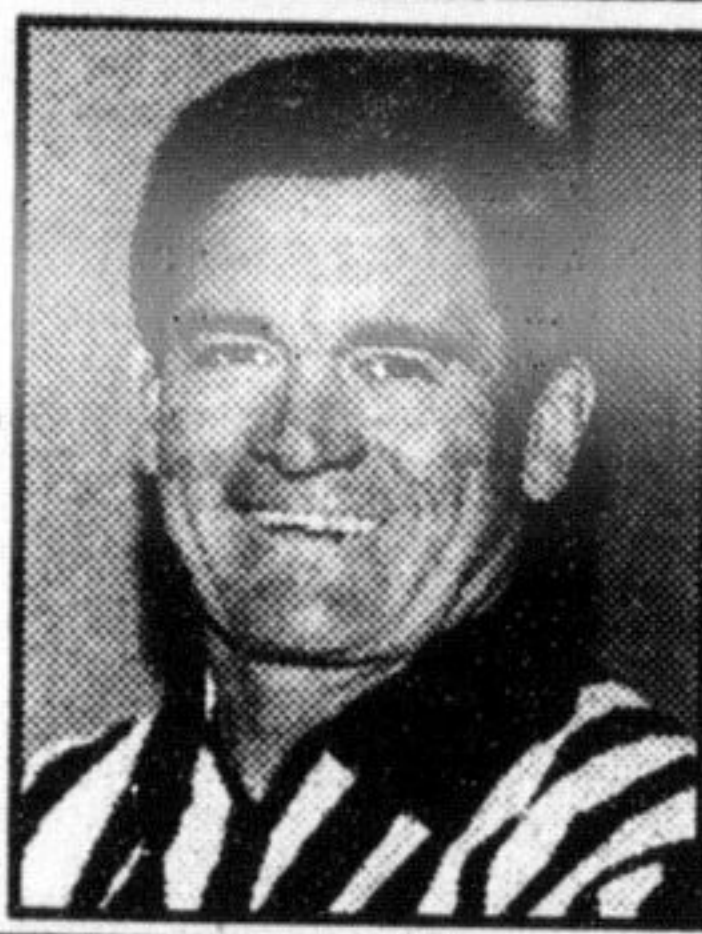


Travel

with *Bruce Hood*



A NEW ERA OF TRAVEL!

AIR CANADA HAS UNVEILED PLANS FOR 'MAJOR SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS' IN AIR SERVICE FOR CANADIANS. SINCE THE APPROVED TAKEOVER OF CANADIAN, the carrier has produced a plan to streamline schedules and re-allocate excess capacity. According to Air Canada officials, the schedule would create new nonstop links and reduce travel time for consumers travelling across Canada. Their plans would also see a strengthened presence on many international routes. The airline wants to launch daily Toronto-Tokyo, Toronto-Hong Kong, and Toronto-Mexico City flights.



ONE WONDERS THAT AS TIME PROGRESSES JUST HOW THE NEW 'ONE NATIONAL CARRIER' WILL EFFECT the average citizen flying out of TORONTO'S Pearson International Airport. Our belief is that it can only get better — there is such a 'watchdog' effect with our government, which represents this citizenry — that any attempts to take away services, or to increase rates should be met with a major backlash. THAT WILL BE UP TO YOU, THE CONSUMER, TO SPEAK UP when you see what you believe to be wrongdoing by the carrier on your behalf. Get your phone calls, letters and e-mails into action to your MP, but moreso directly to the Government — Transportation Minister David Collenette. YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AGENT, can assist you in this speaking up action. Make this the year to stand up and be counted — the airlines, even with two major carriers here in Canada have not been accountable — thank goodness for Charter Air Carriers being around to keep them in line, somewhat.



YEAR 2000 RESORT VACATIONS, CRUISES, EXPLORER TREKS, GOLF JUNKETS, ESCORTED GROUP TOURS — with times of three days away upwards to a month or more, will become more and more a way of life as our average age factor continues to increase. This means more people with more time and money to plan travel arrangements perhaps for the first time, or veteran travellers trying out a new idea. OUR ADVICE TO YOU AT THIS TIME IS that although there will be a number of different opportunities arising for you to make these arrangements, YOUR experienced PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AGENT IS STILL YOUR BEST SOURCE OF SERVICE FOR THAT PERSONAL TOUCH TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

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Milton BMXers shine over holidays

The torch has been passed. Picking up the reins from older brother Alex, Milton BMX'er Natasha Brancier delivered some sensational efforts during holiday action in Columbus, Ohio.

While Natasha didn't come away with grand championship honours like big brother did last year, she was impressive and consistent throughout the multi-event competition — which combined to put her among the top age class riders in North America.

Not too shabby for someone who's been in the sport for six months.

