

# CarStory

with Bill Sherk  
The Old Car Detective



## Memories of a 1925 Star sedan

On December 29, 2006, I received an email from Barbara (Gale) Wallis: "Bill - I've enjoyed reading your car stories in the Kincardine News. My father, Hugh Gale, originally wrote his car story January 16, 1973. He is now 87 and has had Alzheimer's for about ten years. I was glad to find this hand-written story among his papers, so that some of his memories are preserved."

And a wonderful story it is.

"I spent three of the best years of my life (1935-37) driving my two brothers and four girls to high school in Listowel, Ont., in

a 1925 Star sedan (made by Durant Motors). Twenty-five miles a day in the most snow any car ever went through. That front axle was two inches higher than a Model T Ford's. We went through countless snow drifts wide open in second gear blinded by flying snow. At all other times we were wide open in high gear at 55 mph (no hills).

"The two-wheel brakes were next to useless on pavement but on icy roads they were always good for a spin-out with four screams from four girls every time. The only reason we didn't freeze to death was because we were well packed in. Check any Star

Model F sedan body size and imagine three boys in the front (with that short gearshift lever) and four girls in the back.

"That Star never let us down in three years. We limped home with a broken piston twice, had a frozen gas line once, a plugged air hole in the gasoline cap once (you should have heard the air whoosh in when I took off the cap to measure the gas with the stick) and got storm-stayed at a farm house once from Friday afternoon till Sunday evening.

"The four girls were paying guests at 25 cents per day (Depression days those were). The father of one of



the girls owned the hardware store/gas station and the Durant dealership from whom we bought the Star for \$80. It was about ten years old. My dad also had bought a new Durant Deluxe Sedan six-wheeler from him in 1931. For each day that the dealer's daughter rode to school, I collected one gallon of gasoline (25 cents per gallon) dispensed from an old style ten-gallon glass-tanked

hand pump. The usual five gallons just kept us going for the week.

"I sold the Star in 1938 to a friend for \$50. Imagine 20,000 miles for \$30 and not one tire replaced."

The 1923 Star sedan in the photo was restored by Hugh Gale at Inverhuron, Ont., in the 1980s and is similar to the car he drove over 70 years ago.

Do you have any photos of old cars to share with our

readers? Email [bill@carstory.com](mailto:bill@carstory.com) or write to Bill Sherk, P.O. Box 10012, Leamington, ON, N8H 2C3.

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## Atom AE Ram Contract Carriers

The Atom AE started their weekend with an exhibition game against Harrow. The Ravens played this team early in the season and knew that they were a strong team, so with no hesitation the Ravens came out playing very physical.

Harrow was able to score the first goal of the game but Gerard Busko answered right back with a feed from behind the net from Zack

Prentice and Tyler St. Pierre. Danielle Dent hustled to get the puck out of the Ravens' zone, passing it up to Gerard who gave it to Tyler who made no mistake and buried it in Harrow's net. Harrow came right back and scored on us again, ending the second period tied 2-2.

The defense worked hard to keep the puck out of their end. Carter Sherk was

moved up to forward for this game and he worked just as hard as always scoring the third goal with assists going to Luke Tremblay and Eric Rawlins.

Rod Summerfield played goal for the entire game and made some awesome saves, especially the final one. Rod was left alone with a Harrow player on a break-away at the end of the third and made no mistake to save the puck and keep the

score 3-2 for the Ravens.

Sunday night Tecumseh came to Essex for a playoff game. This was unfortunately one of Tecumseh's best games and just the opposite for the Ravens. Within the first five minutes Tecumseh was up by five goals. Alec Robillard scored the only Essex goal with assists to Zack and Tyler. Goaltending was shared by Kane Gagnon and Rod Summerfield, both working hard.



Windsor and Essex County Crime Stoppers, in partnership with the Windsor Spiffires Foundation, will be hosting a 'Chuck-A-Puck' fundraiser at the Windsor Arena on Thursday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m. when the Windsor Spiffires take on the Plymouth Whalers. L-r: Crime Stoppers Coordinator Tim Murphy, Spiffires Assistant Coach D.J. Smith, Spiffires Assistant Coach Mark Turner, Spiffires Owner/Head Coach Bob Boughner, Spiffires Owner/General Manager Warren Rychel, Captain Crime Stoppers, Crime Stoppers Coordinator Dave Ferris.

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**ESSEX MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**  
2007 Registration

**Late Registration at Essex Source for Sports. Late fee will be waived during the month of March.**

House League:	Travel:
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Rookie (2000-1998)	Mosquito (1997-1996)
Mosquito (1997-1996)	Pee Wee (1995-1994)
Pee Wee (1995-1993)	Bantam (1993-1992)
Bantam (1992-1990)	Midget (1991-1989)
Jr. Girls (1998-1996)	Junior (1988-1987)
Int. Girls (1995-1993)	
Sr. Girls (1992-1989)	

Registration fees may be claimed as a credit for 2007 income tax purposes for children under the age of 16.

Financial assistance is available to parents who are eligible to receive the National Child Benefit Supplement. Contact the town of Essex for details and please bring completed forms to registration if eligible.

House League coaches and assistants wanted. Late registration will be subject to availability and an additional fee of \$20 per player will apply.

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