

'Masters' show the way

Between Gordie Howe's hockey finesse, and Carl Brewer's on-ice antics, it would be difficult to imagine anyone leaving the Gordon Alcott Arena disappointed Sunday.

A capacity crowd enjoyed the NHL Oldtimers game between many greats of the past between the Toronto Maple Leafs and Detroit Red Wings organizations, which was presented by the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council.

The Red Wings, bolstered by a line-up that featured several sets of comparatively younger legs, coasted to an 8-4 victory over the Leafs.

But the score, or who even won the game, will be far down on the list of importance in terms of what people remember most about the event.

It was quite apparent most of the people on hand were there to see No. 9 for the Red Wings do his stuff.

And Gordie Howe didn't let them down.

After scoring the first goal at 1:43 of the opening period, Howe assisted on four of the team's next five goals, to earn Detroit's MVP honors.

Mike Martilla and Gary Bergman had a pair of goals each for the Wings, while singles went to Alex Delvecchio, John Wilson, and Joe Klukay.

Brian McFarlane scored a pair of goals just over a minute apart in the second period, and was named the Leafs' MVP. Other scorers for the Toronto oldtimers included Tom Dulanore and Bob Menard.

Carl Brewer succeeded in livening up the game at several times as he fashioned a number of different hairstyles, worn to keep his "smooth-as-a-baby's-bottom" head warm.

Brewer also skated from the bench in the final minute of play stripped to the waist, and completely "topless" to turn on the burners and lead a spirited charge up the ice.

Prior to Sunday's game, during the opening ceremonies, there was a special presentation of cheques totalling \$3,000 to the Easter Seal Society. The cheques were accepted by this year's Timmy, Wilson Haldan.

A memorial plaque was also dedicated to the late Murray Ezeard, one of the driving forces behind the Hockey Heritage Council, who passed away recently.

Players on both teams in the game wore black armbands to honor the memory of Ezeard, as well as the late Junior Beaumont and the late King Clancy.

The game served as entertainment for the many spectators on hand, but it also reunited players and officials who had not crossed paths for a very long time. Howe said following the game, it had been over 30 years since he had seen some of the other players.

To accommodate the autograph-seekers, the auditorium at the Alcott had been set up for the players to meet with the fans.

But for many, such as Howe, it was impossible to get anywhere near the auditorium, as they were rushed when they left the dressing rooms.

The event was held to coincide with Monday night's Hockey Heritage Council's awards dinner, which honored this year's recipient, Del Beaumont.

Howe stayed in Georgetown and made several special appearances Monday, and was the guest speaker at Monday night's dinner.



The Murray Ezeard Memorial Trophy was unveiled in a special ceremony, prior to Sunday's Oldtimers' game. Taking part in the ceremony were Wayne Pries, left, president of Georgetown Minor Hockey; Helen Ezeard; and Harry Watson, who presented the trophy on behalf of the NHL. (Herald photo)



"Your favorite player is Wayne Who?" Howe jokes with autograph seekers who cornered him outside the dressing room following the game. (Herald photo)



Brian McFarlane scored a pair of goals for the Toronto Maple Leaf Oldtimers and was presented with a travel bag as the team's MVP by Jim Guest of Molson Breweries. (Herald photo)



Gordie Howe was named the MVP for the Detroit Red Wing Oldtimers, and was congratulated by Jim Guest. (Herald photo)



The ceremonial opening-face-off for the game between the Toronto and Detroit Oldtimers was conducted by Wilson Haldan, this year's Timmy. Here, Wilson drops the puck for Carl Brewer (left) and Joe Klukay, while Gordie Howe looks on. (Herald photo)