

Winter

"It's a great way to play an old favourite"

A tidy sum!

in Milton, or wherever you happen to be.



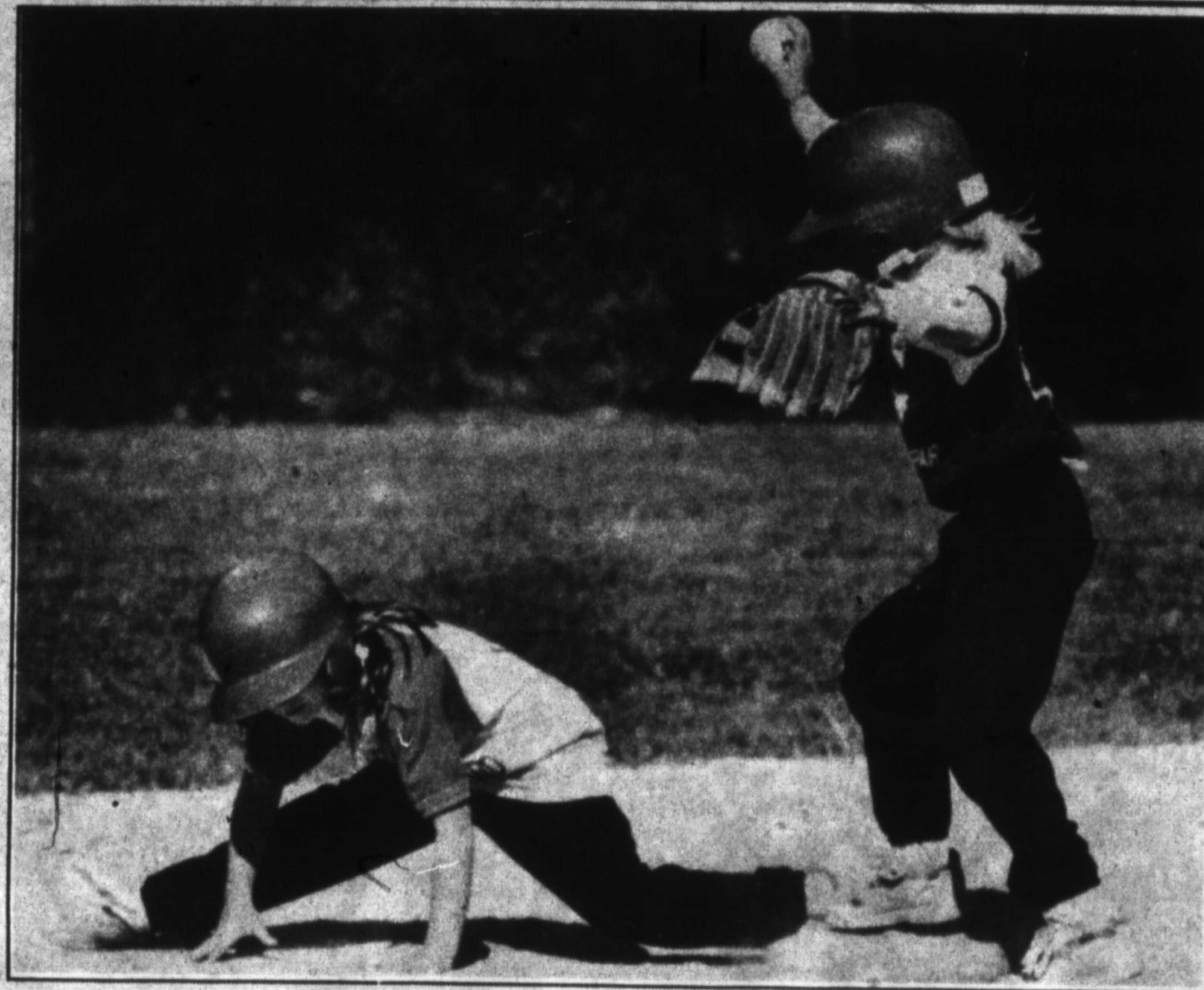
SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 1994

