



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Lots of fun is the name of the game and shown enjoying the great outdoors on the "do it yourself" outdoor natural ice rink at Skopit Park are (left to right) Christine Hankin, Mrs. E. Rye, of Neal Drive and her daughter Lorraine.

The rink is a neighborhood project with the town supplying the boards, water, hydro and lights . . . free of charge. The residents are doing the work.

"Do It Yourself" Rink

By FRED SIMPSON

A Richmond Hill mother of two, amusedly refers to herself as a "disturber" but then it's the disturbers in the world that get things moving.

Her name is Mrs. William Brough, 364 Alper Street and the project she has inspired is a do-it-yourself outdoor natural ice rink at Skopit Park on Neal Drive near the Elgin Mills Road East.

And it's not just her baby. It's everyone's, the entire neighborhood.

How did it all begin? And why?

"Up to a year ago the town put the boards up, made the ice, and looked after the rink," said Mrs. Brough. "But we did not have a rink last year and the town informed us we wouldn't be having one this winter."

"So I decided to canvass the neighborhood and asked the residents if they would be interested in making and maintaining one themselves."

Mrs. Brough said she received an enthusiastic response and so the next step was to approach Ward 1 Councillor Ivan Mansbridge.

"Mr. Mansbridge handled the town end of it and we were informed by the municipality that the rink boards would be erected for us providing we did all the rest."

Also thrown in free of charge was usage of a nearby fire hydrant with which to form the ice, plus co-operation from the town hydro commission which agreed to instal floodlights above the ice surface.

"The boards were put up and a day or so before Christmas," said Mrs. Brough, "we had 30 men in action out at the park preparing the rink."

Mrs. Brough expects and hopes that the initial enthusiasm on the part of her neighbors will continue and she intends to see that it does.

"Whenever we need men out there to shovel or flood the ice," she states, "and there doesn't appear to be enough, well, I get on the phone and start calling. The reaction has been good."

Of course, Mrs. Brough has a smidgen of philosophy to carry her through as far as the human being is concerned.

"You do find," she states, "that you have 10 regulars who tend to keep coming back and doing the majority of the work. But that's the way it is in any line of work. You have to expect it."

As for the rules and regulations for skaters — both very young and old, if you please — they are very minimal.

"It's an open rink for everyone," explained Mrs. Brough, "and we don't have anyone in charge of the proceedings. There is one regulation that we have posted and that regards the hours of pleasure skating and hockey shiny."

Pleasure skating holds the fort until 7 pm and after that the future Howe's and Hull's can have their whacks.

"This type of rink," said Mrs. Brough, "is especially convenient for children in the seven, eight and nine-year-old brackets."

"It's too far for them to wander down to the arena sometimes," she said, "and with a rink right in the vicinity of their homes it makes it much easier for all concerned."

"I think it's good for small children to get out and play and get away from watching stupid television every night. Especially at that age."

So there you have it. Anyone else for a "do-it-yourself" outdoor rink?

Sport Spots

By Fred Simpson



Is It Grumble, Groan?

Do you know what a grumble or a groan is? A grumble or groan is a sound that issues from the lips of a human being (usually) every time bread or milk, liquor or cigarettes or what have you, go up one, two, three, 48 or more cents every too often.

It can be a loud grumble or groan, a middle-type kind, or even a fainter than faint type. But it's a grumble or groan in any case. Give up?

Such was the case in Richmond Hill just prior to the start of the 1967-68 minor hockey season when registration fees climbed to \$9 a year from \$5. A few audible grumbles or groans were heard which is the human wont. Just how serious or how loud the sounds were depended on the individual.

But the point of the above is simply that you're lucky you don't live elsewhere in this particular instance. Like in Thornhill (a beautiful place to live, mind you) where it can cost you a fair bit more to make your youngster or youngsters available for OMHA-style hockey.

At least this is the opinion of one Thornhill housewife and mother who shall remain anonymous. Anonymous because she wants to be and also because she's not really complaining, is happy to pay out the money for her child, but who also wonders if children really appreciate the money and time Ma and Pa expend for them. She also wonders how those parents with six or seven offspring can manage to foot the bill for hockey or if, in a number of cases, they don't bother to try.

THE LADY SAYS

For example, the lady points out that the absence of an arena in the immediate area necessitates a goodly amount of regular travel to-and-fro to the independently owned Doublerink Arenas.

This costs money and time, of course, and specifically \$10 a month to pay for ice-time at Doublerink plus \$3 annually for insurance plus the \$100 or so for all the equipment junior requires although hand-me-downs can save on this expense on given years.

Of course, another item is the cost of accompanying junior to the game, the admission you have to pay each trip. This too can add up for Thornhill and Richmond Hill spectators alike.

And as can be clearly observed, it costs more to put a youngster in a hockey outfit in Thornhill than in Richmond Hill. So the grumbles and groans should be louder, much louder in Thornhill.

But this Thornhill mother was quick to stress she wasn't really grumbling or groaning and was happy to do it for her son. I got the impression she was just pointing out that money is money and not everyone is as fortunate (as this family) in being able to keep up with the many and varied money-taking forms of recreation today. Having to travel, travel, travel, can also be a trial especially when the breadwinner has to keep that rather important job of his own up.

