

# 'Letts' go flying or maybe diving

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer  
If you're afraid of heights or depths, don't read on. However, if you're even a wee bit curious about soaring in the wild blue sky or paddling down to shipwreck levels, then read on.

Joe Letts, 31, is an enthusiast and instructor of both scuba and sky diving. The Georgetown resident is trying to start a club in town for each.

Jumping out of planes since 1973, Mr. Letts has so far made 429 jumps. He holds a Class 'D' licence in parachuting, and a pilot's licence.

"We're one of the leading nations in the world in sky diving," Letts said. "We've taken many world titles and generally haven't had too much trouble placing in the top three in the world."

An assistant manager at a Toronto bank, the bearded Ontario Street resident instructs in the water and sky sports when he's not playing with calculators and columns of figures.

"I started scuba diving when I was 14," he smiled. "My first dive was in the Limehouse quarry."

An ad in the paper selling scuba gear for \$100 caught Mr. Letts' eye and led him deeply into the sport. Concerned about his son's safety, the older Letts joined him up with the Streetsville-based 'Peel Divers'.

Scuba and sky diving

share the same sense of danger and challenge. As well, parachutists feel the same sensation of buoyancy, when they're hurtling to earth, as does the underwater diver, Letts said.

A sky diver can exceed 200 miles per hour on his descent, and can slow himself down to 100 miles per hour. As the diver becomes more familiar with the sport, the time before he pulls his parachute chord increases. That time is called free fall. During free fall, divers have fun doing rolls and turns in the air.

Expert sky divers create patterns in their descent, hooking up with as many as 16 people, arm in arm, as they're plummeting. This is called "relative work" and is rehearsed thoroughly on the ground before being tried in mid-air. By the time it's performed, every participant knows exactly what position they will be holding above, Letts said.

Being prepared in either sport is important, and before that first dive into water or into space, divers are taught everything that could possibly go wrong, and how to deal with it. Knowing what to expect prevents panic.

"Training is strenuous. You do about 100 parachute landing rolls before you make your first jump," Letts said. "If you're not fit, injury can result."

When hitting the

ground, sky divers fall legs together on the balls of their feet. They then roll to the side, changing their vertical motion to a horizontal one, he said. The impact is similar to jumping from your own shoulder height.

"The most common injuries are strains and sprains, with the odd broken ankle," Letts said. "I've trained close to 1,000 people and I'd say of all those, I've seen maybe 15 injuries."

A jumper always carries two parachutes, with the top one a reserve chute. They weigh about 30 pounds, on the diver's back.

"If something goes wrong, you can feel it. You just know 'I'm not slowing down', and you pull the reserve," Letts said.

Chutes are pulled at 2,500 feet. A diver determines his height by glancing at the altimeter on his belt or wrist. That height gives a jumper time as a safety measure, should there be a malfunction.

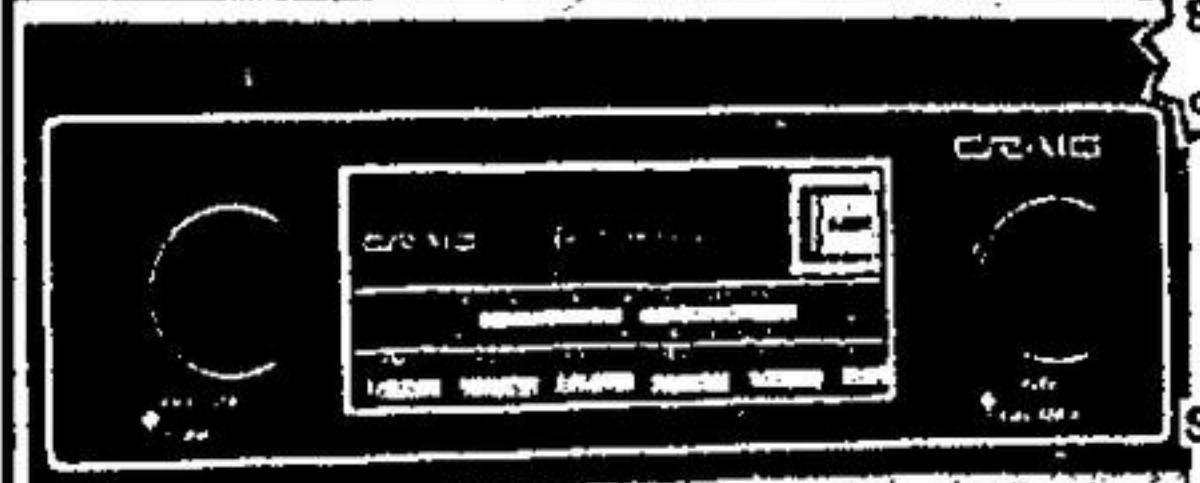
Letts is instructing in both sports through his company, 'Jona'. Scuba classes are under the auspices of the Association of Canadian Underwater Councils and sky diving classes under the auspices of the Canadian Sport Parachuting Association.

