

Over 235 will attend Dee Cee Sports Camp

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Darin Coones says it's important to keep kids busy by experimenting with different activities and to channel their energy into sports.

This is Coones the sports camp supervisor, not Coones the teacher.

That philosophy has the Acton resident smiling as interest in his Dee Cee Sports Camp has ballooned to 237 camp-goers in this the third year on the Robert Little grounds, from 65 attendees in 1992.

"It's very important to get them participating in a variety of activities, develop friendships and cooperate with the other kids. It's nice to see them smile. I find kids always know what to do," says Coones, who has also allowed 32 underprivileged children to attend the camp free of charge.

It would appear nobody attending this camp will be seen sitting on his or her hands. Each of the camp's six week-long programs

has a different theme for kids aged 7 to 15 to experience a variety of sports activities designed to enhance their self esteem in a safe learning environment.

The following are the different camps one can attend at \$65 per week or \$300 for the entire summer:

- Nature Sports Camp (completed) — Campers will experience the great outdoors. They will explore nature trails, hike charted and uncharted lands and learn basic survival techniques;

- Cycle Sports Camp (completed) — Attendees will explore new trails while learning safe cycling skills. First aid skills will also be taught;

- Sports Camp I (completed) — Kids will experience the skills for success in baseball, football, soccer and swimming. A broad range of activities will enhance team cooperation and skill development;

- Sports Camp II (this week) — Participants will learn the skills

for success in floor hockey, basketball, volleyball and a treasure game;

- Nature Sports Camp (Aug. 1 to 5) — Camp-goers will experience the mysterious world of the forest. They will hike various terrains, while exploring beautiful and challenging trails. There will also be long-distance canoe trips;

- Camping Adventure (Aug. 8 to 12) — This is an entire week camp out. Experiences include orienteering, fire building, knot tying, shelter making and preparation of skits. Attendees will also be taught first aid, fishing and exploration games.

"I read the kids well. If an activity is going on too long and dies, I switch the games right away, because flexibility is important. I want them to always be doing something," says Coones, a Phys-

Ed grad from McGill University who has worked with kids for 16 years.

"Plus, I didn't want kids hanging around on the streets. It's affordable and a nice area to keep busy."

Coones, 34, has taught at Robert Little for six years and says the kids enjoy the fact the camp isn't strict in its program and different activities. "I want them to have a good time. They're not pressured into sports they don't like and if they want to relax that's okay," says the Grade 4, 5 French Immersion instructor.

One of the ways they can kick back is playing an assortment of board games or art activities.

The camp, which consists of six qualified counsellors from McKenzie-Smith and Acton high school, runs daily from 9 to 5.

