

# Batter is up at the Fifth Wheel

By BRAD REAUME

You step to the plate, the crowd suddenly silences. You dig in, take that now familiar stance and wait for the pitch. You haughtily watch the first two strikes and hear the familiar smack of the ball in the catcher's mitt. Undaunted, you point with the bat to the deepest part of the park and wait for the next delivery.

Are you dreaming again? Maybe, but flights of fancy are plentiful at The Fifth Base Batting Cages next to the Fifth Wheel Truckstop in Milton.

The batting cages are the brainchild of Pauline Gilray, who has some playing baseball in Milton and a husband playing oldtimers (over 35) baseball in Burlington.

"I saw a need in Milton for this type of facility and for more recreation," Gilray said. "I'm also enthusiastic about baseball." She plans to keep the outdoor batting cages open all year but hasn't any idea of how to do that. Gilray concedes that a short closing season might be necessary during the harshest part of the winter.

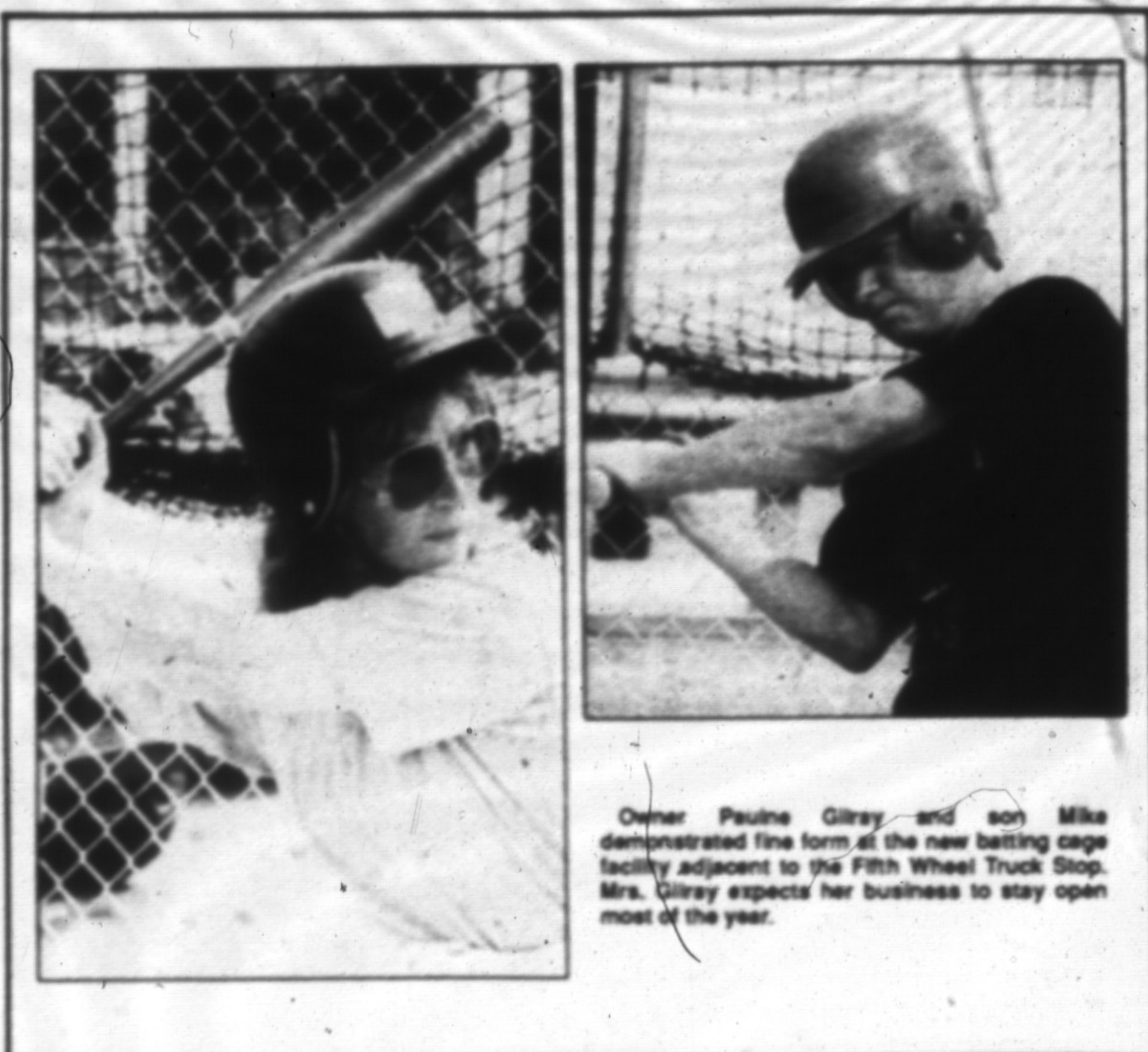
The cage sports four pitching machines (two softball, one each baseball and six-pitch), a sloped concrete floor which collects the balls by gravity and soft, yet dense balls which fly properly while posing little threat of injury. The cage is also close to the Fifth Wheel restaurant from which it leases the land.

