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Minor hockey organization ratifies new agreement

By COLIN GIBSON
 Herald Sports Editor

From out of chaos, confusion and a certain amount of consternation on the part of innocent bystanders, comes... well... compromise.

In a telephone interview from his home in London, Ont., Ontario Minor Hockey Association President, Jim Pollard, confirmed that the OMHA executive had ratified the agreement to become part of the newly-formed Ontario Hockey Federation.

The OMHA executive meeting was held this past weekend in Toronto and an obviously relieved and pleased Pollard, stated, "I'm very happy for the players, especially, now we can get down to hockey."

Pollard further stated that he had received assurances from Metropolitan Toronto Hockey League President John Gardner, that his organization would sign on the dotted line, with the Ontario Hockey Association to follow suit.

As predicted - and urged - by this writer, the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, with Presi-

dent Murray Costello at the forefront, got the feuding hockey families together in Toronto last week and a deal was hammered out ensuring CAHA recognition and sanction for all concerned.

For those who might have been summering on the Polar Ice Cap some background material is offered.

Way back in January, the Ontario Hockey Association attempted to re-structure the hockey venues it oversees as a branch of the CAHA.

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association and the Metropolitan Toronto Hockey Association balked at the re-structuring, so the OHA - in a power-play - terminated the agreement it had with the organizations in June, leaving the OMHA and the MTHL effectively blocked off from CAHA contact.

Without the link to the CAHA the two organizations would not have been able to participate in international competition and would have been unable to take part in provincial and national championships.

A number of meetings failed to resolve the dispute, so the OMHA

and the MTHL combined forces to form the Central Canada Hockey Association and petitioned the CAHA for recognition as a branch apart from the OHA.

The CAHA initially backed-off getting directly involved - all the while hoping that the combatants would sheath their swords and hold peace talks instead of councils of war.

Roughly 250,000 players, coaches and referees would have been directly affected this year - in terms of lack of CAHA recognition - so something had to be done or else the whole infrastructure of hockey across Canada could have been affected.

Hence, last week's meeting in Toronto and the formation of the Ontario Hockey Federation.

The federation replaces the OHA as the provincial voice of the CAHA and includes the OMHA, MTHL, OHA and the Northern Ontario Hockey Association.

The federation has a three-year mandate and it is expected that when this term runs out, hockey in Ontario will have a different look.

CAHA President Costello is the federation's chairman.

Each member organization will have two trustees associated with the OHF but still retain their own identity and be responsible for the handling of their own internal problems and finances.

Former OHA President Brent Ladds, will act as the co-ordinator for the four groups and answer to and deal directly with Chairman Costello.

So everything is back to normal. Now if someone can find a puck, or remembers what one looks like, maybe we can finally get down to some real hockey.



11th Annual HOME HARDW... GEORGETOWN INDE... RAIDERS GOLF TOU... EN

Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders, of the Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League staged a very successful 11th Annual Golf Tournament Monday at Georgetown Golf and Country Club. Sixty-four golfers took to the links, with Danny Harrison winning Low Gross honors with an 87 and Harry Mulvenna capturing Low Net laurels with a 74. Pictured above (from left to right) Low Net winner, Harry Mulvenna, Raider President, Dave Kentner, Raider Vice President, Wayne Pries, Air Canada sponsor representative and a member of the Raider Board of Directors, Ray Pasma and Low Gross winner, Danny Harrison. Rick West won a prize from Alberta Distillers for being closest to the hole on the 14th; the Star Fuels prize for the longest drive on the fifth hole went to Brent Presswood; Dave Karuse received a prize from Bill Smith Automotive for winning the putting contest and John Mallnoski was judged the Most Honest Golfer. The Air Canada prize of a trip for the first hole-in-one on the sixth hole was unclaimed as was the Georgetown Pontiac-Buick - West Insurance prize of a car for the first hole-in-one on the eighth hole. The Raiders three-night rookie camp opens Aug. 28 at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, with the main camp set to go Sept. 5, again at Gordon Alcott Memorial arena. (Herald photo)

Sabres camp

A very successful 'Rookie' camp was staged Sunday, in Guelph, by Acton Tait Realty Junior "C" Sabres, according to team president, Robin Insoe.

The team was granted the right to recruit players, as homebrews, from Wellington County in a recent Ontario Hockey Association decision and the Sabre banner was flown at the Victoria Road Arena in Guelph for that area's Junior "C" prospects.

According to Insoe, 55 skaters took part in the three-hour evaluation session and at least 35 Junior "C" hopefuls will be notified this week either by letter or telephone that they will be invited to the Sabres 'Main' training camp which will get underway at Georgetown's Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena on Sept. 1.

A Halton-Peel rookie camp is slated for Gordon Alcott Arena, Aug. 31.

Day of Champions

The Georgetown Baseball Association's "Day of Champions" in T-Ball, Tyke and Squirt divisions is all set to go on diamonds "B", "C" and "The Barn" at the Fairgrounds this Saturday.

Ten games have been scheduled, running from 9 a.m. through 3 p.m.

