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**CAN'T WAIT:** Acton lacrosse players signed up for the coming season Saturday at Acton arena. Excited players are, from left, Steven Atkinson, 8, Kyle McDonald, 5, and John Newby, 8. (Elizabeth Kessler photo)

## Galvcast crowned Hub champions

BY DOUG HARRISON

The playoffs provided a new lease on life for the Acton Galvcast Atom I rep hockey club.

After a mediocre regular season, it all came to a successful ending on Sunday in Waterloo, with a 5-2 victory over Fergus to capture the Hub League Championship.

The Galvcasters, who finished fourth after regular play, were dominating in the post-season.

In quarter-final play, they tore apart Stratford in two straight by 6-2 and 5-0 scores. They then had the dubious honour of playing first-place Woolwich, a team they failed to beat all season, in the semi-final. Galvcast proceeded to win three straight, all in shutout fash-

ion — 7-0, 2-0 and 2-0. For the last two games, Acton played without speedy centre Jason Christopher and winger Daryn McIntyre.

This led to the anticipated confrontation on the weekend with their arch-rivals from Fergus.

### Final tight-checking

Weeks earlier, the Fergus outfit dusted off the locals in the OMHA playoffs in the final game of the best-of-five series, winning 1-0.

Despite the 5-2 score and a tentative Acton start out of the gate, the game lived up to its advance billing as a tight-checking affair.

In the opening five minutes of the contest, Acton found themselves on the wrong end of a 2-0 score, having failed to shake the obligatory pre-game jitters.

However, soon after, the well-oiled Acton scoring machine started to churn out some goals and blew the doors off Fergus with five unanswered goals.

Acton hit the scoresheet early in the second period when Kyle Artem dished a nifty pass to Christopher, who blasted a low shot past the Fergus goalie at the 2:39 mark.

### Trio shines in third

Acton continued their relentless play throughout the middle frame, but had to wait until 4:06 of the third period before notching the equalizer.

The troika again joined forces on the third Acton goal scored by Christopher, who was celebrating his birthday.

Uncorking a bullet, Shawn Weatherall upped the locals' lead to 4-2 just 19 seconds later. Captain Sandy Chapman, who suffered an ankle injury from the wicked slash of a Fergus forward, assisted on the play.

Fergus tried to stage a miraculous comeback, but thanks to the heroics of goaltender Thomas Wolfer, the Acton lead was preserved. Wolfer was summoned from the bench after Andrew Coe played the first half of the contest.

Acton's Richard Raju salted matters by banging in Acton's fifth goal on a pass from McIntyre.

Congratulations go out to all the players for a brilliant season.

Besides the players who were mentioned in the scoring breakdown above, the Galvcast Atom I team includes: Scott Monaghan, Chris Lee, Jeff Newman, Marcel Dube, Ryan Young and Ron McCaslin.

Team coaches are Wally Pitre and Steve Christopher. The squad's manager is Jim Monaghan.

## 'Tinny' Masales ready for Opening Day

BY DOUG HARRISON

If Grenville "Tinny" Masales had his way, he'd turn back time about seven months. Well ... maybe not. Well ... maybe.

Unfortunately, that would mean sitting through another treacherous winter, and with spring upon us, the 88-year-old Acton man is becoming restless. He's chompin' at the bit to stroll the downtown streets, park himself on his apartment lawn and tune in to his beloved Blue Jay radio broadcasts.

Tinny might be our town's biggest Toronto baseball booster, having witnessed his first big league game in 1918 — a time when you didn't bruise the egos of \$7 million athletes with your interest in their John Hancock.

That was a time when you could actually rub shoulders with your favourite player while travelling on the ferry across Toronto island to the ballpark.

### World moving too quickly

For most of us, those times are forgotten. But not by "Tinny" — a name that's been around almost as long as the man himself. Back in grade school, he would whistle between his teeth, so he was called "Tin Whistle." And it went from there. Put simply, the world has made great strides in a short time.

"The world is moving too fast for me," Tinny says, recalling a time when only 1,200 called Acton home "and 600 of them were my relatives.

"In my day you didn't have any money, but you didn't need any. There's government trouble all the time now. When I was young, there were no worries about income tax. It's just a change in the times and I understand it."

He also has a full understanding

about the world of baseball. A look back to his playing days, beginning in 1922, is testimony to his knowledge of the game.

Tinny captained the 1922 Halton County Junior baseball champions from Acton in the championship game against Milton, played in Campbellville. The southpaw pitched the first game of the series, but after walking 14 consecutive batters, felt his performance warranted a change. He approached coach Bob Scott about his ineffective repertoire of pitches and was promptly shipped to the outfield.

"I had a sweater and long underwear on in the seventh inning," reminisces Tinny, "and it started snowing. By the ninth, we couldn't see the outfield."

