

Our Readers Write

There's a lot more to minor hockey

Dear Editor:

This letter is necessitated by the Champion's continued printing of Jeff Pasquale's quasi-factual and extremely negative personal comments about the Milton Minor Hockey Association.

I called Jeff two weeks ago on a Friday evening as soon as I read the highly critical "Terry Brandt/Milton Hockey" article (*Champion*, Oct. 20). This article was full of assumptions, errors and one-sided viewpoints and was very damaging to a large group of volunteers who certainly deserve better treatment than this.

Jeff admitted being misinformed and in some cases wrong and promised to look into the facts further. At this point, I expected to see a retraction or at least a more correct version of Jeff's initial attempt at reporting this matter. You will recall that my reasons for being upset with the first article were as follows:

1. The Champion apparently has little or no space available to write about MMHA teams or results, however you can justify almost half a page dedicated to your perception of the political wrongs of our association and its volunteer members.

2. Ian Ellis should be playing hockey and it is not our intention to prevent this from happening. We do not volunteer our time with the intention of discouraging boys from playing hockey.

3. The midget convener (Darrell Taylor), the coach of the major midget AA team (Peter McDuffe) and I spent several hours working out a fair and reasonable compromise for Ian Ellis' situation. We hoped this would benefit everyone involved and get Ian playing again. This was proposed to Ian's father more than three weeks ago and to date there's been no response.

4. Other 16-year-old midget players were in the same position as Ellis regarding being forced to sign a minor card and play for the minor AA team, even if they were good enough to make the major AA team. What is good for one is good for all, and Ellis wasn't going to get special consideration.

Instead of the anticipated retraction, or a more factually correct version, I read yet another slanted version of this matter on Friday Nov. 3 — "Ian Ellis case is tragic." I guess all the effort I spent attempting to explain this matter has been for nothing.

Once again, out of context statements and misinterpreted facts dominate the headlines. You are right in one area; the fact a very capable 16-year-old hockey player is not allowed to play is indeed tragic. How-

ever, it is equally tragic that the bottom-line reason for this boy not playing has nothing to do with MMHA or the people involved. An equitable solution was offered and has been refused so far, for reasons unknown.

Your recent article takes the liberty of quoting me out of context and I object to this very strongly.

1. I have been very involved in trying to get Ian Ellis returned to playing status as quickly as possible.

2. I was prepared to and in fact did offer compromises concerning the minor midget AA team's supposed rights to Ian, as a means of resolving this problem.

3. I care very much about situations like this and never stated that I didn't care where Ian played. The fact I was prepared to compromise doesn't constitute not caring where he plays.

4. I knew I had to draw replacements from house league. Although I am not in favour of this option, I was told our team had to draw horizontally — end of discussion.

5. I don't believe Ian Ellis had any guarantee of signing a major card. MMHA took a stand on midget hockey before this season started, making it impossible for any 16-year-old who didn't play major bantam AA in Milton last year to sign with the major midget team this year.

6. Ian Ellis is suspended for signing a major card when this option was not available to him — this is correct.

7. My son was not the only player caught in this position of possibly being capable enough to make the major midget AA team but not being allowed to do so. Your comment on this matter appears to insinuate that I would have personal reasons to see that Ian Ellis gets no help from me with his "problem." Ian Ellis is not the only one who had to face this situation right, wrong or otherwise.

8. Milton Minor Hockey would have a hard time creating special considerations for one player when others who have played in Milton all of the time are being treated differently.

I am at a loss to understand the Champion focusing all this attention on only negative editorials and the woes of one player. Many good things happen in our hockey organization which deserve your attention as well. Do you realize that for the first time in two years we now have boys playing hockey again at the juvenile, major and minor midget rep levels?

This represents three new teams and quality competition for 40 to 50 Milton boys who might otherwise be out of hockey by now. "As I see it," these are the kind of newsworthy things which should be written about to keep minor hockey on a positive note, and to let the volun-

teers involved see that their efforts expose them to more than just highly-critical sports columns.

Rick Goodings
MMHA Volunteer

United Way goal needs your help

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter to everyone in Milton.

This letter is not intended to be a gentle reminder. In fact, it is intended

to be more like a "pebble in the shoe," a continual nuisance until something is done about it.

The subject is the unmet goals in the various divisions of the United Way Campaign. Many of your fellow residents have done their best to supply you with the latest brochure and an envelope in which to return your donation. Have you lost it?

Don't let that stop you from sending a cheque to the United Way of Milton, Box 212, Milton, L9T 4N9, or from phoning 875-2550 to donate. The residential goal of \$25,000 is

within reach, if all who have been contacted share in the effort.

The donation total will be announced at the United Way roast Nov. 24 when we roast councillor William Johnson at the Optimist Centre. We look forward to an entertaining evening.

We offer our sincere thanks to all the canvassers, who did an excellent job in spite of the unsettled fall weather. We owe you one.

