

Player replies

Dear Jim,
In your editorial in The Tribune of Dec. 21 you raised a very valid question. "Why can't we get local players to come out and play Junior "C" hockey?" Yes indeed. Why will Gary Carr, Ted Waite, Larry Fockler, Mike Rehill and Jim Chilvers not play for the Stouffville Clippers? I can't speak for the above mentioned but maybe I can cast some light on the issue.

I, myself, have come up through the ranks of minor hockey in Stouffville, playing since I was five years old. When I was young, hockey was fun. Everyone played to the best of their ability and at that age it didn't matter who you knew, just whether your next game was against Schell Lumber or Aida Cleaners.

However, as time passed things changed quickly. For myself, everything came to a head during my second year of Midget hockey in 1979. A team from Sweden was slated to visit Stouffville and preparations began. We worked hard to make our foreign guests happy. Funny how we were never told until the Swedes arrived that we would not return to Sweden the following year. I wasn't quite sure why this was but was quite sure the situation would be remedied, especially after the Swedes requested that the same team return. The truth of the matter struck me later.

A couple of prominent people in the community had sons who were of age to play Midget hockey, but these boys were not on this Midget team. Therefore the second year players had to be bumped to make room for them. It didn't matter that these newcomers had never played Allstar "A" hockey before in their lives. What mattered was that they were the sons of Mayor Eldred King and WSMHA President John Hutchinson and had never been to Sweden before. Add to this another new-

comer to Allstar hockey, coach Gord Lewis's son, and we have a nice "family". For many, hockey became not what you were but who you were. It took the fun out of the game.

This may be referred to as an isolated incident and no reason for the droves of players turning away from Stouffville hockey. But is this type of incident all that isolated? I have, in the past, spent much time at the Stouffville arena. I see a lot of frustrated parents who are not quite sure what to do. Who you know tends to be the rule rather than the exception in minor hockey in Stouffville. By the time a lot of these young hockey players reach the Midget age level they are just so tired of it they eliminate the problem by quitting.

Maybe it's time for some new blood at the top of Minor hockey in Stouffville.

Sorry John!
Yours sincerely,
Robert Gierkink.

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The Orchard Park girls' volleyball team have every reason to look pleased with themselves. They are this year's Area 2 York County champions. Back row (l to r) Dave Young (coach), Kelly Watling, Monica Francis, Mary Sled, Lisa Zeck, Lisa Weatherill, Ron Robbins (coach). Front row (l to r) Jackie Chadwick, Jane Anderson, Joanne Burkholder, Tara Gibson, Kelly MacDonald, Melody Farr.

Club honors members

The Stouffville Figure Skating Club honored two former members at a small ceremony held at the Arena on Tuesday evening. The two skaters, Cindy Wilson and Peter Mellon, are to have their names inscribed on a plaque that will record the names of all skaters who have achieved their Gold level tests.

Cindy achieved her Gold Free-Style in 1979 and her Gold Dance in 1982; teaming up with Glen Buddingh for Pairs skating and representing the club at all levels of competition, right up to and including national level.

Peter has passed both his Gold Free-Style and Gold Figure Skating. He represented Stouffville at all levels of competition that included Senior Men's at the Canadian championships.

In holding the ceremony, the club, on behalf of the Town, acknowledges their fine efforts and wishes them all the best in the future.

AHL results

Congratulations to netminders Doug Rex-Graham of the Stouffville Travel Flyers and Keith Betz of Village Pool Rangers. Both tallied shutouts in AHL play over the weekend.

For Doug Rex-Graham this was a particularly significant event because it was the first shutout of his career.

Results are as follows:
May-Powell North Stars 6 - Village Pool Capitals 3
North Star goals: John Tardella, Barry Zeller 2, Randy Lee, D. Haraman, Joe Infurriari.

Capital goals: Henry Stevens, Ron Cain, Grant Larmer, Village Pool Rangers 3 - Smurthwaite Bruins 0
Ranger goals: D. Wilson, Doug Majors, Rich Hughes, Stouffville Travel Flyers 2 - Farquharson Penguins 0
Flyer goals: John Blair, T. Mahar, Canadian Tire Red Wings 5 - Betz Pool Nordiques 2
Red Wings goals: D. Harmon, Mike Jones 2, Wayne McMann, Steve Upton, Nordique goals: Bill Ormson, Eric Scaife.

