

Powderpuff wars continue

The battles continue to rage on through the summer months as teams aim for top spot in the Georgetown Ladies Powderpuff League.

The Sharks 7 - Handwashed 6
Inning by inning the score remained balanced with Handwashed one run up after their bat in the seventh Sharks' Deb Davies hit a single to stay on base. A triple by Gail Sheppard brought in the tying run landing herself in the scoring position. Another triple hit by Tammy Lockwood enabled Gail to score for this one point win. Bringing truth to the phrase "it ain't over till it's over!" Handwashed defence by Bobbie Hyde, Barb Terry and Shannon Russell. Susan Martin had a 2 RBI triple with pitching perfection by Shannon Russell and Lisa Switzer.

In Living Colour 5 - Purple "92" 2
Colour's Cathy Dawson hit an incredible over the fence homerun, along with a homerun by Silvana Larose with 3 RBI's. Two doubles by Sue Ferguson along with pitching excellence by Cathy Seaton and Donna Lounenberger took the win for Living Colour. Purple's Cindy Bodrug and Donna Harden each hit for the scoring RBI's. Great fielding by Purple players held a strong opposition to a narrow lead.

Fowl Balls 35 - Stealers 7
Strong bats by FB led to this unbelievable lopsided win. FB's Rose Harrison and Charyn Shearer each had a home run with Paulette Frolet belting out a grand slam. Triple's by Holly Peterson with 2 and Patti Sunnucks. Good pitching and fielding by Betty Flikkema.

A nice catch in right by Sheila Willis and an all round good game by Patti Puckering. It must have been a rough weekend for the players on the Sizzlers team!

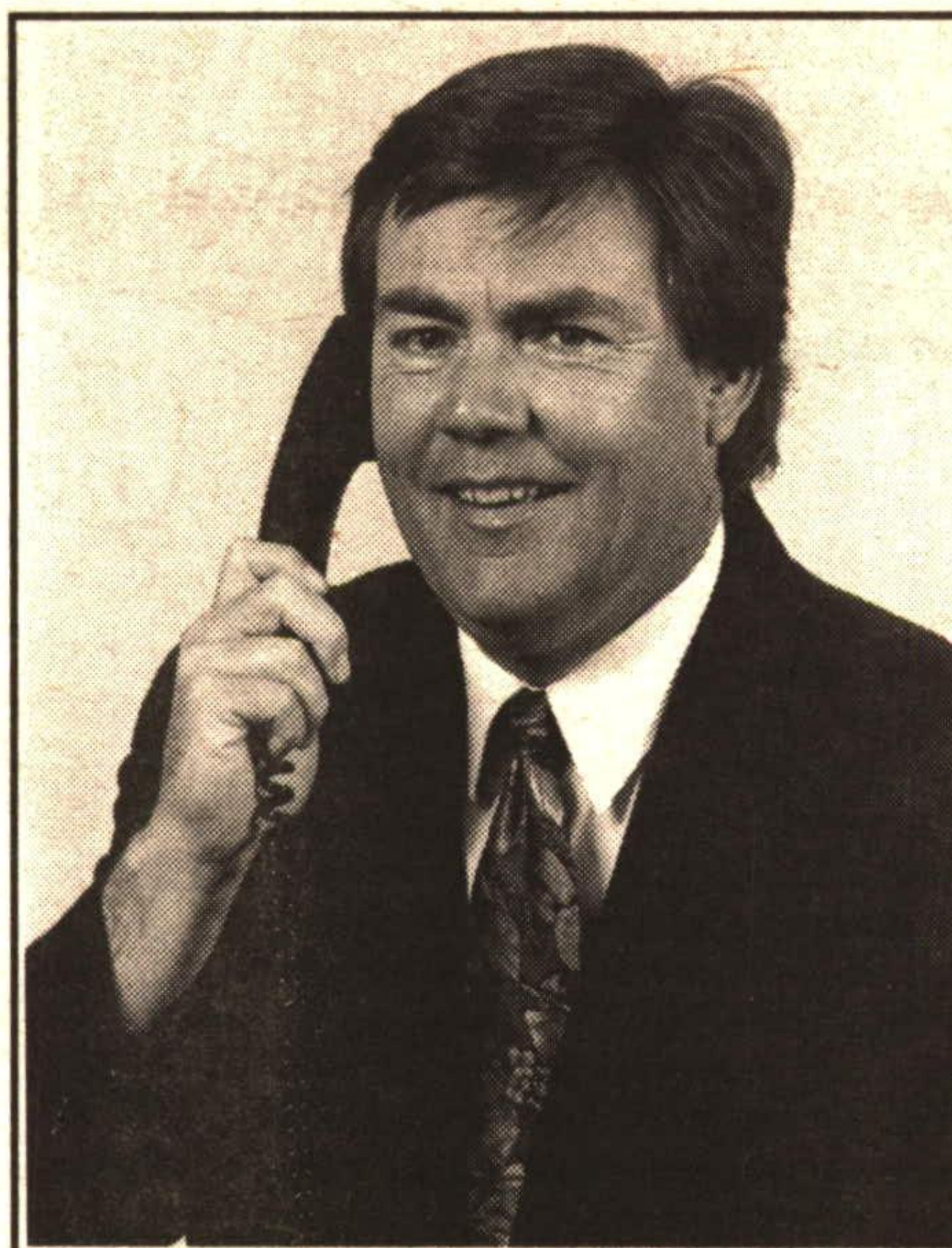
Old Greymares 19 - With NV 4
Mares' bats for the win by

