

Penetang Rotary Winterama consolation champs

Penetanguishene Rotary Club Minor Atoms reached their first milestone of the season by winning the Consolation Championship in the Penetanguishene Winterama Atom Tournament which was held on Feb. 18th and 19th.

The team's triumph was considered by many to be the major upset of the Tournament since they competed against Major Atom teams in three of their four games they played in order to win the trophy.

Minor Atoms played their first game on Sat. Feb. 18 by hosting the Streetsville Major Atoms.

In a fast skating game, the visitors struck for three quick goals before Penetang got on the scoreboard with Tim Mason scoring at the 2:52 mark of the second period.

Both Marcel Monague and Adrian Maurice drew assists on the goal. Streetsville replied with two more goals before Monague scored Penetang's second goal with Andy St. Amant and Raymond Dupuis getting the assists.

The visitors rounded out the scoring with a late third period goal to end the game at 6-2.

At the conclusion of the game, Penetang's Tim Mason was selected as his team's MVP for the game.

With the loss to Streetsville, the Minor Atoms were destined for the Consolation Round which paired them with the Orillia Minor Atoms later in the same day.

The game turned out to be a very close checking contest as both teams worked hard throughout the game.

Penetang scored first mid-way through the second period and it was Norman Robitaille hitting the twine with assists going to Raymond Dupuis and Tim Mason.

The lone goal stood as the difference between the two clubs for much of the game and it wasn't until the final minutes of the third period when Raymond Dupuis scored his first goal of the Tournament on a long deflected shot from just inside the Orillia blue line.

The assist on the goal was credited to Tim Mason.

The game ended 2-0 for Penetang and following it Shawn McConkey was selected as his team's MVP.

With this win, the Minor Atoms then advanced to the semi-finals which was played on the following day, Sun. Feb. 19th.

In the semi-finals, Penetang had to play the Downsview Beavers, another good-sized Major Atom club.

The winner of this

game would advance to the final round and play the Oshawa Bruins.

The level of excitement was certainly high and it didn't take much to get the Penetang team rolling as they struck early for the first goal of the game.

Again, it was Tim Mason scoring an unassisted goal at the 5:42 mark to stake his team to an early 1-0 lead.

Undaunted, Downsview replied with a goal of their own within two minutes to tie the game at 1-1.

Both teams checked well and it wasn't until the final minute of the first period when Mason scored his second goal to give his team the lead that they would never relinquish.

This game winning goal was assisted by Marcel Monague and Shawn McConkey.

The second period was fairly close checking and the Downsview team had many excellent chances to score, but time and time again they were foiled by both Penetang's goalies, Scott Galt and Lee Vallee who shared the net-minding duties throughout the entire Tournament.

With both goalies making key saves, it was enough to spur on their teammates who scored three more goals.

Mid-way through the second period Mason completed his hat trick on a pretty set-up from Shawn McConkey.

Later in the period, it was McConkey's turn to score Penetang's fourth goal with the assist going to Raymond Dupuis who played a very strong defensive game for the Minor Atoms.

Penetang's fifth goal came at the mid-point of the third period as Tim Mason scored his fourth goal at the 7:38 mark with Adrian Maurice picking up the assist on the goal.

The game ended with Penetang coming out on top by a 5-1 margin.

The team's MVPs were goaltenders Scott Galt and Lee Vallee who were well deserving of the award.

The excitement continued to grow as the Minor Atoms now found themselves in the Consolation finals facing the Oshawa Major Atoms.

With only an hour rest between games with Downsview and Oshawa, (Oshawa received a bye into the finals as well and had only to play one game on Sunday) the odds were certainly stacked against the Minor Atoms.

However, with the excitement that had been generated in their last two games, the team was convinced

that they had a chance at winning now that they had come so close to the Consolation Championship.

By going in to the game as under-dogs, the team really didn't experience too much pressure and encouraged by the most enthusiastic fan support they had ever experienced this year, the Minor Atoms continued to play even better hockey as the Tournament progressed.