"Most of the extras will be added as we see a need or a demand," Gilray said. She explained that the machines are set at certain speeds to accommodate as many people as possible. "We will change the speed of the pitch if requested but only for heavy users like teams," she said.

Rates and hours will be determined by demand and a cost study which will be completed shortly. Initially batters will get 10 pitches for \$1 but teams and off peak users will also receive a discount.

Gilray says there's been a lot of interest from Acton, Rockwood and Limehouse regarding the cages. Presently people have to travel to Toronto, Burlington or Kitchener for the service.

Six weeks ago the cage was an idea and now, with the addition of final touches, it's a reality. Mats behind the plate simulate the sound of a ball hitting the catcher's mitt and mesh screens prevent stray balls from finding their way into adjacent batting areas.



Owner Pauline Gilray and son Mike demonstrated fine form at the new batting cage facility adjacent to the Fifth Wheel Truck Stop. Mrs. Gilray expects her business to stay open most of the year.

## Peewee welders burn Clarkson 22-5

Jim Fay knows how to get a good thing going.

The George Seehaver Welding major peewee rep baseball player uncorked the game-winning two RBI double in a recent tournament for Milton and also ignited a nine-run first inning in league play as Milton pounded Clarkson 22-5.

While the Clarkson contest turned into a rout, the game against Glanbrook for the Georgetown tournament championship was anything but that. Milton edged Glanbrook 8-6 for the title. The key play was Fay's double with two aboard in the fourth inning.

In other tournament action Milton beat Thornhill 4-1 and thumped Vaughan 19-1.

Other names in Milton's hit parade were Jason Brown and Shayne Ridley, with two singles each, and James Wilson, Jeremy Ridley and Mark McPhail, each with a single. Daryl Loader started and Fay threw relief.

In league play, Milton bumped their record to 7-4 with the Clarkson whitewash. Fay slammed a two RBI double in the bottom of the first to kick off the nine-run onslaught. Milton added nine more in the third and four in the fourth.

Shayne Ridley got the win and Loader threw strong relief.

Cameron Davison banged a triple and two singles while Shayne Ridley hit a double and a single. Jeremy Ridley, James Wilson and McPhail had two singles each and Kevin Wilson, Chris Scura and Loader clipped a single each.

## They're going to the CNE

The George Seehaver Welding major rep peewee baseball team has been chosen to represent Milton at the Canadian National Exhibition Peewee Baseball Tournament beginning in August.

It marks the first time a Milton Minor Baseball Association squad has been selected for the prestigious tournament, team mom Jolene Wilson said. "It's exciting news."

The official acceptance came through earlier this week and was based on a solid all-around record. Milton has won two tournaments this year, in Flesherton and Georgetown.



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HOLE #8	
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Double duffing, right turn left, stay left off on for a flatter lie. Big ballers may fly across down on left, but more ballers made by playing duffing. Green stays back to front. Stay below the hole.

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