

Just a few things on my mind in local sports world

• Under the heading of believe it or not. On the day Canada won the hockey gold medal at the Olympics, the town was full of cheering patriots in their cars, honking their horns and leaning out windows waving flags. Just a great celebration, until at least one police officer started handing out tickets for not wearing seat belts. I think we're all grateful for the service our police provide, but maybe that was going a little too far? I guess he was cheering for the Americans.

• I've been worried about our new arena. According to a report by The Champion's Richard Vivian, the seating capacity is only going to be 200. Few minor hockey games are going to get that many fans, but it still made me think we're doing this at the low end of the scale, which is my worst nightmare, if you've seen some of the terrible arenas around. I talked to Ken McAlpine, the manager of parks and recreation for the Town of Milton, and feel considerably better. The first two pads are just to service minor hockey, and while the actual design for those pads hasn't even started, the second two pads are open to a public/private partnership.

That means that the private sector, perhaps a consortium, can share in its risk and revenue, which could mean a considerably larger seating area, perhaps to satisfy the Milton Merchants. According to McAlpine: "The users all want a quality product and we're not going to be accepting anything less."

• Got a call from Cliff Houston the other day about my referee column. Houston was refereeing and umpiring before most of us were alive, and he was responsible for starting minor hockey in Milton. When I am helping out Steve LeBlanc with the sports again, I hope to get the chance to talk to him and get some comparisons between the older days and now.

• One thing that's definitely different is the way that parents are involved in minor sports. Maybe it's the amount of money that's paid out now, or maybe it's



