

Snow: Who needs it?

Wouldn't it be great if we didn't get any more snow this winter? We could continue to saunter around in light shoes, not have to worry about shovelling snow, and it would cut down on weather related automobile mishaps. For me, it would make life a lot easier, 30 kilos of television equipment wouldn't seem so heavy.

I know Liz Conway at Horseshoe Valley Resort, Don Foster at Mountainview and Bev Philip over at Blue Mountain, are ready to lynch me. They want snow as much as they want publicity. But, really, I don't see a need for the white stuff.

So far this winter we've

been fortunate. Hundreds of skaters and would-be Gretzkys have been having a field day slicing up and down Little Lake in Midland. The huge, natural ice surface has only one downfall. There are no boards to stop a misdirected hockey puck from scooting for miles.

This natural phenomena occurred about five years ago. I remember the Penetanguishene waterfront filled with hundreds of skaters venturing out past the Naval and Military Establishments on a seemingly endless marathon skate. Frigid temperatures, a lack of snow, and a lack of wind allows calm bodies of water to glaze over.

I do feel bad for cross country ski trails operators who depend on heavy snowfalls to cover their wooded paths. However, it is good to know, local golf courses have an icy shell covering their fairways. For cross country skiers who can't get into the bush, these paths will have to do. By the way, they're free.

Snowmobilers are out of luck unless you've got sharp carbide blades that can slide into ice. Dwayne Latondress over in Victoria Harbour can give you a few lessons on snowmobiling on ice as he prepares for the winter snowmobile racing season. His blue bullet just flies over the glassy surface.

Just one word of caution

must be parlayed to snowmobilers. Make sure that if you take off onto the ice that it is safe. The icebreaker Griffon is in the area keeping waterways open for the grain ships and some bodies of water take a little longer to freeze up.

OPP divers, while available, don't really appreciate jumping into the frigid water at this time of year searching for corpses.

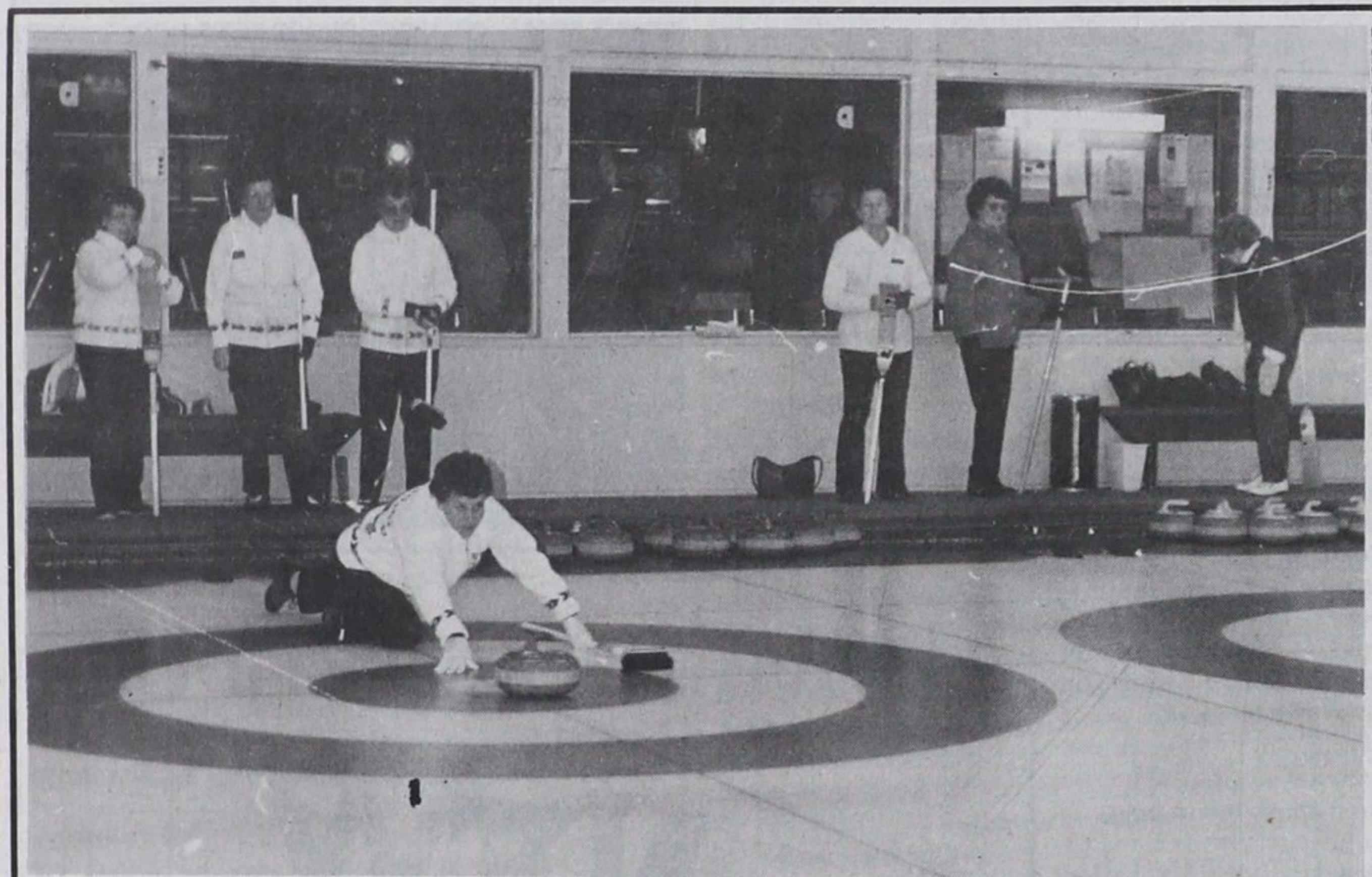
Snow...we don't really need you this year. If you want to sprinkle a few flakes on the cross country ski trails during the night go ahead, but don't get crazy on us. We're enjoying life too much right now for a storm to screw it up.



