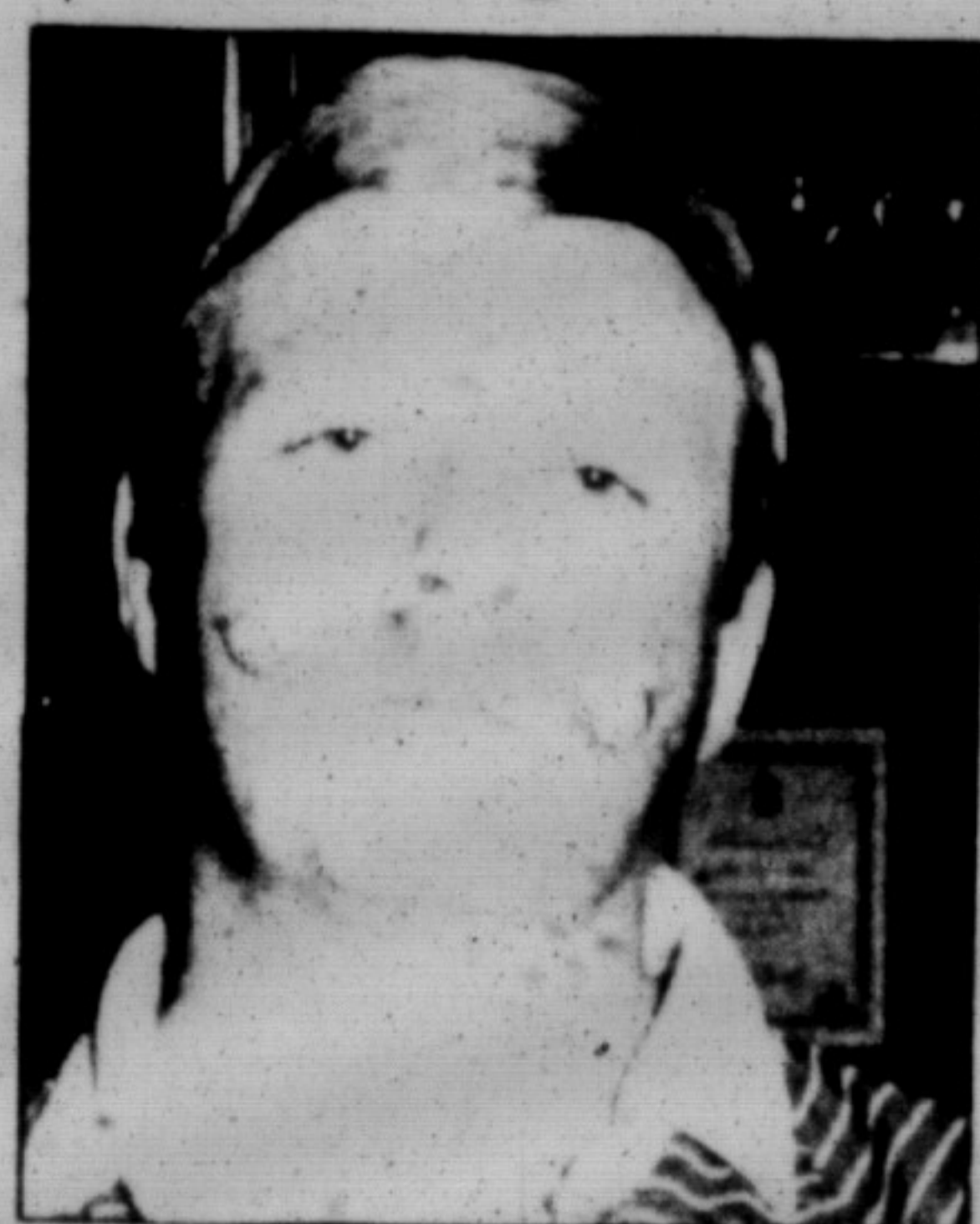


# Dollars drop in hockey

**By ROB KELLY**  
**Champion Reporter**  
 It's all dollars and sense. And it may only make sense for everyone to pay more dollars. That's for the Milton Minor Hockey Association registration, and that's the word from association president Terry Brandt. Although the association finished last season on solid financial footing, with about \$20,000 in the black, the picture has shifted radically this season. Minor hockey registration is down by approximately 100 participants this season, from an all-time high of 920 last season to about 820 athletes. As well, there is no minor bantam rep team, only one combined midget team and no juvenile squad. Milton has added one new team, however, a minor novice double-A squad. But 100 less subscribers means that many less registration and tryout fees. Registration is a relatively modest \$90 in Milton, but because of the downturn, Brandt said he expects the association will suffer a \$12,000 to \$14,000 shortfall. At last spring's annual MMHA meeting, there was some criticism that the organization could declare \$20,000 in profits, basically found money due to unanticipated financial successes such as Milton's Beaver Tournament.



