

CHAPTERS

SHARING THE MEMORIES
OF THE PEOPLE OF ELMVALE AND AREA



The Sports Stories

Compiled by George Allen

George E. Allen
177 Ritchie Crescent
Elmvale, Ontario, L0L 1P0
1-705-322-2076

Email
george.allen@sympatico.ca

Web site
<http://www3.sympatico.ca/george.allen>



George is a retired teacher who developed a love for the people of this community during his tenure at Huronia Centennial Elementary School, 1968 – 1980.

Chapters 2003 – “The Sports Stories” - This is a compilation of sports stories, some from previous books and some entirely new. It is a celebration of team triumphs, a salute to some outstanding individuals and a chance to meet some of the people who worked behind the scenes to provide opportunities for children and adults. *Final book in the series – still available*

Chapters 2002 – Is the fourth book in the series dedicated to “Sharing the Memories” of the Elmvale area. It is a peek into the past, a chance to compare present day achievements with those who fulfilled their dreams in days gone by. *Still available from George.*

Chapters - 2001 is the third book of stories about the communities that make up the Elmvale area. *Still available from George.*

Chapters – Year 2000 Edition (yellow) - *Will not be reprinted - a few left*

Chapters – Year 2000 Edition (yellow) - *Will not be reprinted – a few left*

Half a Bubble Off Plumb (new in 2002) - This is a book of humorous verse. Some poems tell personal experiences and some are just nonsense. There are lyrics of songs that were created to celebrate some of Elmvale’s major events.

George has made his own contribution to sports in Elmvale. He coached, trained, managed, and held executive positions with Elmvale Minor Hockey for over 20 years, winning numerous tournaments and coaching two OMHA championship teams. He organized and coached minor ball for a dozen years. Recently he has been actively involved with the organization of senior curling. At school he was coaching volleyball, basketball, softball, as well as track and field

George helped with fund raising for the reconstruction of the arena after the 1975 fire, and co-chaired the fund-raising committee that raised the money for the \$2 million dollar 1994 retrofit.

This book is a tribute to all those who left their mark in sports in Elmvale. It will serve as a rather imperfect “Sports Hall of Fame” until it is replaced by the ‘real thing’.

Street Hockey

Street hockey has been the chosen sport of those who are young of heart,
And young kids have found the basement to be a very good place to start.

Those who begin while still in diapers are often not that good with aim,
But developing a good swing and carry through has always been basic to this game.
Those who survive the basement chaos can then join older kids on the street.
Being those few years younger leads to sharper eyes and nimbler feet.
It doesn't really matter if your stick inflicts a bruise or two,
Your opponents may just learn to leave a wider path for you.

When a child gets out of 'pull-ups', he'll find there are neighbour kids to meet,
And those who are worth their weight in tennis balls will be playing hockey on the street.
Now when you join this rather distinguished group, it's your duty to share the load;
There are times when the net just must be moved off the centre of the road.
Vehicular traffic seldom intimidates true patrons of this game
Because what driver would challenge someone who has added 'Gretzky' to his name?

Gathering equipment was quite a challenge back when I was just a lad,
So splicing sticks from the local arena became a necessary winter fad.
Goal posts were often winter boots, or perhaps, some fireplace logs,
And shin pads for the goalies were shaped from Eaton's catalogues.
The goalie didn't wear a jock strap, just whispered petitions to Him above,
And developed fast and accurate moves with goal stick and baseball glove.
There was no need for an umpire; we had a system that still works.
The older boys made and enforced the rules for the rest of us little jerks.

I watched 'Shakey' grow up in the back lane with hockey stick and puck.
His later ability to find the 'open' net had very little to do with luck.
When I coached him as a juvenile, and there were goals we just had to get,
Our strategy was to get the puck to Shakey within fifteen feet of the net.

When I reminisce about street hockey, one image still comes to the fore,
A night game, with nets on Queen Street, right in front of the 'Retail Store'.
A major storm had closed the highway, and now with all the traffic gone,
Tim and Tom recognized a natural hockey rink that a whole gang could play upon.
It wasn't long before the street was packed with adolescents and young men,
And a game that started in early evening was still going at well past ten.

At a time when some old grumbler challenged all kids right to share the street,
A judge, perhaps with memories of his street hockey days, sent the case down to defeat.
Perhaps the judge just asked himself, "Who will enforce this senseless rule?
Tampering with this popular pastime would just brand me as a fool."
So our national obsession is still alive and well, and it's located on the street.
Where it does its part to reshaped the sagging bodies and develop quicker feet.

A Look at the Roots of Sports in Elmvale

Author Unknown – Date of publication unknown – Lance Article

Lacrosse

Lacrosse was perhaps the most popular game in the late 1800's and early 1900's in the community. The local club was named the Elmvale Thistles, and the team played its first match September 5, 1894. Its executive was: president, P. Gorry; honorary president, Dalton McCarthy; vice president, C. White; second vice, W. A. Sneath; and secretary-treasurer, R. Ritchie.

The captain was J. Callaghan, who worked with a management committee of S. Waffle, A. H. Nixon and J. Kenney.

In 1907, Elmvale Thistles became part of a league including Midland, Penetang and Coldwater.

The same year, the local club arranged a Victoria Day program of athletic sports held in the Agricultural Park.

The Elmvale club challenged Stayner and won 7-3.

The program also included races and jumps. W. B. Middleton won the fat man's race. Admission was 25 cents for men and 15 cents for ladies and children.

Curling

Curling was started in Elmvale in 1886 by John Ritchie and Richard Graham. The first rink was indoors, built on the site of the present McDermott block. At that time the owner was Noah Grose who also owned the hotel next door.

It was the custom to have skating and curling on alternate evenings because of the increasing number of skaters in the community.

The first curling blocks used in Elmvale were made from beech wood about one cubic foot in volume and were turned in Wm. Vansickle's shop by J. Walton. They were cheese-shaped and weighed about 20 pounds. Handles were iron.

Some of the older members who curled in the first rink were: John Ritchie, Jock Ritchie, Richard Graham, Chris Grose, Bee Wilson and Jack Henry. There were 20 to 30 members. The rink burned down in 1893.

Football

In the late 1800's, Elmvale had a football team known as the Rangers. In 1902, the following executive was formed: Honorary president, W. C. Walls - President, Wm. Andrews - Secretary-treasurer, Geo. Clark - captain and curator, Angus Irwin.

In 1904, the local team was invited to Hillsdale and won 1-0. The same year, the Rangers were invited to play the Langman team at the Knox Church Garden Party held at the Sunny Brae Farm of Mr. J. Hunter on Flos, Con. 8. Elmvale lost 1-0.

Hockey

In 1901, a hockey team known as The Elms was formed.

In 1903, the Midland Jr. OHA hockey team came to play The Elms, and they couldn't wait to get out of the sleigh to say how bad a beating they were going to give the host team.

The Elms were a little shy and were occasionally beaten away from home, but on home ice they didn't do anything but play the game.

The Elmvale fans urged on The Elms by making as much noise as half a dozen fife and drum bands in a July 1 celebration.

At the end of regular time the score was 4-3 for The Elms who offered to play on so the Midlanders might at least tie the score, but the visitors had enough.

A 1923 team line-up consisted of Andy Beardsall in goal, Fred Ritchie and Dr. Tyrer as defence, Jack Wilson, Reg Cooper and Harold Lawson as forwards, and French and Simpson as subs.

In the late Twenties, special trains were run from Elmvale to Collingwood and Barrie so the fans could see the best games in the region.

At the same time, Elmvale had a younger team called The Night Owls.

In 1913 the girls had a hockey team. Men acted as their goalies.

The line-up of the girl's team in 1923 was: goal, Lily French - defence, Donald Davidson and Marietta Draper - forwards, Edna Simpson, Margaret Kerr and Bernice Hayes. Subs were Muriel Donnelly and Sadie Bell.

Elmvale Beats the Barrie Athletics - 1900 Season

Last Wednesday night the unvanquished Elmvale hockey team came down to play the Barrie Athletics, and returned home still unconquered. The few spectators had the pleasure of witnessing a splendid exhibition of shinny and general rough play in the glory of which both teams participated.

At times the visitors showed some slight knowledge of combination, but the Athletics, apparently, hadn't heard of such a thing.

The ice in several places was covered with water. This, however, before the game was finished, had been transferred from the ice to the clothes of the players.

Jas. Craig acted as referee. He evidently thought that the fun was too good to stop, and only rang his bell occasionally to show that he was still on the ice. Had he run the game according to the rules, most of the players would have decorated the fence the greater part of the game.

Elmvale had the best of the game, and managed to score three while the Athletics put in two. ...

Elmvale -Goal, Ellis; point, Kenny; cover point, Nixon; forwards, McEachren, Greig, Kennedy and Ritchie. *Examiner*

Baseball

Baseball became popular in Elmvale in the 1920's and 1930's. The three churches each boasted a ball team.

On August 19, 1931, 18 teams from Cookstown, Waverley, Camp Borden, Wasaga Beach, Coldwater, Allandale, Moonstone, Penetang, Hillsdale and Rama came to Elmvale for a special sports day.

Girls teams came from Clarksburg and Edenvale.

Darkness called a halt to the championship game of the day, so the two teams shared the prize money. During the day, E. Crawford of Minesing caught the greased pig. Horse-shoe pitching between Elmvale, Waverley, Medonte Township and Minesing was hotly contested.

The Rama Indian Band entertained by playing lively airs during the afternoon. Ted Kid's Sod Busters played music in the evening for square dancing while Len Martin's Mid-night Ramblers played for round dancing.

In 1936, the Elmvale team was the Georgian Bay Rural Softball Champions. Players included: Ed Campbell as pitcher, George Bell as catcher, Wm. Cambell on first, Bob Bell on second and Tim Bate on third. Dr. Milligan played shortstop, with Elwood Dutcher, Norm Durnan and Claire Dutcher in the outfield.

When the winning trophy was turned over to the jeweler for inscribing, it somehow got lost and was never recovered.

Lawn Bowling

In 1930, Dr. L. Tyer provided lot 18 on Peter Street for a bowling green. L. Pearson and M. Thompson were hired to truck in topsoil to cover the lot to a depth of six inches.

By the time the area was half-covered, the bank manager and treasurer of the bowler's account called a halt to the work as funds had been depleted. Later in the autumn the work was finished and the lot seeded.

In 1931 the green was ready, and bowling teams were organized.

Some of the members were: Mr. And Mrs. R. A. Cooper, Dr. and Mrs. D. Harvie, Mr. and Mrs. S. Tipping, Mr. And Mrs. M Black, Mr. And Mrs. W. T. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. E. Dutcher, Dr. and Mrs. L. Tyer and Mr. And Mrs. R. Hunter.

Tennis

In the early 1900's, a few tennis courts were constructed in the village on vacant lots. These courts cost very little and provided a place for the young villagers to try their skills at the game.

By the 1930's, the courts had disappeared. Perhaps the lots were required for houses.

Curling

The Game Without Referees



The Early Days of Curling in Elmvale

Based on an article by Jean Walton and Margaret Bate

Written while attending Elmvale Continuation School

John Ritchie and Richard Graham are the pioneers that are given credit for starting curling in Elmvale. In 1886 an indoor rink was constructed on the side of the McDermott block. Noah Grose, who owned the hotel, also owned the curling rink. Curling had to make way for skaters, often on the same evening. Skating was becoming a popular sport at the time.

J. Walton crafted the curling blocks in a woodworking shop owned by William Van Sickle. They were made from beechwood with handles of iron, attached in much the same way as the handles are today. The wooden blocks were more durable than the granite rocks of that day because the granite rocks broke rather easily.

“The type of game played was what is known to curling fans as a draw game. The rings for this game were made the same way as in present times. A stick with a nail in each end was placed on the ice, one end was then rotated, and a circle was made on the ice.”

The flooding after a night's skating, in preparation for curling, was done with equipment much different than that used today. A barrel was placed on a sleigh with a small pipe extending from it. This pipe allowed a steady stream of water to pass from the barrel to the ice.

Bonspiels attracted teams from Barrie, Penetang, Midland and surrounding areas. The twenty to thirty Elmvale curlers must have been good hosts because there was never any trouble attracting outside teams to the village. Five of the more prominent names associated with the first rink and host curling teams were John Ritchie, Richard Graham, Chris Grose, Bev Wilson and Jack Henry.

Curling in Elmvale fell on hard times for several years when, in 1893, the rink burned down. Then John Houden built a new rink, and curling got a new life. This rink served such noted curlers as James Hill, Henry Mason, Walter Rowley, Lionel Player Sr. and A. T. Cooper. George Cooper was a charter member of this club. It may be that this building was located across from the fair grounds, and by the 1920's skating was so popular that the curlers were looking for a new home.

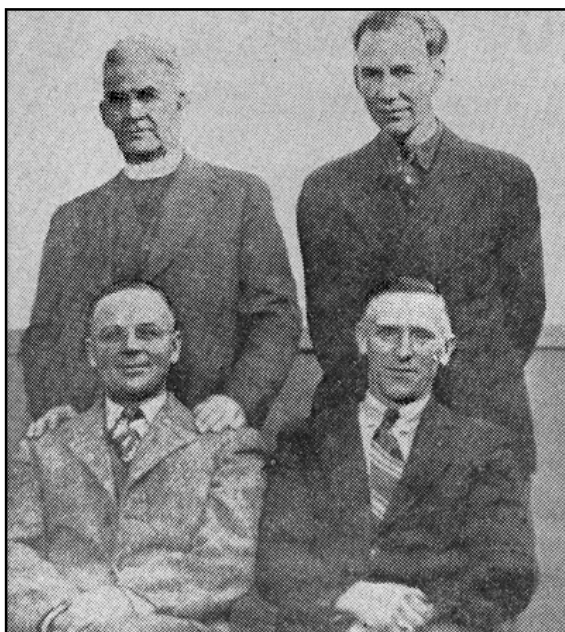
The next article, written by Bill Campbell, would suggest that curling moved to the agricultural building in the fair grounds in 1920. This building would accommodate three sheets of ice and had more room to host visiting teams.

Curling in the 40's

Materials supplied by George Sibbald

Executive Officers – 1946

From the Annual Bonspiel Guide – Elmvale hosted this spiel (and 1945) at the Midland Curling Club and Ontario Hospital Club of Penetanguishene



Seated – F. G. Ritchie, president – Arlie Sibbald, vice-president – Standing, Rev. W. C. Stubbs, secretary-treasurer – W. G. Christie, past president

Ramblings

By Bill Campbell (Headings by G. Allen)

To better acquaint you with the Elmvale Curling Club, past and present, these few remarks are presented.

Description of the Elmvale Club and Location

Three sheets of natural ice, altho' usually unnatural, makes possible the training and development of an Elmvale Curler. After years of practice, instruction, and keen observation of the runs, the falls, the bends, the ridges, the high spots, the low spots, the falling against the turn (and very seldom with the turn), a careful student of the game may then venture forth on foreign ice, and after a few more years of competition, hope to win a game. Our one consolation is, that no tricky sheet of ice in a strange rink, holds any fear for an Elmvale curler. Until about 1920, only two sheets were available, but at that time, thro' the co-operation of the Elmvale fair Board, who own the building in which we curl, space was made available for the third sheet. Thus more curlers could be accommodated, and the membership has gradually grown, until today we have 85 members registered and active, and five honorary members.

When was the Club Formed?

The actual date of the formation of the Elmvale Curling Club is unknown, but records of competitions with the Bradford Curling Club date back to 1885. ..

Competitions

The following trophies are competed for yearly by the members of the Club: = The McCarthy Cup, donated by the late Dalton McCarthy, K.C., M.P., for Simcoe North; the Boys' Trophy, donated by Mr. J. R. Boys K.C., of Barrie, in 1928; the Tradesmen's Trophy, constructed, rather than donated, by Campbell's Hardware of Elmvale; and the

Consolation Trophy, a mug, more noted for its suggestiveness than its silver content, yet highly prized by those into whose custody it falls. One of the most pleasant and keenly contested events of the winter is the President vs Vice-president competitions, the result of which determines the group responsible for the banquet at the annual meeting held at the close of the curling season. Trophy competitions are held five nights each week, with two games, or double headers, being played nightly by each team. Wednesday afternoons and evenings are kept open for Club spiels, or for the entertainment of visiting curlers. In addition to the above, the Elmvale Creamery Trophy is competed for annually.

A Peek into the Future

And now, a little peek into the future. Within a few years, may I suggest 1950, we hope to extend to you an invitation to be our guests at the opening bonspiel in our new quarters, the Elmvale Curling Club, complete with artificial ice, comfortable sitting room, with a clear view of four beautiful sheets of the keenest, truest ice imaginable, locker room facilities, and all those little extras which are found only in such premises, and without which no curling club would be considered complete. Is this just a dream? I'll say not. Plans are already being laid. The refrigeration equipment is already available. Would you care to file your entry now? I'll accept a cheque. See you downstairs after the first round on that grand opening day.

Executive Officers 1946

Immediate Past President	W. Graham Christie
President	Fred G. Ritchie
Vice-president	Arlie Sibbald
Secretary-treasurer	Rev. W. C. Stubbs
Auditors	S. A. Tipping, C. E. Dutcher
Bonspiel Committee	Sam Kimberly, Andrew G. Beardsall W. S. Campbell
Games Committee	S. A. Tipping, C. E. Dutcher, R. A. Cooper
Entertainment Committee	E. W. Campbell, Dr. Harvie, A. C. McAuley, G. Mills
Membership Committee	A. G. Beardsall, Arlie Sibbald, H. N. Player, W. H. Copeland, E. W. Campbell
Souvenir Booklet Committee	R. A. Cooper, W. S. Campbell, R. F. Burton, W. G. Christie
Umpire	F. G. Ritchie
Honorary Members	J. H. Simpson, S. E. Campbell, J. T. Foster W. Rowley



Goodyear Cup Winners – 1945 – Bonspiel held at Midland

W. S. Campbell, skip – F. G. Ritchie, vice – R. A. Cooper, Second – W. G. Christie, lead

**Boys' Trophy
Winners**

Club Competition 1945

L to R

Pat Burton – second

L. Manning – vice

John Kirton – lead

S. A. Tipping – skip





**Elmvale Creamery
Trophy Winners**
Club Bonspiel – 1945

L to R

G. Mills – lead

John Lambie – second

Harry Rowley – vice

F. G. Ritchie – skip

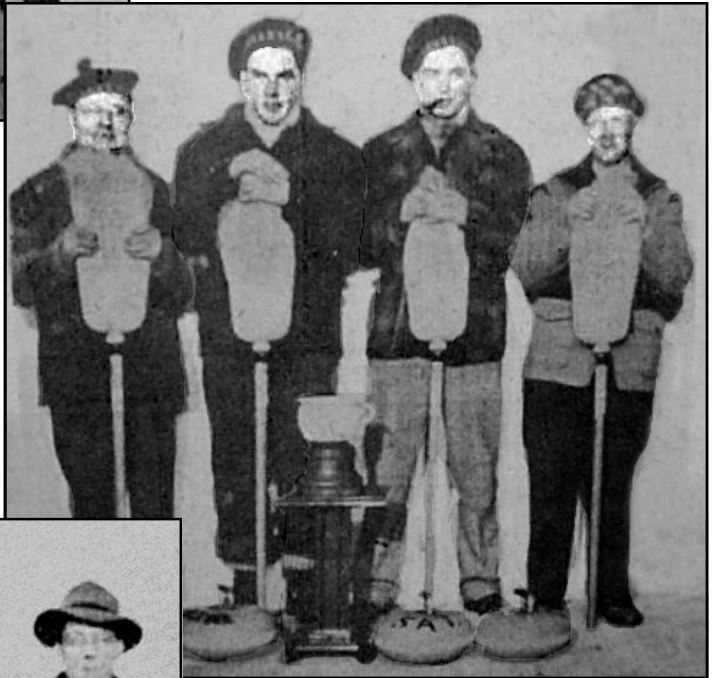
Consolation Trophy Winners
Club Bonspiel – 1945

H. N. Player – vice

Jas. Lambie – lead

Harry Rowley – second

Arlie Sibbald – skip



McCarthy Trophy Winner

Club Competition – 1945

Wm. Bell – lead

E. W. Campbell – vice

R. A. Cooper – skip

W. W. Ellis – second



District Group Winners – 1946 – Elmvale Curling Club

Back – L to R – F. G. Ritchie, W. W. Ellis, W. T. Bate, Montie Ritchie, Wm. Bell, H. N. Player
Front – Cliff Bate, Arlie Sibbald

Something New at the Local Club – by W. S. Campbell
From the 1947 souvenir guide for the bonspiel held at Midland

Something new to bonspiels of this district is being tried by the Elmvale Club on this occasion. Mr. Ted Carpenter of our local Club will be present throughout the day with his moving picture camera, and highlights of the competitions and social activity will be recorded for posterity. These will be shown publicly at the annual banquet of the Elmvale Curlers at the close of the season.

Bonspiels all over the province are being flooded with entries, and on almost every occasion there are disappointments to some curlers. This is typical of the spiels sponsored by the Elmvale Club. While it is a healthy sign for the game of curling, we in Elmvale are sorry that some entries had to be returned. We really appreciate the great interest in our spiel, and the grand response from our friends in neighboring clubs.



Curling Yesterday

by Willie Draw - Lance

Looking back a few years as a curler, one can dream of the old days in Elmvale. The old rink in the east corner of the fair grounds housed three sheets of the best crooked ice in the country.

The entrance off Peter Street was a narrow passage to the clubhouse. This passage was a woodshed, and as members passed in for the games, they picked up a block of wood for the barrel stove. A warm fire, hard benches served to satisfy the curlers as they sat around making plans for a continuous schedule on natural ice.

A thaw and they were out of business.

One curler, away back, interested me in curling. Arlie Sibbald loved the game. He was very close to the game, since he made the ice. That was a chore, a barrel on a sleigh flooding with pails, and fighting weather conditions.

Arlie got around to the bonspiels, and he played in Tankard and District Cup Double Rink Association playdowns in Toronto.

Arlie's big dreams were the Hamilton Bonspiels. Meet him today and his face will light as those hamilton trips come back. Bill Tubman, Wimpy Manning, Jim Lambie and George Graham were some of his boys.

Arlie would light up the pipe and give you stories of the Elmvale Curling Club any hour, day or night. His last words were, "Curling is a great game of study."

