



Ready, set, ...

Vickie Cormie, a swimming instructor at the Midland YMCA, conducts a special class on Saturday mornings for children who are deaf. Cormie describes the class as "just a regular swimming class except that we had

to learn sign language so we could talk to them." Here Shelly Wright and Mark Patenden, two of those involved in the program, enjoy the pool last Saturday morning. Staff photo

Instructors learn sign language

Y has special swimming course for deaf children

by Vicki Cormie
YMCA aquatic director "If you have the time, we have the place! (and the water) It's Saturday morning, just after 9:30 a.m.

At this time of the morning, at the Y Community Pool, you are likely to hear a lot of laughter, squeals of delight, occasional muffled sounds and you will see jumping, splashing and quick, flexible, flowing hand motions.

Where are you? You are a spectator at the hearing

impaired swimming lessons, now operating for deaf and hard of hearing children in the Midland area.

"Why, that looks like fun," you may think to yourself "those children are really "talking" to Vicki."

Of course they are! Our present three swimmers, Mark, Shelly and Richard are off to a roaring start. Shelly has just learned to get her feet up off the bottom. Mark is in our star three level. Richard has only

swimmer. These children are working with hearing leaders, playing with hearing children and loving every minute of it.

Unfortunately, the public has been denied education on abilities of the deaf. They are not deaf and dumb. These children have normal vocal cords, learning abilities etc. unless there is a disorder along with the hearing

problem. At the Midland "Y" pool, these children are enthusiastic, happy and fun, just as are our everyday children.

Handicapped? Never! Able to cope with a water situation? Most assuredly! In fact, apart from Vicki Cormie, who has taught at the W.S. Drury School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, it is the staff who are the

handicapped ones. The children have so very much to "say" and it is we who can't understand! We are the ones who are busy hitting the books, to learn total communication.

May we conclude by inviting any parent to bring

down his child, regardless of the degree of hearing loss, and allow him to join in our half hour of fun and learning, free of charge, whether they swim or not, every Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m.

As we say to you all, "If you have the time, we have the place and the water!"

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Doug Cole is president

Rugby Club elects executive

Rugby, the granddaddy of modern Canadian and American football, is alive and well and thriving in Midland.

Doug Cole, the Midland Rugby Club's new president, reports that at a club meeting on January 31 held at the Knights of Columbus building in Penetanguishene, the club elected their new executive.

Mike Miller will be the club captain, Rick Presse fixture secretary, Jerry Lane secretary-treasurer, and Doug Cole president. This is the Midland Club's

second year in the league, and Cole is hoping "for a winning year." He said that they didn't do too well last year but that "that was to be expected in the first year in the league."

There are 12 scheduled games: six in May and June, and six more in September and October. The months of July and August are devoted to exhibition play.

Cole said that rugby is an "odd kind of game" and is hard for some people to understand. There is no forward pass, for example and a public conditioned to

modern football finds it hard to understand what is happening. He said that apart from wives and friends, not too many came out to watch the games.

But that doesn't faze the team. Cole said that the social side of the team, the parties and such, are "just as important." Anyone interested in the club is welcome to try out. Players should be in their senior years at high school, and at least 18 years of age because the game can be rough at times.

But juniors win one

Not a good week for STHS

It was not a great week for the St. Theresa midgets, as they were soundly beaten by Base Borden 51-28 in boys high school basketball action on Thursday. Danny Bald was high scorer for St. Theresa's with 13 points, and Keith Duval added another 6.

The juniors, however, were not to be denied, edging out Base Borden 43-40. Gerry Lalonde was high man with 14 points, Paul Consitt chipped in 13, and Wilf St. Amand added 10.

Both teams travelled to Barrie Monday to take on

teams from Eastview Collegiate.

St. Theresa's travelled to Eastview Collegiate in Barrie Monday afternoon, with both the midgets and the juniors competing.

Eastview trounced St. Theresa's juniors 64-16, with Wayne Markham scoring eight points in the lost cause.

The midgets from St. Theresa's were defeated 60-30, but put on a much improved performance from the last time they met Eastview. Keith Duval with 11 points and Steve Dunn

with six were the top point-getters for St. Theresa's.

Atoms bomb Thornbury

On Saturday, the Midland minor atoms bombed Thornbury 10-0. Ralph Seeman led his team in the scoring department with three goals. Both Peter Wright and Leslie Dawe added two, and Drew Varley, Owen Quilty, and Billy Kennedy had singles.