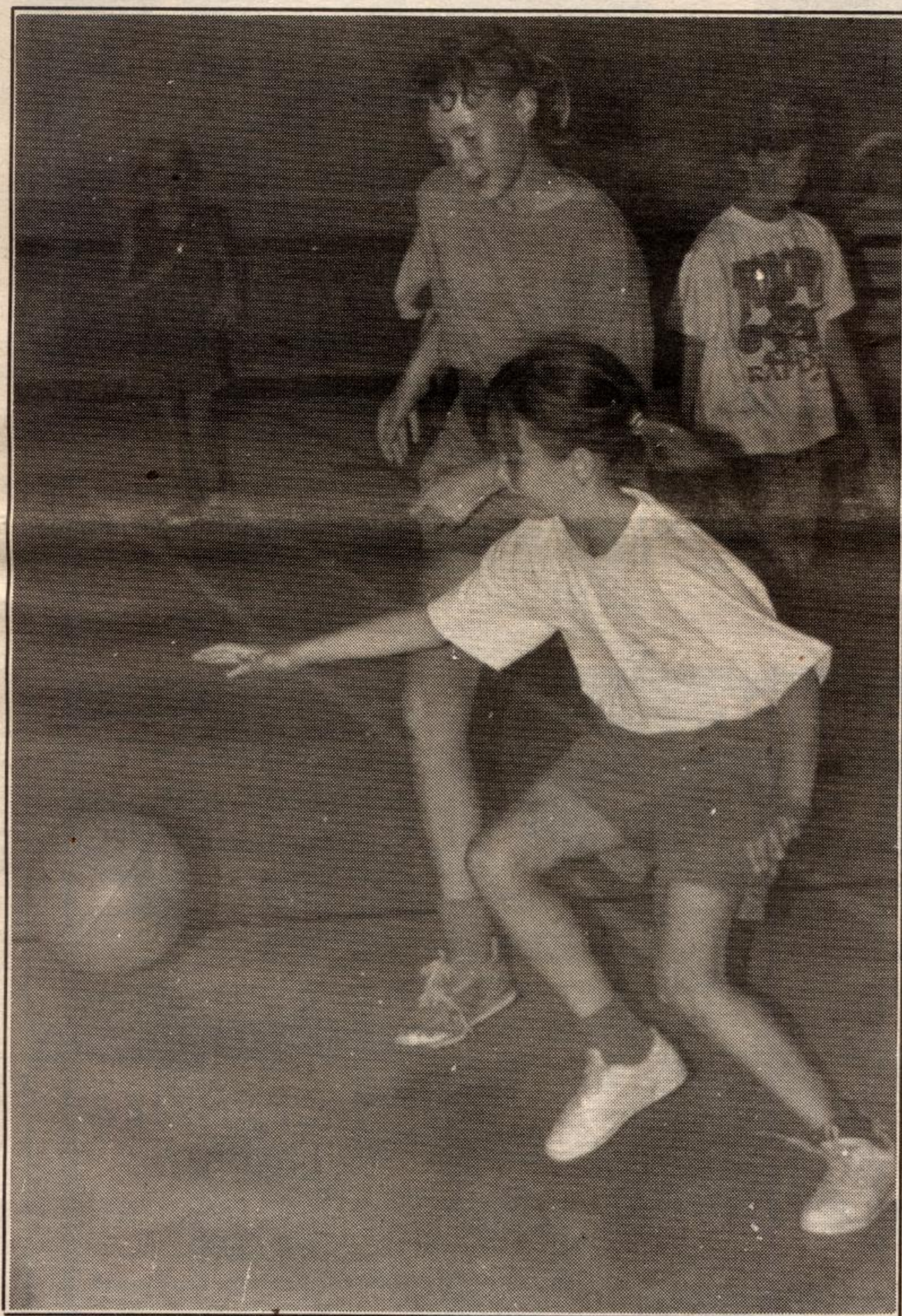
A.T.V. driver charged

A 31-year-old Hornby man was charged with operating an off-road vehicle without a helmet after he lost control of his three-wheeler last week.

Police report that the man was operating his Honda all-terrain vehicle on his relatives' property south of Acton when he lost control and crashed.

The man was taken to Milton Hospital, where he received 25 stitches to repair a cut on his head.

Police have issue a reminder to wear proper head-gear when driving ATVs.



LOOSE BALL!

Dee Cee Sports camper Jacqueline Hufing, 8, appears to have lost possession of the ball during a recent game of pick-up basketball at Robert Little (Doug Harrison photo)

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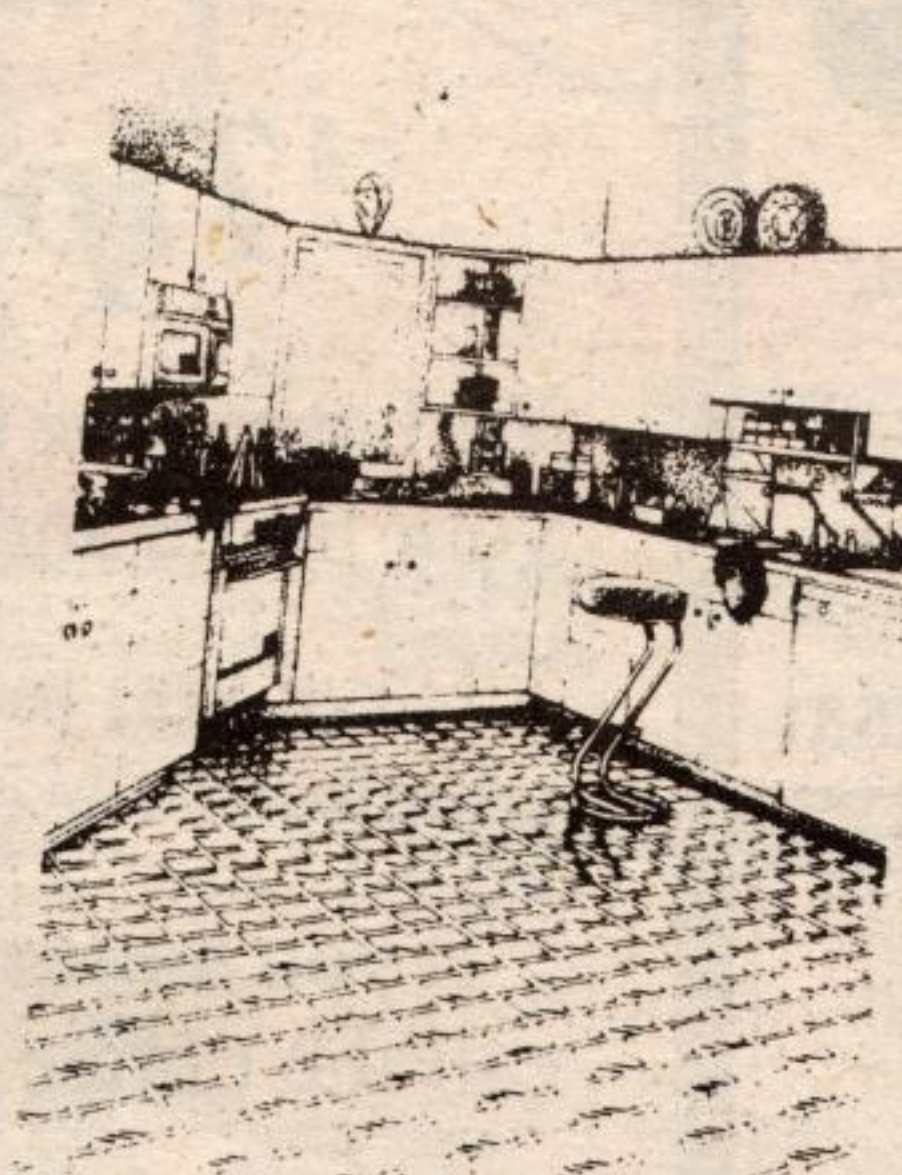
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