In 1946 Arlie Sibbald became vice-president of the Elmvale Curling Club and went on to become president in 1947.

Early Days of Curling in Elmvale



Royal Caledonian Curling Club Jubilee

1838 – 1888

Won by

Elmvale Curling Club

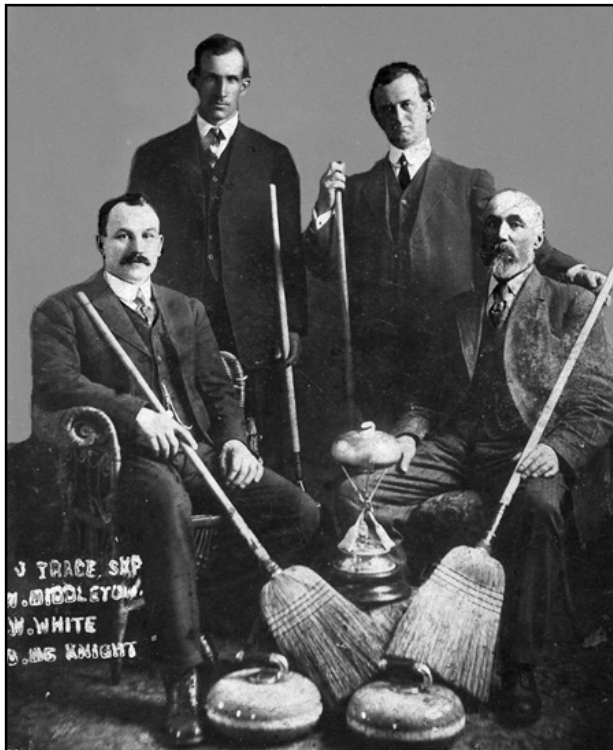
Vs

Bradford Curling Club

The above medal was a possession of one of our former most ardent and enthusiastic curlers, the late Mr. A. C. Bishop. The message to the right of the medals was engraved on the back. It indicates a curling team in Elmvale as early as 1888.

The Medal story comes from the 1947 Program - *supplied by George Sibbald*

It is with a great deal of regret that we are unable to assemble complete records of the early days of the Elmvale Curling Club. The members of the team which won the above beautiful medal, the incidents surrounding the competition, and other items would make very interesting reading today. We have already contacted the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland for information, but their reply has not been received at time of writing. The Bradford Club was unable to enlighten us. Through time, we hope to be able to reproduce on these pages many interesting items concerning the early days of curling in Elmvale.



Curling Pioneers

Back Row – L – Walter Middleton (Audrey Guthrie's father)

Back Right – George McKnight (father of Lloyd)

J Trace operated the feed store where the Golden City Restaurant is located – brother of W.A.



Congratulations! *(from the Banquet Program)*

The Elmvale Board of Trade wishes to extend hearty congratulations to the members of the two local curling teams who won top honours at the Canada Steamship Lines Bonspiel at Midland. Winning both first and second events in a competition against sixty-four rinks, representing a number of the top ranked clubs in Ontario, is certainly a great achievement, and we feel that the winners not only brought much credit to themselves but also to the village of Elmvale which they represented.

Canada Steamship Lines Trophy

Erne Flotron - skip
 Dick Columbus - vice
 Max Steele - second
 George Pearson - Lead

Captain Burke Trophy

Tim Bate - skip
 Lorne Manning - vice
 Win Ellis - second
 Phon Sibbald - lead



The Steele Trophy Winners – 1971 – *More of the curling Sibbalds*
George Sibbald – John Ferguson - Mike Jacobs – Wendell Downey

The Elmvale Curling Club finished the season in style Tuesday, with George Sibbald and trio winning the Steele Trophy on a dramatic last shot to defeat Lou Turner for the top prize.

With the score tied 12-12 going into the 10th end, Turner chipped his own rock from the eight foot ring to the four-foot section for shot stone. Not to be denied, George Sibbald came back with his last stone to make a three-stone shot unto the Turner rock and win the game. ...

Steele Rink had Impressive Record in Oshawa

Lou Turner (Skip) - Peter Steele, Max Steele Sr., and Max Steele Jr. visited Oshawa often and came away with their share of prizes.

1967 – Won Oshawa Times Trophy for the Third Event – Prizes: luggage

1968 – Won Oshawa Times trophy for the Third Event – Prizes: watches

1969 – Flittings Ltd. Trophy – winner of the Second Event – Prizes: top coats

1970 – Finalists in the Second Event – Prizes: Ronson Cookers

1971 – Finalist in the Final Event for the R. S. McLaughlin Trophy – electric saws



The Challenge of Playing in the British Consols' Competition
 (L to R) - Bill Campbell, Tim Bate, Reg Cooper, Bill Tubman, George Pearson,
 Dick Columbus, Ernie Flotron, Fred Ritchie



Teams from Elm-
 vale have always gone
 out to other clubs to test
 their skills and meet new
 friends.

Harve Graham
 Cec Tinney
 Lou Turner
 Homer Barrett

* Homer was dominant in
 hockey and curling, but
 he could play with the
 best in any sport.



The Heart of the Elmvale Curling Club

Gerald Stone, Dick Columbus, Max Steele, Bill Tubman, Bill Campbell, Charles Columbus

From a Conversation with Dick Columbus – “Curling in His Day”

Dick started curling after the war, about 1947, when teams played in the old Agricultural building at the fair grounds. The games were played on natural ice and the ice makers had a hard time keeping the ice true. Sometimes it was necessary for the skip to hold his broom on the next ice in order for the rock being delivered to have a chance to end up in the rings. In spring the brooms often set up a plume of water as the ice melted during a bonspiel.

Ernie Flotron made up a team to compete with other towns. He skipped the team, Dick Columbus was vice, Max Steele was second and George Pearson was lead. They often competed in the Toronto Granite Club. As well, Oshawa, Midland, Penetang, and dozens of other places were visited.

In competitive curling, leading to an Ontario Championship, there were two teams entered and games were of 16 ends, two games played in one day. Dick remembers having lost by one point in the finals to Kingston. These marathon games were not only tests of curling skills but physical fitness and endurance.

Ladies Curling Comes Back to Life in 1956 – Reunion in 1975



*Picture taken Apr. 5, 1975, provided to Chapters by Marlene Tinney – **Charter Members of the Elmvale Ladies' Curling Club** – (L to R) - Vera Fiegehen, Jessie harvie, Helen Campbell, Bertha Cooper, Marlene Tinney, Marion Baker, Helen Miller, Madeline Ritchie, and Jean Campbell. (Absent from picture) Anne Sparling, Thelma Columbus, Reta Steele, Gertrude Hannah, Naomi Cotton, and Mary Houden who passed away on March 31st 1975. Joyce Smith, the first president, was not present because of a storm.*



*Picture taken Apr. 5, 1975, provided to Chapters by Marlene Tinney – **Past Presidents** – (L to R) Marelene Tinney, Joan Rowat, Doreen Turner, Marion Baker, Evelyn McMann, Madeline Ritchie, Margaret Neals, Carole Frankcom, Helen Campbell. Absent – Joyce Smith, Gertrude Hannah, Betty Myers, and Shirley Crane.*

Competitive Curling for Prizes – Even a Horse



Max Steele fell in love with this horse that was being offered as first prize at a curling bonspiel in a suburban Toronto club. He knew that the women's club in Elmvale had competitors that could take the ice against any team. So he offered to sponsor an Elmvale team to win the horse for him.

The team below played through 4-5 rounds before ending up in the finals. The game

was so close that a measure was required to determine the winner. Marlene recalls the disappointment of not being able to win the horse for Max. She said, "We got the darn red jackets." See the picture below to check out the 'second prize'.



(L to R) - Marlene Tinney, vice; Gladys Hall, lead; Joan Rowat, second, and Madeline Ritchie, skip

The “Curling Steele s” - Represented Elmvale



Peter Steele, Lou Turner, Max Steele Jr., Bonspiel Chairman, Max Steele Sr. (seated)

Members Who have Helped Keep Elmvale Curling Club Alive *by Max Steele Sr.*

Max's verses, from the 10th Annual Bonspiel calendar, gives of view of the club members.

Dr. Harvie is always keen, sharp as a tack,
Chauffered the boys to Utica in his new
Cadillac.

Graham won the silk scares with highest plus,
Prizes nothing new for George, why all the
fuss!

Houden drops in at our spiel, the games to see,
Boys, drop in on Jack, hel'll be watching T.V.

Bert Rowley played when just a lad,
On the Rowley rink with his weel-known Dad.

The tales told by our aging Ed
Can't be proven, Cambell's opponents are all
dead.

Skip Brown plays every end with plenty of
coniv'n,
Ernie got his schooling from his famous
cousin Ivan.

Bill Tubman says build a rink, why rent,
Words of wisdom from our worthy president

As a lead, Jim Columbus was better than O.K.
See Jim if you need gas, his brand's B.A.

Ritchie's curling often electrifies the show,
Elgin gets his juice from Ontario Hydro.

Maurice Bell picked up some prizes at the
Legion Spiel,
Big help to his skip, Maxwell Steele.

Brokenshire's a curler who made his mark,
Herb helped build the popular Club, High
Park.

Bill Drysdale was a curler of credit and
renown,
Today he enjoys the honour of being oldest
player in the town.

Phon Sibbald looks well in his Surf Clean
sweater.

Do you think all those curling buttons make
his curling any better?

John Kirton is an old timer with the Elmvale
Club

He is proud of our village, we call the Hub.

Our club could do with fellows like 'Bill',
You guessed it, his second name is Hill.

Walter Middleton's curling shots paid no
bounty,
But His say-so helps to run Simcoe County.

Behind the glass Morley Black will almost
weep,

While watching Elmvale curlers forget to
sweep!

Charlie Columbus has found prizes aren't out
of his reach.

Better prepare a thank you, Bonspiel Speech.

Gerald seems high, floats down the ice like a
cork,

Could the stones be expecting a visit from the
stork?

Harold Grey is losing that look of surprise
When he is handed a lovely prize.

Graham Christie knows all the tricks,
Plays with his 'Curling Wife', in the mixed.

Simpson says, "When curling, never beef,"
That's what the man said, Sammy our Fire
Chief.

Government Grant has curling in his blood and
bone,
Miller got desperate this winter, married a
Stone!

When Harvey hates his game it could be a lit-
tle rotten,
You are right, the last name is Cotton.

We should have a rink, give our youth a
chance,
A fellow who seems like a 'comer' is our own
Lorne Rance.

When straining to win that extra end,
Give Jim Beardsall wide ice, and watch her
bend.

Andy's curling had plenty of ego,
Beardsall lights us up with the help of hydro.

Radio says for rosy cheeks use "Pink Ice".
Pat Burton says, "Just Curl", sounds like good
advice.

Ernie McMurtry famed for his draw and
guard, Dreams of those good old days at 42
Bernard.

Vern Beardsall used to think our game just
grand,
Now he goes south, sleeps "curled up" on the
sand

Fill the tanks with water for Turkey's to drink,
Feighen, you're wanted pronto at Curling Rink

Jim Lambie never leaves his little farm,
Unless it's curling or a fire alarm.

Eat honey and curl to relieve your ills,
So says a famous curler, Gordon Mills.

Freeman Bumstead will curl till he's laid
to rest,
Better Bury him with a curling stone
on his chest.

Sandy, a husband of a curler of great fame,
Following his handshake, "Copeland's the
name."

Herb Fleming, a curler from the old,
old school,
"Boston Pete" was his name when playing
pool.

After a tough game Ritchie can't sleep, Allan
counts mink instead of sheep.

Jack Campbell, at the roaring game, is a
Bimbo,
Also gets the odd pot at the local bingo.

Fishing, hunting, golf and curling
Keeps Lloyd Copeland's schedule whirling.

Burnett curls hard, tries to win,
But if Hugh's defeated, he'll find a grin.

Drop in, Drover Whitton, and bring your dog,
Bill, it only costs a curler 10 cents for a hog.

Gordon, a good spare to give a ding,
He's steady and sure, this fellow, Spring.

It it's curling or hockey, or even a dance,
McAuley will have details in his Elmvale
Lance.

When going's tough, Flotron will draw to the
button,
Ernie will count one, his opponent, nuttin'.

With ease Corbett can draw the 4-foot ring,
Drop in at the United, Sunday, hear him sing.

If we had a rink, and needed subs,
Be nice for our retired Padre, Rev. Stubbs.

When Sam Kimberley lets one sail,
Step up and count two for Elmvale.

Jack Arnold tells of the good old days,
Trips to Midland by horses and sleighs.
Fred Stevenson, whom we all know

Talked to his skip with his active elbow.

Lambie used to play our game,
We miss you Jack, thins aren't the same.
Tim Bate and Gladys are south with the birds,
Try shuffleboard Tim, please, no naughty
words.

Columbus was discovered by our local club,
Dick's still boss man at the local pub.

At curling Wyn Ellis wins by a nod,
So does his favorite horse, Bunny's Chilly
Todd.

Manning's delivery is truly an art,
Wimp says try a Dow for pick-up and start.

Monty Ritchie plays steady and good,
Helped on Bumstead's winning rink at
Collingwood.

Jack Whitton gets many calls after he's in bed,
Fellow on the other end could be Skip
Bumstead.

A fellow to lead the singing is often hard to
get,
Our J.C. is Bill Campbell, his song is
"Alouette."

Harry Rowley tries hard the rings to fill,
Also helps run the town, on our new council.
At the Legion Spiels you'll find Percy Black,
Brings his prizes home in a specially made
sack.

In a game Pearson warms up to a lather,
George is really good, so was his father.

Tipping loves curling, also at golf he'll putter,
Stan says everything tastes better with Elm-
vale butter.

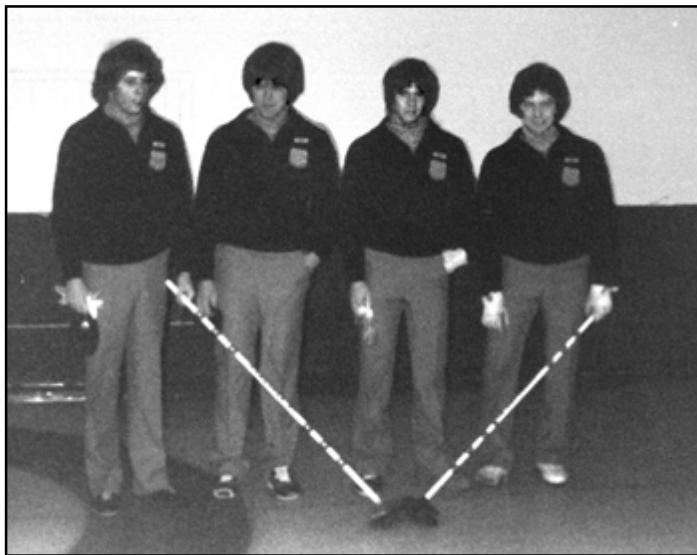
Sibbald likes to talk currling with a buddy,
Arlie says the who thing is a game of study.

I hope you all have enjoyed our spiel,
First name Max, second name, "Steele".



Winners of the Second Annual Men's Invitational Bonspiel in Elmvale
Max Steele (lead), Steve Crane (second), Ron McAuley (vice), Gord Touet (skip)

**Junior Men's Championship of Ontario Curling Association
K-W Granite Club – 1982**



The Elmvale Team

Martin Ritchie (lead)

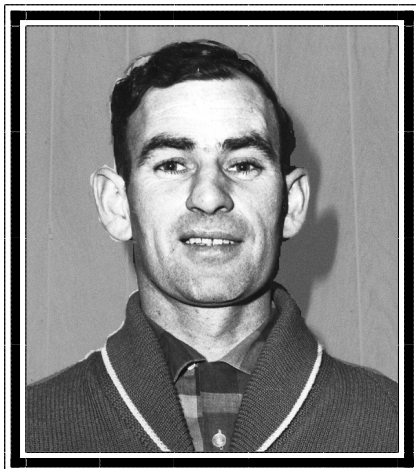
Brian Belcourt (second)

Arnold McAuley (vice)

Tim Belcourt (skip)

The boys won their share of games, and those that they lost were to names that have by now become familiar (Glen Howard who was curling for Niagara Falls, John Base of Mississauga, to name a few),

Team Qualifies for British Consol Finals – 1969



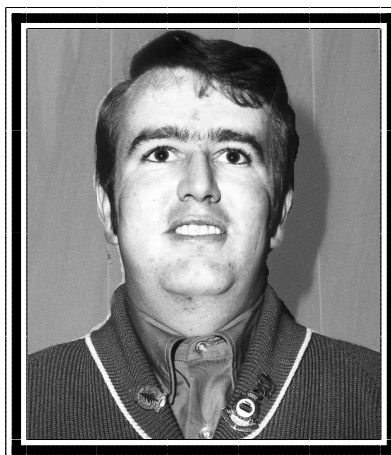
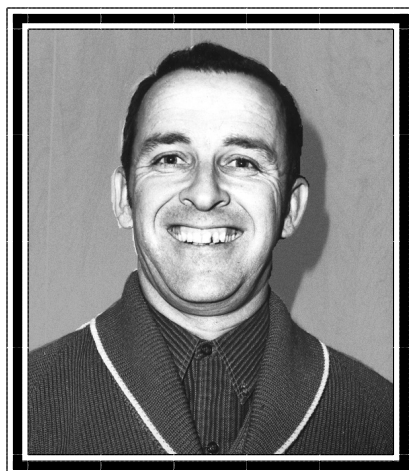
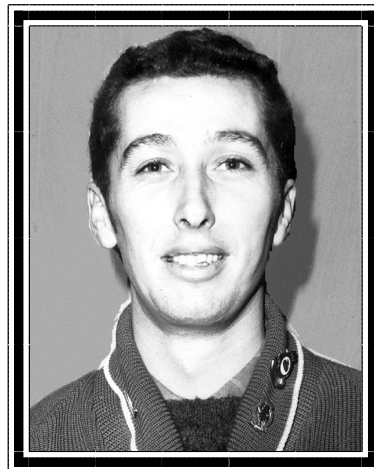
British Consols District 10 Champions

Lou Turner (skip)

Ron Frankcom (vice)

Cec Tinney (seond)

Peter Vollett (lead)



Comments by

Max Steele Sr. – Voice of the Elmvale Curling Club

“Elmvale Curlers go to London February 5, 6, 7 and 8. Our Rink, skipped by Lou Turner, will be one of 18 Zone Winners in the the British Consol Playoffs. This is the first time an Elmvale Rink has made the Final Playoffs. The winner will represent Ontario in the McDonald Brier Playoff for the Dominion Championship at Oshawa in March.

We have a well balanced rink. The boys are quite able of playing their positions well.

Peter Vollett, lead, can place rocks on the edges, keen on take-outs, and a super sweeper.

Cecil Tinney, second, deadly on take-outs and very capable on the draw. We are O.K. with Cecil playing second stone.

Ron Frankcom, ‘for my money’, plays third position extremely well. Ron is a high percentage curler. Keen and steady, works extra well with confident Lou.

Our skip, Lou Turner, is one of the ‘Coolest Pilots’ that plays this exacting and very serious game. A skip has to have nerve, and ‘no nerves’. Lou has that balance. Lou should make a good showing in London.

Every curler and everyone with any knowledge of curling, in the zones of Ontario represented by our rink in London, will be watching with interest and good wishes for the success of these four fine curlers.”

District 10A Winners – 1975-76



(L to R) - Jill Reynolds (vice), Ruth Allen (lead), Bev Steele (skip) and Shirley White (second)

Bev Steele's Rink Loses Bid for Provincial Play

Bev Steele's Elmvale rink narrowly missed advancing to the provincial curling championships as it lost its final game in the Southern Ontario Ladies Curling Association Provincial Play-downs in St. Catharines 7-5 to Oakville.

At St. Catharines the Elmvale rink lost to host, St Catharines by a score of 9-2 and was relegated to the "B" flight competitions.

In game two Elmvale kept a lot of rocks in play and triumphed over Weston – score, 12– 11 in extra ends. Momentum had been re-established. The next game sent South Muskoka to the sidelines (9-5). Then Guelph's Isma Bildwell rink fell to the Elmvale girls – score, 11-5.

Shirley Finlay's Oakville rink was able to darken the dreams of Steele's team. They lead 5-1 after four ends before the Elmvale girls staged a serious comeback. A draw in either of the sixth or seventh ends may have sent the game into extra ends. No such luck.

Oakville persisted to claim a 7-5 win and eliminate the Elmvale entry.

Elmvale Ladies Win “Diamonds” - All Ontario Champs

Photo from the files of Marlene Tinney



(L to R) - Evelyn McFadden, lead; Lorna Quesnelle, second, Marlene Tinney, vice; Dorrie Feigehen, skip; - missing – Mary Downey, alternate.

Round One – at Elmvale – Elmvale defeated Huntsville in the “B” side final.

Round Two – at Galt – Elmvale had three impressive victories to win the “A” side.

Round Three – at Huntsville – **Ontario Finals** – (Competition – Unionville (2), Ottawa RCMP, London, Peterborough, St. Thomas and Milton.

The Elmvale rink, supported during the three day competition by a large contingent of Elmvale fans, qualified for the finals after its first three games. In a draw to the button to determine what team would get a ‘bye’ into the finals, Dorrie demonstrated her draw skills.

In the final end of the championship game, the ladies were leading by three but did not have last rock advantage. It took a measure to see if an extra end would be required.

The Elmvale ladies were champions, but by a mere .f of an inch.

2001 – Senior Mixed Team Advances to Ont. Finals



Michael Jacobs, skip; Dorrie Feigehen, vice; Colin Elliott, second and Marlene Tinney, Lead

The Michael Jacobs rink advanced to the final after winning the Ontario Curling Association regional title in Southampton by defeating Doug Fisher from Stayner in the A final. The game was conceded after five ends with Elmvale leading 8-0.

The Jacob team opened the event with a win over Ray Tremblay of Guelph. Three up coming home was enough to do the trick. Then the team went on to defeat Otto Krepps of Brampton.

Although this team was only put together a few weeks before the Zone 10 competition in Elmvale, it was not without experience. Both women on the team had the experience of being on a provincial winner in 1998 and were no strangers to the pressure of curling in front of cameras or a crowd.

Although the team did well at the Kingston finals, it was no match for the field of former provincial champions and finalists that assembled there. Only those who have been there, can recognize the preparation and skill needed to claim an Ontario Championship.

