

Trustee reaches his teens ... finally

By CHERYL MOODER
Herald Staff
Dick Howitt finally became a teenager Monday. Born in Windsor, Ont. Feb. 29, 1938 the Georgetown lawyer and school board trustee has officially had 13 birthdays.

Having a leap year birthday, which rolls around every four years, is a bit of a novelty. "It is unusual and sticks in people's minds," Mr. Howitt said. "It is fun."

For his 52nd birthday this year his wife Carol organized a party suited for teenagers. "Now that I



Dick Howitt

am a teenager," Mr. Howitt said, "we had a teenage party."

The birthday invitations invited people to dress like teenagers of

the 80s or the era when the guests were adolescents.

A meal of pizza coincided with adolescent games such as a lip sync contest where groups performed routines to songs such as California Girls and other Beach Boys tunes.

In other years Mr. Howitt has had birthdays in the play area of McDonalds complete with party hats, cake and ice cream.

But now he is a teenager, Mr. Howitt said, "I have outgrown McDonald birthdays."

When it is not a leap year Mr. Howitt celebrates his birthday

Feb. 28.

Even the school board where the 20-year long resident of Georgetown has sat as a trustee for six years recognizes Mr. Howitt's birthday.

Board members presented a cake Thursday for the trustee and four years ago Mr. Howitt was presented with a T-shirt acknowledging him as the youngest trustee.

A few years ago a University of Toronto professor, Bert Hall, explained the observance of leap year with its extra day in February.

In ancient times people tried to make calendars to keep track of changing seasons by observing the heavens for regular, re-occurring patterns.

The cycle of the moon from new to full to dark to new gives us a handy unit of time, the month, Prof. Hall said. But an average lunar month is only about 29 1/2 days and 12 lunar months make a year only 354 days.

Caesar added the extra day in February because that was the traditional Roman month to adjust the calendar.

Citizens' forum Too much violence

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was filed with The Herald for publication.

Dear Minor Hockey Parents of Ontario,

I am writing this letter to you as a fellow minor hockey parent and coach, because I need your opinion, and your help. Over the past six or seven years I have become increasingly appalled at the amount of unnecessary violence and use of intimidation tactics that seem to have become part of minor hockey. I am now at the point where I have decided that my three boys will not be allowed to play OMHA hockey beyond the Atom level (body contact starts at the Peewee age group) unless something is done to clean up the game. If you have had, or are having, the same thoughts, then perhaps we can join together and help change this great game for the better.

What I am proposing to you is the elimination of body contact in all levels of minor hockey. Tyke, Novice, Atom, Oldtimers, and most men's Rec. leagues now play no contact hockey and I don't think you'd find many of them saying that the game has deteriorated because of the lack of hitting. To the contrary, most will tell you that both the speed of the game and the skill of the players has increased. My personal opinion is that a combination of high emotions, sometimes questionable coaching tactics, a feeling of invulnerability, and inconsistent officiating, all combine to present a problem with too many variables to allow for a quick solution under the present format. I feel a major change is necessary, and that the elimination of body contact is the answer!

I have taken the following statistics from a recent Hockey Development Council pamphlet to help illustrate a point:

- There are approximately 38,855 players registered with the OMHA and another 150,000 in House Leagues.
- There are only 300 players in the OHL (Mjr. Jr. A), which is the main feeding grounds for professional hockey.

3. Less than 1 per cent of all amateur hockey players in Canada will turn professional and in 1983 only one-tenth per cent played in the NHL.

My point is this: Over 99 per cent of all amateur hockey players play the game for fun and recreation! It is not a means of earning a living; it is a game! I feel we should do whatever is necessary to keep it as much fun as possible and let those few who decide to make hockey a career, learn the hitting skills from professional coaches.

My main concerns are: 1. keep the game fun for all players; 2. eliminate the fear factor and intimidation tactics; 3. protect the smaller players; 4. allow for greater skills development by taking the emphasis off hitting.

If you too are a concerned Minor Hockey Parent (whether or not you agree with my opinion) please take a minute of your time and answer the following questions. Then mail your reply to Kevin Dunlop, Box 1168, Bracebridge, Ont., P0B 1C0.

My goal is to have 25,000 or more responses, compile the data, and take the results to the OMHA general meeting in June. Hopefully, with a united effort we can affect a major change in time for the next hockey season.

Thank you all for your help,
Kevin Dunlop

Name _____
Address _____
No. children in minor hockey _____
Ages _____
League: OMHA MTHL ODHA NHA Other _____
Are you concerned about the violence in minor hockey? Y N
Would you like to see body contact eliminated from all levels of minor hockey? Y N
May I use your name on a petition to the OMHA and other league executives requesting the elimination of body contact in all levels? Y N
Can you think of any other possible solutions to this problem? _____
Further Comments: _____

Lioness donation to Halton Homecare

The February meeting of the Georgetown Lioness Club was held Feb. 17 at the home of the president, Lioness Pat Mason. Fourteen members enjoyed a pot luck supper. Mrs. Siena Van Hoekelen was the special guest.

Mrs. Van Hoekelen was warmly welcomed to speak on the Good Neighbors Christmas Basket program which she has faithfully guided for many years. Now it is passed on to the Georgetown Lioness Club.

Siena wishes to still be involved and offers her experience and knowledge. She stayed to answer questions and told of the great support given by other groups and clubs, individuals and churches.

Secretary Lil Chapman read the minutes. Business from the executive meeting included a motion that \$500 be donated to the Halton Homecare for Mentally Handicapped Children. This will assist in the purchase of a lift to be installed on a van for a local family. The motion was carried.

Lioness Kay Ledividge gave the treasurer's report. Correspondence secretary Norma Firth read an appeal from Lions International. The club voted to give \$100 to the special presentation fund.

The Bramalea Lioness Club will be hosting a Sharing Session March 6 and also members have invited Georgetown to its Hawaii Night March 11. The Brampton club extended their invitation to a dinner meeting March 21. Nobleton Lioness members will be having a speaker on diabetes at their dinner meeting March 28 and Georgetown is invited.

The Lions have invited a Lioness to present flowers at the Citizen of the Year dinner April 5.

Lioness Edie Lacey gave the committee reports. A bingo at the Bennett Centre will be held soon. A Spaghetti Night for Lions and Lioness members will be held March 19.

Lioness Lena Connors and Lil Chapman will chair a rummage and garage sale in May. Lioness Norma Firth will consult with Lioness Marcela Neely on the Kilometre of Coins project for June. Lioness Rita Boyle will arrange a work weekend at Camp Corse. Lioness members and their family and friends are asked to save good used blankets and drapes for use in the cottage at the dialysis camp.

Sympathy is extended to Lioness Doris Barrager on the passing of her daughter and to Lioness Julie Harlow on the passing of her mother. Lioness Arlene Callaghan was welcomed back after illness and surgery.

Hi-tech studies

Acton trustee Arlene Bruce, Oakville trustee Len Crosier and Burlington trustee Diane Filman were selected to sit on the Technological Studies Advisory Committee.

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We only ask that the letters be signed with your name and address in case we must call to check some detail. We will not print unsigned letters nor will we use pseudonyms.

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