21—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, September 14, 1994

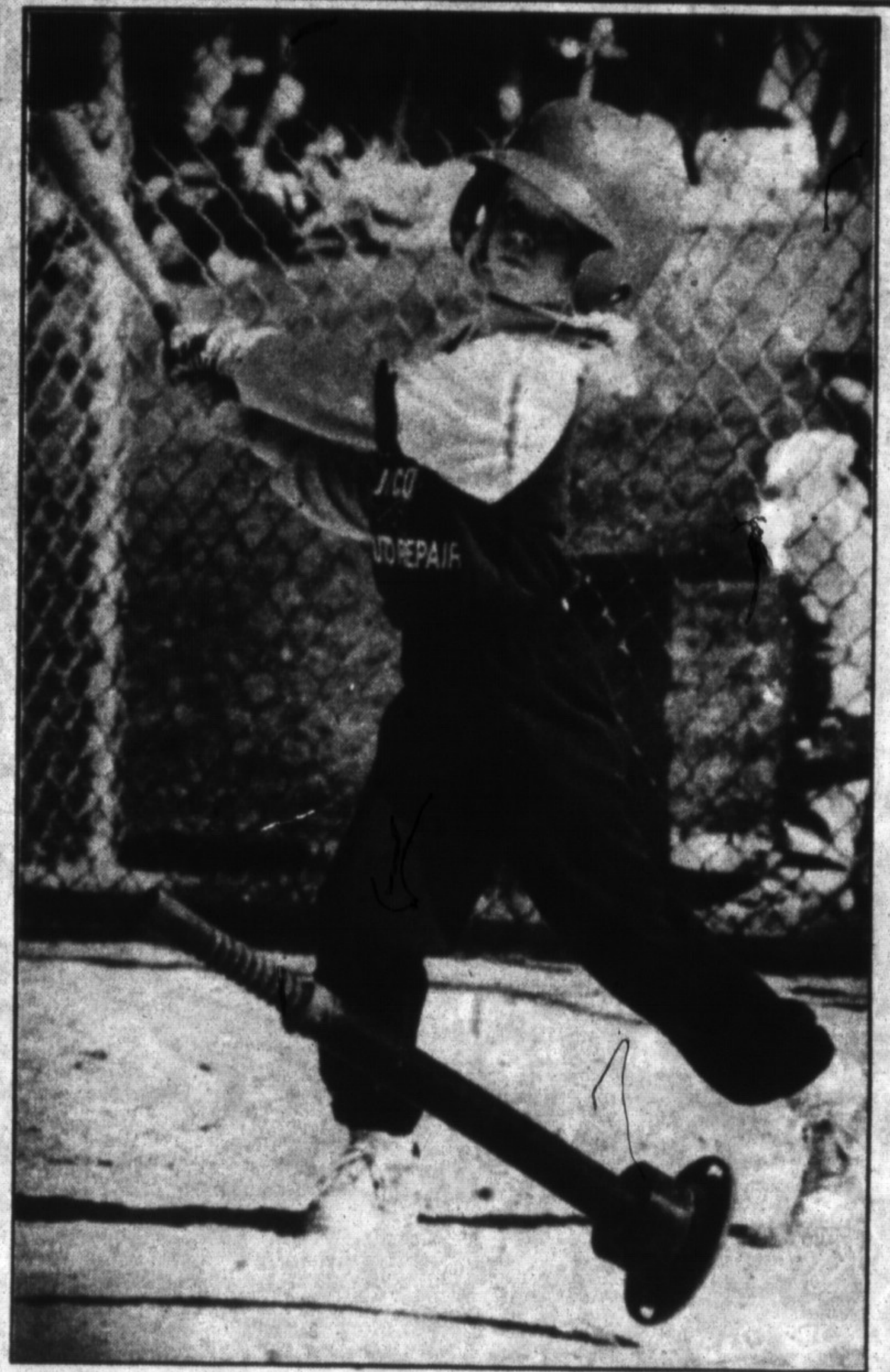
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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

The defence and the offence

Leah Brighton of the Safe and Sound junior t-ball team managed to keep her foot on second base (above) as an unidentified Brian's Auto Repair player held up the ball to signal time in girls t-ball championship action on the weekend. Safe and Sound went on to win the title 40-38. At right, Brian's Auto player Alisha Turner takes a mighty cut.



New look Merchants take the ice next week

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to the Champion

Ten days and counting, until the start of a new season of Central Junior A hockey — and the start of a new era for the Milton Merchants.

Fans will be seeing a very different looking team next Friday evening at Memorial Arena when the Merchants kick off the 1994/95 season against the Oakville Blades.

