

Recreation and Sports

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Hockey Canada and CAHA merge

If things go according to plan, Canada will finally have one hockey voice, as talks are proceeding between Hockey Canada and the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association to join forces.

The merger that is expected to be completed by June, still requires the approval of the respective boards of directors. Both sides agree the move would greatly benefit the sport.

The new agency would oversee the game at every level, from minor hockey to the Olympic team, including the organization of future Canada Cups.

Based in Ottawa, the CAHA is responsible for international and minor hockey while Hockey Canada oversees the Olympic team and the Canada Cup competitions.

Hockey settlement accepted

By Mike Zrostek

The recently settled dispute between the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) and the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), that also includes the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) will see many parents digging deeper into their pockets, but Gord Chapman, Treasurer of Acton Minor Hockey agrees with the increase.

"The settlement was extremely fair," said Chapman. "Financially, the kids are being treated exactly like kids across Ontario and Canada, they aren't being treated differently."

Young players in both Georgetown and Acton minor hockey associations will be paying \$6 dollars for CAHA insurance on top of the \$14 they already pay for OMHA insurance.

"No question the insurance has to be worked out structurally, but the CAHA insurance increase is due to past underfunding. Five dollars was too little so every hockey player in Canada is asked to make it up," said Chapman.

As far as tournaments in Acton being effected, Chapman says the Novice

tournament Dec. 27 and the Atom tournament Dec. 28 are both a go.

Chapman is hoping the political barriers between all the leagues including the

Metro Toronto Hockey League (MTHL) will now go down because of the settlement, and true hockey people can all get together and talk.

Busy time for Raiders

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders of the Ontario Provincial Junior A Hockey League West Division will be a busy bunch over the holidays.

Friday, the Raiders were in Milton and tonight (Saturday), 7:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, the struggling Burlington Cougars who were bumped out of first place by the Hamilton Kilty B's, pay a visit.

Georgetown travels to Streetsville Tuesday and then both teams return for a rare 7:30 p.m. Sunday home game (Dec. 26) at Alcott.

The Raiders will then play two games on Dec. 27 and one Dec. 28 in the Newmarket Junior "A" Showcase Tournament.

Georgetown will be one player short, as left-winger Ryan Brown is no longer skating with the club after a disagreement in Brampton with the coaching staff concerning playing time and



style. "I haven't anything against him (Brown)," said general manager Finn Poulstrup. "He's a good kid, but I can't have players telling the coaches how were going to play. I have to take the side of the coaches."

The Raiders, whose play as of late has improved, sit in seventh place in the West division, with a 6-21 record.

Nellis Novices notch win

A win and a loss for the Acton Nellis Construction Novices last week set their season record at 13-4-3.

A 5-1 victory over Fergus had Mike Dube scoring two goals and John Field, Shawn Prentice and Steve Atkinson each adding singles. Recording two assists each were Atkinson, Mike McDonald, Chris Jowett and David Lyons. Adam Brouillard also earned an assist.

On Dec. 10, Acton traveled to Erin to battle with the Erin/Hillsburgh Devils.

Acton and Erin, in three matches so far this season were completely even, with each team winning one, losing one and tying the other game.

This game started poorly with Erin scoring in the first minute on a screened shot from the blueline. Both teams battled back and forth with neither team able to score until Acton's John Field scored a shorthanded goal from Andrew Pembleton and Mike McDonald.

With the score tied, Erin started to pressure Acton and dominated the first half of the third period and finally scored a power play goal to regain the lead. Acton had several chances but could not come back a second time to even the score.



Seniors curling champs

The Acton Curling Club recently hosted the Royal Canadian Legion District Senior Curling Championships and four curlers from Acton Branch 197 claimed the district title and will travel to Mount Forest in February for the Senior Provincial Curling Championships. Pictured above, from left, the Legion Seniors District Champions include, skip Del Hickling, vice Carl Rosenquist, 2nd Ron Jeffrey and lead Doug Pratt. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

HNIC's MacLean enjoys time on ice as well

By Mike Zrostek

Being surrounded by National Hockey League players, coaches and Don Cherry on Saturday nights could give you the itch to participate in some way. The man everybody knows as Hockey Night in Canada's host Ron MacLean does it by donning the stripes.

"It's a great way for me to stay in the game," says MacLean, who refereed last Saturday's Raiders Ontario Provincial Junior A Hockey League game.

"The dates are selected ahead of time around my HNIC schedule, so it works out perfect and it allows me to stay involved in hockey," says MacLean.

An Oakville native and a very personable man, MacLean is in his 15th year of officiating. His schedule consists of 40-to-50 games a year in the Provincial Junior A West Division; mostly games in Oakville, Burlington and Hamilton.

MacLean admits he can take the verbal abuse by the fans but says once in a while he gets a little more of it because of who he is.

