

GMHA will vote on reclassification

By PAUL SVOBODA
Herald Sports Editor

The Georgetown Minor Hockey Association may drop from the Ontario Minor Hockey Association AA ranks next season.

GMHA board members will decide at a special closed meeting on Monday night whether or not to apply for an A classification within the OMHA beginning with the 1989-90 season.

A motion was tabled at a May 17 GMHA executive meeting suggesting the association consider applying for status at the single-A rather than double-A level. The motion was tabled by Hal Pells and seconded by Rick Hume.

Subsequent letters containing the suggestion were mailed to all members of the GMHA board and they'll be asked to vote on the issue at Monday's meeting. The association has until June 1 to apply for A status or reapply for its current AA ranking.

"It was a suggestion from the executive and it depends upon how the board feels," explained GMHA president Carson Mininch on Wednesday.

Mininch said two major concerns prompted the suggestion - level of competition and a declining registration rate. He also added that Georgetown itself falls into the OMHA's A classification, based upon the population of the community.

Centres with a population of between 25,000-50,000 are usually ranked AA while the A ranking covers communities with populations of between 13,000-25,000.

With a population estimated at somewhere between 18-20,000, Georgetown would qualify for an A ranking based solely on numbers.

"We've been playing AA for at least 12 years and haven't been doing that badly but we haven't been doing that well either," said Mininch. "We're looking to keep as many kids in hockey as we can, which means if we get into OMHA playoffs they can be more competitive (at the A level)."

Mininch stressed the fact a move down to A level would not affect GMHA rep team involvement in regular season or tournament play. The town rep teams would continue to play in the Tri-County

loop which includes AAA, AA and A teams.

But at least one GMHA member doesn't buy any arguments supporting a move down to the A level. GMHA secretary Judy Pries says she's been, "angry for a week," in the wake of the motion.

"I can't even imagine anyone thinking of such an idea," she told the Herald last week. "It's small thinking."

Pries said a competitive drop would hurt the development of promising players and she wondered if the GMHA wasn't overly concerned with winning.

"They may be expecting too much out of the younger rep teams," she said.

While fellow executive member Dave Martin agreed a drop to A from AA might appear to be, "taking away some of the glory and prestige," of playing in a higher classification, he reiterated the fact such a move would affect only OMHA playdowns.

"By playing OMHA playoffs in our proper population grouping it might make us more competitive and might attract more kids to the program," said Martin.

Both Martin and Mininch pointed to a recent OMHA championship team in Erin that played well in a higher league all season long before winning its Ontario title at its proper population-based classification. "It didn't hurt them," said Martin.

Mininch also refuses to believe a drop in classification would make it more difficult for promising players in Georgetown to rise to the top. "Scouts will find good hockey players no matter where they are or who they play for," he said. "There are some damn good A teams around here."

Meanwhile, Martin figured the board might be split on the issue at the moment. "We'll have to wrestle with this," he said.

Mininch says he's not concerned whether the GMHA goes A or AA. "The only things I care about is that the kids play hockey and they're reasonably competitive," said Mininch.

Pries, however, is adamant in her stand against any move down by the GMHA. "I won't stand by and see it happen without making some waves," she said.