**Royal Canadian Legion 26th Dominion Command – 2002
Senior Curling Championship – Second for the Second Year**



Bob Storey Garry Turner John Archer Bill Truax Lou Turner

** The story of Elmvale's (Team Ontario) exciting second place finish at Stephenville, Newfoundland in 2001 can be found in Chapters 2001 – page 141-143.*

** The rest of the 2002 story is in Chapters 2002 – 110-112*

Results – March 24 – 29 2002 - Ontario's Best Senior Curlers

New Brunswick	2	Ontario	8
British Columbia/Yukon	6	Ontario	5
Ontario	7	Manitoba/Northwest Ontario	4
Saskatchewan	4	Ontario	10
New Brunswick	7	Ontario	2
Ontario	9	Prince Edward Island	4
Ontario	8	Newfoundland/Labrador	3
Alberta/Northwest Territories	3	Ontario	9
Ontario	7	Nova Scotia/Nunavut	2
Quebec	3	Ontario	7

Senior Curling – Competition Robed in Fun – 2003

Photos and story – G. Allen



Consolation Champions

Gabe Quesnelle (second)

Stan McNutt (lead)

Cecil Tinney (vice)

Michael Jacobs (skip)

The Seniors Club was made up of 14 teams. Leadership included Ed Reynolds (president), John Clancy (draw master), George Allen (treasurer & publicity).

Many of the curlers also played in a Monday Masters' League (60+) organized by Elmer McFadden

Rowntree Coffee Trophy Winners

Tom Reid (vice)

Ron Frankcom (skip)

Earl Graves (second)

Don Ritchie (lead)

Joe Rowntree making the trophy Presentation

Den Turner and Bill Stephenson organize a 'Garbage Bag Spiel' each fall.



Another Notable Turner Curling Team

Photo and story – Wanda Spring



Wendy Turner

Sue Schepers

Julie Columbus

Corrie Spring

On January 17, 18, and 19, 2003, an Elmvalde women's curling team competed at the Best Western Provincial Championships held in Belleville, Ontario. The "Turner Rink", skipped by Wendy Turner and viced by Sue Schepers, with second, Corrie Spring and lead, Julie Columbus, came out on the A side. As regional champions they earned the right to represent Elmvalde at the provincial championships.

A disappointing loss in the first game on Friday night had the team battling all day Saturday for the B side victory. With two wins on Saturday, the team was forced to play a very talented rink from Brampton. Losing by one, the Turner squad packed up and headed home after the tough semi-final's defeat.

The team had played well and had a lot of fun, but most importantly had represented Elmvalde proudly. The team is looking forward to an exciting season in 2003 – 2004.

Senior Curling – The printable Part of Year-end Antics



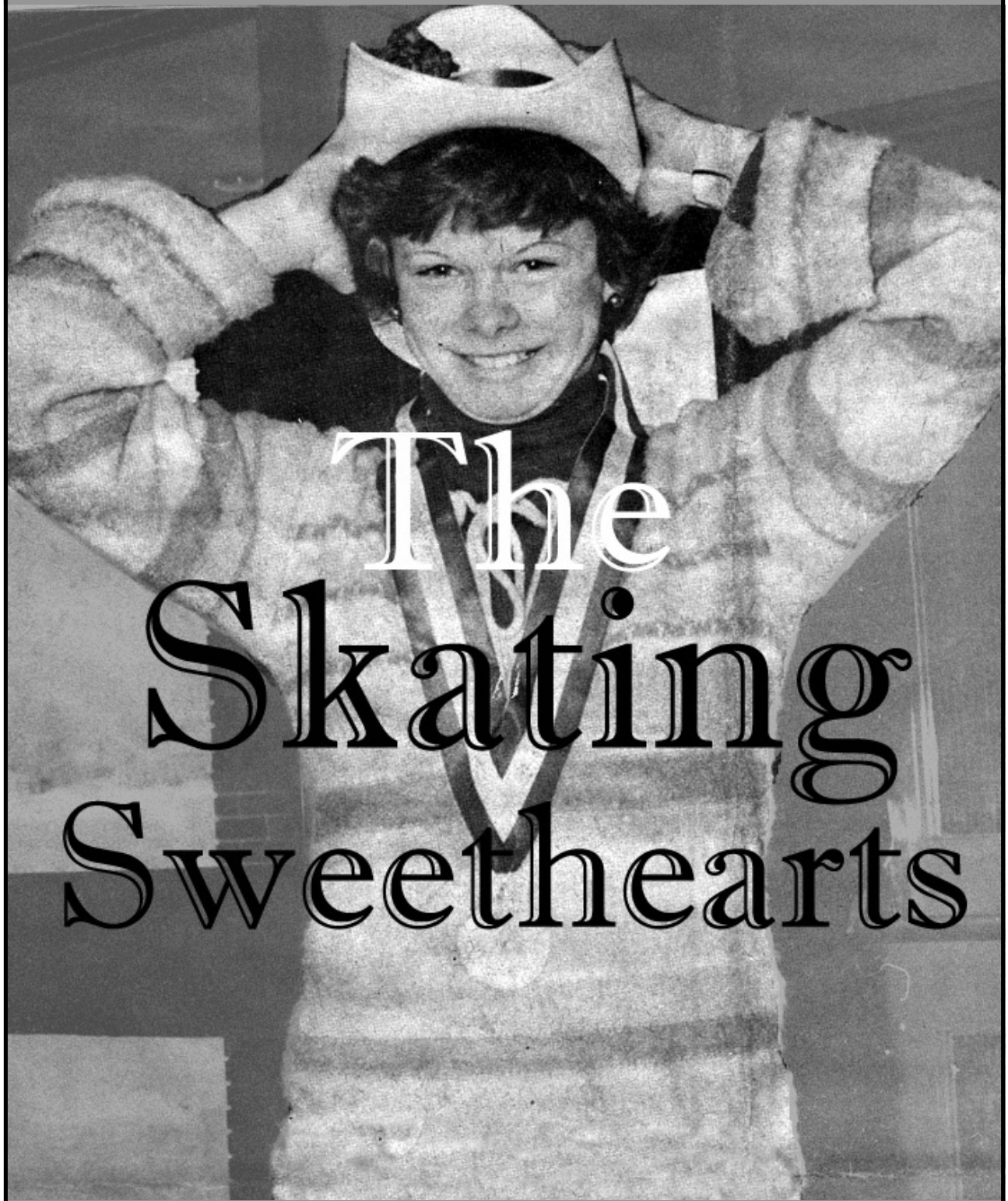
The Annual Meeting was supplemented by the “Turkey Shoot” illustrated by Reg Cowan in the composite photo above (G. Allen composite). Closest to the button won the prize on each draw. No one seems to remember who won the frozen turkey used in the event.

The “Belle Singers” (Joe Rowntree, Reg Cowan, Rod Graham and George Allen) sang some not-too-memorable verses created by that master of fun, Ed Reynolds. The performance brought no requests for an encore.

‘Boots’ Ritchie was the not-too-happy recipient of a live hen as a door prize. To add insult to injury, he had pulled the name from the hat. It was only later that he found that his was the only name in the hat, at that point.

Jim Bewick won a small vial of ‘substitute for Viagra pills’. At this point we have had no report as to their effectiveness. However, he did leave early, and he did not return.

The motto of the senior curlers might well be – **“Don’t let competition get in the way of having a good time.”**



The
Skating
Sweethearts

Elmvale's Figure Skaters in Review

Michelle Simpson – Roots in Elmvale – International Recognition

Based on a Chapters 2000 story by "Gran"

Michelle started her skating career at age 4 1/2 in 1967 and by age 6 she was performing her first solo in the Elmvale Figure Skating Club's "Musical Blades" Skating Carnival.

In 1971 she registered for the popular "International Summer Skating School" in North Bay, Ontario. She caught the attention of Doug Leigh, a coach who was getting the reputation as an outstanding coach. He encouraged her to skate year round. Then in 1973 Doug started the Mariposa Skating School in Orillia, allowing Michelle to get elite training much closer to home.

"In 1974, at the age of eleven, Michelle, in her second year of competitive skating, became the Pre Novice Ladies Champion of Central Ontario. She was presented with the Ruth Phillips Trophy and her first Gold medal. The Following is a summary of Michell's achievements in the Canadian Figure Skating Association Championship (CFSA) competitions.

1974 Markham, Ont.	Pre Novice Central Ontario Championships	Gold
1975 Thunder Bay, Ont.	Pre Novice Ontario Winter Games	Silver
1975 Georgetown, Ont.	Novice Central Ontario Championships	Bronze
1976 Laval, Que.	Novice Eastern Canadian Championships	Bronze
1976 London, Ont.	Novice Canadian Championships	10th
1976 Aurora, Ont.	Novice Central Ontario Championships	4th
1977 North York, Ont.	Novice Eastern Ontario Championships	Gold
1977 Calgary, Alberta	Novice Canadian Championships	Bronze
1978 Thornhill, Ont.	Junior Central Ontario Championships	3rd
1979 St. Laurent, Que.	Junior Eastern Canadian Championships	5th

After many hours of hard work and determination as a participant in the CFSA's development programs, Michelle successfully completed the Gold Level for Figures, Free Skating and Dance. She also was able to complete the United States Figure Skating Association's Figures and Free Skating Gold."

In 1979 Michelle ruptured her Achilles Tendon while preparing for the competitive season. Her dream of skating in the 1980 & 1984 Olympics was shattered. Her years of skating had taught her to rebound gracefully from a fall, and now she tested that gritty attitude.

She had worked on academics with the same diligence as skating. The result was that she was named an "Ontario Scholar" when she graduated from Grade 13. She was offered "Scholarships" in the University of Toronto and Western University in London. She

did well during the two semesters that she attended the U of T, but her love of skating brought her back to the sport.

She took up the challenge of coaching both young skaters and accomplished International competitors. She qualified herself with the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) - Level Four.

Michelle's coaching career has made her an important figure in the international skating community. "She is the Director of Choreography at the world renowned Mariposa School of Skating in Barrie, Ontario." In her 22 years of coaching, she has attended 18 Canadian Championships, 14 World Championships, and three Olympics. The better known of the many national and international skaters with whom she has worked are Elvis Stoyko, Jennifer Robinson, Jeff Langdon.

Michelle Leigh (wife of her former coach, Doug Leigh) received recognition as the Ontario Female Coach of the Year in 1998 at a ceremony in Skydome. Michelle was often a solo skate in the colorful backdrops provided by the Elmvale Skating



Club. She skated to "Touch Me in the Morning" in this Victorian scene, a part of the theme, "Those Were the Days" in 1976.

A Figure Skating Club is Born – 1964

Pictures and story supplied by Shirley Furlong

The Elmvale Figure Skating Club came to life in the fall of 1964 when a number of circumstances convinced several local mothers that a club might be feasible.

First, a number of local girls were going to Barrie for figure skating lessons, a circumstance that caused considerable inconvenience and expense to parents. Secondly, there were other potential skaters in the area. Third, Percy Frankcom, of the Elmvale and District Lions Club, approached Shirley Furlong about the possibility of her heading up a local club. Percy was a local “mover-and-shaker” of the Elmvale sports community who could be counted on for his support of such an initiative.

Shirley called on another enthusiastic figure skating mom, Audrey Guthrie, to help with the organization of the club. Now the Elmvale and area girls had an organized winter sport to occupy their time. Thirty-eight girls turned out that first year.



Back – (L to R) - Martha Palmer, Linda Furlong, Debbie McKenzie, Ann Eccleshall, Sheila Jacobs, Susan Ritchie **Front** – Janice Clute, Margie Clute, Diane Rowat, Grace Webb, Bonnie Archer

Elmvale Figure Skating Club Carnival – 1965 edition



Back (L to R) - Barbara Pearson, Lisa Minnings, Susan Ritchie, Cindy Barrett, Judy Campbell
Front – Jan Furlong, Debbie Bell, Sheila Guthrie, Diane Buker, Lori Stone, Margie Clute,
Vivian Stacey

In those early days children had a lesson twice a week after school. The cost of twenty-five cents per lesson almost covered the costs of instruction. The Lions sponsored the club and paid for the ice time. Shirley Furlong says, “They were always there for us.”

Shirley says, “The first carnival was held in March of 1965, and we filled the arena to overflowing! A great success!

Doug Hill was the arena manager at the time, and he was very co-operative. We painted the ice to match the theme of the carnival. In 1967, we painted all the provincial crests on the ice using powdered poster paint.”

As the club grew in popularity it attracted some now famous names. Brian Orser was the guest skater at the carnival for several years, and Michelle Simpson (Leigh) began her very successful career with the Elmvale Figure Skating Club.



1966 Carnival Skaters

Back

Anne Eccleshall

Debbie McKenzie

Nancy Bumstead

Front

Linda Furlong

_____ ?

Susan Bumstead

Back

Diane Graham

Bev Stacey

Mary Rose Stone

Kathy Lyons

Janice Furlong

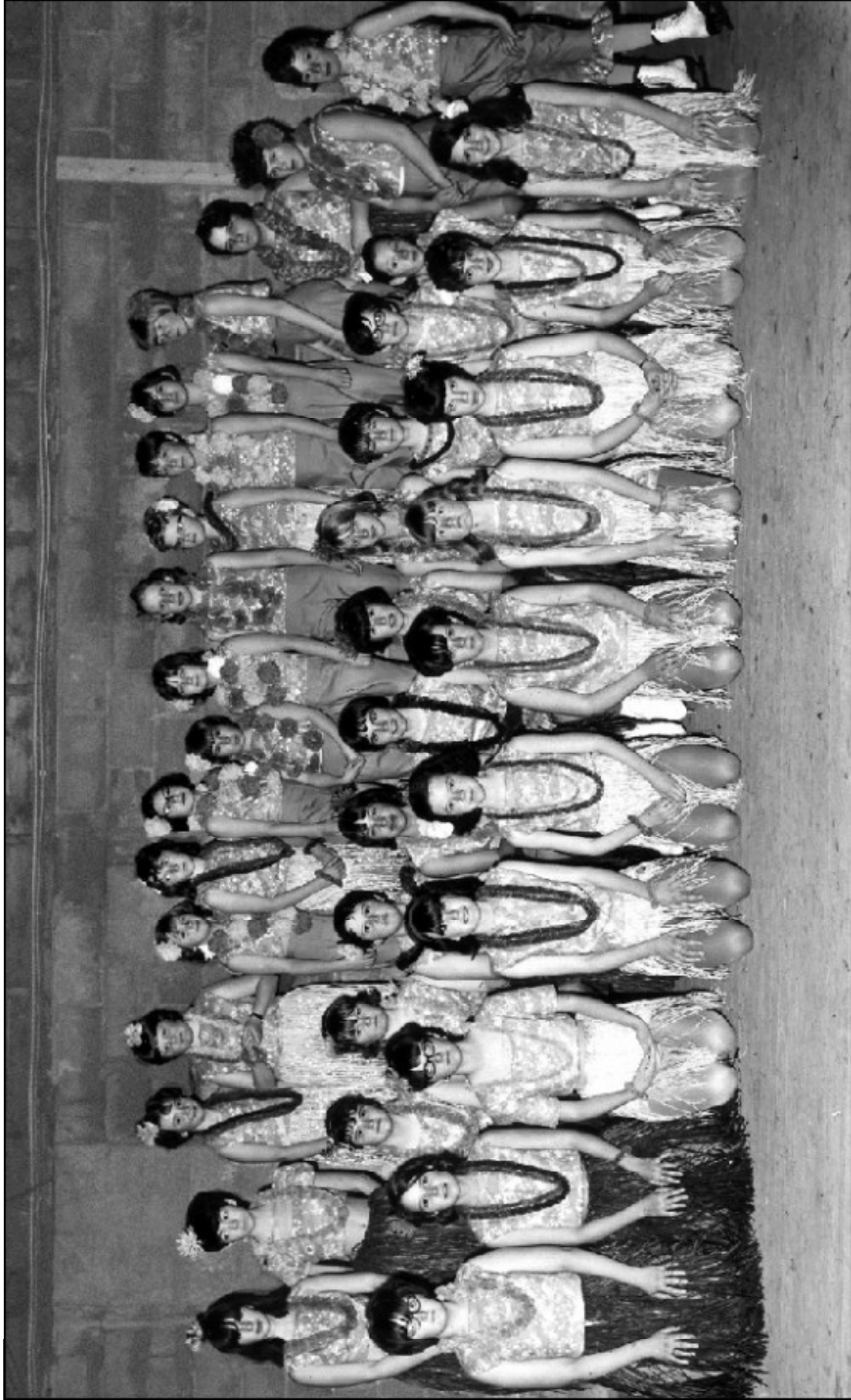
Front

Laurie Stacey

Jane Bertram

Betty Lou Fieghen





The carnival in the late 60's involved nearly forty participants and filled the arena with spectators. The organizers of such events seemed to always include names like Audrey Guthrie, Marion Clute, Isabel Stacey, Dorrie Fiegehen, and Louella Simpson

How the Club rated on Preliminary Figure Skating Tests



From a clipping – Possibly the Lance – Date not available

“The Elmvale Figure Skating Club may be considered small when compared to others, but when it comes time for testing, local skaters rate at the top. These 12 skaters passed their Preliminary Figure Skating Test sponsored by the Canadian Figure Skating Association. In comparison only 20 of more than 100 skaters from Barrie passed the same test this year.

Local winners were from left (front) Betty Lou Fiegehen, Lori Clement, Nancy Trace, Donna Reynolds, and Beverly Madill. Back row, Mary Ann O’Neill, Mary Rose Stone, Janice Furlong, Mignon Thiffault, Kim Crawford, Jane Bertram, and Lisa Minnings.

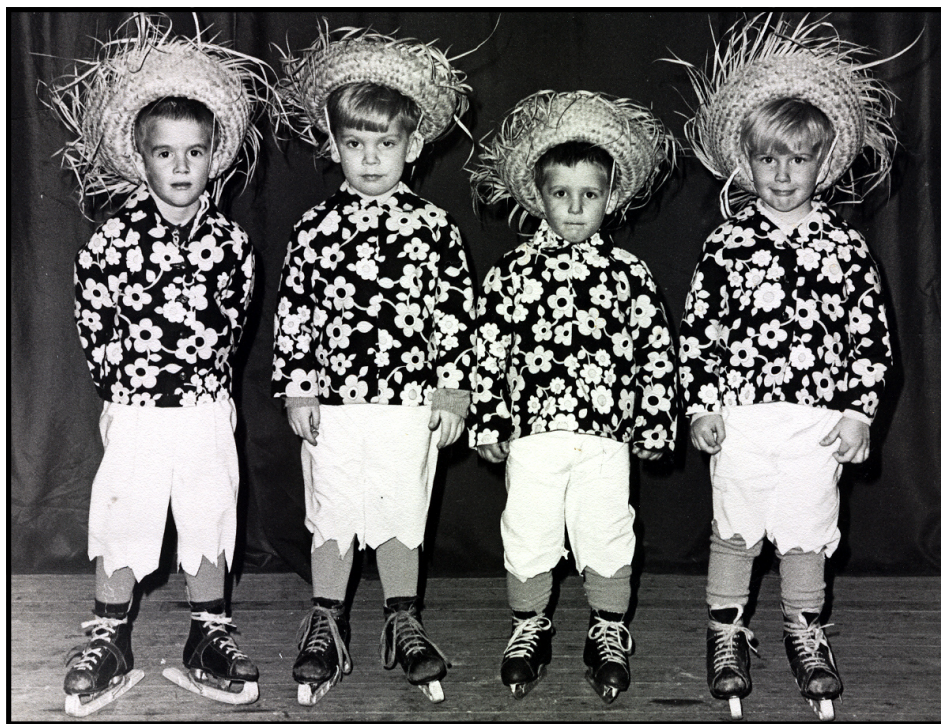
Elmvale Figure Skating Club – 1970's

Photos and Text supplied by Norma Kirton

H
A
P
P
Y

D
A
Y
S

7
0



H
A
P
P
Y

D
A
Y
S

7
0

Happy Days – 1970 – “The Beachcombers”

(L to R) - Gregory Fiegehen, Doug Kirton, Dan Clement, Murray Frankcom

H
A
P
P
Y

D
A
Y
S



H
A
P
P
Y

D
A
Y
S

Football Players – (Back – L to R) - Robbie Reynolds, Paul Trace, Larry Gardiner, Jeffery Turner, Robbie Beacock, Paul Cludte - Front – Stephen Adams, Craig Bell, Roger Fiegehen, Martin Shanahan, jimmy Clement, Steven Tucker, David Ritchie

H
A
P
P
Y

D
A
Y
S

7
0



H
A
P
P
Y

D
A
Y
S

7
0

The Cheerleaders 1970 - Back (L to R) - Peggy Jamieson, Janice Turner, Brenda Touet, Sharon Dixon, Glenda Bertram **Front -** Laura Lee Guthrie, Christa Wittick, Jane Windrem, Wendy Cross

H
A
P
P
Y

D
A
Y
S



H
A
P
P
Y

D
A
Y
S

Hopscotch - Back (L to R) - Sandra Snider, Laurie McAuley, Debbie Wright, Kim Healey, Karen Graham, Carol Allen, Jennifer Copeland, Carolyn Edwards **Front -** Sheila Reynolds, Peggy Bertram, Mary Ann Jamieson, Denise Ritchie, Kari Lou Simpson

H
A
P
P
Y

D
A
Y
S

7
0



H
A
P
P
Y

D
A
Y
S

7
0

Gay Chicks – Back (L to R) - Diane Graham, Bunny Boyle, Janice Furlong, Jane Bertram Front – Wanda Gray, Betty-Lou Fiegehen, chris Vollick, Mary Ferguson

T
V

F
A
N
T
A
S
Y

7
1



T
V

F
A
N
T
A
S
Y

7
1

Hockey Night in Beverly Hills – Back (L to R) - Bobby Weatherill, David Zimmerman, Bruce Ritchie, David Ritchie, Danny Palmer, Paul Trace Front – Wayne Allen, Rodger Allen, Danny Clement, Greg Fiegehen, David Bosworth, Doug Kirton



TV Fantasy 1971- Candy Floss Back (L to R) - Colleen Storey, Darlene Jamieson, Diane Linssen, Wendy Trace, Lorie Bosworth, Sharon Taylor **Front** - Angela Wright, Lisa Ritchie, Kerry Dove, Debbie Kirton, Linda Tucker, Heather Shanahan, Denise Betz

T
V

F
A
N
T
A
S
Y

1
9
7
1



T
V

F
A
N
T
A
S
Y

1
9
7
1

Peppermint Sticks - 1971 - **Back** (L to R) - Helen Chapman, Patty Reeve, Brigette Thiffault, Bev Magnusson, Laura Knowlden **Front** - Louise Belcourt, Susan Healey, Martha Copeland, Gloria Janes, Melanie Palmer.



