

## OHA ruling needed

# Mid-Pen rivalry comes to head



**Squeeze play coming up!**

Noel McEachern of Midland Centennials Jr. C hockey club found it to be a tight squeeze in Friday night's game in Midland

Centennial Arena against Gravenhurst Indians. Despite Gravenhurst's attempts at stopping the Centennials from crossing

their blue line, Midland won the game with a whopping 7-0 score.

by Don Lawrence  
Sports Editor

Todd Clarke of Balm Beach has been put into a very compromising position because of the recent filing of a complaint by Midland Centennials Jr. C hockey club regarding the eligibility of several players on Penetanguishene Junior Kings.

Clarke was one of three players that Midland felt should be playing in Midland.

According to Midland Centennials' executive, Paul Goodine, Bradley Copeland and Todd Clark all should have signed in Midland.

Clarke was the only one released to Midland on the directions of the Ontario Hockey Association. Goodine and Copeland were kept in Penetanguishene as automatic waivers.

### Ruling

Regulation 261 section of the OHA's constitution states that, "A player eligible but not resident in a municipality with a team entered in any category, shall be given a choice of the team he will play for: a) When the difference in the distance from his residence to the two or more municipalities concerned does not exceed five miles;"

Paul Goodine was deemed to travel 3.1 miles to the corporate limits of Midland while he would have to travel 9.4 miles to the corporate limits of Penetanguishene.

Bradley Copeland travels 4.7 miles to the corporate limits of Midland and 11.0 miles to the corporate limits of Penetanguishene.

Todd Clarke was said to travel 1.8 miles to the corporate limits of Midland but he would have to travel 8.1 miles to the corporate limits of Penetanguishene.

This meant that all three should have signed in Midland because they were within the allowed distance of Midland as their playing team from their residence.

They all live too far a way from Penetanguishene to play there, exceeding the five mile right of choice.

### Defence

Midland Centennials' protest was received by the OHA Oct. 16 and Penetanguishene filed their statement of defence Oct. 29.

Penetanguishene Kings' executive stated that Paul Goodine has played with Penetanguishene for the last two seasons.

Furthermore, they said that he had moved to Penetanguishene for work and to play hockey in the month of June, 1980.

Brad Copeland and Todd Clarke are both in their first year of junior eligibility and it was assumed that both were in the right of choice area by the Kings.

The Kings' executive felt that there is an ambiguous wording to rule number 261 of the OHA's regulations.

According to that rule, "distance shall be determined by the mileage from his residence to the Corporate limits of the municipalities involved over a public road."

Penetanguishene's executive stated that this was not necessarily

the shortest route that could be taken by either Clarke and Copeland.

By using a route over highway 27 and then north to Penetanguishene, Clarke and Copeland were entitled to right of choice due to the reduced distance between the west limits of Midland and the south limits of Penetanguishene.

That distance would only be 1.6 miles.

Penetanguishene also felt that the committee for the OHA should consider eliminating the 1.2 mile stretch comprising the industrial development outside Midland.

They also asked that a seven mile right of choice area be looked at for Penetanguishene.

Because Goodine had moved to Penetanguishene, the Kings' executive believed he should be a clear player.

The committee did not agree with that belief.

### Territorial rights

Population figures for Penetanguishene total 5,400 while Midland has 12,000 residents.

That alone gives Midland a wider choice of players to choose from.

On top of that, Midland can choose from five other outlying areas, Port McNicoll with 1,900 residents, Victoria Harbour with 1,200 residents, Tay Township with 6,100 residents, Tiny Township with 6,400 residents and Elmvale with 1,000 residents.

It was pointed out in Penetanguishene's defence that all of these areas are in Midland's right of choice area, adding that Midland's area also extended halfway to Parry Sound, halfway to Orillia, halfway to Barrie and to Collingwood which has a population of over 12,000 people.

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**As I See It**  
by  
**Don Lawrence**  
sports editor

Midland has a population of 12,000 as opposed to that of Penetanguishene, at 5,400.

Midland also has the option of choosing players from Port McNicoll with a population of 1,900, Victoria Harbour with 1,200, Tay Township with 6,100, Tiny Township with 6,400, and Elmvale with 1,000.

This makes for a possible selection of players from a total of 28,600.

Penetanguishene, on the other hand can choose from their own town of 5,400 plus some players in the Elmvale area which the Kings must compete with Barrie, Angus, Stayner and Midland for their signing.

In this case, the rule has definitely hurt Penetanguishene.

It seems to me that this rule could have been stretched a little considering the situation.

After all, this is an uncommon case, especially since Penetanguishene is cut off to the north by the shores of Georgian Bay.

And yet, it seems almost unfair that the player's feelings were not taken into consideration.

If the player had chosen to play for Penetanguishene, they should be allowed to play for Penetanguishene.

Rules are often unfair and it's very strange that this can happen since rules are supposed to help, not hurt.

Sure, the rule works for some places but not all situations hold standard textbook conditions.

Midland is certainly not hurting for area of choice when it comes to signing players.

Penetanguishene has really been squeezed in by this rule and this should have been taken into consideration by the OHA.

Rules are good, but they can cause problems when they are followed too exactly. Flexibility is necessary anywhere.

People change, situations change and rules must change.

What do you think?

## Confusion continues despite OHA decision

The situation between Midland Centennials and Penetanguishene Kings over the playing rights of Todd Clarke has been settled but the confusion continues.

Peter Dubeau, manager of Penetanguishene Kings has been suspended by the OHA and will have his hearing Dec. 13 when he will be able to present a defence.

Dubeau had been informed by the OHA that one of the three in question in Midland's protest would have to sit out a game until a decision had been reached.

Dubeau, however, says that they told him by telephone and that he received no letter stating this as pointed out in the OHA constitution.

A protest by Parry Sound Shamrocks had been filed, claiming that the game played during the time which Dubeau was not to have played one player should be forfeited to them.

It was not submitted in the prescribed time period though, and therefore dismissed.

Dubeau received a letter in the mail yesterday, dated Nov. 27, stating that a league-wide poll had shown that the majority of the league's players felt Paul Goodine should be signed as a clear player

## Hat trick didn't turn the trick

Sean McIlravey was the star of the game between Clark MacDonald and Summer Trophies of Midland Minor Hockey Association Novice House League Saturday

in Midland Centennial Arena as he scored all of his team's three goals.

However, it wasn't enough as his team, Summer's Trophies went down to defeat by a score of 4-3.

McIlravey's first two goals were unassisted, the third one assisted by Doug Summers.

For Clark MacDonald, Mark Bottineau was the big gun with two goals, assists going to

Adam Bourgeois and J.J. Pauze on respective goals.

Robbie Gruber scored unassisted for Clark MacDonald while Robbie Desroches did the same for their goal.