

HOCKEY HERITAGE

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**THE INDEPENDENT
& FREE PRESS**

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Special pullout section

8 Pages

Lefebvre lauded for dedication to local minor hockey

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Dr. Ron Lefebvre recalled that his welcome-to-coaching house league kids' hockey moment came during what he thought was an intense low-level division title game during the Georgetown association's Day of Champs in the mid-1990s.

It was a tyke contest involving mostly entry-level registrants, but the local dentist, having successfully coached in the Georgetown Raider rep ranks with a well-studied tactical knowledge of the sport, was left in laughter after a query from one of players just as the overtime period got underway.

"There was this kid on the bench and he's going, 'Dr. Ron, Dr. Ron,' and I went, 'What?' and he said, 'Do we get pop after the game?'"

"That's when I knew (coaching) house league was going to be different. I actually don't remember who won that game."

That's a surprising admission for the local dentist who was known for his organizing skills during 30-plus years in local youth hockey and he continues to help out with the now-Halton Hills Minor Hockey Association after he presided over the 2013 merger between the Georgetown

and Acton organizations.

Lefebvre was the recipient of the 38th-annual Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council Award at a dinner at the Acton Legion Monday night, involving some well-known members of the hockey community at the head table and as guests, including former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion.

The longtime Kinsmen Club of Georgetown member is usually the one presenting the Hockey Heritage recipient with their portrait but instead the affable Club at North Halton member and avid golfer was in the spotlight.

"He saw something in minor hockey house league that was a challenge," said Bob Hooper of the Hockey Heritage Council.

"Ron wanted to see if he could improve how the system worked and he did improve it. Every Saturday morning, Ron would watch all the games between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Memorial Arena and that had to be one of the coldest rinks in Canada."

Among his accomplishments, Dr. Lefebvre helped re-establish the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association's select program and expanded the annual Christmas Tournament, now known as the Bob Goldham Memorial, to include all ages of



One of the many gifts Dr. Ron Lefebvre (far right) received Monday night as recipient of the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award was a print of one of his favourite places on the planet, the now-demolished Memorial Arena. Dr. Lefebvre received the gift from his friends and fellow executive members in the Halton Hills Minor Hockey Association (from left) Rick Rideout, Theresa Campbell Gord Campbell. Photo by Eamonn Maher

house league players.

As well as his convening or directorship duties, Dr. Lefebvre would usually coach a team or two on the side.

"He's also a master manipulator and a great recruiter (of volunteers)," said HHMHA executive member Gord Campbell.

"For my wife (Theresa) and I, Ron

actually made volunteering very cruel. All we had to do was watch the amount of time and effort he put into it and you quickly realized that you weren't good enough. He actually made us feel bad about ourselves."

When lobbying on behalf of the house league for more ice time or other concessions, Dr. Lefebvre would emphatically plead his case.

"I speak loudly. I was the loudest voice. (The GMHA executive) held their meetings on a Monday night. That was not a coincidence. I had office hours on Monday nights for 33 years and would finish at 9 p.m. They'd phone the office and say, 'Tell Ron he doesn't have to come.' But (I'd say) if we wanted to get something done, you're staying."

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