New cross-country ski program now available

If you are concerned about regaining your trim waistline, or become your overindulgence during the holiday season, the Parks and Recreation committee have just released the following list of programs that will help you regain your former "glory", so that you can be in super condition for Spring.

ADULTS
YMCA FITNESS - At Latham Hall on Tuesday or Friday from 9:20 to 10:20 am. 10 lessons \$20, 20 lessons \$35. Starts Jan. 11. Contact 884-4811.

YMCA DANCERCISE - Tuesday at St. Mark's, Thursday at Latham Hall. Starts Jan. 11 from 8 to 9 pm. 10 weeks \$35, 20 weeks \$50. Contact 884-4811.

EXERCISE TO MUSIC - At Whitechurch-Highlands P.S. Tuesday and Thursdays 9 to 9:45 am. Cost \$1 a session to school funds (a bargain). Starts Jan 6. Contact Donna Noble at 888-1035.

SWIMMING - At Slater's Pool in Vondorf. Yvonne Catrall's swim school. Contact 773-3504.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI - Introductory program (indoor and outdoor instruction) commences on Sunday Jan. 9, at Latham Hall, 2 to 4 pm. Registration and refreshments. Cost \$5 for the lesson. The program based on registration will be as follows: Family Sunday 2 to 4 pm, or Adults on Thursday 9:30 to 11:30 am. Registration at introductory program as follows: For six lessons \$35, Family six lesson package \$70. Contact 640-3768.

SKI RAMBLE - Sunday Jan. 30 at 1 pm. Cross-country skiing and refreshments at the library. This is the library's third annual ski event. Always interesting, if only to listen to Sheila McCleod's beautiful Scots accent ringing through the air as she rounds up the stragglers.

For further information regarding programs please contact the Recreation Director (Lizette Lacoursier) at 640-3768.

sports

Convincing wins by Spartan teams

In tournament play at Stouffville High School on Thursday afternoon both Junior and Senior boys' basketball teams tallied convincing wins against Newmarket. Unfortunately, the Midget squad were unable to come to grips with their visitors and took a real hammering, going down 95-25; team captain Wayne Cheng getting 12 of the Spartan points.

In Junior play the Spartan squad waltzed to an easy 56-26 victory, points being evenly spread between Doug Sharp (19) and David Elliot (18) while Chris Brown put in a fine effort to tally ten.

The senior game win was convincing as the recent Gravenhurst tournament winners are just about peaking their form. According to coach Dave Connell "The team's offensive and defensive play has been good since the Gravenhurst tournament. We look for a continuation of this fine play in the New Year.

The 52-32 senior win saw maximum effort and points from Ross Dube (19) and Steve Rendall (13).

In my opinion

By Jim Holt
Sports Editor



It would seem that I am going to be receiving a large number of letters from those with a grievance against the current system of ice allocation. Providing they are not too long-winded and stick to the point they are welcome. But please, no unsigned letters.

This week I have a letter from an ex-Clipper, defenceman Bob Gierkink. Obviously, Bob has been nursing a festering wound of injustice for a number of years and sees the chance, at last, to let fly at the "system".

Letting one's hair down is sometimes good for everybody, especially in a small community such as ours. Providing everyone takes the criticism without rancour and writes with a forthright and without malice - though I doubt there are too many people with such broad parameters of understanding, human nature being what it is - then nothing but good can come from soul-searching and an exchange of ideas. However, please don't phone me at home at 10:30 at night like one gentleman did, telling me we don't need a sports complex.

My query regarding the whereabouts of monies collected for the construction of a new complex brought forth an interesting phone call from Al Blackburn, the Town Treasurer. The money, collected back in 71-72 (about \$600), is sitting in an account administered by the Town. However, from what I gather from Al, it has not been collected too much interest because it is in a general account. Which brings up a further question. Why?

Continuing the never ending search for "the truth" in hockey rules and regulations. Did you know that next season there will be over 80 changes made in the OMHA rules book; at least so I'm told by local referee Brian Moffatt. Any man who has a record of six holes-in-one in his golf career must know what he's talking about.

Brian, who is a rated 2-2 hockey referee, will write a weekly column called Referee's Corner that will appear weekly in The Tribune. It will act as a forum for pertinent questions and answers regarding the sometimes rather complex interpretation of the rules. Helping him will be two other well known residents. Doug Rex-Graham, and Dave Bourne who lives at Ballantrae.

