# Community support very important

It pretty well goes without saying, that for a junior hockey team to thrive - or even survive - it must have community support.

This support can come in many forms, not the least of which is showing up at games to cheer for the local favorites.

Another very important form of support - and one that can make or break a team - is the communitylevel welcome extended to out-oftown hockey hopefuls.

I took in the training camps of the Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders and the Acton Tait Realty Sabres this past week. When watching these young athletes demonstrate their on-ice skills it can be very easy to forget that some of them are barely into their teens and are being asked to cope with situations that many adults would have a hard time handling.

Even if they make the regular season rosters of the respective local junior entries, these young men are expected to prove themselves at every outing and no excuses will be accepted from team followers, should they falter.

The expectations may be unrealistic, at times, but such is the life of a hockey player striving to succeed.

New town, new faces, new names, even a new environment. All are expected to be taken in stride.

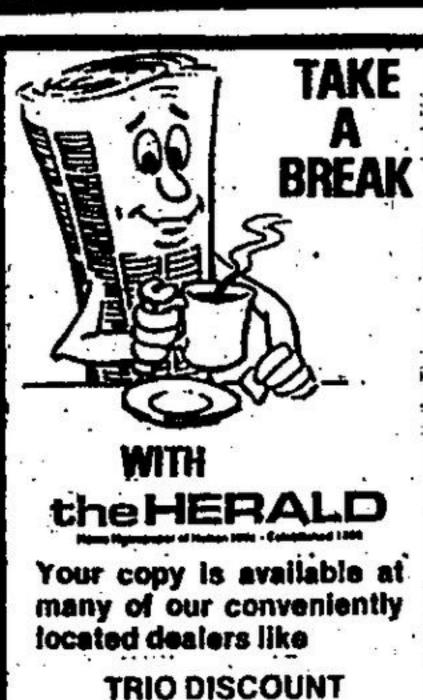
Both the Raiders' and the Sabres' training camps offered examples of the adjustments young hockey players have to make.

The Raiders had Mike Bois, a 15year-old from Longlac, Ont., at

### Recreation dance program

New this season is an advance dance program for the aspiring past participants of the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department. If you have already taken the beginner course, then this advanced course is for you. The beginners course will be held at Cedarvale, Tuesday evenings and the advanced will be held at Sacre Coeur, Thursday evenings. Program commences week of Sept. 19. Call 873-2600 ext. 268 if you would like more information.





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their tryout camp. According to Raider coach Peter Sturgeon, Mike didn't seem out-of-place amongst the junior hopefuls and Sturgeon would have welcomedhim to the team's main training camp.

Longlac is located in Northeastern Ontario, about 340 kilometres from Thunder Bay - as the moose flies.

Mike, a centre-left wing, was the top scorer, over 60 games last year, for his town's bantam rep team.

He stated he had tried out and made a "AAA" Thunder Bay bantam rep team but made the trip to Georgetown to test the junior waters.

A family friend, Georgetown Minor Hockey Association executive member, Dave Martin, had arranged for Mike to attend the Raiders camp.

As of Saturday, Mike had decided to forego his junior hockey experiment and return to Longlac.

In conversation, he stated he enjoyed the experience but it was clear he just wasn't comfortable in his surroundings.

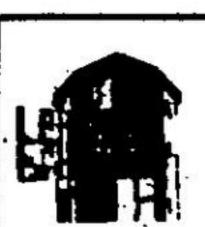
Junior hockey would have been a big jump for a 15-year-old but there was more to it than that.

Longlac has a population of just over 2,000 and the prospect of making the move to Southern Ontario and a totally different lifestyle might have been a bit too intimidating to the youngster.

The Acton Tait Realty Sabres had four players from Northern Ontario at their training camp on Sunday.

New team owner, Mitch Lajeunesse hails from Kapuskasing and still maintains strong ties with the North.

The players brought into camp



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"As I See It" Colin Gibson

Sports Editor

included: goaltender, Eric Lord, from Hearst; defenceman, Claude Begin, from Hearst; right-winger, Bob Gagnon, from Mattice and Centre, Eric Gagnon, also from Hearst.

All four players are 18-years-old and displayed good hockey sense at the Sabres training camp.

· Eric Gagnon, 5', 8" tall and weighing 155 lbs., won the NOHA "AA" midget rep league scoring title last year.

Claude Begin, at 6', 4" tall and weighing 260 lbs., would be a welcome addition to the Toronto Argonauts, never mind a hockey team.

All four players are Frenchspeaking and it is expected that they will face something of a culture-shock should they decide to play in Southern Ontario.

Lajeunesse is confident they will be able to adjust should they make the team.

"Adjust" is the key word.

An athlete, in any sport, can have all the ability in the world but he also has to be able to concentrate on his sport to succeed.

This is where community support comes into play. If the youngster is made to feel welcome, feels comfortable in his surroundings and is not made to feel like an outsider, he can play up to his potential and make the best use of his natural abilities.

For both the Raiders and the Sabres to succeed, they will need this kind of community support.

Here's hoping both teams find it. As I see it, anyway.



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# Raiders release 1989-90 schedule

Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders main training camp got under way Tuesday night at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena and all signs point to a very promising 1989-90 Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League season for the local team.

Raiders coach, Peter Sturgeon, was very impressed by the calibre of the players who attended the club's three-day rookie tryout camp and hinted that returning Junior "B" veterans would be fac-

	HOME
Uakville	Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m
Milton	Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m
Burlington	Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m
<b>Dakville</b>	Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m
Peterborough	Oct. 27, 8:00 p.m
Streetsville	Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m
Streetsville	Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m
Peterborough	Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m
Brampton	Nov. 24, 8:00 p.m
Burlington	Nov. 25. 7:30 p.m
Milton	Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m
Burlington	Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m
Streetsville	Dec. 28, 8:00 p.m
Bramplon	Dec. 29, 8:00 p.m
Brampton	Jan. 12. H:00 p.m
Milton	Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Peterborough "	Jan. 19, 8:00 p.m
Burlington	Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m
Dakville	Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m
Peterborough	Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m
Milton	Feb. 10. 7:30 p.m

ing serious challenges for their

positions.

Raiders open the 1989-90 Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League season on the road with a game in Streetsville, Sept. 26.

Raiders home opener is set for Sept. 30 at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena with Oakville providing the opposition.

Raiders first exhibition game is slated for this Saturday, at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, against ' Oakville. AWAY

		Water 1	
Streetsville			Sept. 26, 8:00 p.m.
Oakville			Oct. 6, 8:00 p.m.
Peterborough			Oct. 10, 8:15 p.m.
Burlington			Oct. 13, 8:00 p.m.
Militon	•		Oct. 20, 8:00 p.m.
Brampton			Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Streetsville			Nov. 5, 1:30 p.m.
Oakville			Nov. 10, 8:00 p.m.
Milton		**	Nov. 17, 8:00 p.m.
Brampton			Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Burlington			Dec. 8, 8:00 p.m.
Brampton			Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Streetsville			Dec. 19, 8:00 p.m.
Milton			Dec. 22, 8:00 p.m.
Peterborough			Jan. 2, 8:15 p.m.
Oakville			Jan. 5, 8:00 p.m.
Streetsville			Jan. 16, 8:00 p.m.
Burlington			Jan. 26, 8:00 p.m.
Brampton			Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.
Peterborough			Feb. 6, 8:15 p.m.
Oakville			Feb. 9, 8:00 p.m.

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