

Battle for first

Key weekend challenge ahead for Jr. Merchants

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Merchants have a major challenge awaiting them this weekend against Georgetown.

But even sweeping the home-and-home series — which begins tonight at home — may not be enough to shake the powerhouse Raiders.

So says director of hockey operations Nick Slawson.

"It's certainly an important series, but it probably won't decide first place," he said. "They'll (Georgetown) likely be with us right up until the end of the season."

Both clubs have trimmed a little fat in recent weeks and head into the big show-down riding hot streaks.

Slawson figures the games will be much closer than the previous two between the division leaders — which were each decided by four goals.

He remarked, "I expect a very tight, even weekend and hope both barns will be packed."

"The Raiders have a lot of confidence right now, as well they should. It's going to be tough."

If recent results are any indication, Georgetown holds the edge in offense.

The Merchants have come out on top in five of their last six games, but are winning by low scores and aren't enjoying consistent production from many of their top stars.

However, Milton's current work ethic and defensive efforts have been second to

none. That will need to continue if they hope to contain the potent pair of Jeff Seeds and Stace Page.

Tonight's game starts at 8 p.m. Saturday's tilt gets going at 7:30 p.m. at Georgetown's Alcott Arena.

Title defense ahead

The Merchants have an even greater task in front of them at the end of the month — namely, defending their title at the annual Newmarket Showcase.

Despite winning the championship the last two seasons, and three times in the past four years, the locals won't be heading in as the favourite.

In fact, this year's field is so wide open that at least a dozen teams could be considered legitimate contenders for the crown.

And with one dark horse usually emerging each year — like the Burlington Cougars did last time around — it's really anyone's guess who'll come away with the gold.

Milton's round robin opposition for the four-day event will be provided by Brampton, Port Hope and Stouffville. As always, the finals are slated for the night of December 30.

Slawson said a successful showing at the tournament would do a lot for team chemistry, which isn't as far along as it was at this point last season.

"The more tough games we play now, the better we'll be in the long run," he added.

Milton just not dominating lately

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But Peverley's timely tally aside, there was little to cheer about at Memorial Arena Wednesday. In fact, coach Marty Williamson kept his charges behind closed doors a lot longer than usual after the contest — presumably to discuss why they have had such difficulty disposing of lower echelon teams in recent weeks.

The Merchants have won six of their last seven outings, but only one of those victories has been by more than one goal.

They were fairly lackluster and certainly unfocused in their latest tilt, which allowed the offensively challenged Blues to battle back from three separate deficits.

Granted Milton had to contend with a lot of obstruction from their guests that went undetected by officials, but their effort was far from impressive.

Rookie cager Anthony Marshall got his second start in as many home games and made 21 saves.

Ian Malcolm netted his team leading 20th goal, ending a four-game scoreless slump, while also denting the twine were Dan DeLong and Mike Wheelihan.

Replying for Bramalea were Alex Ward with two goals and Jesse Ryecroft with the other. Nathan Marsters wasn't quite his usual fantastic self in the visitors' cage, but did deliver a few key stops to steal a point for the overtime loss.

Expropriations Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.26 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO EXPROPRIATE LAND

IN THE MATTER OF an application by The Regional Municipality of Halton for approval to expropriate lands described in Schedule "A" hereto, being in the Town of Milton, in the Regional Municipality of Halton for the purpose of widening and reconstructing Trafalgar Road from Highway 407 to south of Britannia Road.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for approval to expropriate the land described as follows in Schedule "A" hereto:

Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given who desires an inquiry into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing.

- (a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail within thirty (30) days after the registered owner is served with the notice, or, when the registered owner is served by publication, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice;
- (b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is:

The Council of the Regional Municipality of Halton, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1.

The expropriating authority is:

The Regional Municipality of Halton, c/o Joan Eaglesham, Regional Clerk, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1.

Joan A. Eaglesham
Regional Clerk

This notice first published on the 19th day of November, 1999.

For further information, please contact:
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Aldershot	(905) 639-4540	Acton	(519) 853-0501
Georgetown	(905) 878-8113	Burlington, Oakville, Milton	(905) 825-6000

SCHEDULE "A"

All and singular the lands in the Town of Milton, in the Regional Municipality of Halton, being composed of parts of those lands described as Parts of Plans deposited in the Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Halton (No. 20), more particularly described as follows:

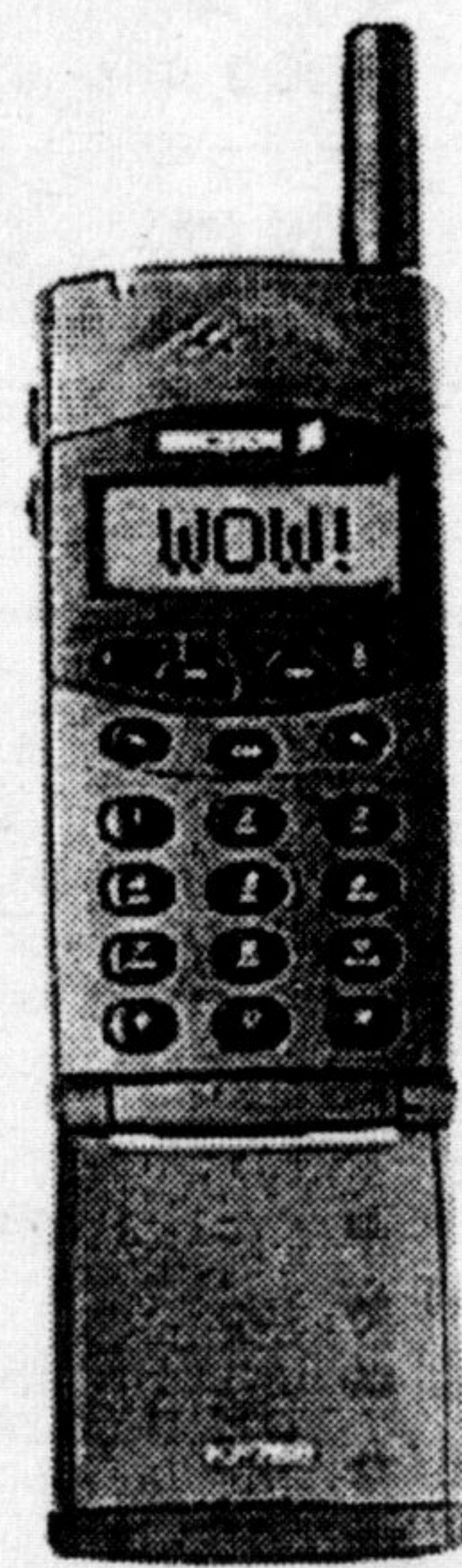
Part of Lot(s)	Concession(s)	Part(s)	Plan	Pin(s)(LT)
12 and 13	2(NDS)	1-3	20R-12956	24929-0031 24930-0067 24930-0068
2	7(NS)	1-3	20R-12957	24932-0032 24932-0035
4	8(NS)	1 and 2	20R-12958	24931-0124
1	7(NS)	2 and 3	20R-12959	24931-0083 24931-0115
3	7 and 8(NS)	1-4	20R-12960	24931-0028 24931-0027 24931-0026 24932-0084
1	7(NS)	1	20R-13315	24932-0045



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