The column will be of considerable help to many who are a little hazy in their understanding of the rules. Also, it will be able to throw a little light on the referee's point of view; which no one ever seems to agree with, anyway.

CKVR visit

A night of entertainment is guaranteed for Friday Jan. 7 when both Stouffville Oldtimer teams take to the arena ice.

Opening the program will be a game between the Oldtimer Clippers and Scarborough Oldtimers, starting at 7 pm, followed by a couple of hours of hockey hilarity between The Classics Oldtimers and a visiting No-Stars team from CKVR.

The No-Stars have built up quite a reputation for doing the unexpected, so come along and be surprised by these talented players. The kids will love 'em.

Tickets are available from Giles Chev-Olds or at the door. Price \$2. Children Free.



The girls of SDSS set a sizzling pace at the York County grade 9 basketball tournament, held at Aurora High School earlier this month. They were undefeated in the seven game round robin, taking the championship title with a bare 2 point margin in all games. Back row (l to r) Heather Cameron, Lucy Elliot, Susan Murphy, Lisa Fockler, Becca Ness, Joanne Brunke. Front row (l to r) Cathy Graham, Lanny McWilliams, Lindsey Baston, Kim McConnell, Susan Bibby, Debbie Gold.

Silver Stick Tournament Peewees go down

Having won their first two games in the Keswick Silver Stick tournament, the Credit Union Peewees could not maintain their previous pressure and suffered three successive losses to eliminate them from further play. However, Coach Grant Nesbitt praised the boys for their determination and spoke highly of their fine effort against Major teams that were, physically, much bigger.

In their group round-robin final game on Monday, Flamboro were the 4-2 victors. Markers came from Kirk Smythe (from Mike Ferguson and Aaron McWilliams), and a fine unassisted effort from Darron Baston. This left Stouffville in second place in their division, putting them against Woodbridge who were the division two leaders in the semi-final.

Stouffville paid the price when they went after the puck and were outmuscled by their opponents. Goals came from Danny Larmer, Kevin Francis and Kent Smythe, with assists to Ferguson, Kent Smythe, Craig Stronach and Brad Tiley.

Having been defeated by Uxbridge in the championship semi-final, Flamboro again found themselves up against the Stouffville squad. The result was the same; a 4-2 win for Flamboro and a trophy to take home. Goals came from Kent Smythe (unassisted) and Doug Larmer from Brad Tiley.

Woodbridge defeated Uxbridge for the championship title.

Girls win tournament

When it comes to basketball, Stouffville's high school grade 9 girls proved conclusively that not only are they one of the prettiest teams in area 2, but also one of the most talented. On December 2 they travelled to Aurora High and took top tournament honors after winning no less than seven straight games; Sutton, Huron Heights, Newmarket, Sacred Heart, G.W. Williams, King and Aurora all went down to the Spartan hotshots in the round-robin competition.

The team is coached by two grade 12 students, Gwen Hewitt and Laura Wightman. Congratulations girls.

Silver Stick tournament

Latest news from Midget coach Bill Hutchinson is that the team has salted away their opening game at the Silver Sticks tournament being held at Midland during the Christmas week.

The 9-2 opening win against Bolton saw Chris Brown fire a five goal tally on four assists from John Hutchinson, while singles went to Kenny Burrows, Lee Brown, Mike Anderson and Brent Brown. Wayne Stevens put in a fine performance between the pipes and earned praise from Hutchinson for his very steady unflinching performance.

Hope springs eternal for the Midgets as they face Bowmanville in their second game today (Wednesday). Bowmanville disposed of Bolton 4-2 and, although they were solid in their performance, were not, at least according to what coach Hutchinson saw, as formidable as he expected. "If we can beat Bowmanville, then we have a great chance of getting into the final," he said.

The other tough obstacle will be Aurora, providing, of course, that Stouffville beat Bowmanville. Aurora is fielding a very impressive "A" team and will take a lot of beating.

