

# Sports

Peter Van Dusen

## Two more, too many

Lacrosse may be our national sport but there is little doubt the majority of Canadians follow one sport more closely than any other. That sport is hockey.

Through the years teams have come and gone, leagues have flourished, folded and many teams have struggled along losing money perennially. But one thing is certain. No matter the amount of adversity hockey may run up against, it will never die as a major Canadian sport or a North American one for that matter! Let us pray.

The board of governors of the Ontario Major Junior Hockey League is currently meeting to discuss allowing two more

teams to join the league. The decision will ultimately affect Junior hockey in Ontario for some time to come. The decision will not be an easy one by any stretch of the imagination.

I'll not pull any punches, I'll say it up front. I don't think OHA expansion is a good idea at this time. There are 13 teams in the OHA at the present time. I would venture that few if any of those 13 teams have ever operated in the black.

If they have, the monetary gain is negligible. Shouldn't we concentrate on attracting fans for the existing teams rather than trying to expand and have 15 teams losing money every

year? You know as well as I do, that makes sense.

Junior hockey is probably the most uncertain market to persevere in. Because of the transience of player personnel, owners can never be sure of having a top notch team. A case in point is the Ottawa 67's, going from a league contender last year to a cellar-dweller this season. Nothing is ever sure in junior hockey. You can be smoking a stogie one year and rolling your own the next. Every owner would jump for joy just to break even.

Another problem is dwindling attendance. Can we afford to set up a junior team in an area that

may not have the population to support a junior team? Of course not. But two of the teams submitting applications to the board of governors are the North Bay Trappers and the Cornwall Royals, presently of the Quebec Junior League. While the Trappers have impressive stats as a team and an eye-opening attendance record one can easily understand the weariness of the board of governors to accept the team. Like the Trappers, the Royals are likely candidates for the expansion. The Royals, for practical reasons might rather be in the Ontario league. But there is more to it than impressive qualifications. The OHA has learned with teams like Brant-

ford that more caution must be exercised when admitting teams to the league.

There will be a time for expansion of the OHA but that time is not now. It seems people are not interested enough in Junior hockey to patronize to a great extent any one team. Perhaps when we can make junior hockey a self-supportive venture there will be a need to expand to accommodate fan support.

The present situation is not conducive to an increase in teams. Teams are created as fans cry for more competitive action and are not or should not be brought about to attract fans but rather to satisfy them.

### Russell R.A. news

By Garey Ris

Various hockey tournaments, Winter Carnival news, along with coming events highlight this month's report.

A Midget "A" Hockey Tournament provides exciting hockey at its best when Russell hosts the third annual event Saturday, Jan. 27 and Sunday, Jan. 28. Times to watch your favorite players in action are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

The Russell Arena is also the place to be when the South Carleton Intermediate Hockey Tournament is held Feb. 23 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Because of the hockey tournaments, public skating will be

cancelled Jan. 28, Feb. 24 and Feb. 25.

The Russell Winter Carnival is only three weeks away, beginning Feb. 4 and ending Feb. 11. For further information, contact Rejean Paquette at 445-5479.

Community events include the Old-time Music Makers on Jan. 19, 8 p.m.; David Stanley Mixed Party, Jan. 20, 9 p.m.; Russell Raiders Pub Nite commencing 8 p.m., Jan. 26; Russell Bogie Benders Snowmobile rally has been moved up to Jan. 20, 12 p.m. The mixed party has been scrapped. The Russell Warriors are holding a dance Feb. 2 at 8 p.m. to raise money for the team. Support the Warriors!! The Stanley Wedding Reception is set for Feb. 3 at 8 p.m.

See you next month!!

### CDMHL Tournament

Tournament organizers have expressed complete satisfaction with the results of the third annual Carleton Dundas Minor Hockey League Tournament held at the Dr. F. Kinnaird Community Centre during the Christmas holiday period. The competition was keen and area fans turned out in huge numbers making it a financial success as well. The tournament fills the gap in scheduled games during the school break and brings together a large number of area people during the festive season. When the finals had been completed on Saturday the following teams emerged victorious:

Atom Champs - Chesterville; Consolation Winners - Gloucester-South; Pee Wee Champs - Gloucester-South; Consolation Winners - Canterbury; Bantam Champs - Russell; Consolation Winners - Nepean; Midget Champs - Canterbury; Consolation Winners - Metcalfe.