### Worked 55-hour weeks

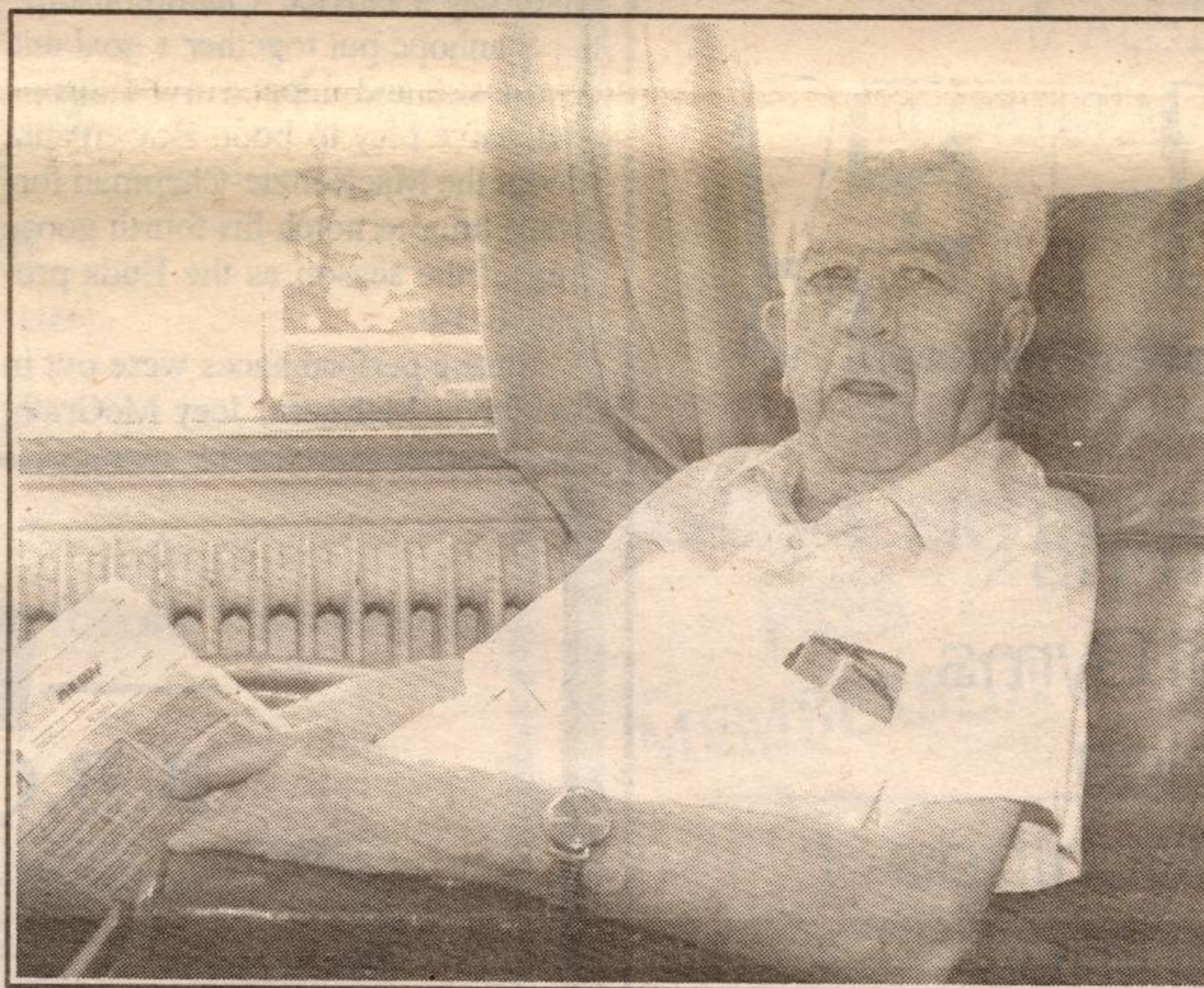
Not all of Tinny's on-field memories are worthy of cherishing, though. In May of 1923, Tinny played on the town intermediate squad and during one contest, slid hard into third base, which ended in two broken bones — his right ankle and arm.

"I was only about 135 pounds and the guy I hit was 210. It was like hitting a brick wall," chuckles Tinny, who didn't realize the condition of his arm until he got home.

It was also the only time he pried himself away — a meagre two weeks — from his job at Beardmore's warehouse during his 50-year tenure.

"After retiring in 1969, I wasn't there again (the land now houses the Hide House) until a year ago Christmas and I didn't recognize it," says Tinny, who was presented with a watch after 40 years of service that included gruelling 55-hour work weeks.

Two years ago Tinny made the



Tinny Masales captained the 1922 Halton Junior baseball champs from Acton and saw his first pro game in Toronto in 1918. (Doug Harrison photo)

short trek to get his first look-see at the luxurious Skydome.

"It's the grandest building and just going inside is worthwhile," he says. "The seats aren't comfortable, though. For sitting through a whole game, I can't take it. I even had to turn down tickets last year because I can't depend on my legs anymore."

### Shopped with Yogi Berra

Toronto's dome has a different look than when he visited stadiums in Cleveland and New York back in 1927. In New York, he stayed in the same hotel as well-known player Yogi Berra.

"He knew I was Canadian and used to talk to me about Toronto a lot," explains Tinny, a big fan of Tris Speaker. "He even invited me to go shopping downtown sometimes.

"In my mind, he wasn't a great player. He used to swing at pitches that you couldn't hit."

Unlike his favourite Bluebird, second baseman Roberto Alomar. "He covers a lot of ground — a marvellous player," beams Tinny, who looks regularly in the paper to see if Alomar and his other choice players, John Olerud and Devon White, are earning their keep.

And there's nothing more pleasing to Tinny than taking in the relaxing commentary of Jay voices Tom Cheek and Jerry Howarth.

"It's as good as new," Tinny says of the radio he received on his 75th birthday from Elgin Street neighbours. "I listen to every game unless it's on TV."

In 1980, after 25 years of coaching young Acton bowlers, "Uncle Tinny" retired. And in the last Tuesday night league game he bowled in '83, he took high single.

Just another mark this man has left in the town he calls home.

"Acton's a grand town. I'm still hometown proud."