All championship games' participants will receive awards; an MVP for each team will be chosen by the opposing coach and there will be team trophies for Gold medal champions.

GBA spokesman, and "Day of Champions" organizer, Bob Kitchen is inviting parents, friends and sponsors to the day-long feast of rounders.

Kitchen also wished to express the GBA's appreciation to the parent volunteers and especially sponsors, who are so important to the organization's program.

"DAY OF CHAMPIONS"
 Schedule of Games
 9 a.m. - Diamond B: T-Ball Red Final; Diamond C: T-Ball Blue Final; Barn Diamond: Tyke Gold Final.
 11 a.m. - Diamond B: T-Ball Silver Final; Diamond C: T-Ball Bronze Final; Barn Diamond: Squirt Silver Final.
 1 p.m. - Diamond B: T-Ball Gold Final; Diamond C: Squirt Gold Final.
 3 p.m. - Diamond B: Peewee/Bantam Semifinal; Diamond C: Peewee/Bantam Semifinal.

AWARDS
 1. All championship games participants.
 2. MVP for each team will be chosen by opposing coach.
 3. Team trophies for gold champions.

Magical minor hockey memories



"As I See It"
 Colin Gibson
 Sports Editor

The recently resolved foofarw involving the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, the Ontario Hockey Association and in turn, the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association might best be termed, 'A tempest in a jockstrap.'

I mean, what they basically decided upon - one organization pipelining to the CAHA - was what the OHA proposed way back in January.

All the wasted intervening months showed, protests notwithstanding, is that once certain egos are stroked and preening peacock feathers brushed properly, agreement can be reached on almost anything.

It really is unfortunate when youngsters - regardless of the sport - are used as pawns by the powers-that-be in some unfathomable chess game where even the winners turn out to be losers.

I harkened back to my minor hockey roots and magical memories flowed as the floodgates of a simpler time slowly opened.

I was born in Paisley, Scotland and arrived, along with my parents' luggage, in Canada when I was five-years-old.

Believe it or not, Paisley once had a professional hockey team called the Pirates. However, the sport was as foreign to my family



Scottish Hockey Star

as ice in my father's drinks of Scotch.

The town of Cochrane, in Northern Ontario, was where the Gibsons put down roots and where I went through the rites of initiation into the Canadian sport of hockey. Cochrane is best known as the

home of the Polar Bear Express - that tourist trek by rail to the thriving metropolis of Moosonee.

When my family arrived in Cochrane, the official population figure was set at 4,400. I understand the town has grown somewhat over the years. Perhaps the Polar Bear had cubs.

If the Pittsburgh Penguins can boast of playing in an arena called 'The Igloo', then the Cochrane arena, at that time, might best be termed 'The Icicle.'

It was a natural-ice arena and sometimes we used to go outside to warm up between periods.

There was a Dominion grocery store about three blocks from the arena and it was not an uncommon sight on Saturday mornings to see a motley collection of minor hockey players battling for seats on the radiator at the front of the store.

I played up to midget all-star hockey in Cochrane and playoff games in the Spring sometimes resembled a cross between water polo and roller derby.

If it was a warm Spring, pools of water would form in the corners and little mounds of ice could be spotted here and there over the ice surface because the roof leaked.

To this day, I can still see players in a semicircle in a corner,

trying to bat the puck out of a pool of water.

A catholic school about three blocks from my house had a regulation outdoor rink (with boards and lights) and I can't count the number of gloriously frosty nights I spent whizzing over the frozen surface testing my talents against ghostly foes who faded in and out of icy breath-fogged view.

Lake Commando lies placidly in the centre of Cochrane and once the spring-fed lake's surface had frozen over - about the second week in September - (just kidding) me and my pals would scrape off an area of snow for hockey games that, in retrospect, seemed to go on 24 hours-a-day.

Once again, however, the perils of Spring had to be heeded.

Remember the joke about the guy who had a breakaway on the St. Lawrence River; well our outdoor season would usually come to an abrupt halt after one of us went through the ice and our parents decided enough was enough.

We would get Hockey Night in Canada, midway through the second period and I still can't pass an Esso gas station without thinking of Murray Westgate and his immortal words, "Always look to Imperial for the best."

The population of Cochrane was predominately French, so obviously I was a Toronto Maple Leaf fan.

A highlight of my youth was meeting the legendary Toronto - and later Buffalo Sabre rearguard, Tim Horton.

Horton grew up in Cochrane and still had relatives in town, when I lived there.

He came to town to address the annual Father and Son hockey banquet one year and a neighbour of ours, Mel Owens, was Horton's gran father.

I used to run errands for Mr. Owens so thought nothing of it when my mother told me I was wanted at the Owens' house.

After being ushered into the house, I waited by the door to see why I had been summoned.

Mr. Owens and a monster came to the door. The monster was introduced to me as Tim Horton.

You want to talk "BIG". Hey, we're talking Mack truck here. I spent the next hour visiting with Horton and his family and listening in on NHL hockey tales that people would have paid to hear.

Yes minor hockey memories are precious and shouldn't be sullied by adults who presume to know what's best for the players - whether the players like it or not.

As I see it, anyway.