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Acton Minor Baseball opens season with full swing

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK The New Tanner

The thwack of a nicely hit ball followed by the shouts and cheers of teammates and parents are echoing at Acton's ball diamonds as the Acton Minor Ball Association (AMBA) season is underway. Approximately 300

kids have registered to play on T-ball, softball and hardball teams, house and rep, this year.

"We still have some openings in certain age groups and we're getting calls on a daily basis, so there's still time to play this year," said registrar John Burgess.

Almost one-third of the

players are under eight-yearsold and are in the T-ball and grasshopper divisions. The emphasis is on fun, good sportsmanship and basic skills and they play with a safety ball that is larger and softer than a softball.

There are eight softball teams that play teams including Waterdown, Carlisle, Milton and Rockwood. The league also has 10 hardball teams, all of which travel.

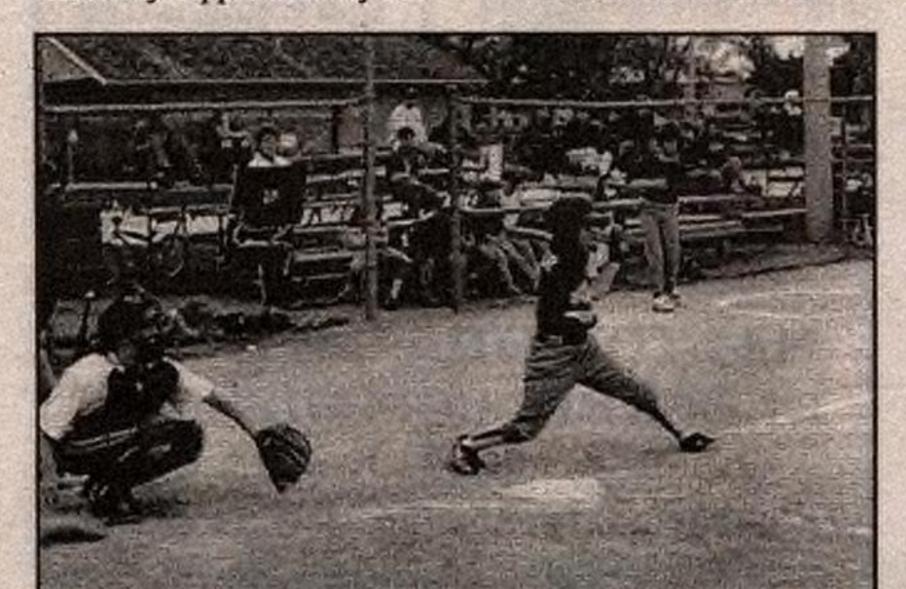
Baseball parents paid an

extra \$40 this season as a bingo replacement fee. Bingos are big business to AMBA that is concerned about provincial plans to install slot machines at nearby Mohawk racetrack.

"We were a little worried –
our bingos bring us about
\$10,000 a year – and they may
suffer from Mohawk. We had
trouble getting people to work
as runners at them as well, so
this fee – we might not do it
again next year – will take care

of any lost revenue," Burgess said.

AMBA pays its members \$20 for each bingo they work and many use it to offset the bingo replacement fee, which was only \$10 for T-ball and grasshopper players.



SWING: Acton rep peewee hardball slugger Nick Ridler made a valiant effort to knock this ball out of the park as Hornby edged Acton 9-8 on Thursday at Prospect Park. – Frances Niblock photo

Minor ball report

PEEWEE

Pitcher Bradley Near did a great job on the mound, along with Ryan Stroud and Lay Lalande, as the select team dropped a 9-8 decision to visiting Hornby on Thursday night at Prospect Park. Nick Ridler was named player-of-the-game after making a couple of great catches and several solid hits. Wes Kentner had three RBI and Kevin Saelzer had a nice bunt.

ROOKIE

Although the House Team 1 started strong, their bats went cold in the middle innings and they had to settle for a 14-7 loss to visiting Carlisle at Prospect Park for their season-opener. Dylan Burgess made a nice double play to end the inning while Matthew Caverly and Garrett Nuttall had good hits.

MORE SPORTS on Page 15



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