In Silver Stick tourney

Midland blanks Akron, Ohio

In a Silver Stick game played last Friday, the Midland bantams blanked Akron Ohio 5-0.

Kelly Larmand scored a hat-trick to lead his team to victory. He was assisted on the first one by Ken Lagrandeur, on the second

by Andrew Zurovski, and on the third by Kevin Denis and Fred Wallace.

The other goals for Midland were scored by Steve Dunn assisted by Bill Mackey and Mike Abram and by Gary Walter assisted by Rick Story and Steve

Mustangs play tonight

The Midland Mike's Mustangs must win one of the next two games if they are to clinch third place in their basketball league. They meet the Barrie Hustlers tonight in their last home game of the regular

season. Game time is 8 p.m. at MSS.

Thursday the Mustangs travel to Alliston for a game there. Though they still have a chance at second place, they must win at least one to secure a third place finish.

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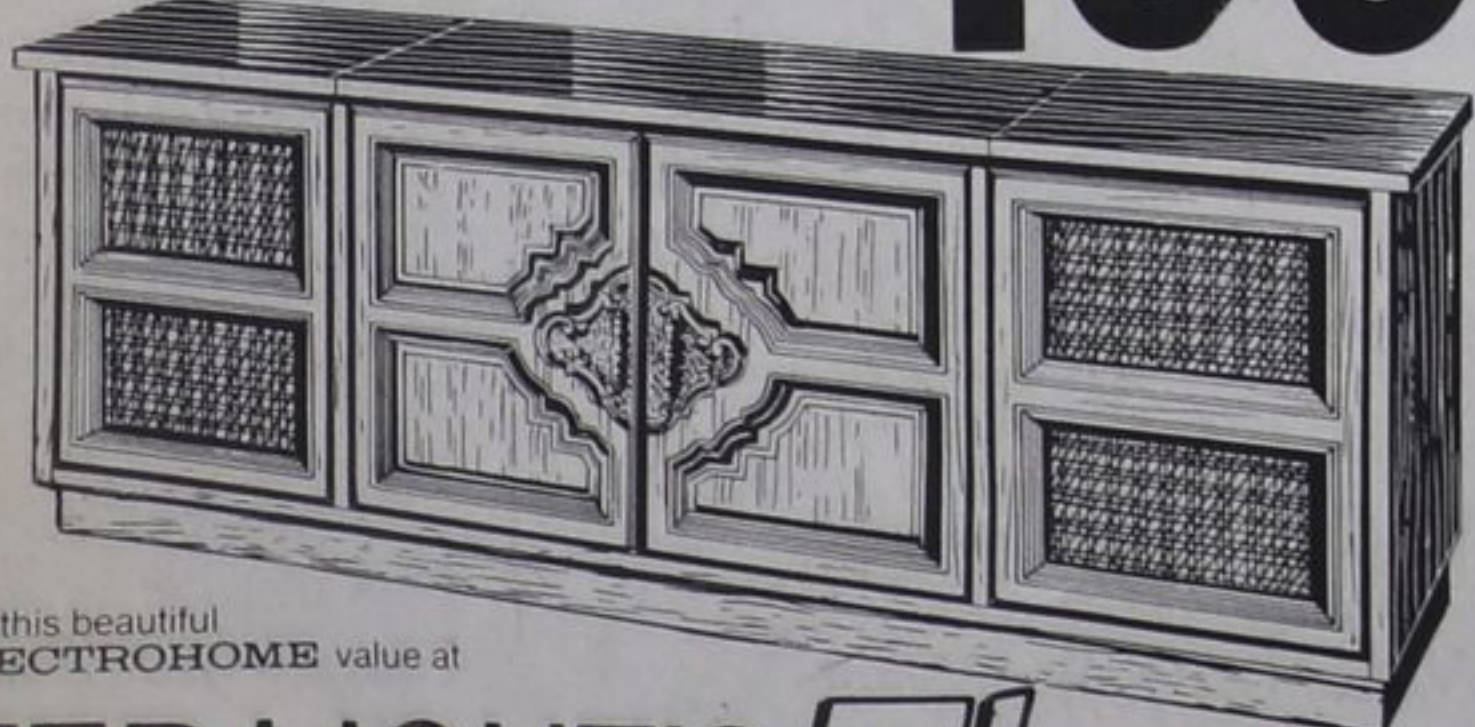
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