

# Former Cougar Walsh is new Raider GM

By DAN RALPH

Georgetown Chrysler Raiders have adopted something close to the old adage "If you can't beat them, join them" in selecting a new general manager.

The Raiders' brass selected former Burlington Cougars' GM Joe Walsh Wednesday. Walsh replaces Bob Hooper, who was the Raider GM for four years before

stepping down at the end of last season.

"Joe brings experience, ability and knowledge of our league with him," said Raiders' vice-president of hockey operations Barry Whitworth. "Burlington has always had a good team so Joe brings an impressive list of credentials with him. I think he gives our organization credibility and hopefully he can lead us to where we want to be. The

recommendations we got from other people who are in the know said Joe Walsh was an excellent person for the job."

The Raiders' naming of Walsh to their GM post ends what turned out to be a lengthy selection process. As well, Walsh's appointment could be deemed somewhat surprising as the Raiders had been negotiating with Milton resident and former NHL'er Rick Heinz. But Heinz and

the Raiders met Tuesday and couldn't come to an agreement Whitworth said.

"We couldn't agree and accommodate his package," Whitworth said.

Walsh said having a knowledge of the Raiders and the sincerity of Whitworth and Raiders' president Finn Poulstrup in their meetings played a role in his taking the job.

"I'm familiar with Georgetown from my prior association with Burlington Cougars so I'm not stepping into a totally unfamiliar situation," Walsh said. "Even though the Raiders had a tough year last season I do remember that their kids never quit and the organization itself always presented itself as a good one. That type of feeling carried on through in our meetings."

Walsh said it's a little premature to begin setting goals having just taken the Raiders' position. But he would like to see the club improve upon its 6-30-6 regular season mark of last year. One of the first decisions Walsh will have to make as Raider GM is the naming of a coach. Walsh added he hasn't given it much thought and the forum will be an open one.

Walsh also said his prior involvement with Burlington won't mean a bitter rivalry between the Raiders and Cougars this season.

"When I'm with a team my loyalties are there," he said. "I'd like to see a rivalry exist with every team in the league. I have no ill

feelings towards Burlington, and my role won't be to get down to the players because of my prior involvement with the Cougars.

"There's a real challenge here that I'm really looking forward to," Walsh continued. "With Junior B hockey being what it is, every year is almost a rebuilding year so you can be near the bottom one year and be near the top the next. Georgetown had a young team last year and if a good core returns, based on experience alone we should be a better team."

## CPGA finds new home in Acton

Continued from page 29

ing but positives for Acton and Halton Hills. The 18-hole Turtle Lake course at Blue Springs will now draw interested golfers from all over the province (and even the country) to Halton Hills. It will bring notoriety to the area as more and more golf people become better acquainted with Blue Springs.

There has been talk that maybe the Canadian Open could someday be played at venues other than Oakville's Glen Abbey. CPGA president Tom Mann said Blue Springs could hold such an event and the course could challenge the likes of Curtis Strange and Greg Norman. While such a feeling is very flattering to the Turtle Lake course, it's not likely the Canadian Open would be played at Blue Springs because the course wasn't built to accommodate the massive galleries which habitually arise during the Canadian Open.

But visitors will notice more than just an 18-hole golf course at the Blue Springs facility. They will find a golf school, a par-3 course, practise greens and fairways and a very impressive residential area.

Blue Springs will be more than just a place to play golf. It will be a venue where the game can and will be taught. In essence, Acton will be where potential pros learn their trade before heading off into the CPGA ranks. Ultimately these individuals will have a homecoming of sorts, playing in CPGA events held in Acton.

As well, some of the more established names in golf will invariably find their way to Blue Springs through CPGA tournaments. Again, these pros will only be impressed with not only the course, but the entire 540 acre establishment.

The eyes of Canada too could be on Acton through television and other media covering CPGA events. There's no doubt these individuals will come away with nothing but superlatives describing Blue Springs, which in turn reflects positively on Acton and Halton Hills.

So Wednesday's announcement was more than just a golf organization coming to town. With the CPGA giving Blue Springs its official stamp of approval and putting those thoughts into action, the Acton golf club is given instant notoriety, credibility and powerful attraction power. That can only enhance Acton's reputation, which in turn reflects positively on Halton Hills.

Besides, now there's another reason why it's worth the drive to Acton.



