



Intermediate winners

R. J. Nicol won the intermediate championship at the Russell Fastball Tournament. Pictured above are left to right Claude Saumur and Ed Cote of Lacroix Sports (the loser finalists) accepting

cheque from Russell Lions Club treasurer Steve Schroeter and Barry McVey presenting McVey Insurance Trophy to Wayne Pilon of R. J. Nicol.

Jack McLaren
**Sports
Ramblings**

Minor Hockey

I'm sure the sporting world was overjoyed at the recent announcement by Sports Minister Iona Campagnolo that yet another study was being launched into the affairs of minor hockey. The study is to be headed by Mr. Justice John J. Vrie and Larry Regan both of whom are well established within hockey circles. Hockey studies are not new and once this one has been completed and recommendations put forth, we probably won't ever hear any more about it.

Presumably this study will be largely confined to players between the ages of 6 and 16 although this wasn't spelled out. But surely Mrs. Campagnolo should be more concerned with junior age players where some form of remedial action is required at once and not 15 months from now. If someone doesn't soon stop WHA owners, particularly Mr. Bassett and his Birmingham Bulls, from raiding Junior A teams of their top attractions, a lot of junior owners are going to throw in the towel. The atmosphere between Junior A and professional team owners is not very good and hasn't been for some time. I'm not one for government intervention, but if these gentlemen can't resolve their differences then maybe Mrs. Campagnolo should do it for them and stop at once the signing of under-age juniors by greedy professional team owners. One of the most disturbing aspects in this whole affair is that Canada's Mr. Hockey, Alan Eagleson, is representing (for a fee of course) a number of under-age junior players who have recently signed professional contracts. He is also Mrs. Campagnolo's top negotiator in international hockey circles. If Mr. Eagleson is really concerned about hockey in this country, as he says he is, he should be devoting his efforts to strengthening hockey at all levels even if it does cost him a few clients.

Minor Softball

The Russell bantam softball team recently captured the "B" division championship at the Orleans Tournament winning their final two games after being edged 10-9 by Queenswood Heights in the opener. Todd McLaren and Kevin O'Rielly received MVP awards in the tournament in the Russell tournament the bantams won their first two games before being defeated in a close game by Parkwood Hills who went on to win the championship. Couch Bas Houlahan's boys are also leading their division in the Russell-Carleton softball league with a most impressive record.

Russell Lions Fastball Tournament

Terrific weather, excellent competition, good food and refreshments once again highlighted the Lions Fastball Tournament. One more sign of old age is to have your son participate as a player for the first time. Believe me watching your kids play is far harder on the old man than me playing the game myself. It was good to see Williamsburg who have had the championship elude them on previous occasions come through to win it all. Extra inning games, one lasting as many as 16, highlighted tournament play. Looking at the low scores it soon becomes evident that pitching is dominating the fastball scene. Some teams are prepared to pay pitchers for their seasons work. Fastball has become a highly competitive sport and in some cases almost a business. There is nothing wrong with a good pitching duel but to most fans the real excitement comes when a hitter sends the ball soaring over the fence for a home run — it doesn't happen often enough.

What's new at the arena

By Linda Weatherall
and Kenna Paul

Dan Thompson, the manager at the Kinnaird Community Centre, is on his well-earned holidays for the month of July. His assistant, Dave Robinson, is a graduate from Algonquin College in Recreation Facilities and was hired by the Township around the middle of June.

The month of June brought some other changes to the centre such as the installment of the new sound system. This unit consists of seven horns, four speakers, one 100 watt amp, one 60 watt amp, one turntable, and two column speakers.

Some plastic boards have gone up at the far end of the arena to protect the new installation from the hockey players with the high flying pucks.

Chantal Development has taken on the task of installing the water system. This system should solve the water problem that has plagued the arena for so long.

With all these new additions and the maintenance program planned for the summer, the arena will be in excellent shape for another season.

LADIES SOFTBALL
Did you know that Russell has

its own Ladies Softball Team? They Do !!

They can hit as good as the Yankees yet have the moves of the Dallas Cheerleaders. These are Russell's most spirited women with a drive to win, and determination to have fun. With all this going for them, how can you afford to miss them play. So get up to the Russell Ball Diamond and give them a supporting hand this Sunday and Every Sunday night.

PLAYGROUND '78

With over 100 of our Russellite children now registered in the summer program, Playground '78 makes it's way through a second very successful summer. To date, the opening weeks have been highlighted with some very interesting events. A dance — totally planned and organized by the children, was held during our second week and our following week found some bikers out on a long bike hike while the younger walkers made their way through the trees on foot. Walkers and bikers then met at McDougall Park for a much awaited picnic lunch. July 27th was our first big excursion. At 9:00 a.m. 44

children, 7 volunteers, Kenna and myself boarded a bus for Mooney's Bay to spend a fun filled day at the beach. Both Kenna and I would like to extend a very special thanks to all those who have assisted us so far this summer and welcome any new recruits. Your help is very much appreciated by both the children and us.

Throughout the next couple of weeks, the children will be selling tickets to help raise money for playground activities — most specifically, our final trip. Our destination is still a little secret from our participants. August will involve events such as a Clean Up Russell Day, Hikes, picnics, films, a dance, and most important, a Parent night. Our parent night will consist of puppet shows and skits by the children, display of craft work, a campfire, and other special events. This will be very important and special night for both the leaders and the children. Tentatively speaking, this evening is being planned for August 16, 1978, so please — whether you are a parent, neighbour or friend, reserve that evening for our young Russell children.

**Creative playground
at Russell Public**

Russell Public School has been fortunate in being able to obtain an Experience '78 grant from the Ontario Government to construct a creative playground for the younger students.

Two Russell secondary school students, Philip Cooper and Brian Stewart, have been employed for a six-week period to create this facility.

Their task is to design and then build the facility. Their design was approved by a special committee; Mrs. Edmundson, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Ruttle, Mrs. Langill, Mr. D. E. Loucks.

Norman Walsh will act as the project supervisor during the construction period.

I would like to publicly congratulate the two boys on the excellent work they have produced both in design and in construction.

D. E. Loucks

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