

Sheppard joins major junior A hockey flock

By Colin Gibson

The North Bay Centennials beckoned and rather than turn a southern exposure to a northern Ontario-based team, Georgetown's Doug Sheppard welcomed the possibility of playing Major Junior A hockey with open mitts.

The 16-year-old (who turns 17 in July) was drafted in the 16th round, 243rd overall, by North Bay Saturday in the Ontario Hockey League's (major junior A) priority draft staged in London.

While at first face-off, being drafted 243rd might seem not too significant, it should be noted that 629 young hockey players born between 1974-77, including 59 goaltenders, were eligible for selection.

This used to be called the annual "midget draft" but for reasons known only to those who appreciate obfuscation over clarity, the named was subsequently changed.

One wonders why the solid 5' 10", 180-pound midget sensation who put up sparkling 1992/93 stats with the Halton AAA Midget Hurricanes (129 scoring points on 61 goals and 68 assists in 69 games) was left dangling for so long on the OHL line.

One also wonders why this same kid only saw action in four games

for the woeful Georgetown Chrysler Raiders, a Junior B team, in a word-meaningless Junior "A" league.

In four games with the Raiders, Sheppard potted two goals, not bad for a neophyte junior.

Be that as it may, Sheppard has only good words for both organizations.

"Coaches Tom Martin and Bob Davidson, with the midget team, both taught me a lot about hockey," said the somewhat shy and reticent Sheppard, and the Raiders "Treated me good."

No player on last year's Raider squad was selected in the OHL's priority draft.

A Georgetown minor hockey product, his biggest supporters are dad George and mother Beth.

Beth, in fact, compares her son more to a Doug Gilmour-type



Sixteen-year-old Doug Sheppard is congratulated by proud dad George, on being selected by the North Bay Centennials in the 1993 Ontario Hockey League major junior A hockey draft.

photo by Colin Gibson/HHTW

player than a super star.

"He's not a Gretzky", she said, "and he's not big enough to be compared to a Probert or a Lindros. He's more a Dougie Gilmour-type player who never quits and plays with a lot of heart."

Both Beth and George estimate they've attended about "99%" of Doug's games.

Beth accompanied Doug to the

Proud papa George, on hearing the news, could only describe how he felt as "Fantastic". After some thought, he offered this. "I guess every parent who has a kid playing hockey, dreams someday of the NHL. But right now, I just want Doug to work hard and try to make the Centennials."

The literally "centre" of attention, soft-spoken Doug, said he

London draft (George had to work) and described what she felt when her son's name was announced as a Centennial's selection as "One of the most exciting moments in my life!" The down-to-earth lady then tried to backtrack by saying, "But I'm sure all the other parents there (at the draft) felt the same way when they heard their son's name called. It was a very long and emotional day."

was "Surprised, but pleased," at being chosen by North Bay.

"Al Mason (a scout for Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds) called June 2 to say they might take me in the late rounds and I heard Newmarket was also interested."

Doug's first inkling he was being considered for Major Jr. A hockey came in April when he received a letter from the OHL's central scouting group informing him he was on the OHL's draft list.

Doug, proud papa George and super fan mom Beth, will accompany the youngster to an informal 'get to know the organization' get-together June 26 in North Bay. After that, Doug will pretty much be on his own until the Centennials main training camp gets underway Sept. 1st.

Up to a point.

He has already been given a nutrition and fitness program to follow by the Cents, and that, combined with his activities as short-stop for the Georgetown Stanley Acme Track Ltd. Midget Eagles of the Georgetown Baseball Association, will no doubt keep him focussed.

Should he stray off the track, George and Beth will always be there when he needs them.

Halton Hills

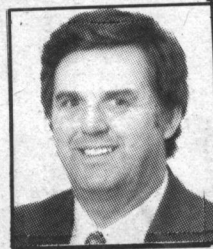
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Halton Hills 'Ushers' in new acting treasurer

Town of Halton Hills deputy treasurer, Grant Usher, will become acting treasurer July 2, until a permanent treasurer is selected. The announcement, made at Monday evening's Town of Halton Hills general committee meeting, follows the May 25 announcement that current treasurer, Ray King, will be replacing town administrator Dan Costea, who will be retiring July 1.

Purchasing policy questioned

Town administrator, Dan Costea announced at Monday's Town of Halton Hills general committee meeting, the current purchasing policy will be reviewed before the end of the year, to ensure companies respond to tenders instead of being invited to undertake projects.

The announcement was made after Councillor Al Cook pointed out R.E. Clipsham Ltd., which is providing inspection and administrative services during the reconstruction of Guelph St., from Mountainview Road to Maple Ave., was invited for the proposal, and did not have to respond to tenders,

which is the standard practice. "In this economy, it is necessary we ask for tenders to ensure the lowest price," Cook said.

R.E. Clipsham Ltd. had been asked at the May 25 municipal council meeting to provide a breakdown of what services will be provided for the \$126,000 upset fee, because councillors were concerned about the enormity of the amount. The report was presented at Monday's meeting.

Bob Austin, town engineer, said that even if tenders were asked for at this time, no money would be saved. He added the decision to invite R.E. Clipsham Ltd. to work on the Guelph St. project was made by municipal council five years ago, and present town staff was simply complying with that direction.

After further discussion, the report was carried, and will be presented at next Monday's general council meeting.

Arena site selected

Town of Halton Hills director of recreation and parks, Tom Shepard,



Al Cook

announced at Monday's general committee meeting a site has been selected for the new Acton Arena. Shepard stated in a report the decision was made after much discussion with government officials, ministry officials, conservation authorities and other town department officials. According to a four-page report, the Rinarin Development site, north of

Highway 7 in Acton East, was selected because of its "visibility from the highway, potential access to the site from the highway and the future subdivision collector road, its proximity to existing schools and the interaction of the arena with school programs, and the arena's adjacent proximity to a future planned community park located on the Rinarin property."

Acton councillor Rick Bonnette spoke for Acton councillors Gerald Rennie and Norm Elliot, stating they were "delighted with the report." He insisted the money for the acquisition of the lands will not be coming from taxpayers, but out of reserves and lot levies. "After seven years, it's great to see things finally coming together," Bonnette stated.

Uneasy Rider

An unidentified Georgetown woman was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Sunday morning around 1 a.m., after she fell off a motorcycle at the corner of Main St. and Mill St. in Georgetown.

The woman, who was a passenger on the motorcycle, flew off the bike after the driver, braked suddenly at the intersection, causing the vehicle to topple over, say police. According to a police report, the man then got back on the motorcycle and took off, leaving the woman on the road.

A 35-year-old Brampton man has been charged with impaired operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm, driving while under suspension, driving with no insurance, driving an improperly registered vehicle and refusing to provide a breath sample. He appeared in court Monday for a bail hearing.

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