TV Fantasy 71 – Hawaiian Girls – Back (L to R) - Bev Madill, Toyo Turner, Donna Reynolds, Barbara VanNatter, Mignon Thiffault, Peggy Ball, Caroline Edwards, Nancy Trace, Louise Clute, Tracey Knight **Front –** Joan Bertram, Linda Tinney, Karen Graham, Angela Ritchie, Lori Clement, Sharon Dixon, Eunice Ritchie, Glenda Bertram, Michelle Simpson

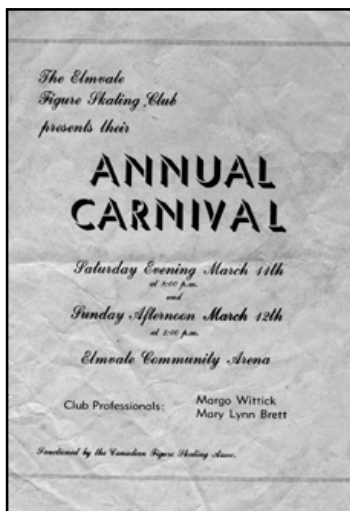
Text and photos of this era supplied by Norma Kirton

Professional Leaders at the Elmvale Skating Club

Margo Wittick, Tom Harrison, Susan Walker, Lee Ann Smith, Stephen Cubitt, Lynn Bratton, Michelle Simpson, Kim Stewart, Debbie Kirton.

Monitors Assisting the Juniors

Cindy Orr, Onalie Hankin, Debbie Hales, Elly Daniels, Jolene Cobbett, Jenny Scott, Kim Stewart, Kristin Roberts, Linda Terry, Mary Martin, Susan Elliott, Ronda Hales, Tammy Hocken, Tienke Radder, Debbie VanLaarhoven, Angela Belanger, Jennifer Campbell, Jane Dempster, Suzanne Jackson, Susan Margison, Cheryl Trace, Nicole Turner, Julie VanLaarhoven, Norma Kirton, Lillian Hankin, Elaine Hales, Leanne Barnett, April Elliott, Christa Hall, Adrienne Lillie, Heather McNutt, Kari Navarra, Allyson Smith.



Left – Each carnival had a program (few showing the year of the production). This program (circa 1971) showed a club with approximately 150 skaters. The carnival is just the ‘colourful’ presentation of



Annual Carnival – 1972 – The Ponies and the Trainers

Back (L to R) - Tammy Archer, Linda Tucker, Wendy Potts, Caroline Maurice, Sherry Ritchie, Terry Archer **Front** – Anne Copeland, Kerry Dove, Debbie Kirton, Wendy Trace, Darlene Jamieson, Kelly Stoddart, Heather Shanahan, Lori Todd - *photo (Norma Kirton)*

Parents Make Up the Executive and Organize the Club

Positions on the executive include President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Junior Chairperson, Intermediate & Senior Chairperson, Carnival Chairperson, Costume Convenor, Test Chairperson. Some of those parents who made a major contribution to the club by holding one or more of the above positions include:

Elaine Hales, Luella Simpson, Marie Storey, Lois Draper, Roby Hocken, Susan Elliott, Doreen Trace, Mrs. Bratton, Lois Bertram, Norma Kirton, Lois Roberts, Lillian Hankin, Judy Copeland, Betty Adams, Romelda Pottage, Dave Campbell, Colin Elliott, Sheila Jackson, Pat Lee, Wendy Lillie, Valerie Hebner, Wanda Spring.

Carnival Commentators – Ken Barnett, Edward (Ted) Roberts, Jack Whitfield, Pauline Hunter, Neil Urquhart *Script* – Barry Navarra

Music Room – Michael Roberts, Craig Stewart

Ice Design – Randy Ball, Mike Ball, Murray Ball

Costume Co-ordinator's – Lois Bertram, Cheryl Lackie, Lynn Gorell, Norah Elliott, Kim Stewart, Susanne Van Nispen



Happiness Is – Soap Bubbles – 1973 (Professionals – Margo Wittick & Tom Harrison) - Junior Pros (Susan Ritchie and Debbie Bell) - **Back** – Kim Turner, Shelley Thurlow, Sandra Snider, Helen Chapman - **Front** – Wendy Potts, Diane Linssen, Debbie Kirton, Linda Tucker, Susan Healey

H
A
P
P
I
N
E
S
S

I
S



1
9
7
3

The Kids – 1973 – Photo by Gord Hogg – supplied by Norma Kirton – **Back** – Shelley Collins, Cathy Anderson, Linda Murray, Bonnie Anderson, Shelley Campbell, Heather Peach **Front** – Christine French, Christine Robertson, Susan Margison, Heather Guthrie, Sherry Collins, Tina Houden, Sharon Phillips

E
N
C
O
R
E

1
9
7
4



E
N
C
O
R
E

1
9
7
4

Encore 1974 – Gypsies Back (Caroline Maurice, Sandra Snider, Angela Kirton, Patsy Turner
Front – Debbie Kirton, Jane Copeland, Cathy Bell, Colleen Storey, Pattie Reeve

C
A
R
N
I
V
A
L

1
9
7
5



C
A
R
N
I
V
A
L

1
9
7
5

The Debutantes – 1975 (L to R) - Colleen Storey, Cathy Bell, Corie Robertson, Sharon Dixon,
Kari Lou Simpson, Debbie Kirton

T
H
O
S
E

W
E
R
E



T
H
E

D
A
Y
S

7
6

“Those Were the Days” - 76 – Bees (*Pros – Susan Walker, Debbie Bell, Mignon Thiffault, Tom Harrison*) - **Back** - (L to R) - Anne Beswick, Scott Kirton, David Price, David Dutfield, Jim Martin, Heidi Currie, Larry Fleming **Front** – Renea Truax, Paula Hunter, Rhonda Hales, Delmar Dynes, Bonnie King, Jerry Martin, Bradley Price – *Norma Kirton photo*

T
H
O
S
E

W
E
R
E

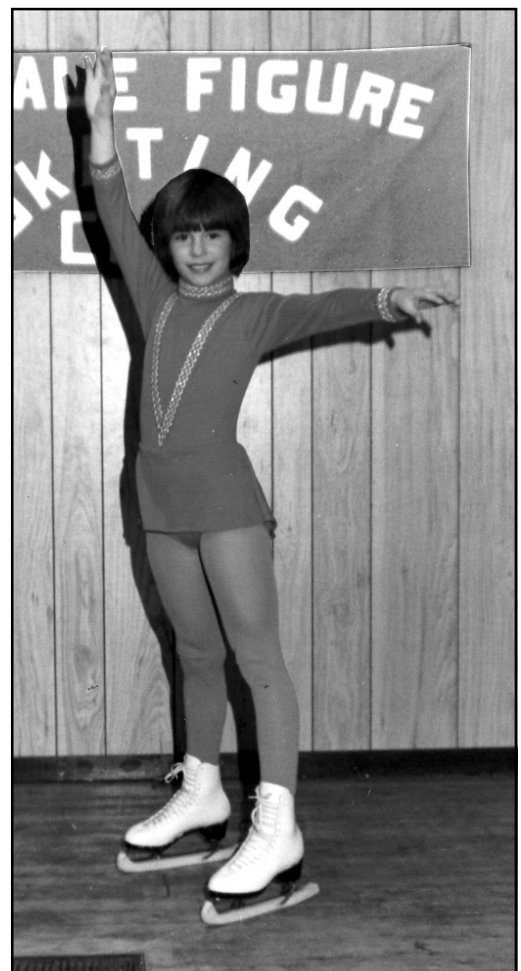
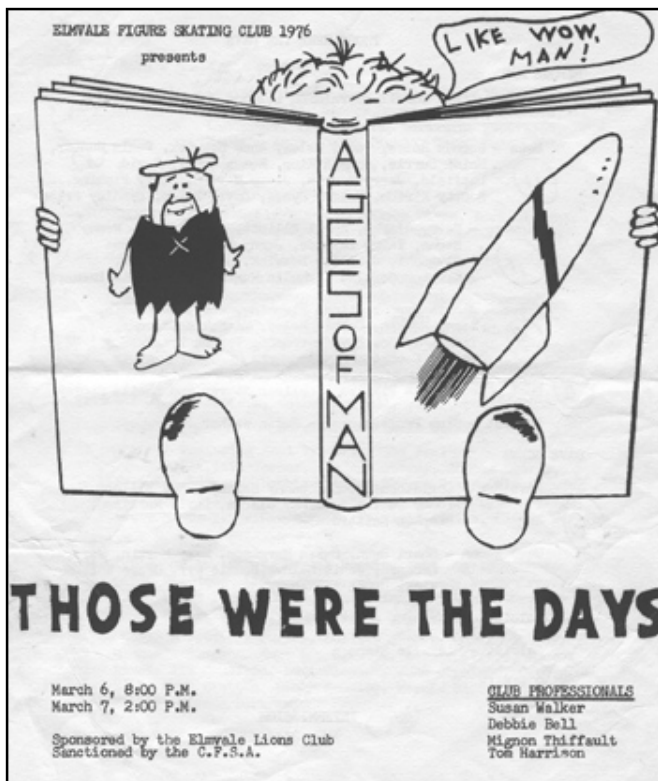


T
H
E

D
A
Y
S

7
6

At the Hop – Featuring Paul Trace as ‘The Fonz’ – **Back** (L to R) - Kari Lou Simpson, Sharon Dixon, Marnie Ridout, Paul Trace, Glenda Bertram, Lynn Bratton, Lori Clement, Kim Crawford **Front** – Cindy Mandley, Debbie Kirton, Jane Copeland, Sheila Storey, Pattie Reeve, Colleen Storey, Patricia Turner, Cathy Bell



Right – Debbie Kirton – Soloist
 Sponsored by – Elmvale and District Lions Club
 Other soloists – Susan Walker, Michelle Simpson, Paul Trace, Sheryl Trace, Kim Crawford



Disco – 76 – Back (L to R) - Sharon Dixon, Michelle Simpson, Marnie Ridout, Glenda Bertram, Lynn Bratton, Lori Clement, Kim Crawford **Front** – Kari Lou Simpson, Cindy Mandley, Jane Copeland, Cathy Bell Sheila Storey, Debbie Kirton, Patti Reeve, Colleen Storey, Patricia Turner



“Holidays on Ice” - Salute to Our Neighbours – 77

Back (L to R) - Michelle Simpson, Rhonda Rawson, Julie Ough, Glenda Bertram, Sharon Dixon, Kathy Rawson **Middle** – Cathy Bell, Jane Matthew, Pattie Reeve, Cindy Manley, Carrie Van Klink, Jane Copeland, Helen Chapman **Front** – Debbie Kirton, Sheila Storey, Linda Ticker, Anne Copeland, Wendy Haseneier



Over the Rainbow – 78

Friends

Back – Kristin Roberts (Wizard of Oz)
Michelle Simpson (Dorothy)
Kelly Clarke (Scarecrow)
Julie Ough (Tin Man)
Front - Debbie Kirton (Toto)
Onalie Hankin (Cowardly Lion)

Club Professionals – Leanne Smith
Stephen Cubitt & Tom Harrison

Junior Pro’s – Sharon Dixon &
Glenda Bertram

Junior Monitors – Cindy Orr,
Onalie Hankin, Debbie Hales
Elly Daniels

O
V
E
R
T
H
E
R
A
I
N
B
O
W

1978



O
V
E
R
T
H
E
R
A
I
N
B
O
W

1978

Guards of Emerald City – Back (L to R) - Michelle Simpson, Stephanie Marsh, Kelly Clarke, Jody Wood , Julie Ough Front – Debbie Kirton, Grace Whitton, Anta Lumree, Caroline Martin, Christie Adams, Onalie Hankin

L
E
T
,
S
G
O
7
9



G
A
I
T
E
P
A
R
I
S
I
E
N
N
E

Back (L to R) - Brenda Young, Jennifer Beswick, Mary Martin, Debbie Kirton, Kristin Roberts, Michelle Simpson, Onalie Hankin, Jolene Cobbett, Jennifer Beswick Front – Caroline Martin, April Elliott, Kelly Astill, Tammy Hocken, Debbie Hales

P
E
T
E
R

P
A
N

1
9
8
0



G
I
R
L
S
!

G
I
R
L
S

G
I
R
L
S
!

Calendar Girls – Back (L to R) - Stefanie Marsh, Kelly Clarke, Kristin Roberts, Michelle Simpson, Onalie Hankin Front: Mary Martin, Anita Lumree, Debbie Kirton Carnival featured Brian Orser



**Medalists at 1977
Huron Winter Games**

Novice Ladies – Gold Medal
Kari Lou Simpson

Junior Ladies – Silver Medal
Sheila Storey

Intermediate Ladies – Silver Medal
Debbie Kirton

Senior Ladies – Silver Medal
Patti Reeve

Figure Skating – 80's – 2002

Photos and Text contributed by Wanda Spring



1985

**Lemon Meringue
Pie**

Carnival
Presentation by

Ashleigh McLean

Corrie Spring

Missy McLaren

Erin Truax



Amateur Coaches 1991 in Coaching Warm-up Suits

Back (l to R) - Angie Kypers, Becky Navarra, Heidi Van Nispen, Erin Truax, Stacey Boost, Michele Persi, Regan Goran, Shannon Kelly **Middle** – Corrie Spring, Janissa Fraser, Jennifer Ritchie, Erin Coward, Krista Van Nispen, Lori Pickering, **Front** – Sarah & Lindsay McLean

Elmvale's First Precision Skating Team – 1994
“Beverley Hills Cops” – Photo supplied by Wanda Spring



(L to R) - Bryer Coram, Janissa Fraser, Corrie Spring, Sarah McLean, Regan Coram, Lindsay McLean, Angie Kuypers,
Erin Truax, Ashleigh McLean, Meghann Hupponen, Hailey McLean, Jennifer Ritchie

J
E
S
T
E
R
S

9
2



J
E
S
T
E
R
S

9
2

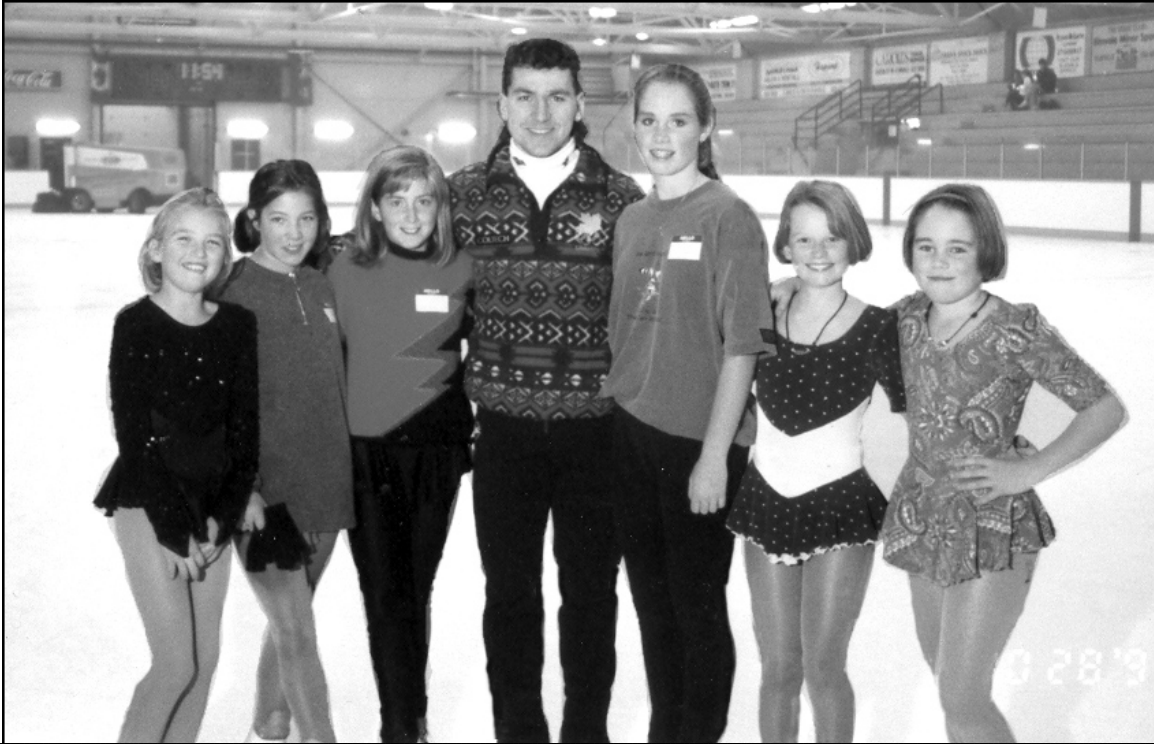
Carnival 1992 – “Jesters” - Back (L to R) - Erin Truax, Regan Coram, Michelle Persi, Angie Kuypers, Lindsay McLean Front – Corrie Spring, Janissa Fraser

E
L
V
I
S

I
S

H
E
R
E

!



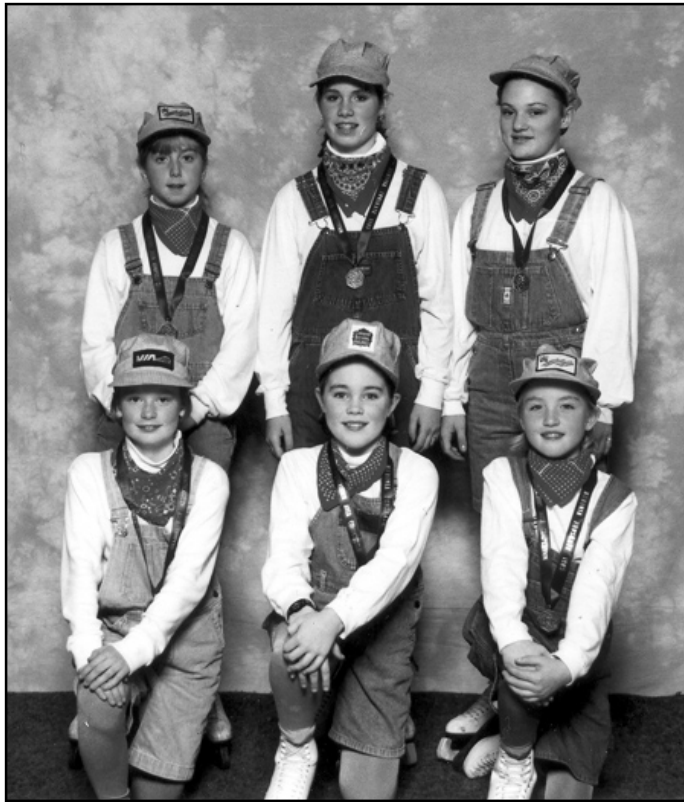
E
L
V
I
S

I
S

H
E
R
E

!

**Local Skaters train with Olympic Silver Medalist – Elvis Stjoko – (Oct. 28, 1995)
Jennalee Schepers, Victoria Farrington, Christie Allison, Elvis Stojko, Corrie Spring,
Katelyn Rowat, Ashley Keogh**



**Skate Huronia Competition 1996
Silver Medalist Group
"Locomotion"**

Back L to R)

Christie Allison

Corrie Spring

Lindsay Johnson

Front

Katelyn Rowat

Ashley Keogh

Jennalee Schepers

C
O
M
P
E
T
I
T
I
O
N



D
A
N
C
E

T
E
A
M

1
9
9
9

These dancers competed for Elmvale at the inter-club competition. 1999
(L to R) - Wendy Furling, Katelyn Rowat, Monique DeVos, Corrie Spring, Amy Fleming, Janet ?

Sports Stories



Just for Fun

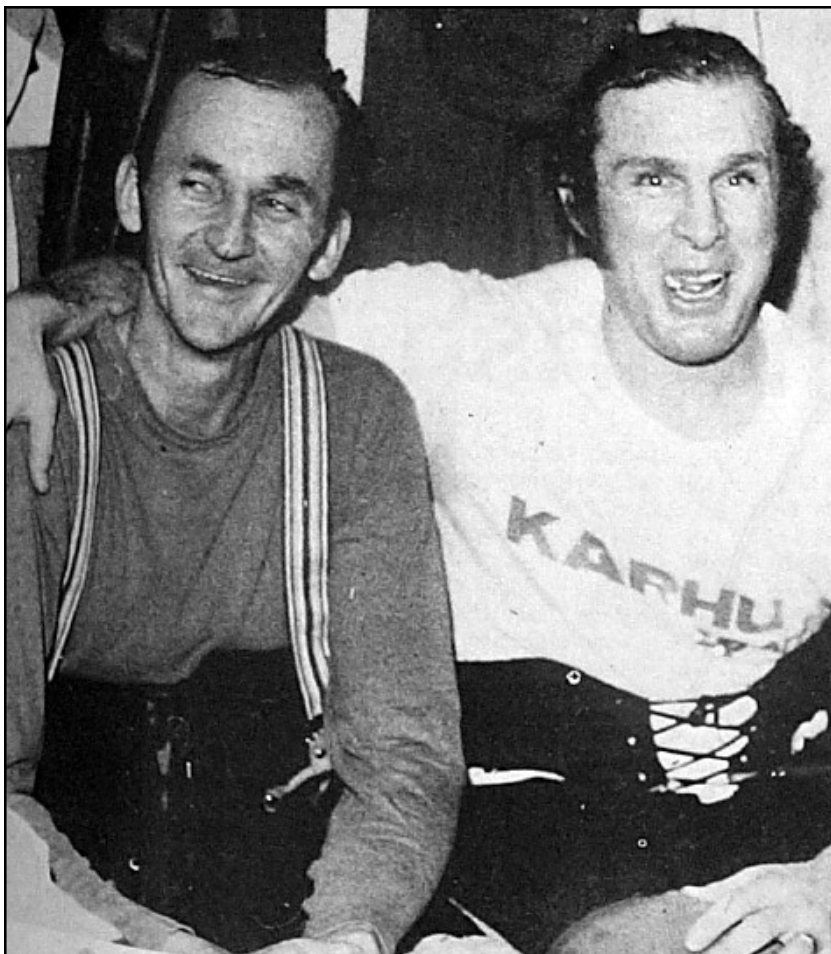
Christmas Party for Senior Curlers

When Carl Brewer Played for Elmvale

G Allen from Lance articles – 1972

Fifty people at the Elmvale and District Hockey League's Thursday night challenges were treated to some 'first class' hockey skills by one of Toronto's most famous defencemen. Carl Brewer, formerly from the Toronto Maple Leafs and more recently a retiree of the St. Louis Blues of the NH, joined the Elmvale Seniors for a game against K.I.L. of Midland. Brewer was in the area promoting his hockey stick company.