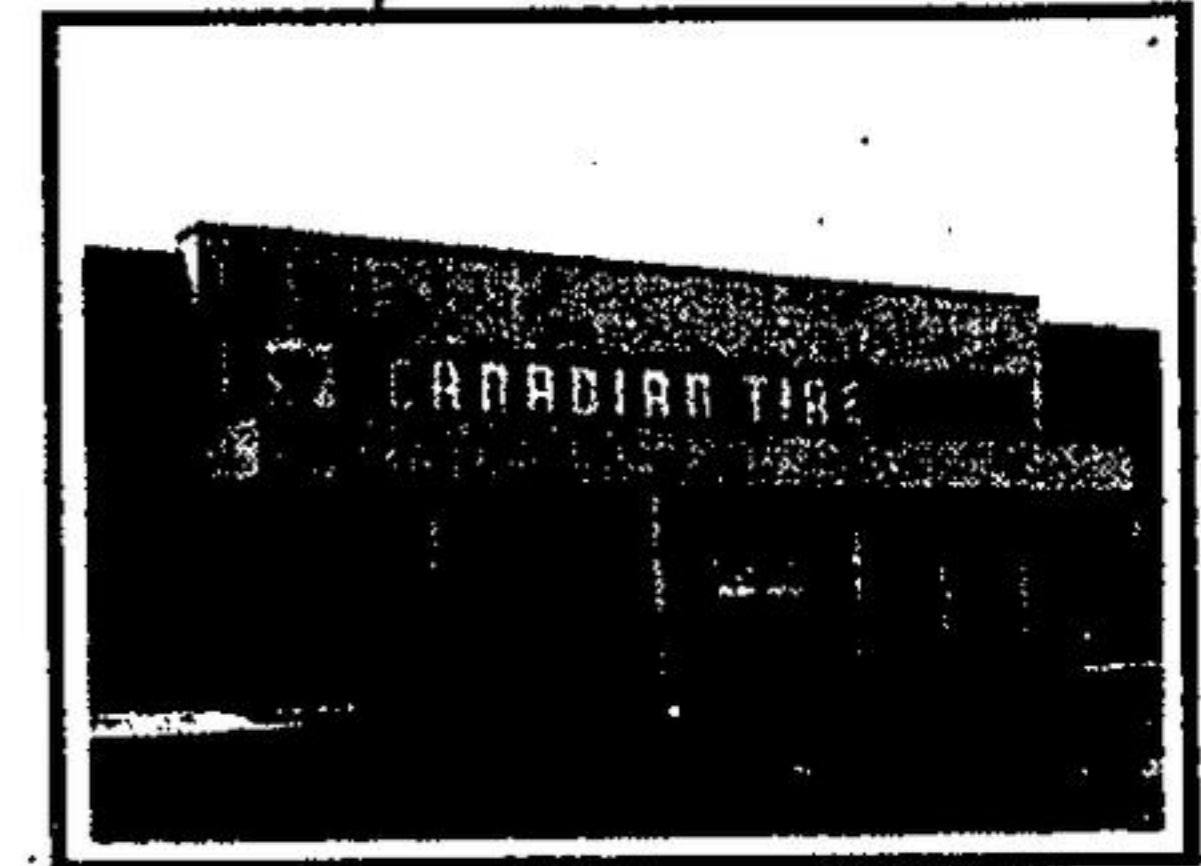
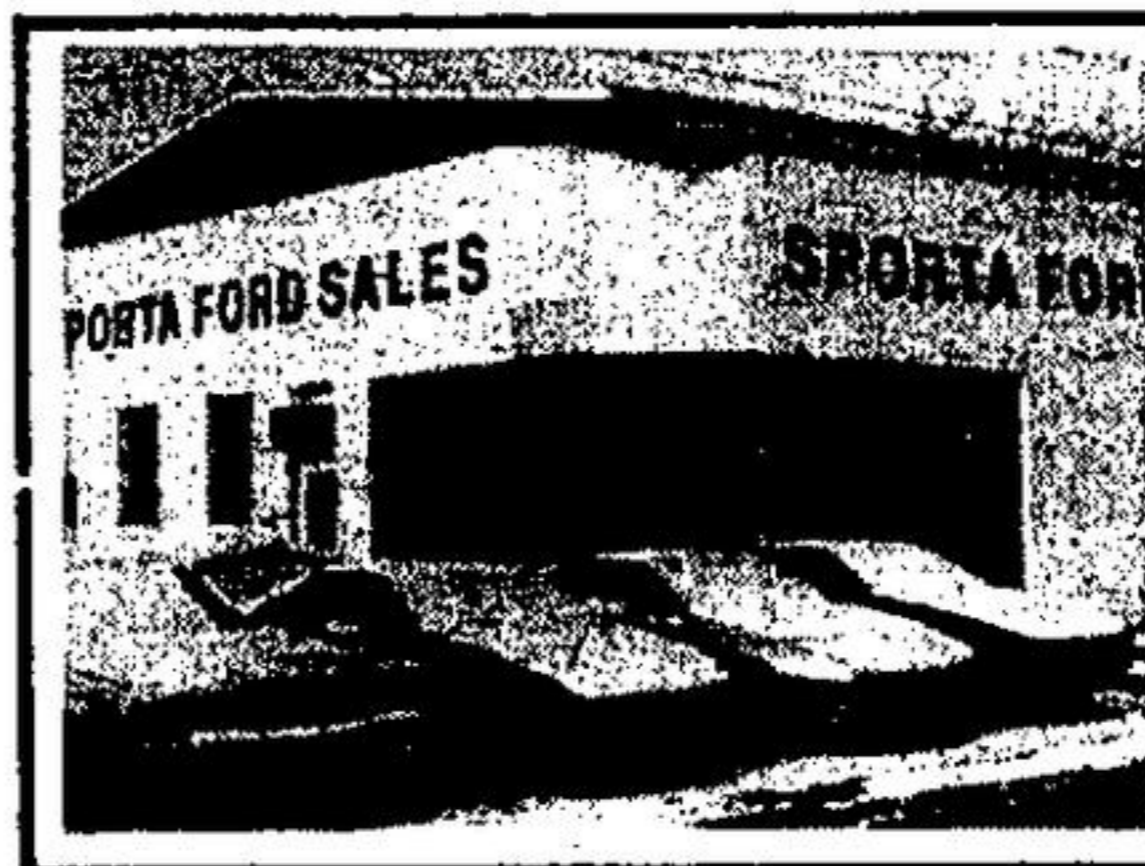
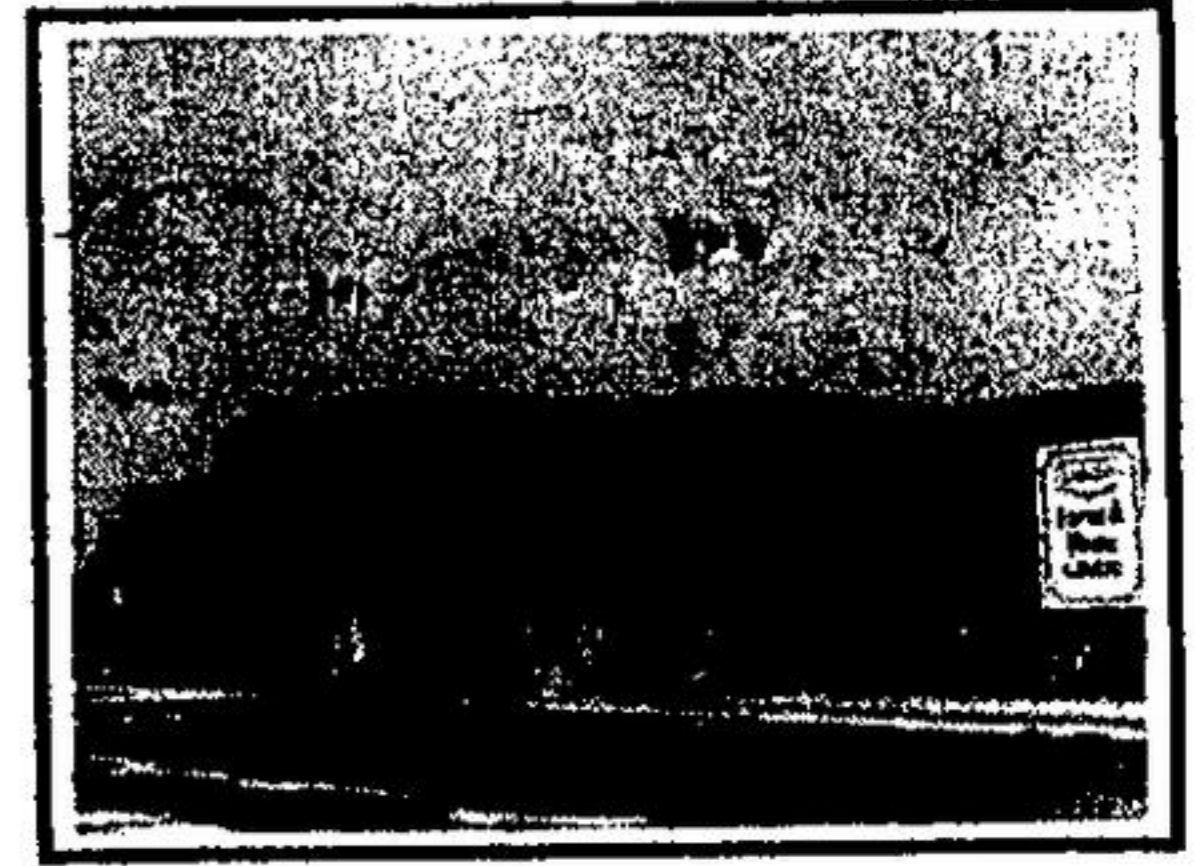
Sports Outlook



