

## Art of juggling makes strong comeback

Franklin Hargraves is a juggler. That's not to say he merely entertains friends at parties, or amazes his cousins when they get together for Christmas.

Hargraves is a bonafide, accredited juggler who makes his living as an entertainer and a teacher of jugglery.

Last Tuesday night, Hargraves (or Freewheelin' Franklin, as he's known to fellow jugglers) was in Georgetown to conduct a workshop, and impart some of his knowledge upon a group of 14 jugglery enthusiasts.

Hargraves makes his home in Wilno, Ontario, and up until a few years ago, manufactured stereo speaker boxes.

A physical education teacher he knew gave him his start, showing him how to juggle scarves at first. From there, he moved on to bean bags, clubs, and eventually flaming clubs.

The important thing in learning to juggle, according to Hargraves, is to "Never say I can't."

Juggling has found quite a renewed following, he says.

"You'll find juggling has become more and more popular. But a lot of people are intimidated...they think it's hard and complicated. If you want to get better, you have to put the time in."

Hargraves juggles up to two hours each day, but that doesn't necessarily mean he sticks to rigid schedules or has any set program.

"Juggling is something you can do anywhere," he says and to emphasize the point, he pulled several colored rubber balls out of his jacket pocket which he always carries with him, to fill his spare time.

For the last two years, Hargraves has been entertaining on stage, with juggling, of course, but also as a clown and a mime.

Many of his bookings include work at local fairs, and on occasion he has been swamped by youngsters as he wades through the crowds.

More recently, Hargraves has expanded into running workshops, and focuses on everything from juggling and mime to clown make-up and showmanship.

As a teacher, Hargraves says there is no way of telling how long it may take an individual to pick up on juggling. But he has found in many cases, it is youngsters who are adept at learning more quickly.

Therefore, it's not surprising that the greatest juggler in the world today is barely into his teen-age years, after taking up the art when he was five.

Hargraves is a member of the International Juggling Association, and is able to keep in touch with

other jugglers through the contacts he has made.

Many of the people who took part in the juggling workshop Tuesday were rank amateurs, but a few were obviously more experienced.

Hargraves started each of the participants out by teaching them the mechanics of juggling with scarves. He then moved them along to the bean bags, and for some, it was on to the clubs.

But Hargraves says the art of juggling isn't necessarily for everyone. "People today are more into passive, than active pastimes. Juggling is more active."

Debbie Powell, a supervisor with the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department says the comments that were returned by the participants were very favorable, which could pave the way for similar workshops in the future.

"We'd consider trying it again, now that we know we have a good number of people who are interested," she said. "I think, as a first-time effort it went over very well."

Powell also said Hargraves suggested they consider forming a juggling club, which could meet on a regular basis, to improve skills, and this is something that may be looked into.



Franklin Hargraves has made juggling more than just an amusing pastime. He makes his living at juggling and entertaining. Last week he was in Georgetown to conduct a juggling workshop, and he is seen here giving a demonstration to some of the participants. (Herald photo)

## Mal Dodge Atoms drop out of tourney

The Mal Dodge Remax Minor Atom AA's travelled to Strathroy Monday to participate in their Minor Olympics event.

Tournament play proved to be exactly what the Georgetown squad needed, as they returned to the form they had displayed before the recent Tri-County playoffs.

Georgetown opened the Tournament against St. Thomas, their only Minor Atom foe.

Stellar goaltending by the St. Thomas duo made the game a struggle for our locals. In fact, Doug Sheppard's second goal of the game with thirteen seconds left decided the issue.

Matt Brain counted the other Mal Dodge Remax marker in the 3-2 victory. Duane Eler earned an assist on all three goals with singles recorded by Mark Aldridge, Sheppard and Brent Wilkinson.

The second opponent for the locals was the Tilbury Major Atoms. Despite the obvious size differential, the Mal Dodge Remax squad skated to an impressive 4-0 victory.

Chad Hughes and Dean Mills shared the shut out. Sheppard led the offence with three goals and one assist. Brain again counted the other marked. Eler had two assists and Wilkinson and Gavin Glaser added one each.

Against the Flamboro Major Atom team on Tuesday, the Mal Dodge Remax team showed their true grit. The final score of 7-3 did not reflect the play as the Minor Atoms more than held their own.

Eler led the offence with two goals, as Dave Bouckill added one. Jamie Stephenson, Sheppard, Wilkinson, Aldridge, Glaser and Stephen Onopryenko were each credited with one assist.

Georgetown in their second game of the day faced the Cambridge Major Atom 'A' team.

Excellent goaltending by Hughes and a strong first-half effort saw the Mal Dodge Remax team lead 2-1 until near the end of the second period Glaser from Eler, and Sheppard from Aldridge and Eler provided the margin.

The larger and stronger Cambridge team gradually took control and eventually skated to a 6-3 victory. Sheppard added an unassisted goal late in the game.

The tournament format called for two teams from each of two divisions to advance to the gold, silver and bronze medal rounds.

With their two and two win-loss record the Mal Dodge Remax team was the only Minor Atom team to qualify. This meant returning on Thursday and Friday, when in fact the medal rounds were originally to be played on the weekend.

The scheduling changes and the resultant conflict with other family commitments left only four for-

wards, four defencemen and two goalies available for these games.

With three games to be played in less than twenty-four hours, the coaching staff was concerned about the possibility of injuries to the players.

A difficult decision, one supported by the parents, was made to withdraw. The ten Minor Atoms were, nevertheless, very disappointed that they could not pursue a medal.

The Mal Dodge Remax team on the season can be proud of their two tournament victories, a second place Tri-county finish, and the narrow loss to Milton in determining the Tri-County representative in the Ontario playoffs.

From the parents to the players, congratulations, and to the coaches Paul Morrow, Rick Aldridge, Nick Kostos and Walt Glaser a very sincere thanks for the caring, counselling and coaching.

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