The breakdown of winning teams indicates a good balance between CDMHL teams and similar calibre entries from the Ottawa area.

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### Morewood RA news

By Val Hansen

The new RA members held their first meeting Dec. 12 to elect a new executive and initiate winter programs. The executive is as follows: Past President, Bill Smirle; President, Claude Cousineau; Vice-President, Val Hansen; Secretary, Sharon Donaldson; Treasurer, Paul Mayotte and Public Relations, Rita MacDonald.

A major part of the meeting was to discuss the Winter Carnival planned for Jan. 26-28.

### Warriors confident

Like any team in its first year of operation, the newly formed Russell Warrior intermediates are finding that the more experienced opposition are not too hospitable, even during the Christmas season. Despite losing a few games by close scores, the Warriors are still very much a contender. The recent acquisition of Peter Nooyen, who in only three games, has amassed nine points, should help the cause considerably. Heading into the last half of the schedule, the Russell boys feel confident that their play will show improvement, particularly in the goal scoring department. The team's top six scorers are as follows:

	GP	G	A	Pts.
Gaye Ford	8	7	8	15
Wayne Warnock	11	6	8	14
Don Honey	8	3	6	9
Peter Nooyen	3	4	5	9
Mike Miller	12	3	4	7
Pat Fleming	10	4	2	6

The next home game is Sunday, Jan. 14 at 3 p.m. when St. Albert is the visitor.

The Club reminds everyone that the Warriors will be playing at home Friday, Feb. 2 at 8 p.m. in place of the Raiders who will take over the Sunday afternoon slot on Feb. 4 when they entertain the high flying Osgoode Braves. The Warriors will also be holding a dance upstairs in the arena on the Friday evening.

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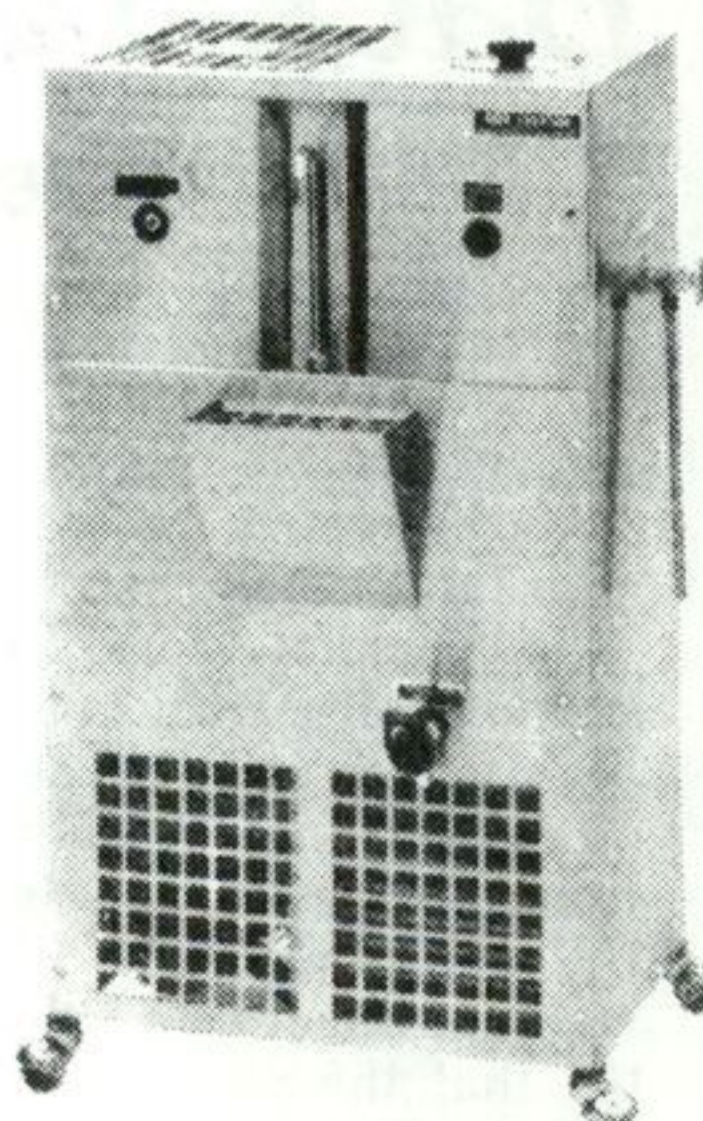
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