### GMHA elects executive

The Georgetown Minor Hockey Association held its annual Election of Officers Monday night at the Alcott Arena. Named to this year's Board include (front row from left) Junior League Vice-President Paul Hoogendam, Senior League Vice-President Jim Lahey, President Hal Pells, Planning-Communication Vice-President Dave Curry, Secretary Judy Pries and Treasurer Janice Kouyoumjian.

Back row Operation Director Wayne Smith, Administration Vice-President Bill Blight, Junior League Rep Director Phil Thompson, Senior League Rep Director Rod Heinz, Communications Director Doug Thom, Past President Carson Minnich and Fundraising Committee Director Dave Martin. Missing is Planning Director Jackie Hotham.

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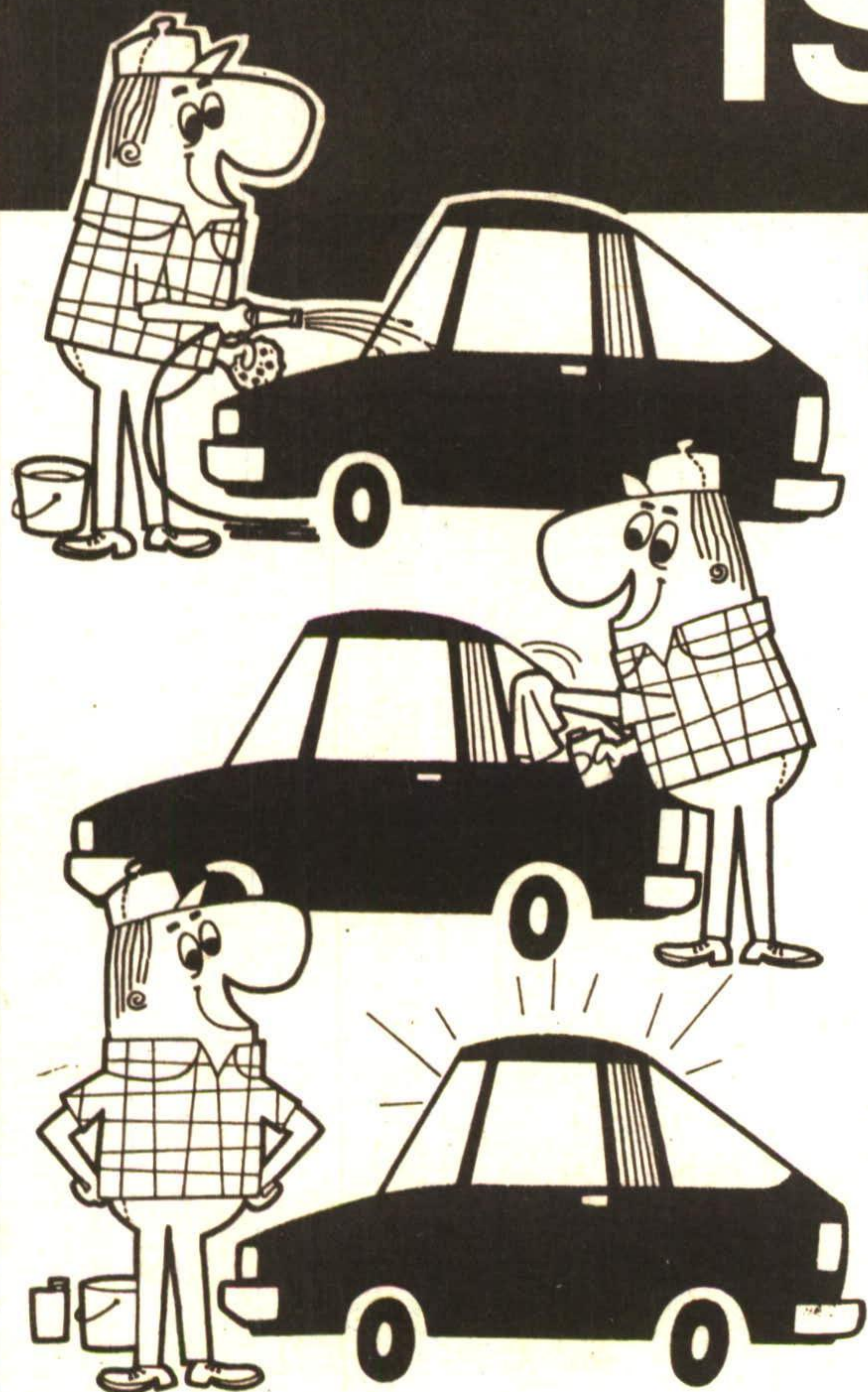
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