



OPINION



Ice follies

Wouldn't life be great if we could just do whatever we want, didn't have to answer to anyone, consider opposing views or even back up our decisions?

Well, life must be pretty great for the board members of the Halton Secondary School Athletic Association (HSSAA). In addition to having all of the above perks, it gets to do it all anonymously.

The HSSAA released a ruling Jan. 11 that effective next season, female rep hockey players will no longer be able to play for high school teams. The same rule has been in place for more than 30 years for the boys' high school league.

The motivation appears to be to avoid discipline after a human rights complaint was filed suggesting the different rules for boys and girls was discriminatory.

However, we don't know for sure the reason behind the ruling because requests for interviews with a member of the HSSAA were referred to a senior administrator with the Halton District School Board, who was not a part of the decision-making process. Names of the board members were also not provided despite repeated requests.

The HSSAA ruling says its boys' league is thriving under the current no-rep rule while girls' participation is declining. Except, the HSSAA didn't do its homework. Girls' participation is declining because even with rep players many schools don't have enough players for a team.

The presidents of Halton's three girls' minor hockey programs say the numbers are not there to support a high school program at most schools without rep players. But the HSSAA didn't contact any of them to inquire about their registration numbers and several high school coaches and phys ed department heads said they were also not asked about the possible ramifications of the decision.

The HSSAA said its ruling was to maximize participation and limit the impact of the decision.

What it did was cut the pool of available players for girls in half, even though many schools are already struggling to ice teams.

The HDSB spokesman said the rule is in place for hockey because the rep and high school seasons run concurrently. However, so do soccer, swimming and girls' volleyball, with no restrictions on rep or club players.

The HSSAA has decided, to borrow a phrase NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly used to describe contract lengths during the lockout, this issue "is the hill we will die on."

Instead, it may be where girls' high school hockey dies.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

Will you be more inclined to use the Georgetown library now that it has undergone a multi-million dollar renovation?

- Yes. The new library offers more for me (60%)
- No. Libraries are outdated institutions (40%)

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COLD ENOUGH FOR YA?



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Letters to the editor

Positive additions to recycling plan

Dear editor,

As you most likely know, there will be some new items that will be picked up in our Blue Box as of April 1.

I asked the department in charge a while back why some of those items which have the recycling codes 1 and 2 were not acceptable, and was told that it was because they contained other material in the fabrication which made them non-recyclable.

So, I am glad that they have included those, as well as other items, that will now be acceptable. Then I started to think, why not start now? So, for any of those new items, I clean them thoroughly and put them in a blue bag in my garage. Then when April 1 comes along, I will put them by the curb with my other recyclable items. If everyone did the same, it may help prolong the lifetime of our landfill, even if it is only for two or three months.

One other thing I have been doing for a couple of years is to return, to the grocery stores, all

plastic bags I purchase. Since I use reusable bags, I have hardly used any of theirs. So what I now do is keep all plastic bags from them that contain items like milk, bread, hot dog buns, etc. I noticed that I wasn't the only one doing that. Hopefully these bags are being recycled and not just included with the stores' regular garbage.

Unfortunately, a couple of items were still left out of the recycling material: Styrofoam and empty aerosol cans. Perhaps next time they will be included also.

However, this is a very positive addition to our recycling program and we should be thankful for this progress.

Bob Desjardins, Georgetown

Thanks for support

Dear editor,

Re: InSpirit Centre's recent grand opening.

This has been a longtime dream of mine and it's so exciting to see it finally come true. I want to thank the local businesses and the residents of Georgetown for their warm welcome.

It's nice to see so many faces light up when they come in and say that they are happy we opened, and that this is exactly what George-

town needed.

I also want to thank all of the wonderful people who helped us get off the ground. It would have been impossible without the shared knowledge and efforts of so many locals.

In particular I want to thank Training Services, a longtime business of Georgetown which helped us with some of the administrative aspects of opening a new business, and for their staff's donation of time to actually help us open boxes and fill the shelves.

I also want to thank Glazed Expressions, for all their assistance with opening a business on Main Street. Thanks everyone for all your help, we deeply appreciate it.

Barbara Ford-Pimento, InSpirit Centre, Georgetown

Efforts appreciated

Dear editor,

As Georgetown Hospital supporters, we applaud your effort at trying to educate the public regarding preventative health and reducing emergency visits.

Perhaps other hospitals could be encouraged to do this in their local papers.

Don and Gloria Sargent, Caledon