Jeanette Brandford, Denise Brownlee, Charlene Christie, Rose Harris, Lynn LaFleur, Rachelle Quinlan and Carol Spiteri. Outstanding pitching (as usual) by Carol Spiteri with 10 strike outs. Von Readman had a good game and took one for the team. NV's Liz Doell had a good game with 2 RBI's. Single RBI's by Gail Campbell and Marg Crowley. Although out pitched by the Mares' NV showed great team spirit.

Sizzlers 15 - Dinomite 8
Sizzlers came back to win their second game of the week, with a fantastic team effort. Excellent bats by Lois Osborne with a triple and double. Another triple by Jeanine Lorusso, doubles by Lori Sargent, Kim Wilton, Lynn Farrimond and two by newcomer Cheryl Jackson. Top pitching by Joanne Kemper and great fielding by Sue MacDonald. Dinomite's Bernice Griffiths played well at S.S. and turned out a double. Louise Herbert played smart defence at second. Linda Ovendon had a great game at bat with 3 for 3, 3 stolen bases scoring twice. Karen Porter hit deep twice for 2 RBI's. Suzanne Presswood hit a double and went 2 for 3.

Draught Dodgers 28 - Handwashed 100?

So what's a couple of zero's? Actually the score (if you can call it that) was 28 to 1. Dodgers' triples by Tracy Gruter, Bonnie Hatcher and Monica Mastalerz. Monica also hit 2 doubles along with one by Mary McLaughlin. Handwashed Barb Terry hit two nice hits, one of which was a triple. Wendy Shannon sacrificed at first to bring in Shannon Russell for the only run. Donna Sproule made the catch of the day for a double play. Paula Zilio had 2 big catches along with Lisa Switzers line drive catch. Good thing, imagine what the score might have been!



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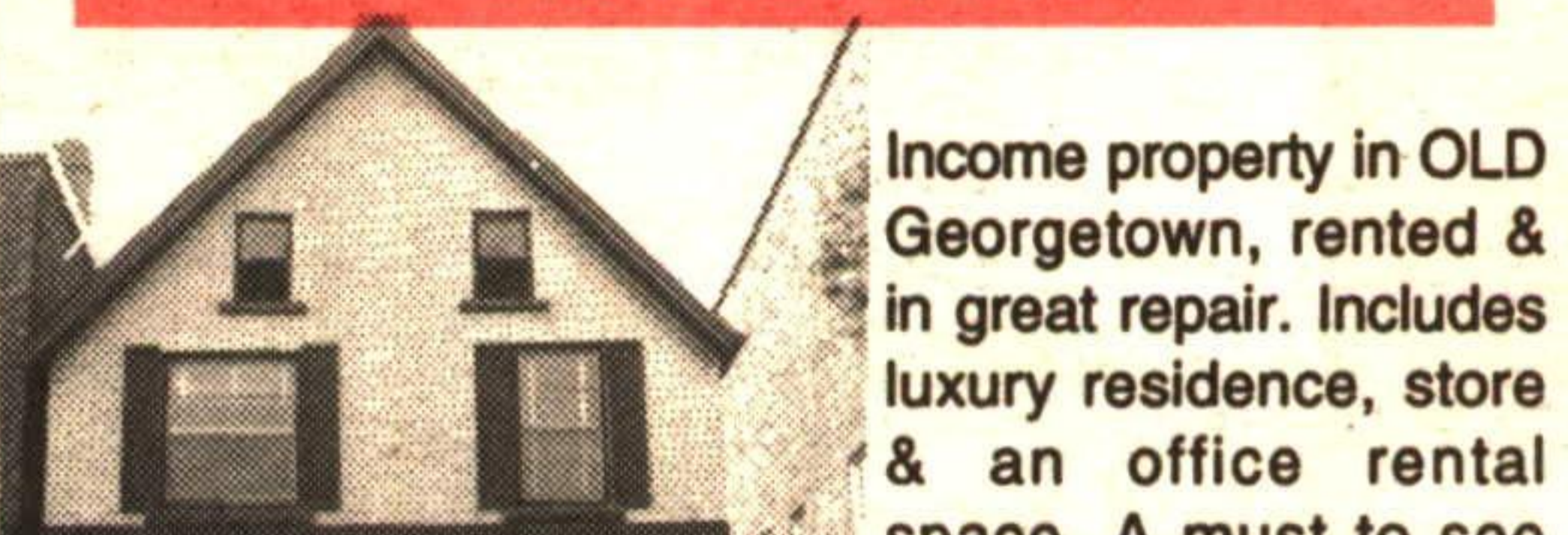
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Those pesky black flies