Creating a Play

Paul Robillard of Hindson Marine starts up the ice from his own zone in Penetanguishene Recreational Hockey League play at Penetang Arena Sunday. Goal-

background) earned a shutout as his team blanked Huronia Optical 2-0 on a pair of goals by Dave Parent. Hindson maintains a three point bulge atop the league standings.



Zone Seniors

Parry Sound rink of skip Joen Huff, Marion Ferguson and Mary Waldrum watch Marg Norton deliver the rock at Midland Curling Club Monday morning. The event was the Southern Ontario Ladies Curling Association Senior Women's Zone playdowns. Rinks from Parry Sound, Huntsville,

Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Midland took part in the two day affair. Two winners will advance to Hanover for the Regional title. The Midland entry is represented by Doreen Bray, Vivian Shaw, Marnie Moffatt and Diane Patchell.

Midgets up and down

The Penetanguishene Little Lake Service Center Midgets experienced both the high and low of hockey over the holiday season.

On December 20, the local boys played the first two periods of hockey in an unorganized fashion with little spirit to show their talents.

Trailing 4-1 after two periods against Owen Sound Majors, the boys were reminded that hockey is a game played for enjoyment and perfection of skills.

The boys responded with one of the best periods of hockey they have played this season, outplaying and outscoring their visitors 2-1. Although a loss, the game did instill some pride in the team.

In the Silver Stick Tournament at Wasaga Beach, the Little Lake Midgets fell behind quickly 4-0 after one period to Shelburne.

The next two periods were dominated by Penetang but they lost the contest 5-2.

Shawn Desjardins assisted by Jim Hartman

and Hartman unassisted accounted for the Penetang offence.

Game two was against an evenly matched Stroud team. Although outscored 4-1, Penetang pressed throughout the game. Rob Leclair counted Penetang's lone marker.

Without the pressure of playoff, Penetang pulled out all stops blanking Oshawa 7-0. Shayne Ronald picked up the shutout in the Penetang net.

The third win of the season for Little Lake Midgets was a result of defence, forechecking and passing, - the ingredients of good teamwork.

Jim Hartman checked in with a pair of markers with singles coming off the sticks of Stu Fraser, Rob Leclair, Keith Rankin, Brian Robillard and E. J. Nuyens.

Last Saturday, Penetang travelled to Owen Sound for a rematch with the Majors, minus three key players.

In one of their worst performances of the season,

the Little Lake squad was totally outclassed, outskated, outthusted and outscored 14-1. Keith Secord managed to put Penetang on the board.

Penetang returned home to host Owen Sound Minors on Sunday. The game totally contrasted the previous day's outing. Lots of hustle and determination led Penetang to a 3-0 first period lead on goals by Glenn Robillard, Keith Rankin and Terry Bugg.

Owen sound came back in the middle frame to outscore their hosts 3-1 and trail on the game by a single counter 4-3.