Carl was teamed up with John Brown and gave the locals some lessons on setting up good offensive opportunities as he spearheaded the attack from his defensive position. It should be noted that he was using one of his company's sticks when he set up a goal while helping the luckless Elmvale squad to a 2 – 2 tie.



Two old pro's relax in the Elmvale dressing room after the game. Left, Homer Barret; right, Carl Brewer

Although Brewer had signed an official player's card before starting the game, he announced after the game that it would be the last game he played for the struggling Elmvale team.

The appearance of Brewer caught the audience completely by surprise. Yet, no one could dispute that he still had the speed, accurate passes and endurance needed to lift a team to a new level. Those who got a chance to play for or against this hockey great had no trouble recognizing his professionalism, and for them it was a night to remember.

Memorable Moments in Local Sports



Phelpston Celebrates Centennial with Challenge Softball Game

Photo on next page – text and photo by Leo Marley

In July of 1967, the residents of Phelpston decided to unite the old and the new. To accomplish this goal a fastball game was organized. This magnificent endeavor took place at the now renamed O'Neill Park. The game pitted the Phelpston Giants, circa 1920, who played in the South Simcoe Softball League, versus the Phelpston Fastball Club of the Vespra Senior Fastball League. The designated umpire for the day, Allan Craddock, was usurped by Frank Marley because he, Allan, would not call the curve ball pitched by George MacDonald.

The final score is not known, but it was probably a 20-20 tie.

The photo on the next page names some of the players and spectators in attendance at the memorable game.

Phelpston Celebrates the Centennial Year – 1967 – with a Softball Challenge Game



Front (L to R) - Frank Marley (umpire), Johnny Kenney (catcher), Reeve Frank Coughlin (at bat), and George MacDonald (pitcher – not seen) **Second** – Allan Craddock, Frank Hall (on deck), Dave Stephens (in hole) **Third** – Larry Marley, Ronnie Fare, Danny Belcourt, Wayne Marley, Gerard Stone, Gerald Chaput, Nancy Stone, Paul Marley, Maryanne Craddock (seated), Dennis Craddock (in lap),

Grace Hall, _____. **Back** – Tim Thurlow, Gill Hall, Leo Stone, Emmitt Stone, Joe O’Neill, Lorne Scott, Annette Craddock,

Tribute to Hockey Moms



Hockey Moms are the unsung heroes of the minor hockey game,
And they don't expect to get the credit when their offspring
gets his fame.

They may be slated for the early morning practice; they'll grab a
coffee at the rink.

It's their lot to tie up laces among a lot of feet that stink.

She may make a sympathetic remark to a neighbour that is nearly always late,
And then explodes when she finds a hockey bag that's packed with just one skate.
As she hurries home to get the skate, there are thoughts of strangulation in her brain,
But by the way back she is planning strategies so this doesn't happen again.

Then some kind soul reminds her that she works in the 'booth' on Friday night.
Any dinner plans are 'out the door', when she gets there she'll grab a bite.
Though she's weary from a day at work, she'll put on a smiling face
And make a meal of French fries whose smell permeates the place.

There's a hockey game in Meaford Sunday though you can't see for the snow.
The busses may be shut down, but Hockey Moms still have to go.
As she grumbles at her role of taxi driver, she offers up a two-part prayer;
The first has to do with safety, the second, that the game not be cancelled when we get
there.

It's not unusual to celebrate a birthday at a tournament in some distant town.
Hockey Moms make a cake the night before so 'little guy' is not let down.
She takes the plastic cutlery and about twenty plates along,
And a bit of extra coloured icing in case anything has gone wrong.

If you are going to be a hockey mom, there is a lot you need to know;
How to motivate a hockey player, how to restore a deflated ego.
Keeping a watchful eye on other siblings is one of the less desirable chores
Because Hockey Moms are expected to be watching when their 'little trooper' scores.

When the hockey season is over, it's time to sort through equipment in the 'bag'.
With a year's sweat permeating from the pieces, it's enough to make you gag.
When she asks for some assistance, there is no one near to hear the call
Because the kids are at the corner lot; they are practising up for ball.

I salute you, Hockey Moms, though I must apologize,
Because you're never in the picture when your child attains a prize.
Credit for team performance goes to players, coaches and many others,
But the essential piece to the 'winning puzzle' is to have the support of
Hockey Mothers.

G. Allen – Nov. 2003



A Fishy Story – Submitted by the Coffee Man

This is a true story about six men who decided one day that it would be a good idea to go ice fishing. They could have some good-natured bantering and maybe bring home some nice fresh fish for the table as proof that they did not spend the day just goofing off. Their wives sometimes have trouble believing the things that they are told about how the day was spent. So fish would certainly be proof that this day was not wasted in the manner of some of the guys that hang around the curling club.

The leader of this fearsome gang is known as the Chicken Farmer from Wyebridge, his partner is the Air Conditioner man from north Wyebridge, next is the Coffee Man and the Undertaker, and then there is the Electrician, and last but not least, the Hockey Player from Minesing.

When this group was first assembled, a giant pressure crack appeared on Lake Simcoe, reportedly caused by the fish all getting together in one large school and shivering in their fins in fear of what havoc this team might cause.

Now you would think the Chicken Farmer would be up very early in the morning, just out of habit, what with that big cock crowing in the back yard. But no! The Air Conditioner had to haul him out of bed, load the truck, and practically dress him because he had a breakfast date at Craighurst at 7:00 a. m.

After a quick bite they took off for the 8 th line of Oro on their journey to Lake Simcoe. The directions were given by the Chicken Man who had said, "Follow me." Then he turned down the seventh. Probably thought, "We'll hit the lake anyway, some time!"

After paying for the hut and minnows, and finding out that they did not have a net, a gaff was purchased. Then, out to the hut they went on a sleigh pulled by an ATV. They had to slow down to cross a huge pressure crack, the reason for which was well known to all.

The owner of the huts soon had the gang in, with the stove on, and the holes opened up so that the fishing could begin. Now, they hardly had the lines wet when one of the leaders discovered he did not have enough liquid refreshment for the day and was getting ready to make an emergency run into Barrie or Orillia to get a supply. Well, when an inventory was taken, the boys were able to convince this person that there was enough on hand, and if he needed more, there was lots of water in the bay for a really thirsty man.

Things were kind of slow so the Electrician decided he would share some of his cherry juice that he had brought along, a kind of tradition for this type of outing. Several fellas had a little sip and said how good it was. It seems the Electrician had a little too much because when he put it back in his bag he forgot to put the top on. After that if you wanted some cherry juice you had to lick his satchel!

Watching fishing 'tip-ups' can soon get to be very boring if nothing is happening, so leave it up to the Chicken Man to get the first fish on and cause a lot of excitement.



Everyone was shouting, “Get your lines up! It’s a big trout; no, it’s a Whitefish! Get the net! Get the gaff! Do you see it yet? There it is! Oh, it’s a nice one; don’t lose it, might be the only one out there! Open the door so I can flip it out.”

“No, it will let in too much light.”

Well, the Chicken Man did land a nice three pound Whitefish, and the boys all had to pay him a dollar for catching the first fish of the day.

Soon all the lines were straightened out and back down the holes, and everyone was taking turns to see who could tell the biggest fish story. Have you heard that old joke about how can you tell when a fisherman is lying. His lips are moving. Well, that was probably the case here because there were some whoppers! Few could top that told by the Chicken Man about the salmon he caught in B.C.

Just as the Hockey Player got finished with one of his Minesing Swamp stories, the Coffee Man’s line made a quick jerking movement downward. He had been using some of the finest fishing equipment available and presumed that this was going to be easy. After making a few turns on the reel, he decided to try and bring this guy in by using the hand-over-hand method, just to give the fish a fighting chance. With a lot of yelling and instructions from all corners of the hut, it was brought near the surface, and everyone gasped at the big ‘laker’. With all the Coffee Man’s expert skills and the Air Conditioner on the gaff, the fish was soon out the door. What a beauty, a 15 pound Lake Trout. (His lips also move when he talks.)

Now everybody had to pay up a loonie for this second fish, except for the Air Conditioner who had only 97 cents.

By this time it was getting nearly noon, and with all the action, the fishers were getting hungry, so the Chicken Man started digging out all this extra baggage which he had brought along. It turned out to be a stove, frying pan, hamburgers, onions, pickles, mustard and buns! There were even words of forgiveness for the Chicken Man being late and telling tall tales; this looked delicious.

Perhaps the forgiveness was premature. Mr. Chicken Man proceeded to set up the stove inside the hut. He was balancing it on a board just wide enough to hold it out of the holes, and it was not looking very secure to the rest of the guys. There were visions of it falling over on top of somebody and causing a catastrophe like had not before been seen. But with a good deal of help from all, a good lunch was provided, even though nobody wanted to eat the very fresh minnows that someone placed in the hot frying pan. A price of 29 cents for each hamburger was to be charged to each of the men.

After lunch it was back to serious fishing and story-telling, but for some unknown reason, the Undertaker and the Hockey Player always wanted to try and keep their fishing lines wrapped around each other’s. This seemed like a very unusual way of catching fish, but the others claimed to be always interested in learning new methods of how to do it.

Just then, the Air Conditioner's line took a big tip, and he grabbed it up immediately. Now this man comes from the East Coast, so he is an expert when it comes to landing fish. But that didn't seem to matter as everyone yelled instructions as to how he should land this one. It was a nice-sized whitefish of 5 pounds, of which he was very proud. Then came the inevitable demands for another loonie for catching the third fish. Some of the boys who had not yet caught a fish seemed to be getting a little ticked off.

Lots of passersby were stopping to admire the fish that were lying outside the ice hut because it seemed that this was the only place that was having any luck. Those within the hut would have sooner referred to the big catch as an example of skill rather than luck.

Then, two fellas on snowmobiles stopped and stuck their heads in the door and informed those fishermen within that they were from the MNR. There was some anxiety at the thought of 'game wardens', but no they just wanted to check the fish for size and weight. As well, they wanted to take some scales. From the sheet of information that they left behind, the boys learned that Lake Simcoe had a stocking program for the last 17 years. In 1999 the MNR had stocked 116,125 Lake Trout and 188,068 Whitefish.

Just after they left, Air Conditioner's line tipped up again. Now that everyone claimed to be experts at getting fish up, some of the excitement was gone. However, the Coffee Man grabbed the gaff to help land the smaller Whitefish. Well with a flip of the wrist and a turn of the gaff, the darn fish got off. Air Conditioner was not happy that this one got away and said the next time he would gaff his own fish. The rest of the boys were

not too upset because they didn't have to pay for this one, thanks to the Coffee Man's turn of the wrist.

This modest group had a great day fishing. They say that the next time they go they might just invite a few others along just to see "how darn good they really are".



Although in this area it is hard to tell the players without a program, the only people with this much modesty combined with so much fishing skill would have to be Bob Newman, Ed Reynolds, Joe Rowntree, Nelson King, Bill Adams and Gene Minings.

The Flying Mothers Hockey Team – a Hockey Tradition



Back (L to R) - Judy Clarke, Mae Clement, Doreen Trace, Bev Steele, Pauline Jones, Lois Draper, Shirley White, Norma Kirton **Front** – Paul Steele, Lori Clement, Judy Hall, Mary Lou Whitton, Dori Fiegehen, Sheila Sibthorpe, Kim White, Angela Kirton

When the regular season is over, younger-aged minor hockey teams often need a special game to end the season. Hockey Mom's come to the rescue. The young teams often mistakenly think that this will be a push-over. Nothing farther from the truth, as this team proved.

Norma Kirton scored the winning goal when trying to pass the puck out in front of the net, not knowing how a curved stick worked. The puck accidentally went into the net!



Do You Remember When?

Snowmobilers didn't need permission to ride on trails?

Snowmobilers got together on Saturday's and evenings for a cookout or a party in the bush?

Hockey



Stories

Supplied by Ron McAuley

Elmvale Success Stories at the Provincial Level

Year	Division	Classification	Champion	Finalist
2001-02	CC	Atom AE Group4	Elmvale	Paris
1995-96	C	Midget AE Group 1	Parkhill	Elmvale
1961-62	D	Peewee	Paisley	Elmvale
1967-68	D	Peewee	Belmont	Elmvale
1976-77	C	Peewee	Kingsville	Elmvale
1989-90	C	Peewee	Elmvale	Arthur
1991-92	C	Peewee	Hagersville	Elmvale
1955-56	D	Bantam	Mildmay	Elmvale
1986-87	C	Bantam	Elmvale	Belmont
1987-88	C	Bantam	Elmvale	Wheatley
1994-95	C	Bantam	Glencoe	Elmvale
1962-63	D	Midget	Belmont	Elmvale
1963-64	D	Midget	Belmont	Elmvale
1998-99	CC	Midget	Elmvale	Harrow
1999-00	CC	Midget	Elmvale	Twin Centre
1955-56	D	Juvenile	Elmvale	Ayr
1958-59	D	Juvenile	Elmvale	Lucknow
1964-65	D	Juvenile	Elmvale	Plattsville
1965-66	D	Juvenile	Elmvale	Alviston
1967-68	D	Juvenile	Elmvale	Watford
1977-75	DD	Juvenile	Elmvale	Dorchester
1981-82	C	Juvenile	Ayr	Elmvale
1983-84	C	Juvenile	Elmvale	Belmont
1995-96	CC	Juvenile	Elmvale	Schomberg
1996-97	CC	Juvenile	Exeter	Elmvale

Elmvale Juveniles 1947-48 – Photo supplied by Paul (Gummy) Rowat



Back - (L to R) - Cecil French (coach), J. MacPherson, R. Rance, H. French, C. Reynolds, E. McFadden, D. Drury, C. Lumree, R. Arksey, Cecil Townes (manager) Front – G. Hallibert, E. Lumree, H. Townes, P. Rowat, D. Crawford, A. Hallibert, B. Hallibert

This team played and practiced on the rink located on the parking lot by the Community Hall. Midland and Penetang were the opponents. Some games were played in Midland. – coach and manager supplied transportation.

**Minesing – Wonder Valley Combines – Undefeated Champions
Barrie and District Mercantile Hockey League**



1 9 5 3 - 5 4 U N D E F E A T E D

1 9 5 3 - 5 4 U N D E F E A T E D

Back (L to R) - Allan McLean, Harry Adams (captain), Bill Adams, Glen Adams, Rod Black, Andy Burlack, Percy Muir (assistant coach) Front (Don McLean, Don Robertson, Wayne Hickling, Miles Hickling

All Ontario Juvenile Champs 1955-56



Joe Marley, Dave Stephens, Dennis Turner

1955-56 OMHA Juvenile “D” Champions

*Story by Mike Townes
in Springwater News – 2003*

Part II of the history of Juvenile hockey in Elmvale takes us to the 1955-56 season. Elmvale now has an arena, but only natural ice. Coach and manager, Percy Frankcom, with the help of trainer Harry Rowley, had assembled a group of young men who would take on Ayr in the Juvenile

“D” championship series. The squad had defeated Oak Ridges and Cooper to get to the finals. The boys had lost only three games all season.

Elmvale had never been in the finals before. This was the third time for Ayr who had won the championship the previous two times they were in the finals. The Elmvale boys would be in a battle.

Elmvale won the first game 5 – 3 and took Game 2 in Ayr 6 – 2. Elmvale was one game away from their first OMHA championship.

The teams returned to Elmvale for Game 3. This game was reported in the Elmvale Lance. The following is taken from that article.

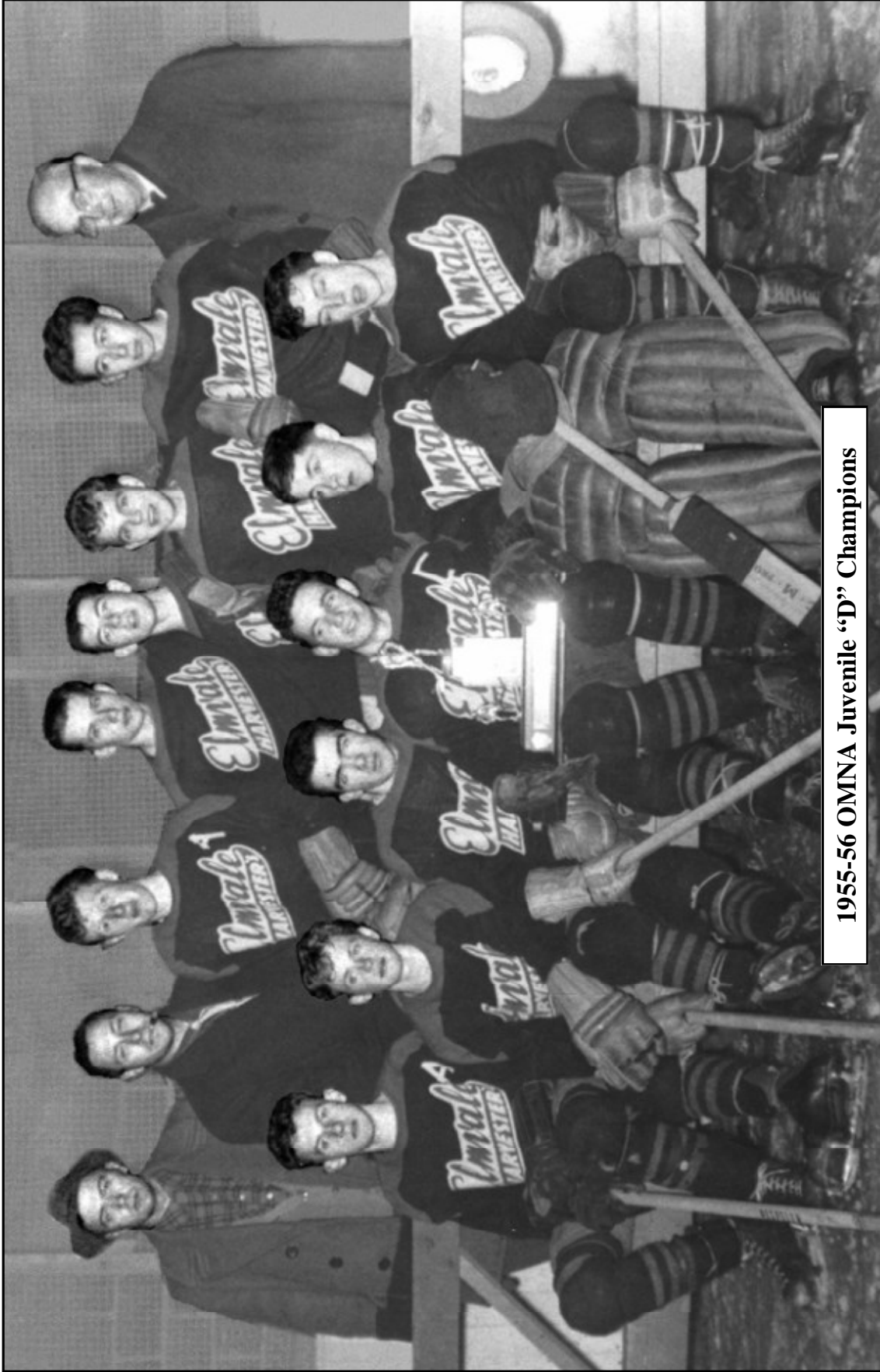
“On Saturday night, 500 spectators jammed the Elmvale Arena to watch the Elmvale Lions Club Juveniles play Ayr in game three of the OMHA Juvenile “D” championship. Elmvale was without their coach, Percy Frankcom, due to illness, but Borden Wheeler who coached OHA Harvesters would fill in as coach.

Elmvale opened the scoring at 6:10 of the opening period on a goal by Dennis Turner assisted by John Cole. The score remained 1 – 0 until Turner scored unassisted at 1:35 of the second period. Ayr scored a shorthanded goal at 5:20, but Joe Marley restored the two-goal lead with help from Dave Stephens and Grant Ritchie at 19:45.

The third period started with Ayr scoring at the 3:50 mark to make the score 3 – 2 for Elmvale. The referees at this point gave each team a two-man advantage. First, Peter Steele scored from Ron Frankcom at 7:40, and then with the two-man advantage, Ayr scored at 10:25, and Elmvale again had only a one-goal lead, 4-3.

The 4 – 3 score stood until 18:10 when Dennis Turner scored completing his hat trick to make the final score 5 – 3.” Elmvale had won the first of eight OMHA Juvenile titles. The team took the trophy over to coach Frankcom’s home the next day so he could have his picture taken with the silverware.

See the next page for the team picture.



1955-56 OMNA Juvenile "D" Champions

Back (L to R) - Harry Rowley (trainer), Borden Wheeler (acting coach), Tom Copeland, Grant Ritchie, Dave Stephens, Daryle Beteau, Ronald Frankcom, Howard Ritchie (Lions Club President), **Front** - Jack Fleming, Peter Steele, Joe Marley, Dennis Turner, Garry Crowe, John Cole - Missing, Percy Frankcom (coach)

Tribute to the Winners (OMHA 55-56 Champions) - by Max Steele

Little did our Lions Club think,
When they struggled to build the community rink
That in just three seasons we'd win a hockey trophy,
Open to all Ontario, not just to Simcoe County.

Last fall the juveniles signed 100 percent, and all looked well,
'Til Rowley stole our defence, Ron McAuley and Jackie Bell.
The blow was tough on coach, Percy Frankcom.
A Hurricane Hazel trick, it almost sank him.
No stopping, we must go on with the show.
"No one can steal my star goalie, Gary Crowe."