The 12-year-old racer gained momentum as the week wore on and punctuated things with a fourth-place

showing in the mains during the final round of the Christmas Classic.

This was one spot better than she'd fared on day one of the event. Before that, she made it to the semifinals of the President's Cup December 27.

"I didn't win any mottos, but placed high all the time. I was pretty consistent," said Natasha, who enjoyed the strongest showing of the five local riders who competed down south. "My rhythm on the series of hills was good, that's what helped me do well."

Unfortunately, all didn't go according to plan for the rest of the local pack.

Bob Rowley, 22 — arguably this country's top male racer, and the

only one at the pro level — had a less than stellar performance for the second time in as many years in Columbus.

Last time around he had to pull out due to illness. This time out he stayed healthy but couldn't quite advance past the mottos.

On day two, he just missed moving on — losing his speed, and third-place standing, midway through the final preliminary race.



Natasha Brancier

Meanwhile, Alex Brancier stepped up to the 14-year-old novice boys class and enjoyed particularly stiff competition over the holidays.

He saved his best for last with a trip to the mains on day two of the Christmas Classic — where he raced to a sixth-place finish. Alex reached the semifinals on the other two days.

Rounding out the Milton contingent were brothers Brady and Kyle Pearson, who turned in nearly identical results in the six and eight-year-old novice boys class respectively.

Each of them reached the semifinals on days one and two. Kyle took fourth in the mains in the final Christmas Classic event while Brady was two spots back for sixth.

Minor atoms pull off comeback

Fax your sports reports to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943 seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

The AA minor atoms battled back from an early deficit to upstage Caledon 4-2 Tuesday.

This marked one of the very few times in recent weeks that the Milton Machine Shop Winterhawks overcame adversity and pulled out the win.

Their triumph was engineered on the strength of a big third period — in which the locals amassed three goals, including a pair from Michael Brown.

Rep Hockey

Jon Monk stood out with three assists while contributing single tallies were Mike Hannah and Craig Howse — both of whom added a single helper.

The team's go-ahead goal was delivered inside the last two minutes of play. Devin Medland turned in solid netminding for the victors.

Two nights earlier in Burlington, Milton opened up the new millennium by getting whitewashed 3-0.

Goalie Joey De'Athe's crafty cage work helped keep the club within striking distance, but his teammates couldn't take advantage of this, as they posted just six shots on net.

Four of those were registered by Jeff Lynch, Milton's most reliable sniper this year.

Beaten by best

Comeback efforts met with only partial success for Milton's AA midgets at home Monday.

The Spectrum Airways Winterhawks — who've struggled a bit lately, due to some inconsistent efforts — managed to erase a two-goal hole in the second period but eventually fell to front running Orangeville 6-4.

The loss dropped them to 12-7-3 and pushed them back to fifth in the Tri County Bowen Division standings. With only four games remaining in the regular season — including last night's clash in Brampton — Milton will be hard-pressed to regain a top four seating.

Goaltender Chris Kovachik turned back 20 shots in the losing cause while goals came from Jordan Jeans, Andrew

Kirkland, Darryl Langstone and Derek Mewhinney.

Picking up two assists was Kris Beal. In December, the local midgets went .500 in league play and then matched that output during the Silver Stick regional tournament, where they delivered a 2-2 performance.

Kirkland and Mewhinney were the top producers in league play last month. Each registered 11 points.

The midgets' next home game is Sunday at Tonelli Arena against Burlington. Starting time is 8:30 p.m.

Road warriors

Milton's A minor peewees enjoyed their most impressive road trip of the season late last month — toppling feisty Fergus 5-2.

The Primary Electric Supply Winterhawks registered only two more shots than their hosts, but exhibited a lot more finish around the net and got some sharp goaltending from Eric Bortlis.

Derek Champoux fueled the victory with a big four-assist performance.

Tallying twice was Stephen Kays while rounding out the hit parade with single tallies were Dale Thring, Nicholas Vipond and Ross Nicholls — who also added a pair of helpers, as did Sean Ward.

Chipping in one assist apiece were David Debnren and Shannon Miller.

Tykes in tough

Milton's tykes had a rough ride over the holidays — losing a pair of exhibition tilts.

The fell to Flamborough 6-2 and were doubled by Brampton 4-2. Goal scorers over this stretch were Daniel Babin, Jake Cochrane, Lauren Kelly and Michael Sgarbossa.

Jeffrey Clarke drew an assist in each contest.

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Milton Girls Softball Association

Getting ready for our 21st season!

Players needed for the following teams.
Tryouts start January 16.

Novice REP (players born 1986/7)contact Murv Fredricks, 878-8739
Bantam REP (players born 1984/5)contact Jim Leslie, 693-1881
Midget Select (players born 1981/2/3)contact Don Williams, 878-0081

League Registration - February 11 and 12, Milton Mall