End of an era?

The 1987-88 Georgetown Juveniles may be the last GMHA rep team to have its name engraved on an all-Ontario "AA" title if the association votes in favor of dropping down to an OMHA "A" classification. The board votes on the issue Monday. (Photo submitted)

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Midgets maul Milton

The Georgetown Midget Girls Softball team beat Milton 13-1 on May 16 as Carrie Gallant went the distance on the mound in her first game of the year.

Gallant started off shaky as she loaded the bases in the first inning only to strike out the side to get out of the inning. Gallant had 10 strikeouts for the night. Milton's run came in the fifth inning on an error to left field.

Georgetown's big bats came from Lesia Shrubsole with three doubles scoring twice. Sue Subject with three singles scoring three times and Carrie Gallant with three hits including a triple and scoring three times.

Georgetown travelled to Mississauga Valley on May 23 to play against the Valley club. The Midget Girls came away with a convincing 17-0 win. Carrie Gallant once again pitched for Georgetown as she pitched a one-hitter giving up a single in the fourth which was called out trying to steal second on the next pitch on a good throw from catcher Tara Bouskill. Gallant issued three walks and struck out eight.

Georgetown played errorless ball as fielding by Bridget McCauley, Sue Subject and Sue Appleyard shut the Valley down. Teri Korzack, in her first game of the year, started it off on the right foot with a single, a walk and a homerun in the fourth inning to drive in three runs.

Jeanette Brandford reached bases three times on two walks and a single. Carrie Gallant reached base four times on two walks, a single and a homerun. Sue Subject, Tracy Weeks and Sue Appleyard all reached base three times. Cindy Dunn reached base four times on three walks and a single.

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