockey.

"To the players themselves, I would say the main thing is to have fun, do your best and success will come as it may. Don't get discouraged and don't let others get you down."

"I think the main thing the boys should learn is discipline. Discipline outside the home and school is necessary and hockey is a very good form of it. I think the boys as a whole should listen to their coach and accept the discipline."

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The Herald: "There's no solution to the ice problem unless Georgetown had less kids to work with then?"

John Chantler: "Either less kids or another ice surface. I think that we, desperately, need another ice surface. You can have an outdoor rink without even a cover on it, just somewhere to practise."

"Here, the climate just cannot support natural ice. I don't believe teams can have one practice a week and develop into exceptional teams. One practice per week is not enough time to develop a good team. You need at least two or three practices per week. The Reps currently only have one practice per week. You should have one practice per game, that's ideal, and we have two games per week."

The Herald: "Could you give an overview of how the rep teams have been doing up to this point in the season?"

John Chantler: "The rep teams, overall, have been doing very well. They're all but in one or two cases, in

to be continued ...



Minor Hockey Week means friendship, competition, teamwork and the learning of new skills, among other things. Here two young Novice hockey players get ready for a face-off in house league action. Seen here are (left) Shane Coulas and Kevin Patrick.

Minor Atom

Team	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Thruway	10	7	2	1	64	40	35½
Varian	10	6	3	1	48	47	29½
Depeo	10	3	6	1	37	40	21
Curwood	10	1	6	3	38	50	14

Major Peewees battle with Dundas

PAULETTE THIBAUT
Herald Special
Georgetown Standard
Products Major Pee Wees

battled it out in a recent game against Dundas which proved to be a real frustration to our boys. The first period was scoreless, with numerous scrambles, missed passes and generally lethargic play on both sides.

In the second period, we buzzed around Dundas' net like flies but still were unable to score. Dundas however did find the mark and led 1-0.

Action came in the third period with Alain Thibault tying the game on a break-away, assists going to Mark Shepherd

and Jason Arnold. Dundas however pumped in two quick goals and with less than five minutes left in the

game the locals were down 3-1. Georgetown with their backs to the wall scored two goals within 45

seconds to tie the game at 3-3. The first of these was a short handed effort by Trevor Hartley with the help of Ken Langdon

Meet the referee

'It takes four eyes!'

Robbie Cooper, 14, has been a level 1 referee in Georgetown for two years, following in father Glen's footsteps.

The grade eight Centennial student says some of the best parts of refereeing are the skating and watching the kids out on the ice having a good time. "It tends to get more serious as you get older," Robbie says.

The 5'7" referee is also a Rep hockey forward for the Minor Bantams and he has 22 goals with 20 assists in just 28 games.

He got started in refereeing because his dad used to referee and Robbie thought it would be fun to try. Robbie thought he would be better able to understand

the game and also benefit by getting more ice time.

He went to a referee



ROBBIE COOPER
clinic in Streetsville where they taught him how to officiate a game. Now Robbie is able to

referee at the Novice, Atom and Peeewe level, including the age group his brother Craig, 10, plays in.

He notices a big difference from being a player to refereeing a game. Robbie says the referee must watch all the players and how they react and sometimes to do that it takes four eyes.

Judging how the players go into the boards and making those judgement calls are the hardest parts of being a referee, he says.

Refereeing the younger games are quite slower so he prefers the games with the older boys. To keep warm Robbie wears a track suit, thick sweaters and he breathes into his hands.

Parents can get on a referee's nerve but not so much at the younger age level of hockey players, he says. He tries to block out the parents yelling. Going into a game Robbie says he feels pressured about what will happen if he makes a mistake, but it is important to learn by your mistakes, he says.

Robbie would like to continue playing hockey and refereeing and perhaps even pursue a career as a professional hockey player if the opportunity is there.

He has a sister Amy, 7 and a brother Craig, 10. At Centennial school Robbie likes math the best of his subjects.

Meet the coach

Junior Tibbitts of the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association has to be one of the busiest coaches on the minor hockey circuit.

The former Georgetown Chrysler Raider player and coach is in charge of two teams: the Georgetown girls hockey team and the Rep Major Bantams.

For three years Junior has been involved in minor hockey. "I enjoy coaching kids and I'm trying to put more back into the game," he says.