The Oshawa-Penetang game began as another close checking contest with each team skating hard and concentrating on puck control.

The fans were treated to end-to-end action along with excellent goaltending by both teams.

The first period ended with neither team being able to score.

The second period was almost a carbon-copy of the first as again both teams had their chances, but failed to score.

As the final period began the tension level grew with each passing moment until finally at the 2:52 mark Oshawa's Kelvin Kearn scored an unassisted goal to break the dead-lock at 1-0.

Spurred on by the fan support and encouragement the comeback began.

With just 5:26 remaining in the final period, Tim Mason scored an unassisted goal to tie the game at 1-1.

The goal appeared to lift the Minor Atoms and within a minute of scoring, Shawn McConkey put Penetang ahead on a hard wrist shot from the point after Mason won the face-off deep in the Oshawa end of the rink.

What seemed like the game winning goal did not stand up because of the persistence of the Oshawa team who rallied to tie the game at 2-2 with only 2 minutes and 50 seconds remaining in the third period.

Shortly after Oshawa scored Penetang was assessed a minor penalty and had to play most of the remaining time in the game short-handed.

The last two minutes of the period were tense ones for the local squad and their fans, but everyone was treated to some of the Tournament's most exciting hockey.

The score after regulation time remained 2-2 and this precipitated a 10-minute over-time period, the winner to be decided by a sudden victory goal.

Play resumed in the over-time period and both teams once again had opportunities to end the game within the first minute of play.

It seemed fitting that

Penetang's tireless and hard-working Tim Mason would score the winning goal as he stole the puck from an Oshawa forward who was attempting to carry the puck out over his blue line.

His shot was low and to the stick side of the Oshawa goaltender who was beaten from about twenty feet out.

Once all the cheering and congratulations were over, team captain Tim Mason and the Minor Atoms were presented with the Consolation Championship Trophy by Mike Desroches of the Tournament Committee.

Each individual player received a tournament medalion which was presented by Wayne Desjardins.

The game MVP was awarded to Kirk Ruston.

Penetanguishene Rotary Club Minor Atom Hockey team and their coaching staff would like to take this special opportunity to thank the Tournament organizers, referees, and Mother's Auxiliary for a job well done.

In particular, a special thank you to Bryon McConkey, Tournament Chairman, who worked so hard to make the tournament the success that it was.

Finally, the team wants to thank all the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends (did we miss anyone?) who cheered us on over the entire tournament. The Minor Atoms represented their town admirably and everyone associated with the team is extremely proud of them.

Penetanguishene Rotary Club Minor Atoms are: Chris Brooks, Peter Couling, Peter Cruise, Jason Dorion, Raymond Dupuis, Brian Duval, Scott Galt, Tim Mason, Adrian Maurice, Shawn McConkey, Marcel Monague, Norman Robitaille, Kirk Ruston, Charles Secord, Andy St. Amant, and Lee Vallee.

Trainers: David Brooks, Michael Dupuis
Manager: Bryon McConkey
Coach: Bert Mason.

March 18
St. Margaret's Parish marriage preparation course, March 18 through May 6, two hours each Sunday, \$25 per couple. A second course will start May 13. For further information telephone Fr. Wayne Manne (526-6313).

March 20
Simcoe County Historical Association meeting, Simcoe County Museum, east entrance, 8 p.m. Show and tell. Telephone 728-7147.