Samuel de Champlain, during his travels in North America, described the black flies as "being so thick that they hardly allowed us to draw out breath". Gabriel Segard in 1623, exclaimed "They make one look like a leper, hideous to the sight. And one of my past canoe companions. Art, simply bellowed out "They're driving me mad" as he ran frantically through the bush, flapping his arms in the air.

Explorers, missionaries and crazed canoe companions have all been tormented by the midge warrior called the black fly and all have not exaggerated how irritable one can become while under siege. Looking closely at these bothersome bugs however, these vampires of the forest can be quite fascinating.

Unlike the common mosquitos which lays its eggs on the smooth surface of a swamp or marsh, the black fly dips its abdomen into a babbling brook or free flowing river.

After hatching, the larvae drifts downstream, holding onto a strand of silk like a spider to its web. Once it finds a favourable feeding station the baby black fly spins a small disc-shaped pad of silk onto a log, rock or blade of grass, anchors its hooked posterior, and begins to filter feed on passing-by bacteria, protozoa, diatoms and the occasional brother or sister larvae.

When the developed adult emerges from its aquatic coffin the female black fly, and only the female, hunts down a warm blooded victim. The thirsty insect needs the bloodmeal to develop its eggs. Both male and female black flies however, need to feed on plant nectar to obtain carbohydrate energy.

It's important to note that in some species bloodmeals are not needed immediately after emergence. There's even a particular species in the arctic that not only doesn't need blood, but it needs no male black fly to reproduce.

Female black flies are attracted mostly by body temperature. They love a warm skin surface during a cool day. Warm days seem to confuse them.

NATURE'S WAY

Kevin Callan

The insect has a highly efficient manner to obtain the blood from your body: so intriguing it will make your blood curl. Unlike the mosquito which sucks your blood, the black fly pierces its serrated, razor-sharp mouthparts into your skin, making a perpendicular cut in a scissor-like action. Once the initial cut has been made, outer stylets help make the incision deeper into the skin. Hooks on the stylets hold the skin back while the mamibles scissor again and again until the black fly is able to slice your capillaries and taste blood. The female then fills her food canal, esophagus and gut with two milligrams of red fluid.

Now for the part that makes you want to screama out in pain. After the black fly swallows its bloodmeal she then quickly wrenches her head from side to side, trying to free her hooked mouthparts. This is why when you swat the bothersome bug, hidden behind your ear or up your pant leg, blood smears across your skin.

To rebel against black flies DEET works well, except it burns away at your skin and camping gear. I once had a hard-hat crack in half after dousing it in bug juice. If you lightly saturate a cotton bandanna with insect repellent and tie it around your neck, the bugs will keep reasonably clear of your head. Ben Gay works surprisingly well as well as Johnson & Johnson Skin-so-soft.

Dark colours attract black flies and light colours repel. Red is a neutral colour, but hot pink is great.

Bug headnets or the new bug jackets are great, but constricting. Make sure to wear long-sleeve shirts and pants and tuck the trousers into your boots. Basically seal yourself in armour from the pesky buggers.