Grant Ritchie isn't sweet and gentle as a bride,
Better give thanks that he is on our side.
Frankcom's son, Ronald, is solid on defence,
His body checks are not all pretense.
Sandy Copeland's boy, Tom, plays well both ways;
One dollar per goal is what his dad pays.
When Steele rushes, the crowd's on their feet,
Hear those kids holler, "Come on Pete".
Hat Trick Turner, Elmvale's shifty "Dennis",
In Ayr has been known as "Captain Menace".

In the dying minutes when we need an insurance goal,
Just slip a pass to our centre, Johnny Cole.
Crew-cut Stevens can sure shoot a puck;
Dave finds the corners with any luck.
The crowd loves this player, Daryl Beteau;
His plays start the chant of "Go-Elmvale-Go".
When Joe Marley lets one sail;
Flash that light, count one more for Elmvale.
At Cooper, Jack Fleming stole the show,
Even got a penalty, the rough so-and-so.

Our All Stars numbered just eleven.
Congratulations! Let's have another Victory Banquet in '57.
Your games are keen, clean and fair;
Your grandsons will see them on TV's "You are There".
Sign early next fall. Don't play hard to get.
Think back to this night-of-nights, your own banquet.

They Found a Coach and then an OMHA Championship

Source – Mike Townes and the Springwater News

The 1958-59 OMHA Juvenile “D” Champions

The Elmvale Lions Club Juveniles started out as a skilled and enthusiastic group of young men who were without a coach. A bit of arm twisting brought Bill Crawford on board as coach and Harry Rowley was persuaded to take the position as trainer. This was only the beginning of the season’s frustrations.

Elmvale played its games on natural ice, and so had to rent time at Midland for practices. There were no other teams entered in the “D” division which meant that there was no league play for the boys in Elmvale. They had to play exhibition games all winter to prepare for the OMHA Play-offs.

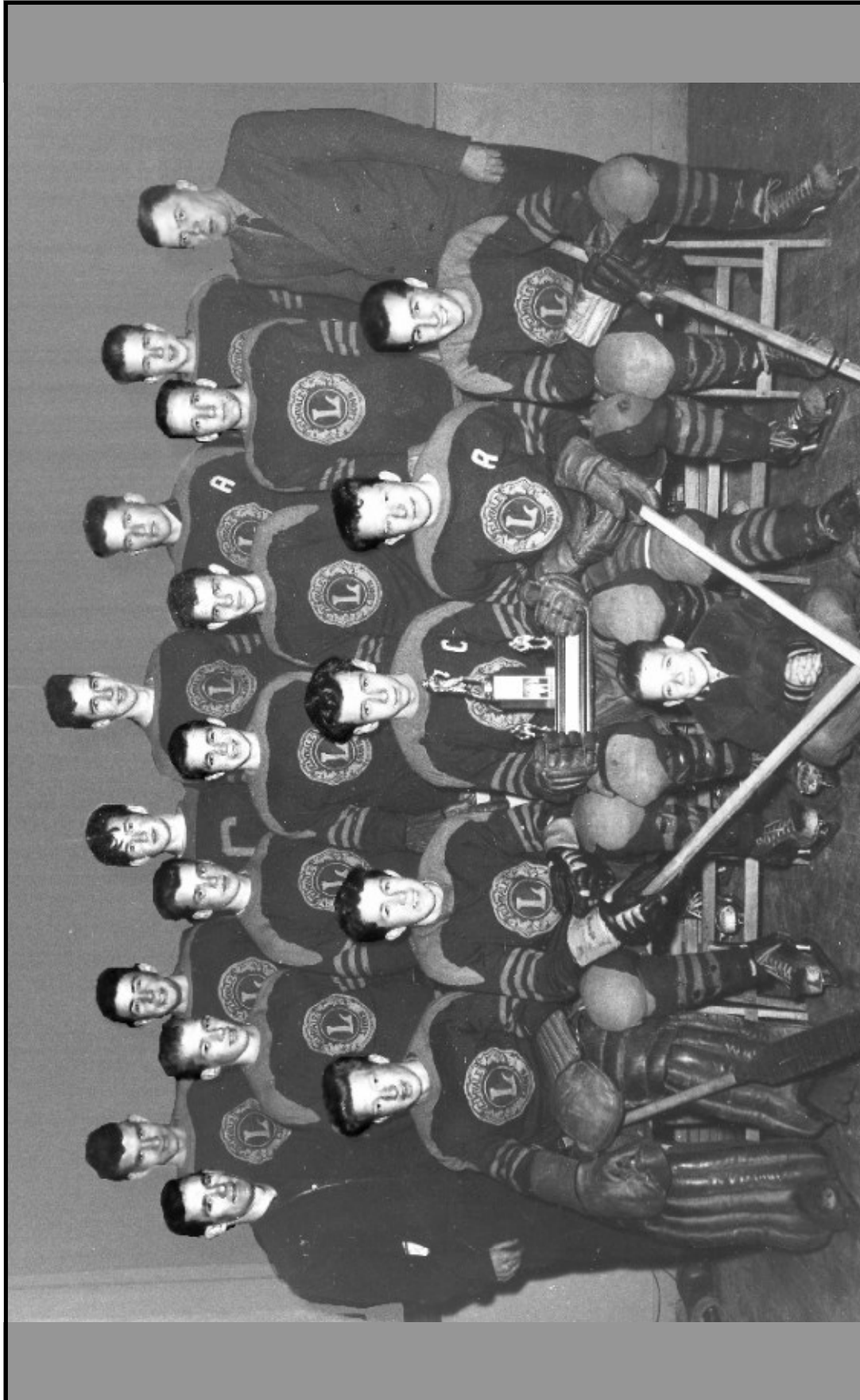
“The play-offs started with the team playing Bala, and the roller coaster season for the boys still had some curves. Bala, a much bigger and more experienced team, hammered the Elmvale squad and won the series, but the winning team was found to be playing in the wrong division. The team was still in the hunt for the championship!

Dave Campbell recalls the boys were beaten up pretty badly by Bala so he, and other under-aged players who had been signed by the team, were pushed to the front lines for the series against Caledon East. The boys won the series two games straight. Then, with the injured players back, the squad took on Little Britain. The series was a barn burner, with Elmvale winning the first game 4-2, and then Bill Large scoring in overtime in Game 2 to win 3-2 and advance to the championship series.

If the boys thought their problems were over, they were wrong. The natural ice in Elmvale had melted, so the game was moved to Collingwood. They then found out the team they were playing in the finals, Lucknow, had a hot-shot player by the name of Paul Henderson who went on to play in the NHL and scored the winning goal in the 1972 series to beat Russia.

Moving the game to Collingwood proved to be an advantage for the Juveniles. The Lucknow team did not play well on the big ice surface, and Elmvale won 14-1 and took Game 2, 7-5. The problem-filled season was over; Elmvale Juveniles had their second OMHA Juvenile “D” Championship.”

Photo on next page



OMHA Juvenile "D" Champions 1958-1959 - photo supplied by Dave Campbell

Back (L to R) - Russ Ritchie, Nelson Jordon, Dave Cooper, Tory Stephens, Bob Greenlaw, Dave Campbell, Harry Rowley (manager)
Centre: Bill Crawford (coach), Gilbert Hall, Wayne McArthur, Bill Large, Lealand Rowat, Ross Heacock Front - Ross French,
Bill Marley, Larry Simpson (captain), Andy Copeland, Elvie Frankcom, and John Crawford (stick boy)



Bob Stacey (22 years) Peter Steele (18 years) John Cole (20 years)

Skating Through the Years – Birdetta Stone

Back in 1924, I well remember walking a good mile to the skating rink, playing hockey from 7-8 p.m., then skating from 8 – 10 p.m., and then walking home. The rink was situated where the families of Cecil Tinney and Stan Ritchie now live. Bert Greenbank and George Robertson looked after the ice and equipment at this time. Later, Herb Ritchie and his helpers took over. They had a Victrola that played music for the skaters, a nice touch. “The Moon Shines Tonight on Pretty Red Wing“, “Tip Toe Through the Tulips”, and Bye, Bye Blackbird” were some of the pieces played for the skaters. A good number of skaters really enjoyed the music and skating for the cost of 10 cents an evening per person. Sleigh loads of young people came down from Wyevale and Waverley to skate. Later the rink was condemned, so it was decided to have an Open Air Rink where the parking lot is now (beside Springwater Community Hall). At one point James Columbus and Stan Clute looked after the Open Air Rink.



Back (L to R) - Harry Rowley, Harvey Jackson, Joe McGinnis, Les McKay, Mel Barrett, Homer Barrett, Harry Adams
Middle - Gerry Reynolds, Morley Spiker, Bruce Hook,
Front (L to R) - Bill Adams, Jack LaChapelle, Stan Ritchie, Roy Collins, Charlie Scott - *Photo supplied by Shirley Richardson*

C O H L F I N A L I S T S

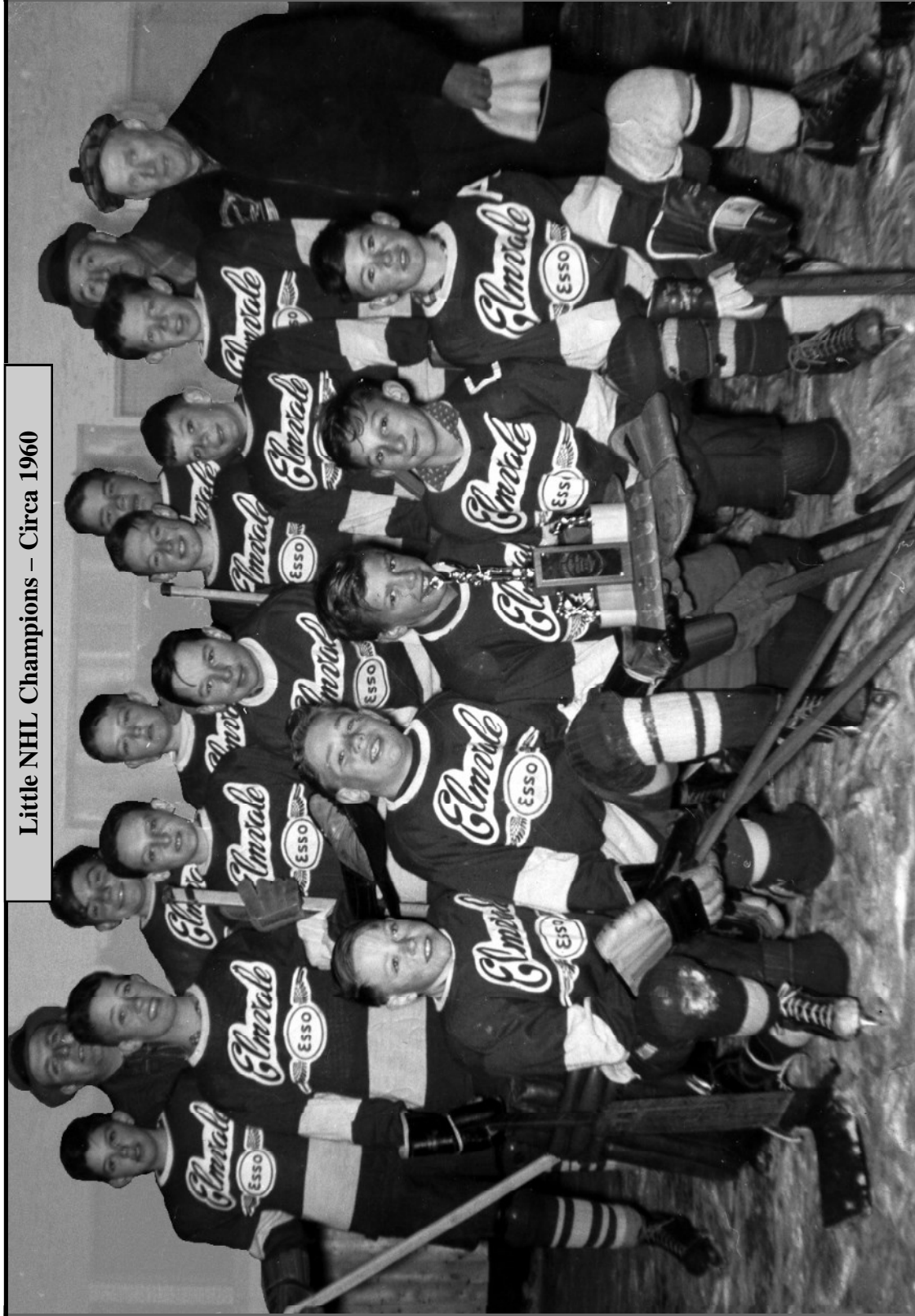


C O H L F I N A L I S T S

Elmvale Harvesters 1958-59 Central Ontario Hockey League Finalists

Back – Les McKay, Glen Bumstead, Harold Bumstead, Bob Storey, Ernie Stacey **Middle** – Pete Steele, Mel Barrett (manager), Homer Barrett (assistant coach), John Cole, Ross Cole **Front** – Paul Newman, George Sibbald, Bill Adams (captain), Harry Adams (coach), Corbett Adams, Lou Turner **Missing** – Dennis Turner, Tom Copeland

Little NHL Champions – Circa 1960



Back - (L to R) - Ron Myers (coach), Doug Lambie, Bob Ritchie, _____, Cecil French (Little NHL rep.) **Middle** – Bruce Corbett, Mike Patchell, Ron McMann, Steve Crane, Ted McConnell, John Archer, Pete Marley, William Archer **Front** - Nelson Woods, Rick Myers, George Conn, Carl Edwards, Garry Turner - *photo supplied by George Conn*



1960-61 - OMHA Pee wee Finalists to Paisley – Final games played in Midland after ice-out.

Back – Bob Ingelton, Chuck Jordan, Sandy McAuley, Norm Crane, George Conn, Allan Lambie, Bob Baker

Front – Nelson Wood, Ron Howard, Paul _____, Bob Lambie, Dave Columbus, Paul Marley, John Ritchie, Brian Stone

- Picture supplied by Chuck Jordan

One Goal Lead in Last Minutes Gives Paisley OMHA Title; Elmvale Makes Good Showing

Elmvale Lance – March 30, 1961 – Clipping passed on by Sandy Conn

Elmvale AHL Peewees lost Wednesday's game to Paisley by a one goal margin, 5-4, for the Ontario championship, as Paisley had defeated Elmvale Monday night at Paisley 5-1 in a 2-out-of-3 series.

Elmvale fans supported their team well, both at Paisley and at Midland for the second game, as proper ice facilities are lacking here.

The lack of ice to practice on, and the need of two more strong players, would have made a different story, as the six regular players went the full time except for brief rests by one alternate.

The Elmvale boys displayed a good defence, good stick-handling and their passing the puck was systematic. This was the first time in local minor hockey history that the Peewees had reached provincial finals. Coach Norm Crane and his assistants are proud of the boys.

George Conn scored the lone tally at Paisley for Elmvale, and at Midland scored again as did Charlie Jordan, Peter Marley and Nelson Wood.

Paisley has a fine team and a surplus of strong players and good skaters who were duly congratulated for their victory by their opponents, the Elmvale team.

Plans are under way to close the local minor hockey season with a banquet for all teams within the next two weeks.

The Little NHL – A Provincial Organization in Three Divisions – Cannington 1962

Junior A (9 + 10) — AHL (11 + 12) — NHL (13 + 14)

District winners had the right to attend a provincial hockey tournament to declare a provincial champion.

Junior A competitors - Coldwater (Parry Sound South), Cannington (Eastern Ont.), Parry Township (Parry Sound N), Orono (Eastern Ont.), Elmvale (Georgian Bay)

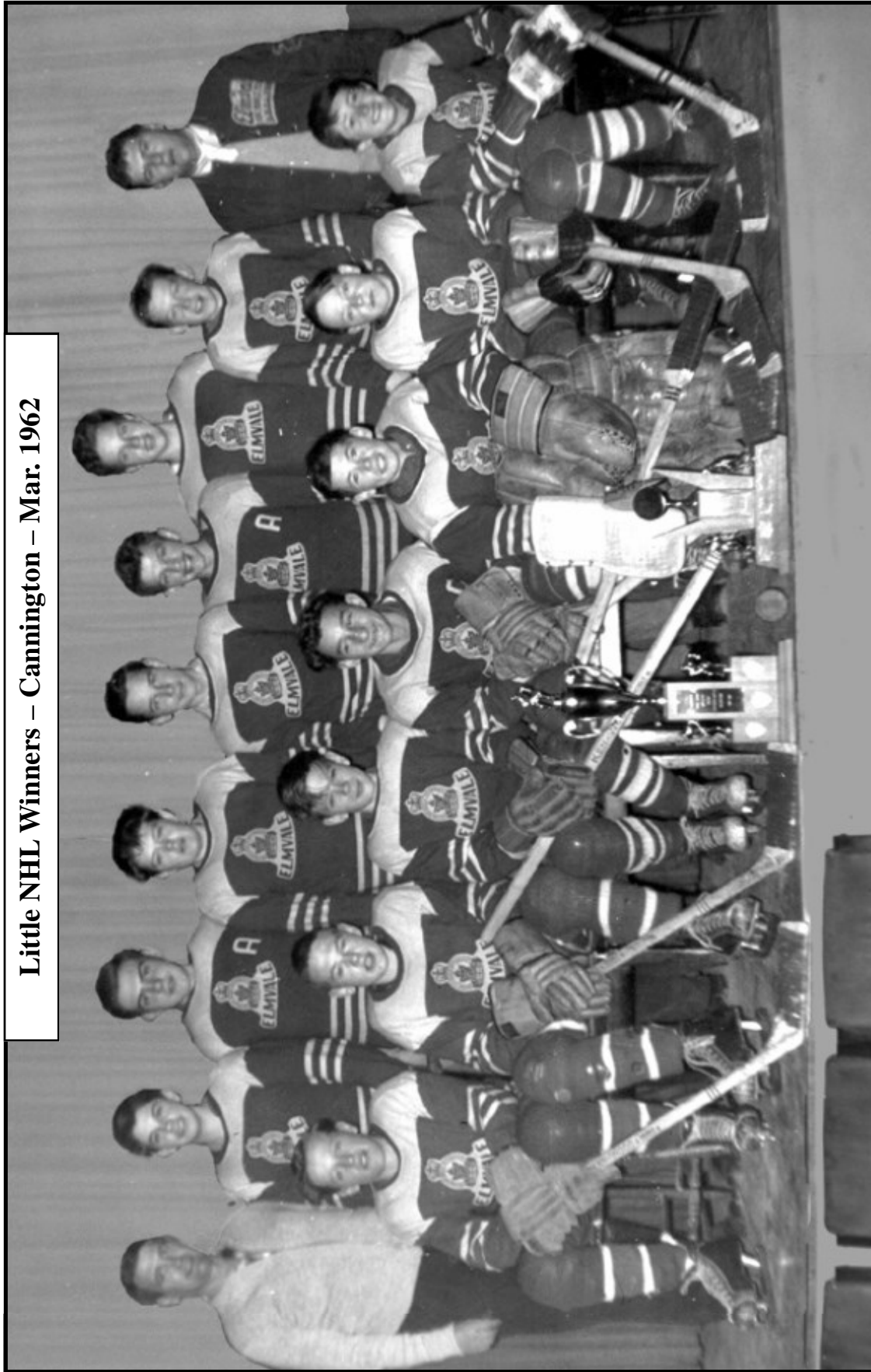
A.H.L. – Mactier, Cannington, South River, Little Britain, Elmvale, Shelburne, Millbrook

N.H.L. – Mactier, Cannington, South River, Little Britain, Elmvale, Coldwater

Elmvale Jr. A. – Robert Crane, Greg Coughlin, Lyle McClung, Daniel McLean, Douglas Baker, James French, Greg Patchell, Charles Heacock, Bruce Burnett, Francis Ritchie, Gary McKenzie, Dennis Lalonde, Stephen Shaw, Gary Bumstead, Dennis Leonard, David Ritchie, Donald Crowe, Gerald Chaput – Bernard Stone (manager), Coach (Hugh Burnett) Doug Bumstead (assistant Coach)

See the next page for NHL Winners - Program supplied by George Conn

Little NHL Winners – Cannington – Mar. 1962



Back – (L to R) - Bill Conn (manager), Bruce Corbett, Doug Lambie, Bob Ritchie, Steve Crane, George Conn, Sandy McCauley, Pete Marley, Lou Belcourt (coach) Front – Trace Draper, Ted McConnell, John Archer, Carl Edwards, Garry Turner, Nelson Wood, Chuck Jordan. photo from George Conn

Midget OMHA Finalist Against Belmont 1962-63

Photo supplied by Garry Turner
The Elmvale Midgets were finalists to Belmont once again in 1963-64