The club's biggest change will be behind the bench. Earlier this summer, longtime skipper Rick Bince decided it was time for a change and stepped down as head coach of the Merchants. Shortly after this decision, owner Bradley Grant named interim assistant Dan Walker as the new head coach.

Walker, who came to Milton from the Metro League's Bramalea Blues, will guide the team along with assistant Dave Switzer, last year's head coach of the Royal York Rangers. With several top over-agers leaving the club this year, including Pat Henneberry, Ryan Delorande, Daner Finn, Troy Sweet, Doug Mann, Adam Hagen and Mike Cox, Walker and Switzer will have the task of building a new hockey squad. However, Milton will still have a couple of crafty veterans on the forward lines in Jamie Janjevich and

Scott Bertoli. Janjevich, a 20-year-old third-year centre, will play his final season of Junior A hockey this year and has been named team captain.

"It feels good (being named captain), I get along great with the new coaches and players and I don't think the leadership responsibility will be a problem," said Janjevich, last year's team scoring leader and MVP.

"This year, I'm going for 100 points, but I did have two great linemates last year who helped my point total, so we'll just have to wait and see what happens."

Bertoli, an 18-year-old winger, has opted to go the university route in his hockey career and will return for his

sophomore season with Milton. Last year's team and league Rookie of the Year recipient, Bertoli is expected to be one of the assistant captains and assume more of a leadership role this season.

Also returning to action next weekend will be forwards Sean Lindsay, Shane Leamon, Mike McPhail, Anthony Sa and Chad Turner, rear guards Rick MacDonald, Rich MacKenzie, Danny Back and goaltender Jeff Lillie.

Recently returning from OHL camp in Kitchener, Lillie could be the team's number one puckstopper this season, depending on if Scott Hay comes back from the OHL training

camp in Sarnia.

"As far as I'm concerned right now, Jeff is our number one goalie," said Grant. The Merchant owner has also signed promising forward Robert Gubala and Steve Clark, who have been impressive in early pre-season play. Gubala is a 17-year-old centre from Chicago, with great speed and good hands around the net.

Leftwinger Clark, 18, played with the Guelph Platers last season and possesses some solid scoring ability as well.

The team's executive is also working on deals for players in Thunder Bay and Guelph, and are hoping OHL cuts can provide one or two key

additions to the club.

Milton's new coaches have also been impressed with the local talent this season. Players like Adam Bertoli, Mark McPhail and Daryl Loader have survived the first two cuts and could be around come opening night.

"One of the things we want to accomplish is letting the local coaches know that the minor league system is very important to the development and future of the Merchants," explained Walker. "We want to give these young boys something to work for."

Milton's head coach added that while it may take some time to put together the final squad, he has been pleased with the way things are going and that the Merchants will once again be contenders.

"We'll be ready for the playoffs, I think it's just a matter of how much of a jump we make out of the starting gate that will determine where we finish."

Mr. Grant agreed with his new head coach, stating that this Merchant club can finish in the top four. "It will take a while to get that magic chemistry, but when it's all said and done, I think this team will be better than last season's," said Grant. "We're going to put out an exciting brand of hockey for the fans."

Travellers and Halton Pool in final

There were few surprises during Milton Flag Football playoff action with the top regular season teams — Bruce Hood Travel and Halton Pools n' Spas — having a relatively easy time making it through to the finals which will be held Saturday, Sept. 17 at noon.

Ray Deleгарde led Bruce Hood Travel once again with seven TD pass in their 42-24 win over the Waltzing Weasels.

Jaz Basra and Rick Flemming hauled in two apiece with Victor Iannandrea and Kim Bishop getting singles. Dale Johnson and Andy Currie helped the cause with interceptions. For the Weasels, Darren Goertzen tossed scores to David Wheelihan, Christian Gundlack and Randy Sleightholm.

Scott McCallum hooked up with Dan Barbagallo for three majors and Brian Richardson for the other in Don Cherry's 26-16 win over Bentley's. Mark Green to Chris Green, and Mark Green to Jim McCurdy accounted for Bentley's scoring.

Six touchdown passes by Rick Goodings were enough for The Dickens to dispose of Remax 35-21. Five different players handled their scoring: Kirk Honey (two), Hector Campbell, Jaemi Goodings, Keith Summerville and Dave Turner. John Iantorno kicked in with five extra points. Todd Tansa had two touchdown receptions from Dom Lempre for Remax and Darrell Tansa had the other.

The Dickens faced the first place Halton Pools team in

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