"Sometimes it gets a bit too much, but it gets me ready for Cherry" says MacLean in his strong, powerful voice.

"It depends. They (fans) always say 'that's the guy who gives Grapes a hard time'. Sometimes they think you're a glory monger. But after a while they realize I'm just a normal guy and not the cockroach on Coach's

Corner," laughs MacLean.

A subject often brought up on the Coach's Corner segment centres around stories about young hockey players around Canada. The recent dispute between the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and the Ontario Minor Hockey Association had MacLean saying what many others have suggested.

"I felt the matter involved too many people. One or two people should just be in charge and more should be behind the scenes. Everyone was against each other and it then becomes a personality attack instead of just taking care of the situation."

A couple of hot topics have hit the NHL recently as the general managers meetings came to a close in California.

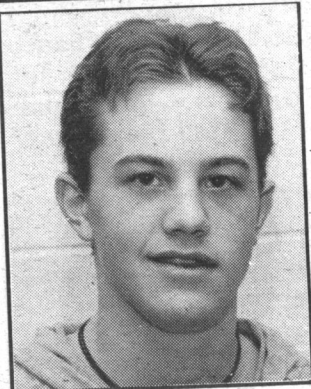
One being pushed by a couple of NHL teams is for tie games to be decided by shoot-outs and MacLean is against it and doesn't think it will happen.

"I'm not a fan of the shoot-out. Hockey is a team game and deciding games by a shoot-out would be individualizing the game."

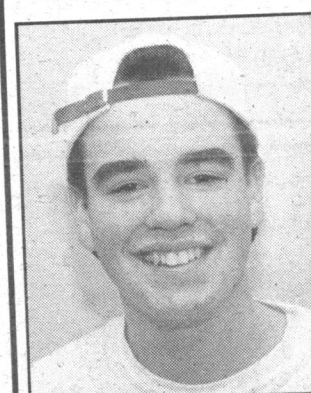
"Some teams get satisfaction from a tie game. If Georgetown, which is struggling a bit right now but played a great game, tied Brampton it would be a big lift for them," said MacLean.

For now, MacLean will still do his thing on Hockey Night in Canada and continue in his spare time to patrol the frozen surface as a junior hockey referee.

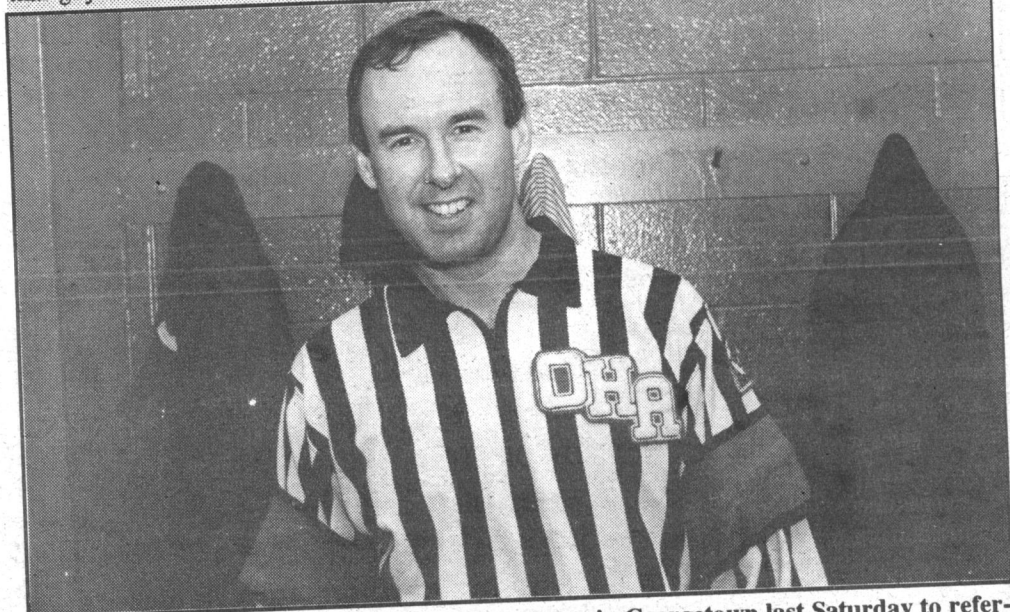
Athletes of the Week



John Eddolls and Jennifer McKay are this week's Acton High School Athletes of the Week. John is a member of the Redmen swim team. Jennifer plays on the Redmen junior girls volleyball team.



Jim Ogden and Cortney O'Brien are this week's Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week. Jim plays on the Rebels midget boys basketball team. Cortney plays on the Rebels junior girls volleyball team.



Hockey Night in Canada host, Ron MacLean was in Georgetown last Saturday to referee the Ontario Hockey Association Provincial Junior A game between the, Georgetown Chrysler Raiders and the Brampton Capitals at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.