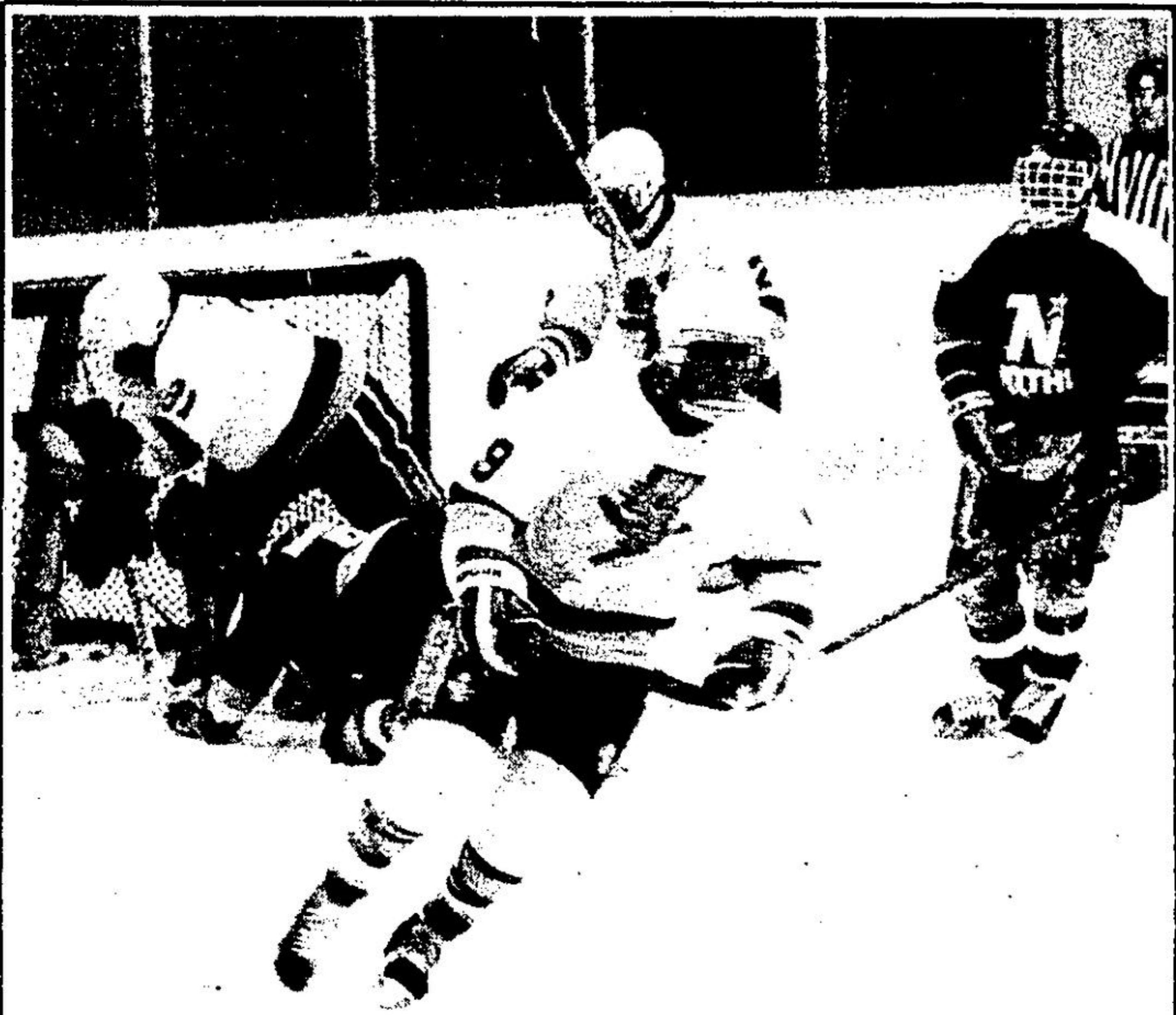


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### Midget hockey action

Halton Midget goalie Ryan Peddle tries to untangle himself from a Mississauga player as Sean Guistini looks on and Gio Piazza moves up on the play. Both teams were playing in the Georgetown

Midget tournament on the weekend at Alcott Arena. For more information, turn to page 21. (Herald photo)

## Duignan claims Liberal Party "playing games"

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

The Ontario Liberal Party is "playing games" in its criticism of the New Democrat government's performance to date, says North-Halton MPP, Noel Duignan.

A press release issued by interim Liberal Party leader Robert Nixon says, "the NDP has contributed to public cynicism towards government by breaking a wide range of commitments and reversing several long-time policies."

Some of the broken commitments according to Mr. Nixon include: NDP inaction to protect laid off workers who have lost wages or severance pay, as well as in the area of increasing the number of subsidized child care spaces.

"Mr. Nixon is playing games," replied Mr. Duignan, when questioned Friday about claims made by the interim Liberal leader.

The NDP has established a wage protection fund to protect laid off workers, said Mr. Duignan. Before the fund becomes operable, he explained, legislation must be enacted which should happen sometime this spring.

In the area of child care, Mr. Duignan said the NDP plans to develop and implement "a comprehensive day care policy" instead of the "mish mash" approach taken by the previous government. Mr. Duignan explained the term mish mash to mean various disconnected programs.