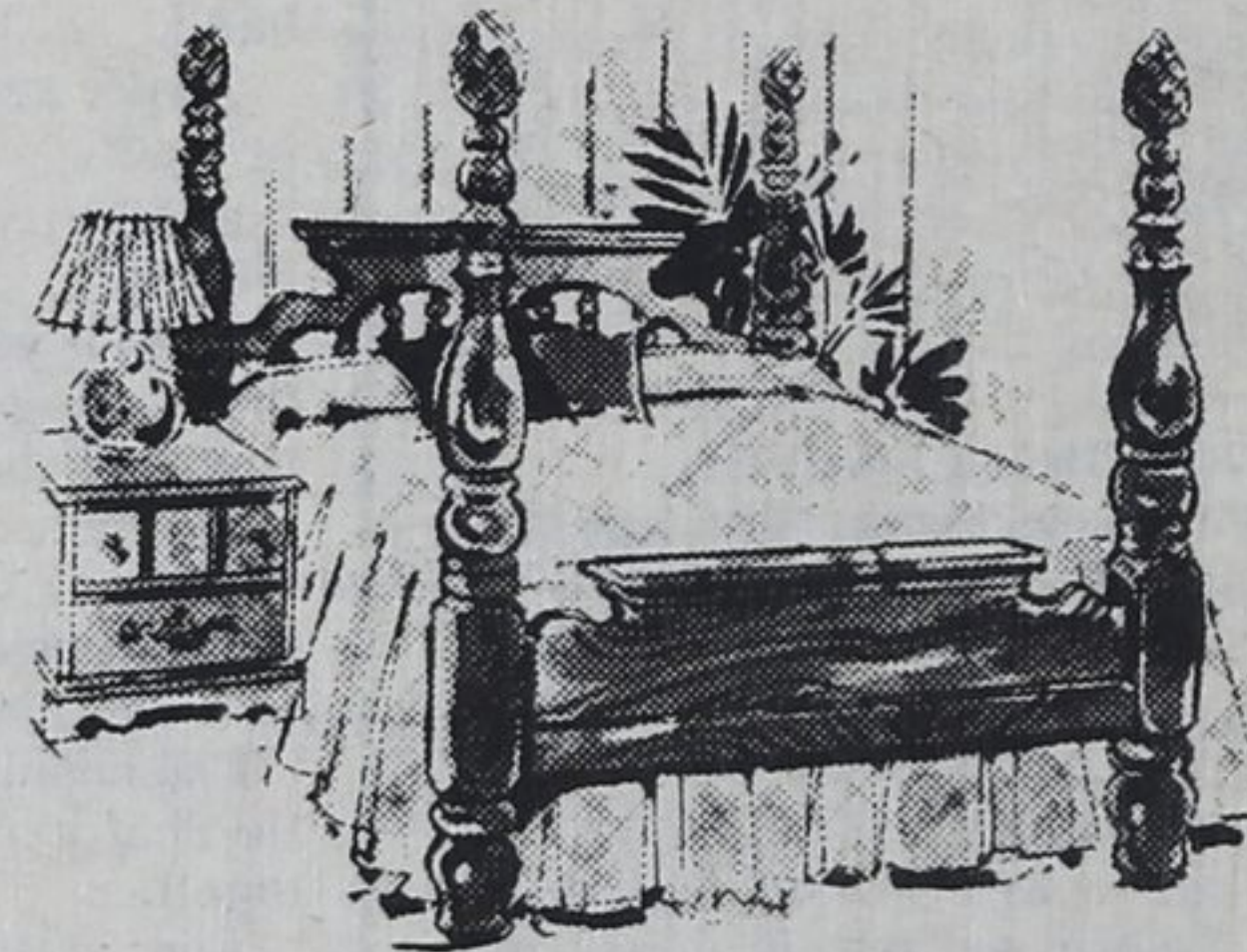
-Photo by Bob Murray

Top speakers

Junior orators from four Penetanguishene schools presented a wide variety of topics in the C.W.L. Public Speaking Contest held at St. Ann's Laboureau hall last Wednesday night. The first and second place winners are shown above with the

principals of their schools. From the left are Mr. Don Deschambault, Principal of St. Ann's School, first place winner, Steven Burt of St. Ann's, second place winner Mary Kraftscik of Ecole St. Louis and Mr. A. Hache, Principal of Ecole St. Louis.

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