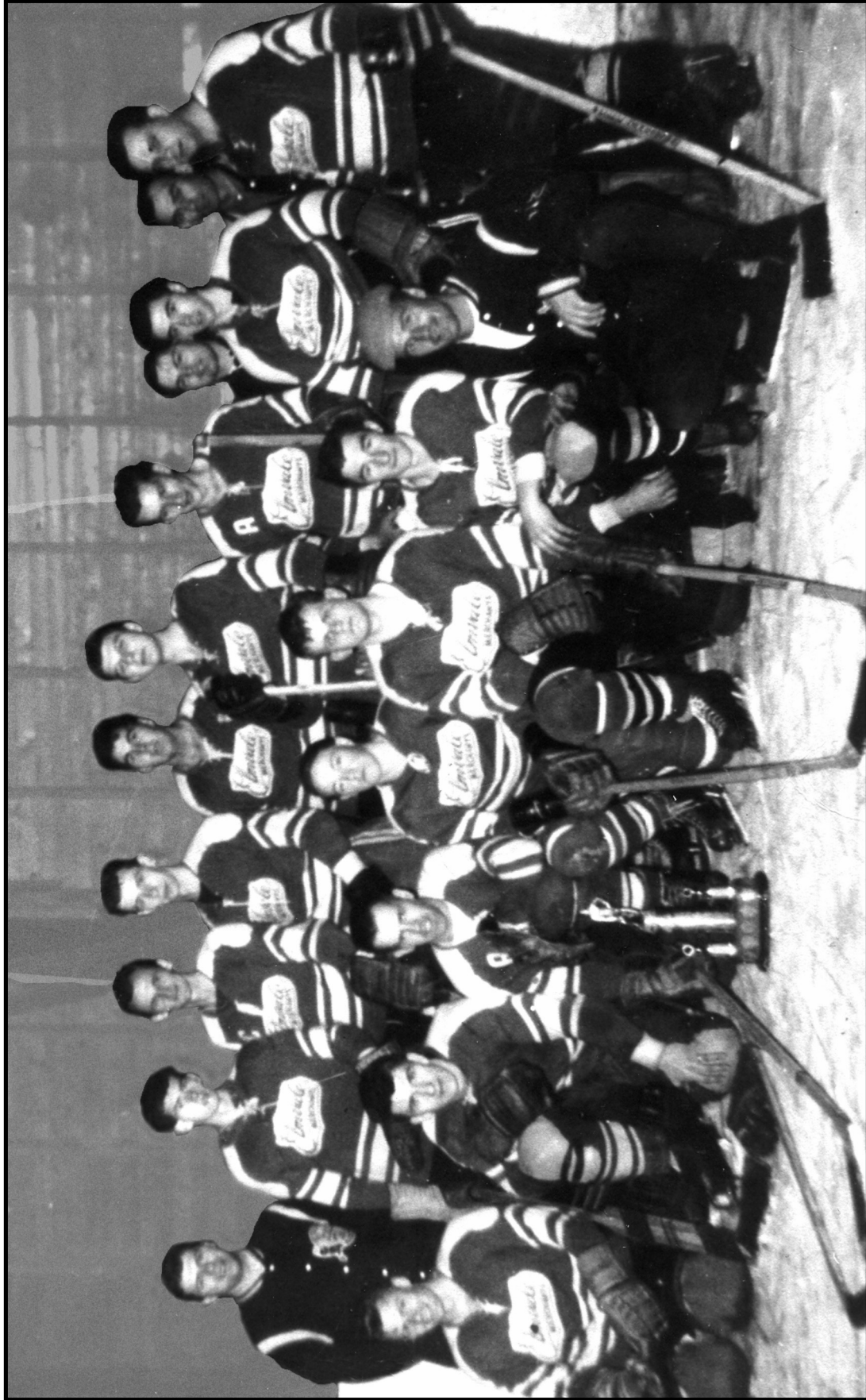


Back (L to R) Tom McKenzie (manager), Don Beardsall, Doug Web, Doug Lambie, Doug Blow, Brian Swan, Bill Player, Steve Crane, Bill Black, Keith Lockhart, Alvin Leonard, Bob Chapple (coach) **Front** – Jim Gilbert, Ted McConnell, John Archer, Garry Turner, Stu McKenzie, John Brown, Carl Edwards, George Conn



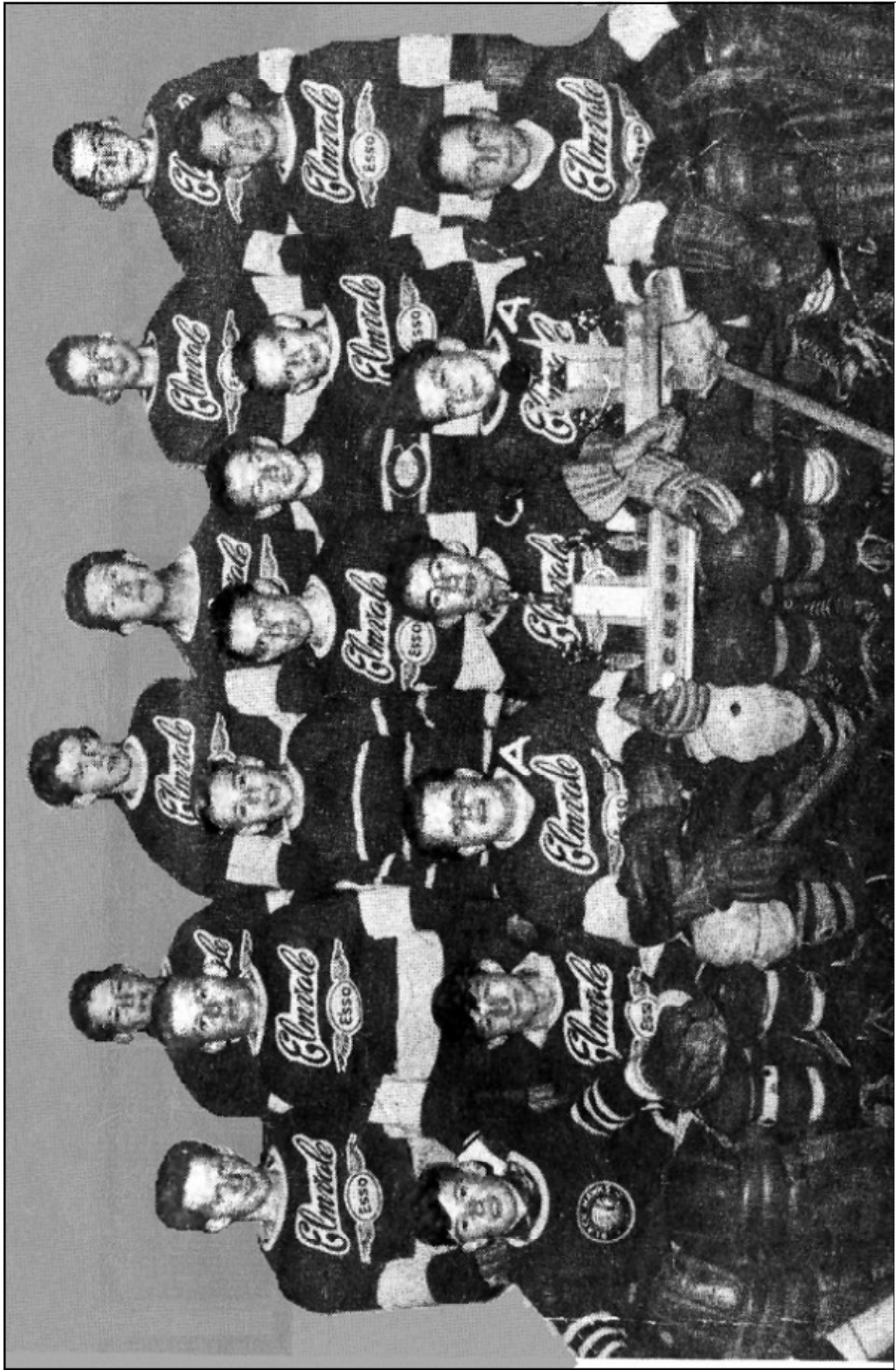
1964-65

Back (L to R) - Brent Fleming, Peter Whitfield, Gord Waples, Gary MacKenzie, Charles Minty, Paul Patchell - **Centre** - Larry Fallon, Tony Stone, Doug McMann, Danny Rowat, Mark Archer - **Front** - Brian Kelly, Rick Minnings, Gene Minnings (coach), Mark Townes, Bill McClung (manager), Doug Jamieson, Dave McClung

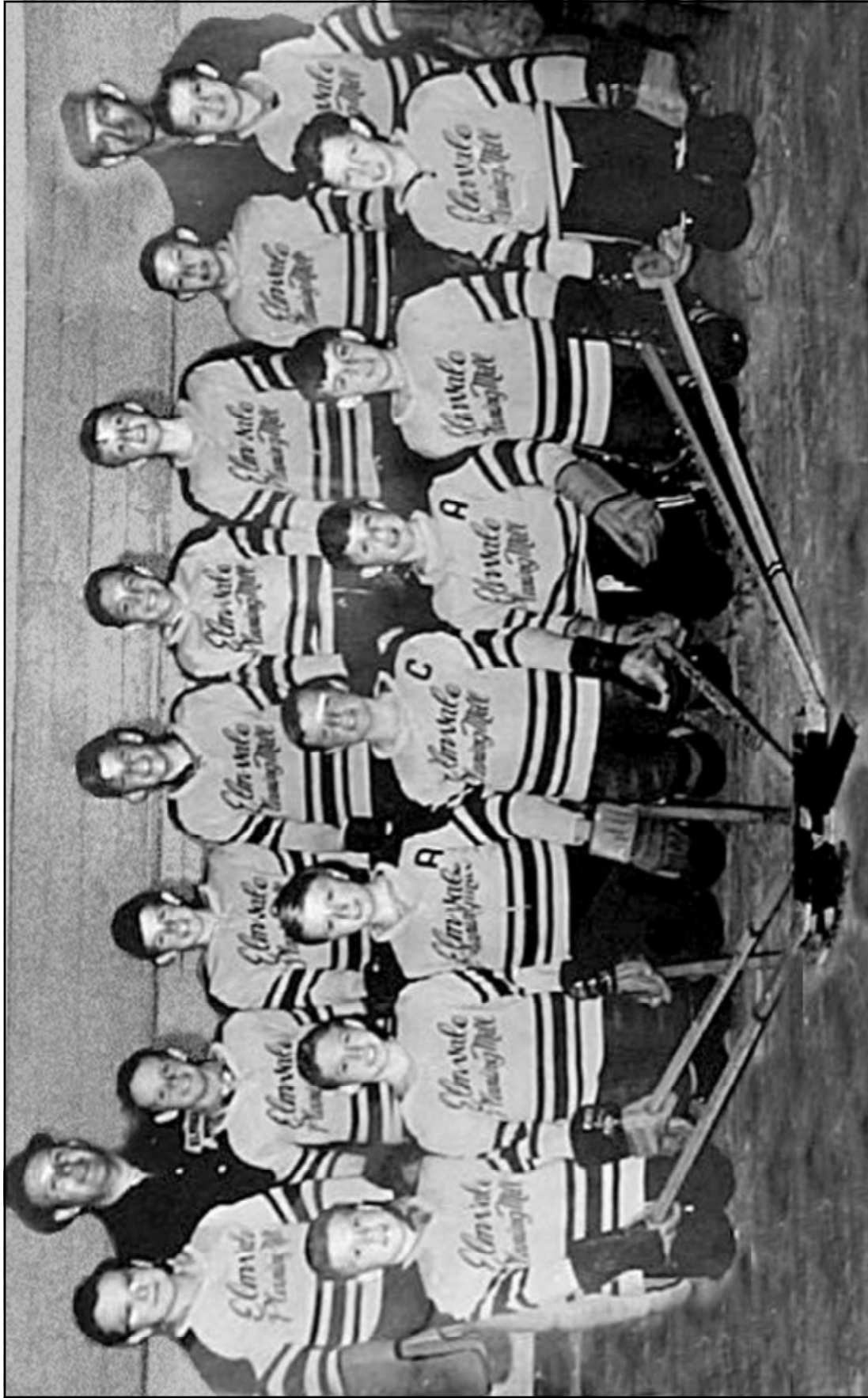


Intermediate Western Ontario Hockey League Champions 1965-66

Back (L to R) Lou Belcourt, Garry Turner, Homer Barrett, Larry Simpson, Doug Kirton, Stuart McKenzie, Grant Ritchie, Ernie Mills, Bob Burnett, Lou Turner, Den Turner **Front** – Sandy Donald, Stan Ritchie, Ron McAuley, Nelson Woods, John Brown, Carl Edwards, Paul Rowat - *photo supplied by Garry Turner*



T.R. McKenzie sponsored this group of champions – Back (L to R) - Bob Ritchie, Bernie O'Hallarn, Brian Swan, Bill Black, Doug Lambie Middle – Jim Gilbert, Alvin Leonard, Rick Myers, Bill Player, Ted McConnell, John Archer, Bruce Corbett Front – Garry Turner, Carl Edwards, John Brown, Don Beardsall, Stu McKenzie, Steve Crane. Lance picture by way of Garry Turner



1966-67 – Peewee Little NHL Grand Champions

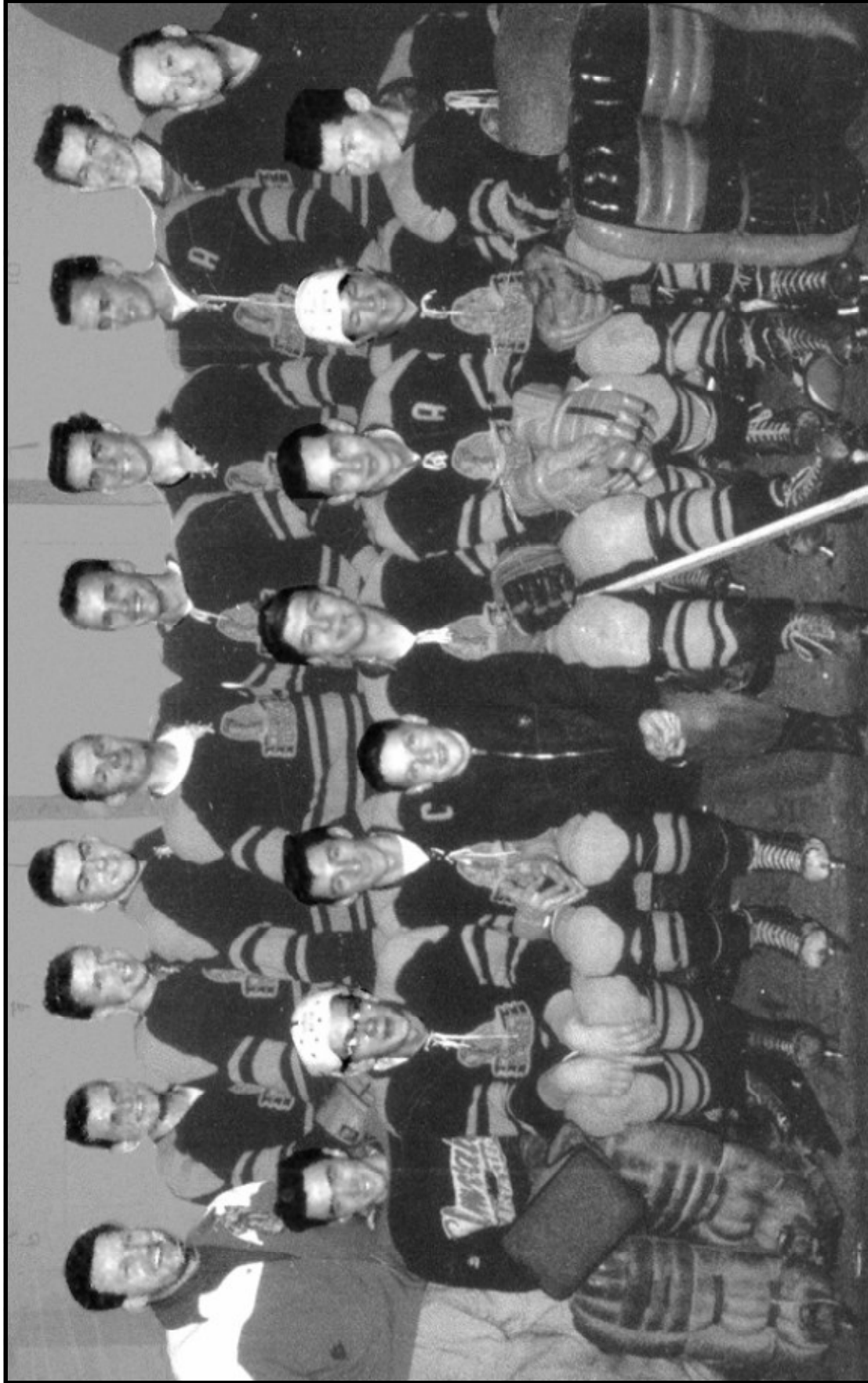
Back (L to R) - Brian Cole, Doug McConnell (coach), Danny Rowat, Larry Fallon, Tony Stone, Roger Hall, Peter Whitfield, Bill Windrem, Tom McMann (manager) **Front** – Rick Minnings, Mark Townes, Gary MacKenzie, _____ c Doug Jamieson, Larry McMann Les Trace - *photo from arena display*

1964-65 JUVENILE 'D' CHAMPIONS



1964-65 JUVENILE 'D' CHAMPIONS

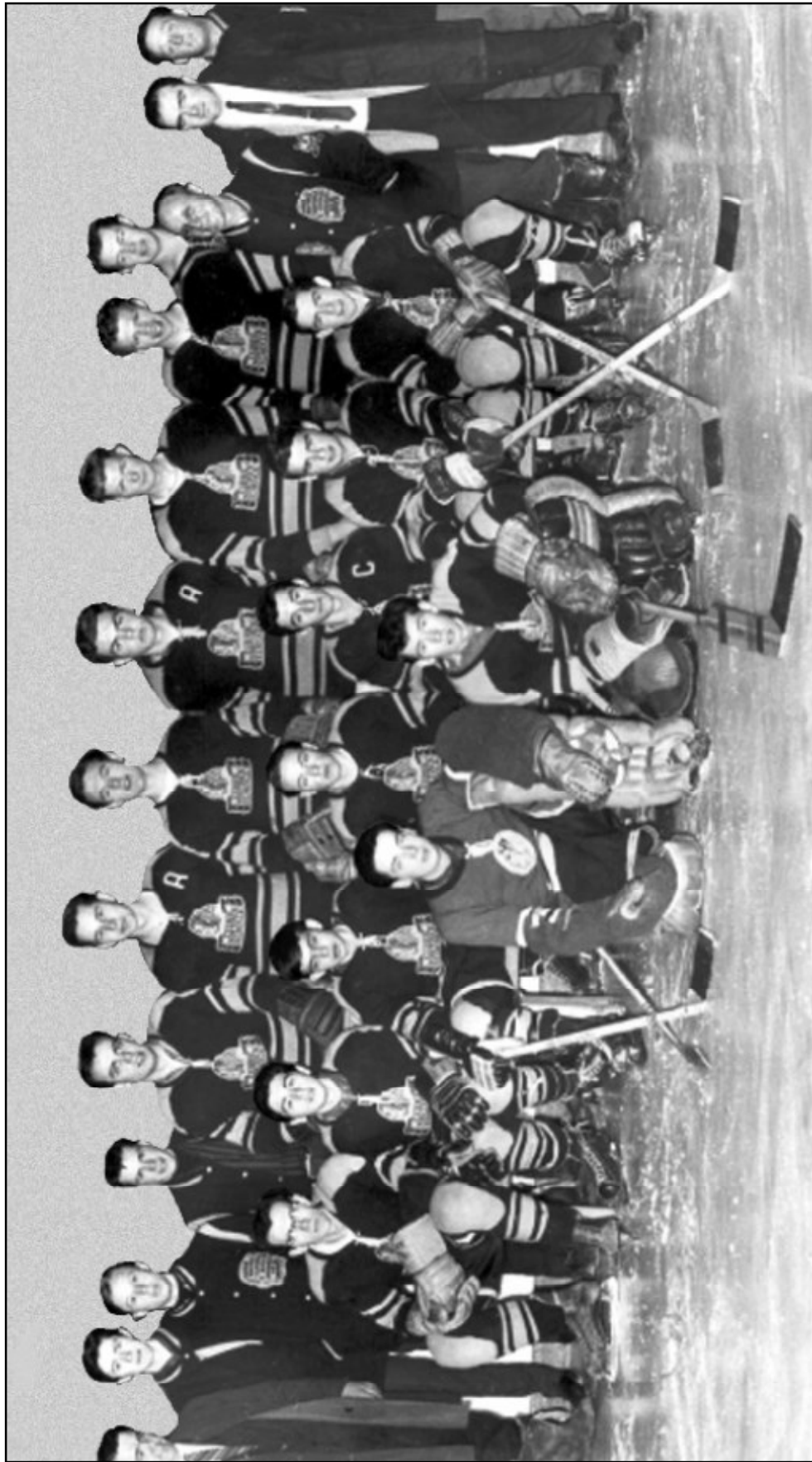
1964-65 Juvenile 'D' Champions – Back (L to R) Stu McKenzie, Brian Swan, Bernie O'Hallarn, Doug Rose (Pres.), Doug Lambie – Middle – Garry Turner, Nelson Woods, Bob Burnett, John Archer, Alvin Leonard, Ralph Archer (Trainer) - Front – George Conn, Steve Crane, Bob Stacey (coach), Carl Edwards, Norm Crane (Manager) Jim Conn, John Brown, Mike Conn, Rob Crane (stick boy),
Missing – Pete Marley, Bill Player, Ted McConnell



1964-65 Juvenile OMHA "D" Champions – One of the Best Ever Elmvale Juvenile Teams

Back – (L to R) Bob Stacey (coach), John Brown, George Conn, Doug Lambie, Alvin Leonard, Mike Conn, Bill Player, Jim Conn, Pete Marley, Ralph Archer **Front** – Bob Burnett, John Archer, Carl Edwards, Rob Crane (stick boy) Stu McKenzie, Steve Crane, Nelson Wood, Gary Turner – Missing – Norm Crane (manager) - *Photo from George Conn*

1965-66 Back to Back Juvenile 'D' OMHA Champions



1965-66 Juvenile Champions – Back (L to R) - Russ Craddock (Coach), Chuck Jordan, Ken Archer, Brian French, Bill Player, Steve Crane, Ted McConnell, Doug Lambie, Gordon Leonard, George Conn, Pete Marley, John Archer (Asst. Manager), Joe Marley (Manager), Ralph Archer (Trainer) - **Middle** – John Archer, Mike Kelly, Bobby Melynk, Nelson Woods, Carl Edwards, Allan Lambie, Paul Marley – **Front** – Barry Wayne Cole, Garry Turner

“Two of the Best Juvenile Teams Ever” - by Mike Townes
As reviewed in the Springwater News of Apr. 10, 2003

The juvenile teams in these two seasons were two of the best teams Elmvale Minor Hockey produced. The 1964-65 team never lost a game, and the 1965-66 team only lost one game. Both teams became OMHA champions.

With apologies to the 1965-66 team, the 1964-65 squad was the best team ever in the history of hockey in Elmvale. This team made a promise to themselves, after losing the title in earlier years, that they would not accept losing again. They were on a mission and would run over everything in their way to win the championship.

Coach Bob Stacey and manager Norm Crane ran a tight ship, and the boys knew who was in charge. The team did not play in a league, so they played exhibition and tournaments most of the year. They would play any team, anywhere. The Juveniles played and defeated the Penetang Jr. “C” team, and they defeated Orillia three times even though Orillia played in the “A” division of the OMHA. After the season was over, Elmvale offered to play Orillia, with the winner collecting \$100, but the bigger centre politely declined.

How good was this team?

Well, word had spread to other parts of Ontario that Elmvale was one of the best teams, not only in the “D” division, but they also were victorious over larger centres. The Milton Juvenile Tournament, consisting of 32 teams, was short a team and asked Elmvale to participate — but, they would have to play in the “C” division. Elmvale was involved with OMHA playoffs, but the coaching staff felt they could fit the tournament into their schedule. The team found themselves in a bind on April 7, 1965. They were still in the tournament, and they had a game with Plattsville that night. The following details of the day were recorded in the Elmvale Lance.

