

Summer is ending, but snowmobiles already?

Late summer. There's a bit of a snap in the morning breeze and more than the odd leaf has started to turn crimson in the early September air.

People's thoughts have started to turn from baseball and pool parties to hockey and winterizing their home. But is it really time to take out the snowmobiles?

For Joe Baratto and about 130 other enthusiasts scattered over North America, the snowmobile season never ends. When the snow melts and the weather turns warm, they just take to the water. Snowmobiling on water is what these guys do in their spare time.

"Now there's a circuit," said Baratto, a charter member of the International Watercross Association. "We race in Wisconsin, Michigan, Quebec, all over. It's just like any other race circuit. There's about 60 of us at any race and there is a points system."

According to Baratto, this weekend's competition in Milton is the final race of the season with the overall winner still to be decided. But isn't this an odd way to spend your spare time?

"We get a lot of strange looks from people when we tell them what we do on the weekend," said Baratto with a laugh. "They look at us like we're nuts."

But isn't speeding around a lake at speeds approaching 60 mph a little dangerous?

"It's actually safer than snow-

As I See It

with JEFF PASQUALE



formance stuff!"

With a cost of \$4,000 to \$5,000 to get a machine ready for the water, this sport isn't for those without total conviction.

"We've gone through three engines so far this year, but we've got to try and stay competitive."

The two classes the pros run in are oval circuits and drag racing. There are also novice classes open to anyone who hasn't done this before.

Those interested should head out to Kelso by 9 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday) morning to register.

It will cost spectators \$6 to watch the races held both Saturday and

Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., but isn't it worth it?

Here and There: A big thanks goes out from Les Wilson to the Milton District Hospital for putting on a super mixed slo-pitch tournament recently. The Milton Merchants of the Central Ontario Jr. B Hockey

League hit the ice for the first time this season tonight at Milton Memorial Arena when they host the Grimsby Peach Kings in an exhibition match at 8 p.m. Their first regular season game is Friday Sept.

29 in Burlington and the first home game is Friday Oct. 6 against one of the new teams in the league, Peter-

borough. Gary Ford, the coach of the Merchants last year, has caught on with the Georgetown Raiders for this season as an assistant coach to former teammate Peter Sturgeon. Ford was instrumental in getting the

Action Sabres Jr. C team to switch their affiliation from the Merchants to the Raiders for this season. We wish Gary all the luck in the world

in his new position. The Milton Merchants are looking for local families to board some out-of-town

players for the hockey season. For more information call Merchant coach Rick Bince at work at 828-6618, or at home at 241-1427.