For more information about forming a club or about the sport, call Letts at 877-1074. He's a three star instructor with the Confederation mondiale des activites subaquatiques.



No, Joe Letts isn't getting all dressed up for trick or treating. With a helping hand from Toronto's Peter Little, he's modelling the sky diving gear he owns. Equipment can cost from \$400 up, getting costlier if it's customized. The two men hope to start a scuba and sky diving club in town. (Herald photo)

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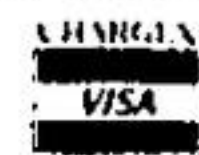


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## Midget reps get together in 9-1 win

Now four games into the new Tri-county Hockey League season, the Georgetown minor midget rep team is definitely coming together as a team. After two losses to Chinguacousy in exhibition and taking off short end of a 5-4 decision in their opener against Brampton, they earned a 9-1 win over Flamboro on Sunday.

New coach, Les Ryan, believes his team has the nucleus to be consistent winners in this league and his convictions seem infectious. Each time out has seen the team improve.

Heath Lockhurst at forward and Mike Hunter at the blue line are new additions to last year's squad and they are adding a lot with their honest toil.

The Brampton opener was an evenly-played match with the visitors matching goals with the locals until 4:08 remain-

ing, when Brampton netted the winner. Graham Shepherd opened the season followed by scores by Mark Pries, Lance Reid and Brian Doherty. Assists went to Doherty, Pries, Mike Teetzel (2), Dan Kent (2) and Chris Hodgins.

In the 9-1 win over Flamboro, Labelmasters held the edge in play throughout. Doherty sparked his team mates with the first, second and fourth goals of the game and also picked up an assist. Depaoli and Teetzel each netted two, while Hodgins and Kent scored one each. Assists went to Lockhurst, Reid (2), Dave Bertrand (2), Kent, Pries, Hodgins, Depaoli and Jim Bick.

Plan to visit the minor midget fund raising garage sale on Saturday, Oct. 15 on the A and P lost across from Frank Veterans. Your support is always appreciated.

## Sabres take third loss

By DENNIS LAWRENCE  
Herald correspondent  
The Acton Sabres dropped their third straight Central Ontario Junior 'B' Hockey League decision, 0-5, to the Barrie Colts Friday in Acton.

The clubs split eight first-period goals in a wide open session, with the Sabres failing to hold 2-1 and 4-2 leads.

Karl Meyer and Ken Yelowica staked Acton to an early advantage, before Ken Kavanaugh and Mark Symes both counted power play goals for the home side.

The visiting Colts managed a single marker to take a 5-4 lead in the second period, but the Sabres had to consider them-

selves fortunate to be trailing by just a single goal after playing nine minutes of the period shorthanded.

The Colts upped their margin to 6-4 with an early third-period marker, before Acton's Symes struck from Meyer to close the gap to 6-5.

Despite the loss, Sabre assistant coach Keith MacKinnon was encouraged with the play of his charges.

"The forwards are starting to come back now, and that's helping out," MacKinnon said. "Also, our penalty-killing has improved."

The Sabres see their next action at home when they host the Milton Steamers Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

## Golden Agers bowling scores

High single flat: Ethel Hardman 220, Gretta Bos 196, Fred Shortill 228, Stan Swann 225.

High Single with Handicap: Ethel Hardman 274, Ada Locke 250, Fred Shortill 268, Jim Wilson 268, Oliver Hunter 259.

High Triple Flat: Ethel Hardman 557, Edith Ditchfield 500, Fred Shortill 571, Stan Swann 561.

High Triple with

Handicap: Ethel Hardman 719, Lily Mitchell 690, Oliver Hunter 694, Fred Shortill 691.

Team Standings	
Ringleaders	17
Anne's Gang	16
Head-Liners	16
Blue Jays	15
Buzz Saws	14
Try Hards	13
Happy Gang	11
Hopefuls	9
77's	8
Invincibles	5
Gerlial Six	5
Ups and Downs	4

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