Late in the final frame, Owen Sound knotted the score with a man advantage. Playing two men short for the rest of the period, the visitors held off a determined Penetang team the rest of the way.

Next action for the Penetanguishene Little Lake Midgets will be this Thursday in Midland followed by a weekend tournament in Bracebridge.

Curling championship in Ottawa

The 1987 Ontario Curling Championship is taking place in Ottawa the week of February 9-14, 1988.

As you know, the Russ Howard Rink will represent the Penetanguishene Curling Club at the Tankard for the third consecutive year.

The rink has been entered automatically following a ruling by the Ontario Curling Association to allow the Ontario Champion to return if he wins the Brier Champion-

ship. Russ and his team of Glenn Howard, Tim Belcourt, Kent Carstairs, and fifth man Larry Merkle of course won the Canadian and World Championships this past spring.

The week long event at

the Nepean Sportsplex in Ottawa is expected to be a thrilling Tankard! (Aren't they all!) If you are interested in attending from Tuesday to Sunday (Feb. 9-14) the ticket cost is \$35. If you plan on attending from Thursday through

Sunday, the weekend package is only \$20.

For more information contact David Gravelle at 549-8125. c/o P.O. Box 666, 14 Lafontaine Road, Penetanguishene, Ontario L0K 1P0



Blocking The Puck

Jason Leclair, Midland Indusmin Bantam goaltender attempts to block the puck while an Orillia forward backs into him. Leclair was faced with this kind of interference for the entire game and failed

to come up with the big save when required. Midland lost in the dying moments of the game 6-5 in Silver Stick Championship action Saturday afternoon at Centennial Arena.

Concrete sinks Steamers

by Dan Ladouceur

Penetanguishene's Gil Desroches Concrete Flooring PeeWee team entered the Collingwood Loblaw's House League Tournament during the Holidays.

Their first encounter was with the home town favorites, Collingwood Steamers. It was a good game seeking only three penalties a side. Gil Desroches Flooring accounted for six goals: Jason Weatherall assisted by Glen Robillard and Steve Secord, Miquel Juneau unassisted, Jason Weatherall with his second from Rolland Robitaille, Jason Dorion assisted by Norman Robitaille and Steve Secord. To close the scoring, Norman Robitaille fired a pair unassisted. The closing score was 6-4 for Penetang. The M.V.P. for Gil Desroches Flooring went to Norman Robitaille.

The second game saw Gil Desroches Flooring playing home town rivals, The Friars, who had defeated Tara in their first game. It was a hard hitting game with many penalties.

The winner of this game would represent Penetang in the Championship round. Drawing first blood for the Desroches boys was Miquel Juneau unassisted.

In the second period, The Friars came back to tie it up with a goal by Chris Brooks assisted by Todd Wonnacott.

In the third period, Gil Desroches Flooring came back hard with a goal by Norman Robitaille. Final score, 3-1. Desroches Concrete Flooring over The Friars. The M.V.P. for the Friars was Todd Wonnacott and for Desroches Concrete Flooring, it was Jason Dorion. The Friars then went on to play National Trust of Collingwood, loosing in double overtime 4-3.

The Championship round saw Gil Desroches Concrete Flooring going head to head against Base Borden Braves. This game saw only three penalties called. At the 8:19 mark of the opening frame, Borden Braves found the mark. Late in the period, Jason

Dorion scored for Penetang with a nice end to end rush resulting in a tie game.

The second stanza saw only one goal scored by Penetang's Glen Robillard assisted by Jim York and Norman Robitaille. The third period saw scoring by Norman Robitaille assisted by Glen and Rolland Robitaille. Desroches next goal came from Norman Robitaille assisted by Miquel Juneau.

Borden Braves closed out the scoring. Final score, 4-2 Penetang.

Both goalies played an outstanding game which won for them the M.V.P. of the game. For BaSe Borden Braves, Cory Benoit and for Gil Desroches Concrete Flooring, Bruce Ladouceur.

Norman Robitaille who played outstanding hockey in all three games was awarded the trophy for most all round player on and off the ice.

All the boys on the team gave 100 per cent for the three wins.

Trenton is held to 4

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power play markers in a 4-0 loss.

Also lost, for at least six weeks, was David Ferris who suffered a broken arm when checked into the boards

Needless to say, the Marlin Travel PeeWees were unable to mount any type of sustained offence, although they continued to work hard and did well to hold Trenton to four goals.