Out in left field

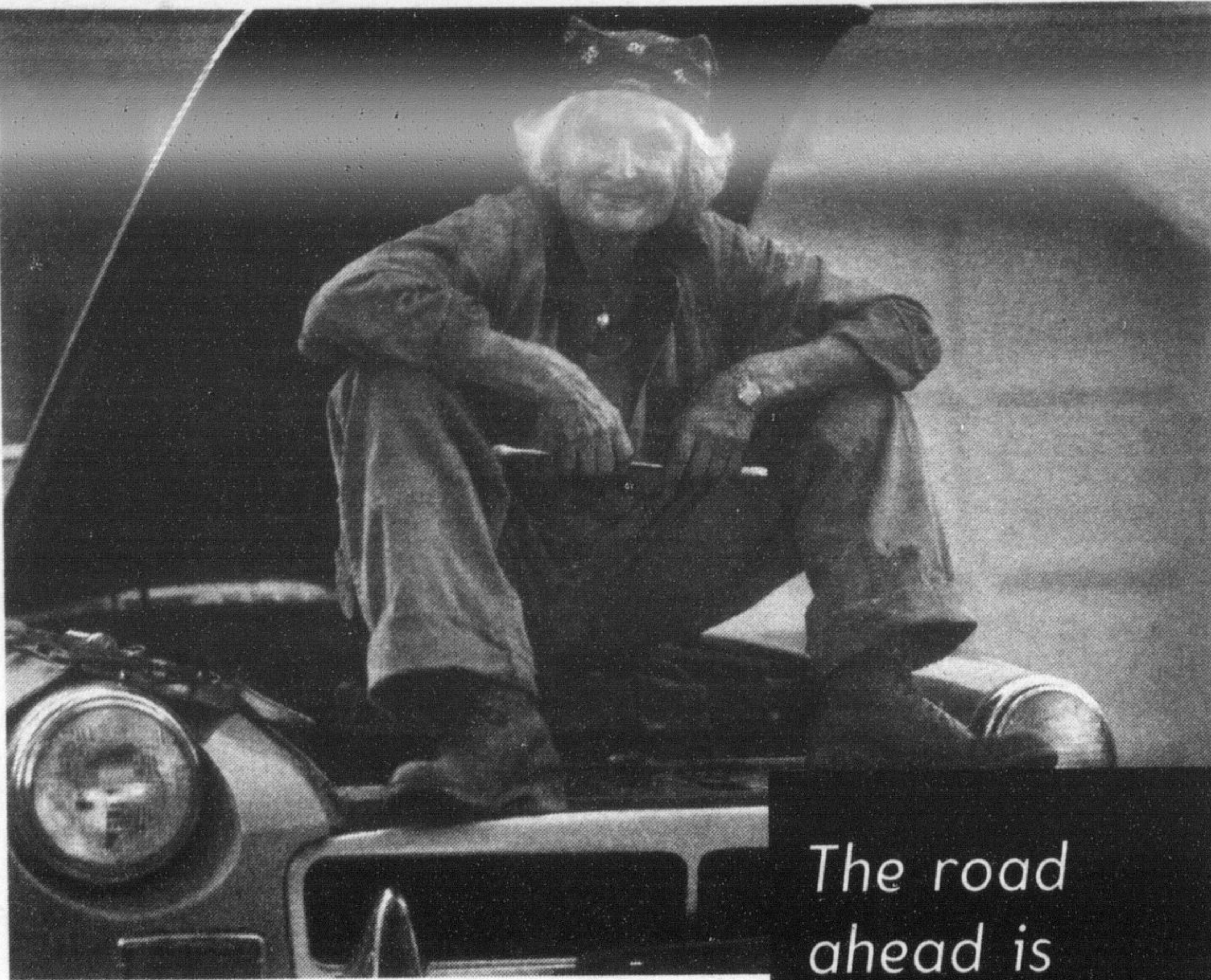
with MURRAY TOWNSEND

just the more protective attitudes of parents nowadays, but it keeps getting crazier. One AAA hockey team that I know of had a coach with impeccable credentials that reached all the way up to the national level – in other words one of the best coaches in the country. This team was doing very well, but the coach finally got so fed up with the parents that he told them that if all the nonsense didn't stop he was going to quit and disband the team. Most coaches that I've talked to all agree the biggest problem they have is with the parents.

• I remember Milton's Darren (Mini) Haydar when he was a bantam with the Halton Hurricanes. I covered a game in which he scored five goals at Thompson Arena.

We never see a Halton Hurricane game in Halton anymore because the home games are played in Brampton, but a number of hockey people told me at the time about how he couldn't succeed at the next level because of his size. He's proved everyone wrong, of course, and now the Hobey Baker finalist has a chance at the NCAA national championship with New Hampshire. Score one for the little guy.

• For pure tenacity, the best team I've seen this year is the Milton midget AA team, who just won the OMHA finals against Barrie. If I was ever trapped in a cave-in I'd want these guys with me because I know they'd never quit digging.



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Lacrosse pros miss the playoffs

Post-season play will have to wait another year for a couple of homegrown lacrosse stars.

Both Kyle Arbuckle's Columbus Landsharks and Corey Leigh's New Jersey Storm failed to make the National Lacrosse League 2002 playoffs — each finishing last in their respective divisions with identical 5-11 records.

Arbuckle's team ended on a tough four-game losing streak, although individually speaking the former

Minto Cup winner had his strongest season in the NLL.

He finished third in team scoring with 19 goals and 24 assists in 12 games.

Meanwhile, Leigh broke into the professional ranks this season and played in all 16 games with New Jersey, who won its last two regular season contests. He scored seven times and picked up five assists over that stretch.

**IT'S AUGH
IT FLOATS
IT'S IN THE POOL!**

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SWIM WITH THE BUG

Thurs. Mar. 28, 7:00-8:30 pm
Sat. Mar. 30, 1:30-3:30 pm
& 6:30-8:00 pm
Sun. Mar. 31, 1:30-3:30 pm
Mon. Apr. 1, 2:30-4:00 pm

Admission: Child - \$2.50
Adult - \$3.75, Family of 4 - \$10

THE MILTON LEISURE CENTRE
1700 Main St. E., Milton 905-878-7946

The Bug is sponsored by
The Optimist Club of Milton

Weekly House League Results

Milton Minor Hockey Association

DATE	DIVISION	TEAM	SCORE	TEAM	SCORE
MAR	TYKE	AWESOME GAME PLAYED BY EVERYONE! BRUCE HOOD - MILTON PHYSIO - HUNT PLYMOUTH - MILTON FIREFIGHTERS CLUB			
MAR 23	PEE WEE	BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIR	7	TOWNE DENTAL GROUP	4
		ROSS DIXON FINANCIAL	6	SCOOTER'S SNACK SHACK	4
		HOME CINEMA VIDEO	5	PRESSE LAW OFFICE	3
		DREAM CAR GARAGE	1	CANADIAN TIRE	1
CHAMPIONSHIP DAY HOME CINEMA VIDEO VS CANADIAN TIRE 5:20PM • TOWNE DENTAL GROUP VS BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIR 6:40PM					
MAR 24	NOVICE	NUTECH RECRUITERS	6	SHOPPERS DRUG MART	0
		AUSTEN NOBLE INSURANCE	4	BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIR	4
		GOODLIFE FITNESS RED	3	GOODLIFE FITNESS GREEN	2
		GOODLIFE FITNESS BLACK	6	GOODLIFE FITNESS BLUE	3
MAR 23	ATOM	BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIR	8	LIONS CLUB	3
		GALLINGER FORD	7	GUS MOWBRAY	3
		SEARS	4	MCCUAIG INSURANCE	4
GOOD LUCK TO BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIR & MCCUAIG INSURANCE IN THE FINAL!					
	SENIOR	CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL KWIK KOPY PRINTING VS MILTON CHRYSLER DODGE TUESDAY APRIL 2ND 6:30PM THOMPSON ARENA			

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