His most memorable moments in hockey are winning five OHA championships with the Raiders and seeing "young fellows develop" in minor hockey.

Last year he was happy to see some of his Bantams progress to the stage where they jumped an age grouping and were able to make the Midget

team.

Hockey is secondary, Junior says, as far as the youngsters are concerned. He is interested in a player's education and their ability to be a sportsman.

Respect is a very important characteristic for a minor hockey player to have, he says. Respect towards your coach and the opposition and the respect of the referees, he says.

It's hogwash that kids are harder to discipline these days, he says. It's just important to be fair to the players when disciplining them, Junior says.

His message for Minor Hockey Week is to "play the game the way it should be played and enjoy the game".

Junior Tibbitts played most of his minor hockey in Quebec, graduated in the Metro Junior A Rosemount team, then played Senior A hockey for Orillia.

He played six years for the Raiders and then became their coach.



(Herald photo)

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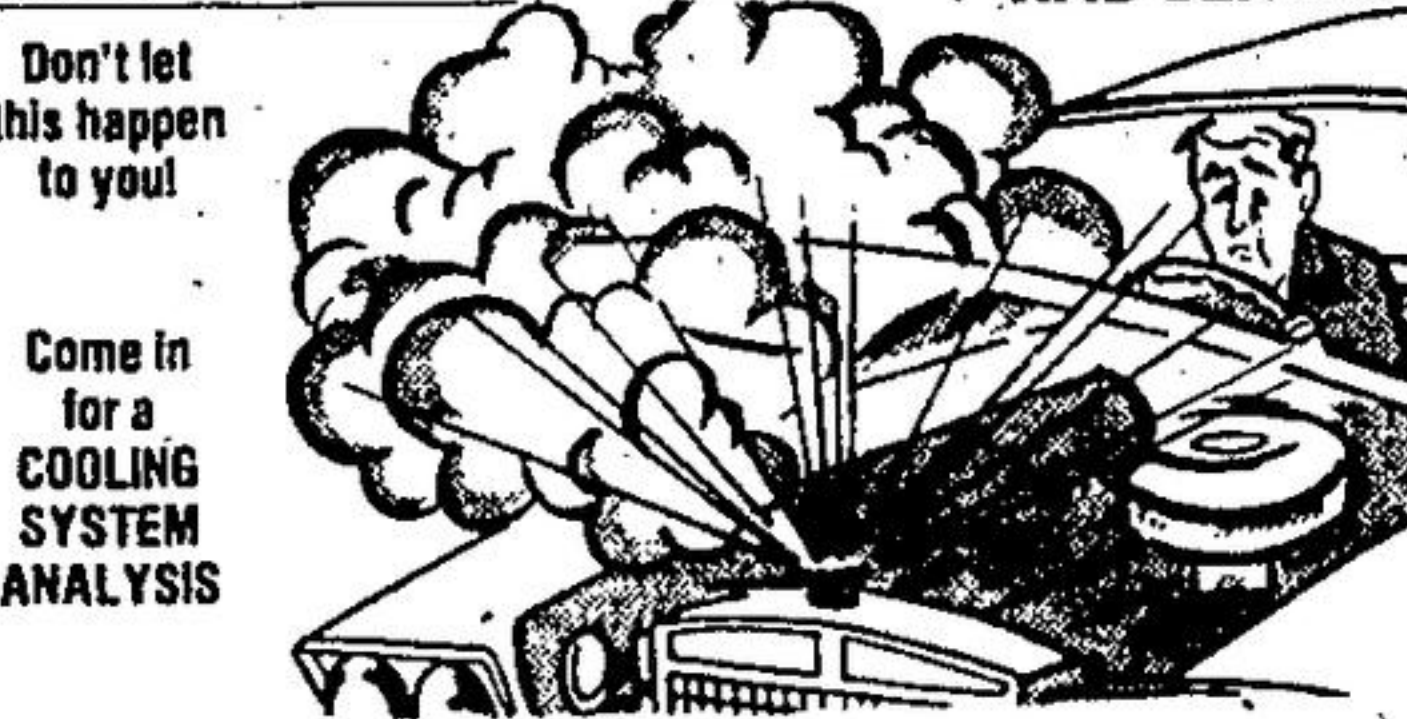
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