Agreed, agreed. It must be trying but it is a way of life today and one must go along with it. You might just as well go along cheerfully. But you should be appreciated and, in this column, you are being appreciated.

I then conversed with a Richmond Hill minor hockey coach who is also happy with his lot in life. It's great fun, he stated, helping the kids.

YOU DO GET CRITICIZED

But then a slight cloud of wry cynicism (good humored cynicism) flaked his eyes when this observer congratulated him for the hours he sacrifices without "getting anything (money) for it."

"You get something," he pointed out. "Lots of criticism." But then the smile returned and he was off to continue his happy serfdom to the town children.

Talked to a couple of Richmond Hill fathers who pointed out that sure it took money but it was all very worthwhile.

"It's very little money for the enjoyment you get out of seeing your children having fun, participating in it with them. Some people spent all their money on booze, or something else, others get their kicks in spending on their families." Of course (ahem) some do both.

So there you have it. What do you have? Just an appreciation to all the Ma's and Pa's from here. Your sacrifices are duly noted, duly appreciated. But you'd better be going now. Junior is getting impatient. That big game is up in Bradford today and if you don't get going you'll be late.

JUST KNOW IT

Well, the new arena is now unofficially open. I suppose the official opening will come at a later date. And wouldn't you know it.

The arena opened a night after I announced it would which didn't surprise me a bit. It seems to always happen that way. I just don't know.

And perhaps it was a good thing after all. For the Richmond Hill Rams, anyway.

As you probably know by now the Rams took their lumps via a 12-1 lacing at the hands of Georgetown. And what can you say after you trot out that tired old phrase, "I'm sorry."

(Continued on Page 12)

Dynes Jewellers Continue To Win Down Willowdale Rangers By 7-1

Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers pulled the "Old Man River" theme last week as they too just kept on rolling. Victims this time out were Willowdale Rangers who went by way of a 7-1 verdict at the hands of the red-hot Jewellers.

The win saw the Jewellers open up a five-point bulge between them and second-running Toronto Shultons who kept pace with a 4-1 verdict over Newmarket Sports. Another game saw Downsview Canadians outscoring Don Mills Comets by 6-4.

High-scoring Jeweller Tom Kelly maintained his pace atop one individual scoring race with 10 goals and 22 assists for 32 points. In second spot is Bob Ritchie of Toronto with 14 goals and 11 assists for 25 points.

It was strictly a no-contest affair in the Jewellers-Rangers contest at the local arena as the Richmond Hillers led 3-0 in the first, and 5-0 in the second.

Bob McKinnon opened the scoring at the 12:06 mark unassisted. Richmond Hill struck for two quick goals with Ralph Kosowan getting tallying at 16:14 from Matt Kinnari and Larry Black making it 3-0 at 16:47 from Don Hill.

The second period was Kosowan scoring the second of his total of three goals at 6:23 from Kinnari and Clay Chapman. His third one came at 9:41 from Al and Tom Kelly.

The Jewellers increased their lead 6-0 at 2:56 of the final period as Kelly scored from Doug Stubbs.

And it was the same story at 11:08 as the same Kelly finished the scoring assisted by Al Hume.

The Rangers got their lone and lonely goal at 16:42 with Dave MacInnis doing the job aided by Ian Slater.

Shultons didn't have it quite so easy against the Sports as both teams fought to a 0-0 draw in the first period with Shultons knocking home two in the second.

Gary Stamp opened the scoring in that period at 2:00 from Bob Ritchie and Dave Hopper. Then it was 2-0 as Doug Carter scored at the 5:00 mark from Charlie Gruber and Bruce Sim.

Newmarket narrowed the gap at 8:15 of the third period on a goal by Bill Marks. Assist went to Ike McKnight.

But Bruce Sim got that one back at 9:30 from Doug Carter and Gruber; with Bob Ritchie rounding out the scoring at 17:40 from Stamp and Bob Shelston.

Downsview jumped into a 3-0 lead in the first period, increased it to 5-2 in the second. Ron Minor and Doug Card paced the offensive for the Canadian with two goals apiece with singles going to Wayne Glassman and Terry Hayward. Roy Howard knocked home two goals for the losers with singles going to Jim McDowell and Wilf Arnold.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

	W	L	T	G	A	Pt.
Richmond Hill	9	2	0	66	36	18
Toronto	7	4	0	60	40	14
Don Mills	6	4	1	53	44	13
Willowdale	4	6	1	47	55	9
Newmarket	3	7	1	46	49	7
Downsview	2	8	1	42	90	5

LEADING SCORERS

	G	A	Pt.
Tom Kelly, RH	10	22	32
Bob Ritchie, T	14	11	25
Gary Stamp, T	14	10	24
Doug Stubbs, RH	10	14	24
Dave MacInnis, W	10	12	22
Leo DeRocher, DM	12	6	18
Calvin George, DM	4	12	16
Ralph Kosowan, RH	9	7	16

FUTURE GAMES

January 14, Richmond Hill Arena (New), 7:15, Toronto vs Willowdale; 8:30, Newmarket vs Downsview; 9:45, Richmond Hill vs Don Mills.

January 16, Richmond Hill Arena, 8:15, Toronto vs Don Mills; 4:45, Willowdale vs Downsview.

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