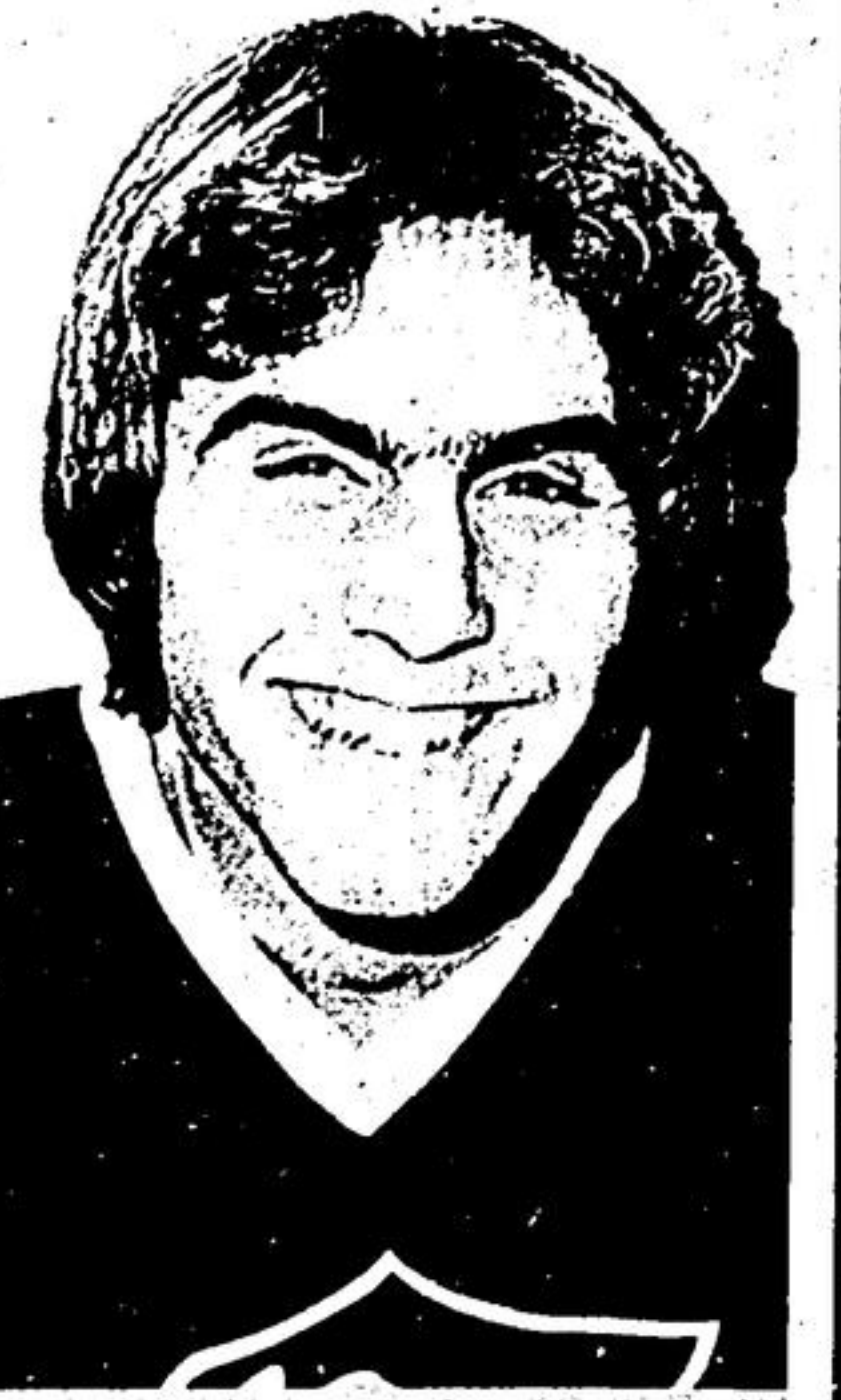
The tournament continues through until January 7.

Midget profile

This week's player, Murray Pattenden, is a good all-rounder and the team's leading scorer in the defence line. An all-star player of four years standing, Murray has played on Peewee and Bantam "B" allstar, also Bantam and Midget "A" allstar teams. He has been playing hockey since the age of 12.

Murray has a reputation for being a player that gives 100% on the ice. Intense and competitive, but clean; he takes few penalties, the Midget defenceman is at his best when sending in a devastating shot from the point, at which he excels.

A grade 11 student at SDSS, Murray also finds time for baseball, basketball, rugger, and weightlifting, along with an interest in woodworking and, like most young men, just loves parties.



Murray Pattenden
Height 5'10"
Weight 160 lbs