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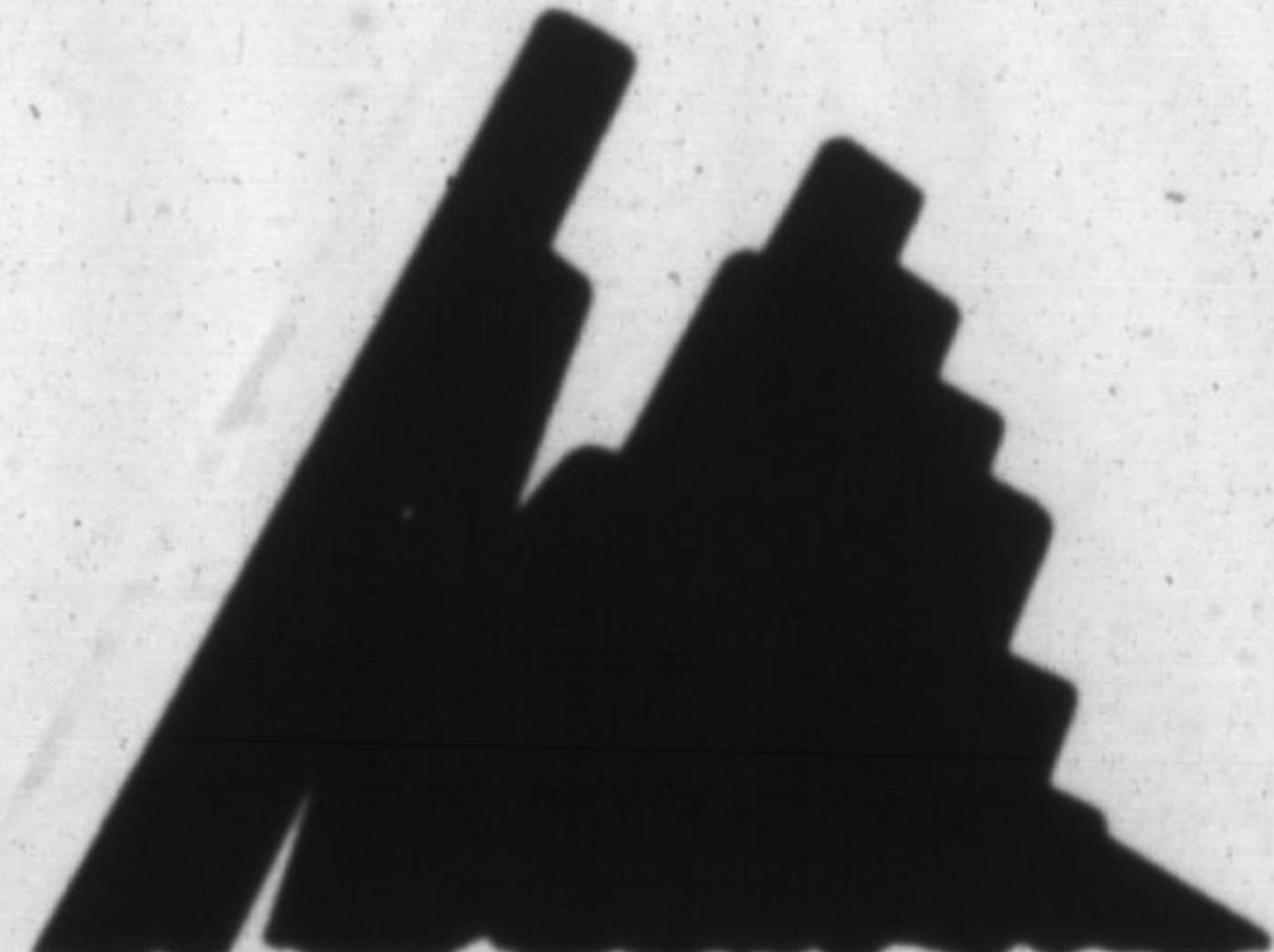
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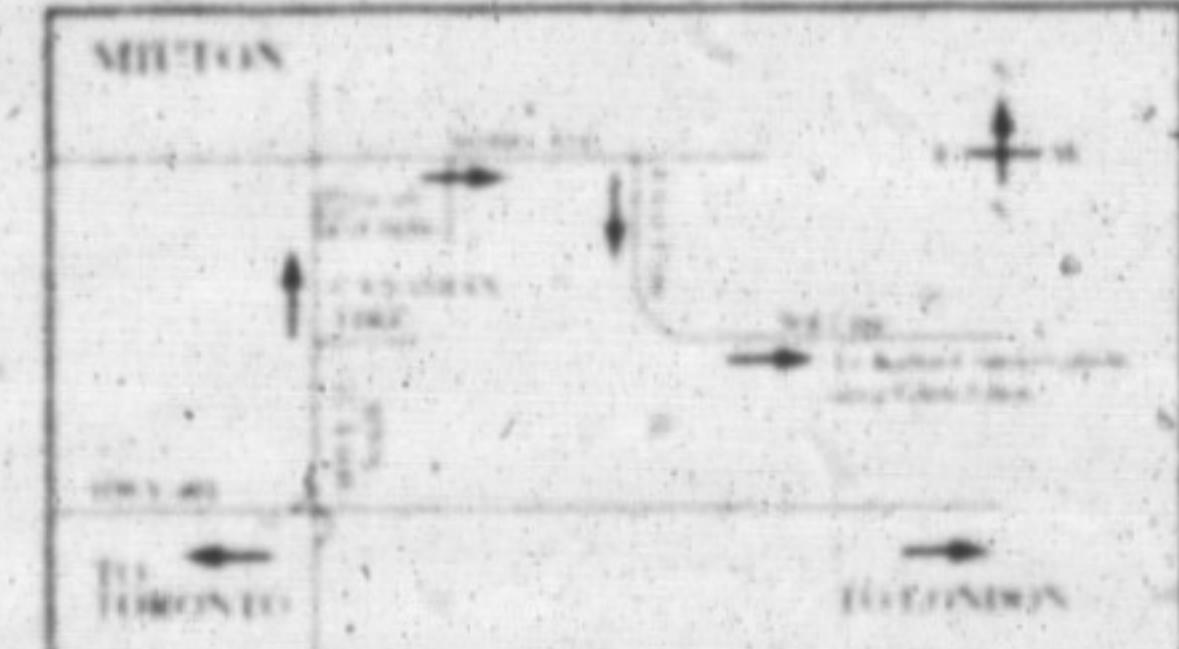
7:00 am	Rider Registration
9:30 am	The Canadian Champion Novice/Sport Lap Race
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