Lois A. Wiens
residential division chair
Milton United Way

Santa Claus parade desperately needs money

Dear Editor:

Hopefully this letter will clear up some comments I've heard over the last couple of weeks regarding the Santa Claus parade. I believe a large part of the problem is that a lot of people still think the parade is put on by the Town of Milton, and it is not.

The parade is organized and run by a committee of people like myself, who still believe in Santa Claus, and because of this they devote a lot of time and effort to this community-run event.

They dress up like clowns and sell chocolate, and on the day of the parade they are up at 6 a.m. blowing up balloons to sell at the parade to raise funds. They do this because they want the parade to be a success.

The *Champion's* Leisure Link article of Nov. 8, didn't go far enough in explaining the lack of funding to date. The parade fund account is at the lowest it's been since 1986. We have already committed a large amount to this year's parade, and donations just

aren't coming in as in previous years. The committee raised \$13,000 in 1988, and as of last Thursday we have only raised \$5,500 for this year.

The donations we have received are greatly appreciated, but it's not nearly enough, with only this week left. We are really depending on last-minute donations and the funds we get from the money buckets on the parade route and selling pennants and balloons during the parade. We need to boost our accounts so we can start, as we always do, in January to prepare for our next parade.

So please, if you can donate something to the fund, do so by dropping money off at Town Hall in the leisure services department. If you can't do that, come to the parade and put something into one of the money buckets. We, the committee want to put on a parade in 1990, because we do believe in Santa Claus.

Cindy Farrell
Parade Fundraiser Committee

MAZDA 323 MADNESS



ACHILLES DOES IT AGAIN
10 BRAND NEW 1990 323
IN STOCK AND COMING

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ONE OF THE FINEST ROAD MACHINES IN THE WORLD TODAY AT THESE UNHEARD OF PRICES.

STARTING FROM

\$9,400.

EXAMPLE
STK #6810

ONE AVAILABLE AT THIS PRICE

INCLUDES:
1.6 litre S.D.H.C. 5 Speed Manual, Side Window Defogger, Full fold-down rear seatback, integral rear seat headrests, centre console, silent pack acoustic insulation, lockable glove compartment, low fuel warning light, trip odometer, and many many more. FRT PDI \$495.00 PLUS TAXES LIC.

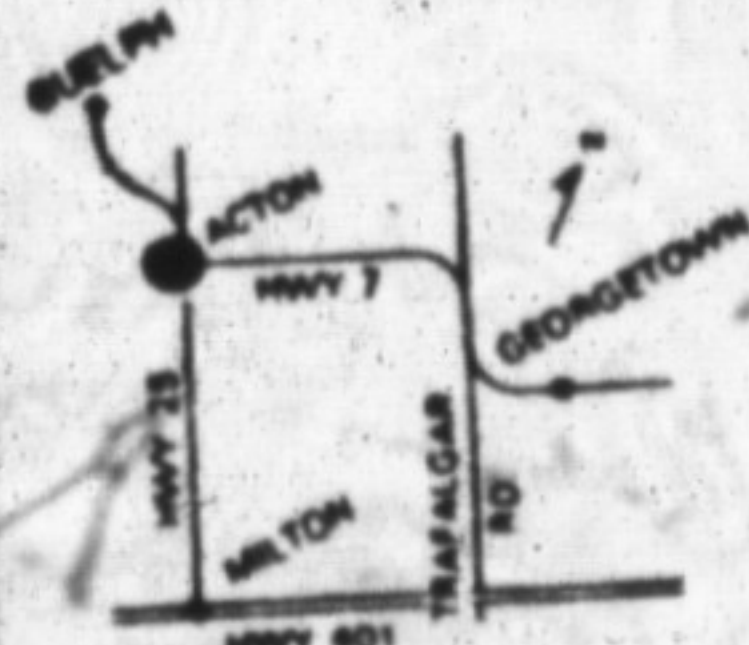
BUY ANY MAZDA NOW AND DON'T PAY A CENT UNTIL MARCH 1990!

an Achilles Motors Ltd.
SALES • SERVICE • LEASING

The Place for Unbeatable Prices and Service

357 QUEEN STREET EAST, ACTON

(519) 853-0200 (416) 453-8965



PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE TREMAINE ROAD

RECONSTRUCTION OF TREMAINE ROAD FROM 16 MILE CREEK TO 300 M SOUTH OF DERRY ROAD, TOWN OF MILTON

A Public Information Centre will be held:
Thursday, November 16, 1989

6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Italian Canadian Club of Milton
104 Town Line
Milton, Ontario

The Regional Municipality of Halton is currently preparing preliminary designs and an Environmental Study Report for the reconstruction of Tremaine Road from the 16 Mile Creek to Derry Road including the realignment of Tremaine Road between the C.P.R. tracks to 600 m south of Steeles Avenue.

This Information Centre is being held to provide the public with an opportunity to review and express their concerns on the design plans.

Interested persons are invited to drop in any time during the above hours to view and comment on the proposed works.



DAVID VARLEY
REGIONAL CLERK