Terry Brandt

But while that unanticipated profit may have appeared excessive to some at the time, the bulk of it will be eroded to take up the slack due to the unexpected downturn in enrollment. "The things that we planned are going," Brandt said. "We'll have the same programs. But he cautioned about future prospects. This year we will probably not show a profit," he said. Next year, the executive is going to have to take a long hard look at setting the prices. Brandt lays the blame for the

situation squarely on the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association's doorstep. Last year, the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) adopted age level classifications suggested by the CAHA, and utilized widely throughout the country. In a nutshell, it meant every age category moved up one year. The stated aim was to provide more hockey opportunities at the older age levels, to keep people involved longer. Brandt resisted it at the time and he still thinks it was a bad idea. "I personally blame it on the way hockey is organized," he said. "I put a lot of blame on the age change. Now midgets are 17, not 16. Now they can drive, and their interests have widened. Until the current midgets and juveniles work their way through the system, hockey will be in turmoil. While the situation has caused problems in Milton, Brandt says Milton is coping fairly well. "Hockey all over is going through the same problems," he said. "Just about everybody is down. Oakville can't ice midget teams at any level. A, AA or AAA. And what have they got, 80,000 people?" There are approximately 35,000 people in Milton. And one midget AA team, playing at the major midget level with both major and minor midget age players.

# Novices blow out Brampton 11-0

"Team effort" was the way Milton's P.L. Robertson Sockets coach Barry McTrach described Milton's 11-0 rout of Brampton Sunday in Brampton. Scott Bertoli, Jeff Haydar, Mike Maltais and Doug Frehs led the Milton-scoring parade with a pair of markers apiece.

Single markers came from Fabio Pento, Kyle Arbuckle and Stephen Seifert. Bertoli led in the assists department with three. Haydar, Chris Griffen and Daryl Loader, shipped in with a pair apiece. Maltais and Frehs notched single assists.

# Drury is ready for Haltons

As late as last week, E.C. Drury High School cross-country coach Harvey Chapman wasn't sure how much he could expect from his runners. Now he has a better idea. And it's an idea he likes better. While Drury turned in a so-so performance at a Toronto meet the previous week, last Thursday in Kitchener a more consistent team effort led to a solid Milton showing at the Oktoberfest meet. Topping the Drury showing was the strong midget boys team with a fourth-place team finish. Dylan Reynolds led the way for Drury with a 16th-place clocking. Bill Moffatt backed that with a 28th-place finish while Jason Barlow was 59th and Bennett Clowater was 70th. There were more than 300 runners in the race. Georgetown won the midget title and Georgetown's Bob Donker finished first. That didn't sit too well with Reynolds, Chapman said. "Dylan wasn't too happy about that," Chapman pointed out. "And I know he's capable of better. The previous week at High Park Reynolds had won an equally competitive event and fended off Donker in a sprint for the finish line. Still, the Drury coach was pleased with both the team turnout and the effort. "For the first time since Heart Lake (Sept. 20), we had both Dylan Reynolds and Bill Moffatt on the same team," he pointed out. Scheduling conflicts had prevented the two top school midget runners from competing together since then.

Moffatt was none-too-happy with his finish either, Chapman said. "He ran a 37-minute 10 K (kilometres) last week and a 36:56 the previous week," Chapman pointed out. "He has a lot of good road racing experience. But with this many kids and racing hills, it's a different game." Chapman said Moffatt will put it all together for the crucial next race, however. "He has his sights set on a much higher score Wednesday at the Haltons. Chapman plans to go one-on-one with Georgetown's top runners at Wednesday's Halton championships at Kelson Conservation Area, the course where Milton trains. "We'll try to match them runner against runner," he said. "We'll try and stick with their runners, and pass them." Reynolds will key on rival Donker while Moffatt will do the same with Georgetown's strong second runner, Dave Seida. Chapman complimented Barlow for a strong race. Although he finished 59th, "his time was not that far off Moffatt's time," Chapman said. John Reynolds, Jeff Smith and Glen Hanon also ran for Milton. In junior action, Milton didn't finish in the top 10 recorded placings, but Mike Bascom ran a strong race to finish 11th in a 300-runner field. "It's the first time he's run to his potential," Chapman said. "He's a real talented kid. He finished just behind Dave Paul of Georgetown, who finished eighth. He was the first Halton runner. Mike was only a few

seconds behind, so he could go after a win at the Haltons." Junior Andrew Kirkwood came off the line quickly, as Chapman had instructed, but he was tripped in the crush of runners, Chapman said. Kirkwood recovered from his scrapes and bruises, but placed 81st. "I was really happy he didn't quit," Chapman said. "He showed real pride. He must have had 200 kids run past him when he fell." Kirkwood has a good deal of potential, Chapman said. "He's capable of running with Bascom." The junior team was short-staffed. Neither Steve Preddy or Jason Devine was present for the race. Jim Twist and Adam Benjamin ran in their places. In senior action, all Milton's runners, who mostly train individually, finished in the top half of the pack. Chapman said Nasser Hassan, Torben Jensen, Bobby Clyde, Tom Gosling and Ian McLelland make up the team. The field was comprised of 260 runners. Mandy Cowton finished 97th in midget girls for Drury.

## Minor hockey reports will appear in the Friday paper

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