The NDP's program, said the MPP, will mean universal day care. That means no one will be denied day care services regardless of income, he explained. Parents' income will determine if they receive a day care subsidy, said Mr. Duignan.

He also went on to say the number of day care spaces will be spread fairly across the province instead of concentrated in large urban areas such as Toronto, Hamilton and Windsor.

Again, this program won't take effect until at least the spring when the necessary legislation is introduced, said Mr. Duignan.



Noel Duignan

"A whole slew of legislation from car insurance to day care will be introduced during the spring sitting," added Mr. Duignan.

People should bear in mind when they hear the Liberals criticize the government, "we've only been power for three months," said Mr. Duignan. "The Liberals were in power for five years and they had the opportunity to do what we're doing but they didn't." A missed opportunity, for example, pointed out the MPP, was not implementing all of the recommendations that came out of the Stark report on welfare reform.

On the issue of garbage, Mr. Duignan said, Mr. Nixon is "playing with words" when he says Ontario's Environment Minister Ruth Grier has backtracked on an initial promise that existing garbage dumps won't be used without first undergoing a full Environmental Assessment.

According to Mr. Nixon, Ms. Grier is now saying she will expand existing garbage dumps without a full Environmental Assessment. Mr. Duignan, however, said that will only happen in case of emergencies.

He doubts an emergency situation will arise because of the government's recently passed mandatory recycling and packaging reduction legislation.

### User fee controversy

## Ice groups get reprieve

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

Proposed changes to the Town user fees charged to Halton Hills ice groups for use of arenas this year represent nothing more than a "band aid solution," said Hal Pells, President of the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association, following Monday's General Committee meeting.

General Committee recommended Monday the Georgetown and Acton Minor Hockey Associa-

tions and Figure Skating Clubs will only have to pay 7.5 per cent more per hour to use the community's arenas instead of the originally proposed 14.17 per cent increase until July 1. Starting in July, however, the groups will be required to pay the full 14.17 per cent increase, through the end of 1991.

The committee's recommendation will go before council this Monday for final approval. Committee membership is comprised

of the Town councillors.

Calling the committee's decision a "band aid solution," Mr. Pells said it at least gives the association time to budget for the full increase. He predicted though, the association may be forced to cut programs for the 1992 season in order to cover the July 1 increase.

"We may have to cut back on development programs - power skating and goaltending - aimed at youngsters," said Mr. Pells. He also suggested the association may have to re-examine the tournaments it sponsors.

Mr. Pells told councillors during a presentation the association's just completed annual midget tournament lost approximately \$1,000. The association isn't looking to make a profit, said Mr. Pells, but the association needs to cover its costs.

The possibility of that happening will be that more difficult with the increase committee is proposing, he added.

From Jan. 1 to July 1 the hockey association and figure skating clubs will pay just over

Continued on Page 3

## Halton police stand alone

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

A new privacy and information act has divorced Halton Regional Police from all other municipal forces as they are the only region police force still divulging names and addresses of crime victims.

"Everybody has clammed up," said Halton's media relations officer, Sergeant Carey Smith. "But it's business as usual in Halton."

The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy Act became law Jan. 1 and its objective was to make "municipal government more open and therefore more accountable to the people of Ontario, while at the same time protecting individual privacy," as stated in an information booklet on the act.

But municipal police forces aren't interpreting the act the

same way and this is causing confusion for the media, the public and police.

Chief James Harding of Halton Regional Police reads the law "as giving a significant degree of discretion to the police."

"Halton has always had a good relationship with the media and if names were withheld before, we had no problems from the media and don't expect any in the future," he said. "The Halton community responds to the need to help and serve each other and the police. Withholding information would be detrimental to their safety and ability to be community participants."

Apparently he is the only Chief to think this way and interpret the legislation as such. Metro, York, Peel and Dufferin regional police forces, among others, have stopped releasing names, ad-

Continued on Page 3

## "Lock it or lose it"

If you have a habit of leaving your car unlocked with the keys inside, you're running the risk of either getting your car stolen or being issued a \$53.75 fine.

Halton Regional Police initiated a new crime prevention program this week called "Lock it or Lose it" giving officers the authority under a Halton by-law, to issue fines to unlocked vehicles with keys inside even if they're parked in your laneway.

The program was established to prevent car theft, said Halton Hills crime prevention officer, Laurel Barnett. She reports that out of 35 vehicles stolen last year, 20 vehicles had keys in them.

The theft of a vehicle, often results in unfortunate repercussions, she said. "Once the vehicle is stolen, you lose everything in it and nowadays people have more valuables in their cars or trucks such as car phones and compact disc players. Then, once thieves have the car, they may commit crimes like a break and enter that couldn't have been done without transportation.

As well, the potential for tragedy as the result of a car chase increases, said Const. Barnett.

"All of this is so unavoidable if people would lock their vehicles," she noted.

Along with the fine, special cards bearing the 'Lock it or Lose it' logo will be placed in each vehicle. They will also be put in unlocked vehicles where the keys aren't present though these vehicles owners won't be fined.

The program officially started Monday. Oakville and Milton have a similar by-law.

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