“At 9:30 a.m., Saturday, April 17, the Elmvale Juveniles defeated Bolton by an 8-2 score, and at 5:30 p.m., they won again 6-4 over Milton to win the “C” division trophy. Stewart McKenzie won the most valuable player award from over 32 teams. The team had no time to remove their equipment before boarding a bus to Ayr to play Plattsville at 8:00 p.m. When the game was over with Plattsville, Elmvale had won 7-2 and were crowned OMHA Champions. The Elmvale Alex Currie Pontiac Juveniles had made history by winning two championships in one day.”

John Brown told me that the Elmvale goaltending duo of Bob Burnett and Garry Turner would have won the best goalie award at the Milton Tournament, but they had split the games and were out of the running. He also wanted to give credit to T.R. (Tom) McKenzie for his work and support of the team over the years.

Elmvale Juveniles take OMHA ‘D’ Championship (third in four years)



Back – L to R – Paul Marley, Del Frankcom, Den Patterson, Brian Stone, Ken Archer, Murray Archer, Ron Mills, Ralph Archer (Trainer), John Archer (assistant manager) **Front** – Bob Lalonde, Barry Wayne Cole, Chuck Jordan, Gord Kidd, Bruce Burnett, John Heacock, Rick Edwards **Missing** – Bill Ritchie, Brian Handy, Mike Kelly, Russ Craddock (Coach)

Centennial Year – Juvenile OMHA Champions

Information from the Springwater News – Mike Townes , from files of Sylvia Kelly

Russ Craddock, coach of the previous year's juvenile OMHA champions, was back.

The Elmvale team started the OMHA playoffs against Unionville. Game #1 saw the Juveiles win 7-0 on two-goal performances by Chuck Jordan, Bruce Burnett and Ken Archer. In Game #2, Paul Marley scored twice to help Elmvale to a 4-1 win and a sweep of the series.

The next opponent for Elmvale was Orono. The boys skated to an easy 10-4 win in the opener. Mike Kelly, Bill Ritchie, Jordan and Burnett scored a pair each in the victory. Game #2 was much closer, but Elmvale won again by a 3-1 score, advancing to the next round.

Stirling was the next victim for the Elmvale squad. The first game saw Elmvale win 7-4. Bill Ritchie and Mike Kelly had two goals each to lead the offense. Stirling, at home, handed the Juveniles their first OMHA loss, in Game #2, by a 3-2 score in overtime. Elmvale would have to return to Stirling for the deciding game in the series. Paul Marley had a hat trick in Game #3 and Mike Kelly scored the winning goal at 16:30 of the third period to give the Juveniles a 7-6 victory. The boys were going to the OMHA finals.

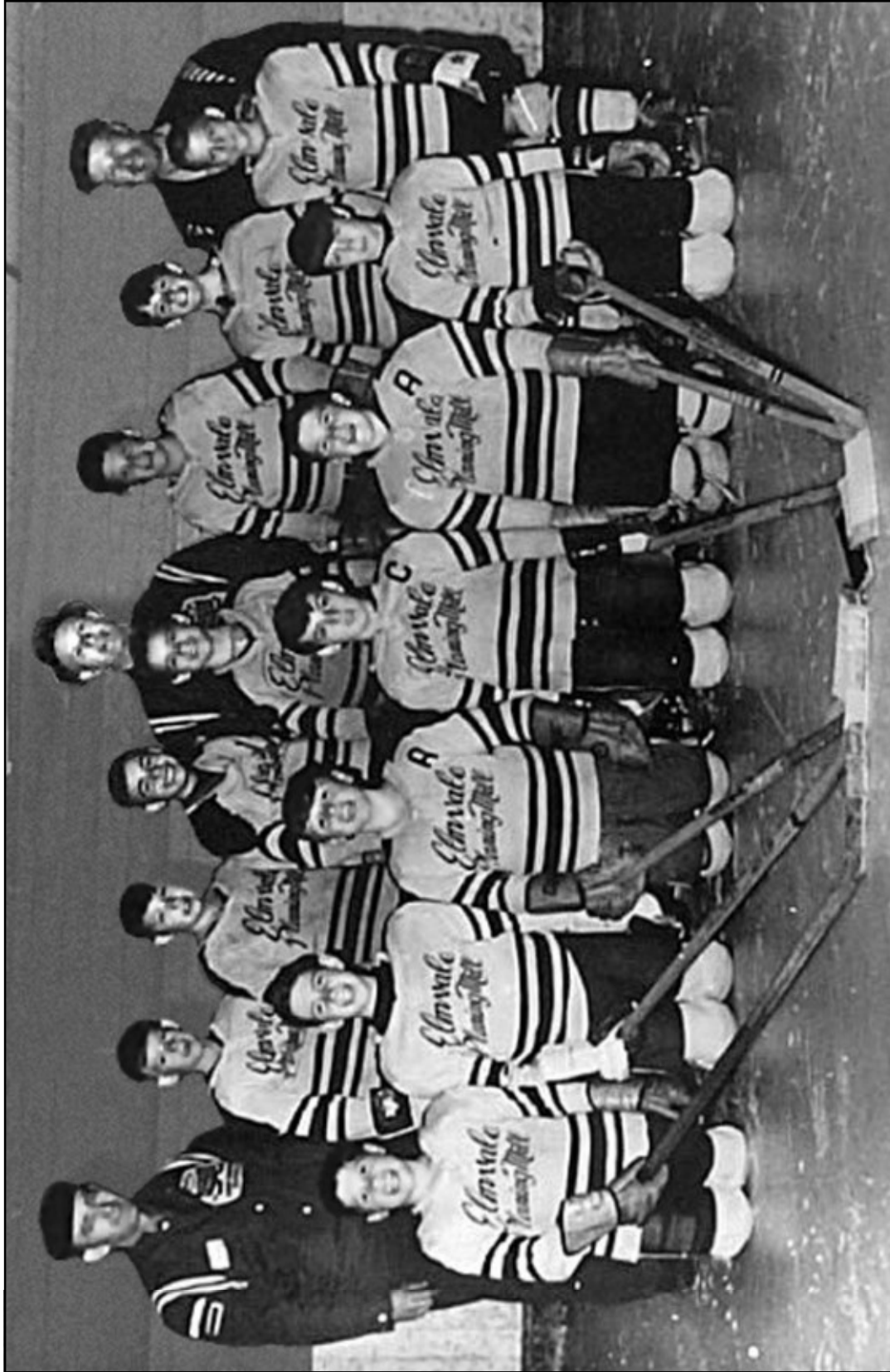
The finals would put the team up against Watford in a wild series. In the best-of -three, the teams combined for 32 goals, and they only played two games!

Game #1 was played in Watford on March 31, 1968. The weather was mild and the ice was coated with a layer of water, but the game must go on. At 8:32 of the second period, Watford lead by a 5-0 score, but Elmvale scored five goals in 7 minutes and 43 seconds while the home team scored once. While scoring 5 goals in less than 8 minutes is an amazing feat in itself, what makes it more unbelievable is, in the OMHA at this time, the periods were straight time. The score after two periods stood at 6-5 for Watford. Elmvale outscored the home team 5-1 in the third period for a 10-7 win. Marley had another hat trick while Burnett, Archer and Jordan added a pair each. Game #2 was scheduled for Elmvale on April 7.

The game was back and forth with each team having the lead several different times. Watford lead 6-5 with less than a minute left in the game. With the goalie on the bench, Chuck Jordan scored his third goal of the game to tie the score at 6-6 at 19:46 of the third period. We were going to overtime!

Overtime was not sudden death in the 1967-68 OMHA playoffs. The teams would have to play ten minutes of overtime hockey. Del Frankcom scored at 2:50, Paul Marley at 3:15 and Mike Kelly at 8:25 of the overtime. Elmvale was again Juvenile 'D' OMHA Champions.

Mike Townes, sports writer for Springwater News, passed on special thanks to Sylvia Kelly for her detailed notes on the series and Murray Archer for supplying the photo.



1967-68 OMHA D Finalist and Little NHL Champions

Back (L to R) - Tom McMann (Manager), Bruce Toner, Bill Windrem, Jim McConnell, Brian Kelly, Doug McConnell (coach), Craig Beacock, Danny Rowat, Doug Elrick, George Elrick (assistant manager) - **Front** - Brian Jamieson, Fred Spring, Dave McClung, Doug McMann, Larry Fallon, Les Trace

Ontario Intermediate "C" Finalists – 1967-68 – Against Durham



Back – (L to R) - Lou Turner, Leighton Smith, Al Smith, Russ Ritchie, Grant Ritchie, Stan Ritchie, Norm Crane
Middle – Pete Rutledge (sponsor), Bill Player, Carl MacDonald, Sandy Donnelly, Stu McKenzie, Carl Edwards, Homer Barrett
Front - Iveson Spring, Don Fleming, Garry Turner, Gary Swailes, John Brown, Paul Rowat, Lou Belcourt, Harry Adams (coach)
Missing – Den Turner, Ken MacDonald - *Photo from Garry Turner*



Peewee Team – early 70's *supplied by Jack Dixon*

Jack Dixon (manager) Roger Trace (trainer) Bill Player (coach)

Back – Wayne Dixon, Bob Dunn, Mike Fallon, Paul Archer, Rick Hill

Front – Mike Trace, Russel Stacey, Brian Jamieson, Neil Archer, Doug Trace

These boys are wearing the original jackets that were selected to give the Elmvale boys and their parents a uniform look when they visited other arenas. The jackets were deep purple with a gold stripe on the arm and trimmed with gold buttons. The crest was a distinct “E” that contained the words *Elmvale Minor Hockey*.

I expect that the colours were chosen because they were the colours of the Lions Club. The Lions had played a leading role in building the arena and equipping it with artificial ice. As well, the Club was one of the main ‘team sponsors’ in the community.

Roger Trace, since deceased, was a familiar face behind the bench and in the arena during the 70’s. He was a ready volunteer for any type of work around the arena, and his cheerful disposition made him a popular team member.



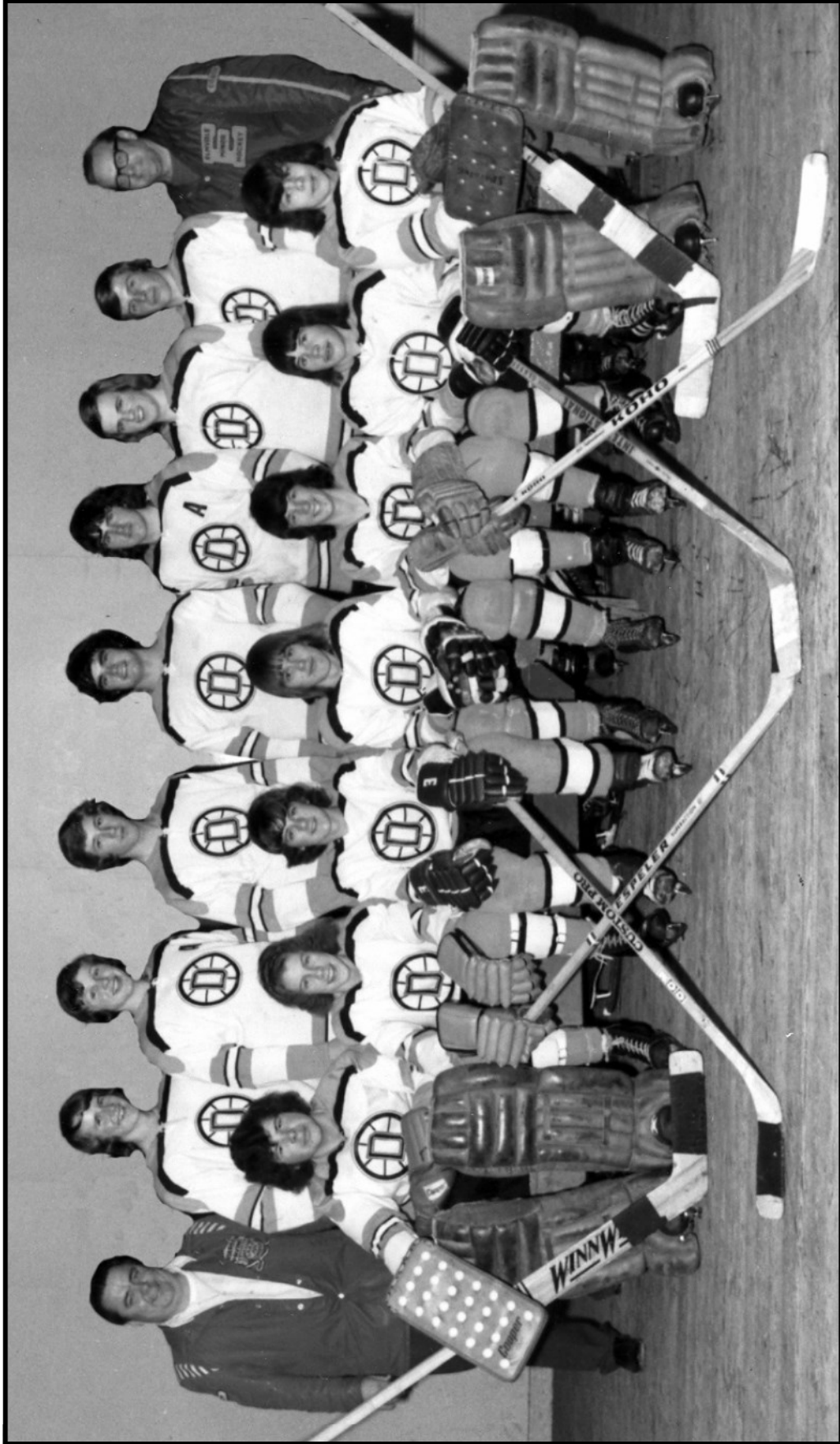
Familiar Faces from the Early 70's

Back (L to R) - Jim McConnell , _____, Bruce Toner, Craig Beacock, Dan Rowat, Fred Spring, Les Trace **Middle** – Bill Windrem, Tom McMann (manager), Doug McConnell (coach), George Elrick (trainer), Doug Elrick **Front** – David McClung, Doug McMann, Brian Kelly, Larry Fallon, Allan Jamieson

The Skating Season (Nov. 12, 1902 – Chronicle)

Last winter the hockey club had charge of the Elmvale skating rink, and a very satisfactory and successful season's sport was the result. So far prospects are not the brightest for a senior hockey team this season, as several of the stand-bys have either removed or are going to give up the game, as it is not likely the club will take charge of the rink. It is therefore to be hoped that some enterprising individual will take charge of it for the winter, as it can easily be made a financial success. In the meantime we hope the hockeyists will follow the example of other towns and organize a club. Although material is a little scarce at present, it is sure to be had, even if we cannot place a winning team on the ice.

Russ Craddock – Coach of the 60’s and 70 – Here with the 1972-73 Midgets



Russ Craddock's Last Team – Midget – Russ Craddock, Glenn Ritchie, Dave McClung, Greg Giffen, Steve Dunn, Larry Fallon, Mark Archer, Dan Breedon, Ken Dunn **Front – Dave Barnes, John Trace, Bob Dunn, Alan Jamieson, Paul Craddock**



Elmvale Minor Hockey Easter Tournament – Bantam Entry

Back – (L to R) Brian Handy (manager), Dan Ritchie, Julian Melnyk, Mark Archer, Dan Breedon, David Rowat, Doug Dwinnell, John Trace, Steve Loftus, George Conn (coach), Bill Trace (trainer) **Front** - Steve Townes, Martin Hope, John Melnyk, Paul Craddock, Jim Dixon, Del Bertram, Peter Windrem

A successful Easter Tournament paid one third the bills for the year. The local teams needed to make it to the final games.

Running on Fumes

I've coached sports teams in Elmvale for over thirty years,
But there was always fun in sitting back and learning from your peers.
The story I'm about to tell is of an Elmvale bantam hockey team,
And their coach, Ken Dunn, who was counted on to help them reach their OMHA dream.

Now a conflict arose between Ken and I before an OMHA semi-final game.
I had a basketball team in an Orillia tournament and a number of players were the same.
I assured Ken that I wouldn't hurt his players; we were candidates for early elimination.
I guess I hadn't factored in what boys can do when they play with grim determination.

By noon the boys had won two 'awesome' games and now were qualified
To make a run for the championship on legs that were almost 'fried'.
I know three of the boys were due in Bobcageon for a hockey game that night,
So Bill Trace found a mattress for his wagon and gassed it for the flight.

We did get beat that final game; by a basket right at the bell.
Now we rushed the boys to the waiting wagon and bade them a fond farewell.
As I made my way back to Elmvale, I couldn't get my mind off those spirited lads
That were now getting out of basketball shorts and putting on hockey pads.

I couldn't get my mind off those young sport's heroes that just wouldn't let you down,
So I stopped long enough to fuel body and car; then headed for that distant town.
I saw two exciting periods of hockey and I believe the score was tied,
But by then poor Hofmann couldn't get his legs to go no matter how hard he tried.

Bobcageon sensed the Elmvale exhaustion and so raised the intensity in the third,
And when the home team scored a quick goal, coach Dunn didn't say a word.
As the final minutes beckoned, John Trace and Mark Archer were still giving
all they had

To coach Dunn being down one goal to a superior team really wasn't all that bad.

Then Larry Fallon did a solo act that brought a tie from sure defeat.
He made a rush from end-to-end dribbling the puck between weary feet.
The tying goal re-energized our guys with but two minutes left to go.
Coach Dunn used all the stalling tactics the book preparing for his final show.

With just one minute left to go, misfortune once more reared her ugly head.
Bobcageon scored on a group of boys whose legs were almost dead.
Now it was time to pull the goalie and offer up a silent prayer;
Facing an extra attacker with the goalie pulled is probably a coach's worst nightmare.

When play resumed the exhausted John Trace received a vicious check
That made us wonder if that game little guy would have injuries to the neck.
Coach Dunn ran out with great concern and put a knee upon his chest,
And by the time John regained his wobbly feet, his team had time to rest.

Elmvale called upon hidden resources and moved to the attack.
Then Bobcageon sprang two players free, and they brought the puck right back.
Now two players on a 'clean' break-away is such an awesome sight
That Fuzz Hayes, the Elmvale goal judge, put his head down and turned on the light.

His head was still buried in his arms when there came a sigh I won't forget.
The attackers made one 'cocky' pass too many, and the shooter missed the net.
Somehow, Elmvale seized the opportunity when their opponents were still in shock,
And scored the tying goal with but seconds left on the
clock.

There was to be a brief on-ice rest before over-time,
but when we looked around
Coach Dunn was sitting on the bench, but the boys
were nowhere to be found.
They had made their way to the dressing room and
quickly locked the door.
Now finding a key and getting the boys back on the ice
used up ten minutes more.

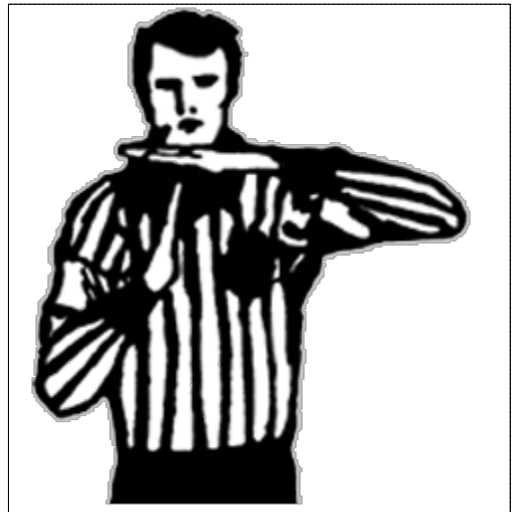
The Elmvale boys went on to dominate that conclusive
over-time frame,

And to the surprise of all those present, they left as winners of the game.
Although they went on to win the series, this game is the one that sticks in mind.

It would be years before these lad could claim success
of the provincial kind.

I guess a lot of my admiration is for those who can
master many sports,
And they are there among the notables when schools
hand out reports.

These boys would give their best to any coach, and
they still had time for fun,
But they were at their entertaining best when coached
by Mr. Dunn.





1974-75 OMHA Juvenile Champions

Back – (L to R) - Dan Ritchie, Jim Grigg, Paul Craddock, Julian Melnyk, Steve Loftus, Rick Durnford, John Melnyk, Ross Downey, John Trace, Mark Archer **Middle** – Brian Handy (trainer), Peter Beardsall, Jeff Columbus, Dave Morrow, Dan Breedon, Greg Giffen, George Conn (coach), **Front** - Frank Archer (EMHA), Bill Trace (manager), Ross McConnell (EMHA) -

Missing – Guy Reeve, Ross Walten – *Photo from George Conn*

The 1974-75 OMHA Juvenile “DD” Champions

by Mike Townes – Sports Zone – Springwater News

The Elmvale Juveniles had won their last OMHA championship in the “D” Division in the 1967/68 season. Elmvale Minor Hockey had now been moved up to the “DD” Division and did not reach the finals until the 1974/75 season.

George Conn, an OMHA champion in 1965, was the young coach of the 74/75 team. George, with the help of manager Bill Trace and trainer Brian Handy, molded the boys into a team that would win the OMHA championship against Dorchester.

The boys played Powassan in their first round. Elmvale won the first game 5-4 in overtime, then lost 6-5, and took the deciding game 9-3.

The next series was the best-of-five against Nobleton, and the Elmvale squad found themselves in a big hole. Nobleton won the first two games 6-3 and 3-1. The Juveniles had to win the next three to continue on the road to the championship. Elmvale won Game Three 4-2 and Game Four by a convincing 7-2 score. In Game five the Elmvale Juveniles won again by bouncing the Nobleton squad by a 9-5 score. The comeback was complete.

The next team they played was Stirling in the semi-finals. Again, the boys started off slowly, losing Game One 6-5, but again, they stormed back, winning the next three. Elmvale was going to the finals.

Elmvale would play Dorchester in the finals. Elmvale won the first game of the best of seven series by a whopping 17-5 score. Game Two was closer as the team won 8-6. Game three was another runaway as they won 11-5. Elmvale was one game away from the championship, and it took overtime, but Elmvale won 8-7. The OMHA Juvenile Championship was back home in Elmvale. George Conn was the first and only person to ever win an OMHA Juvenile Championship as a player and a coach.

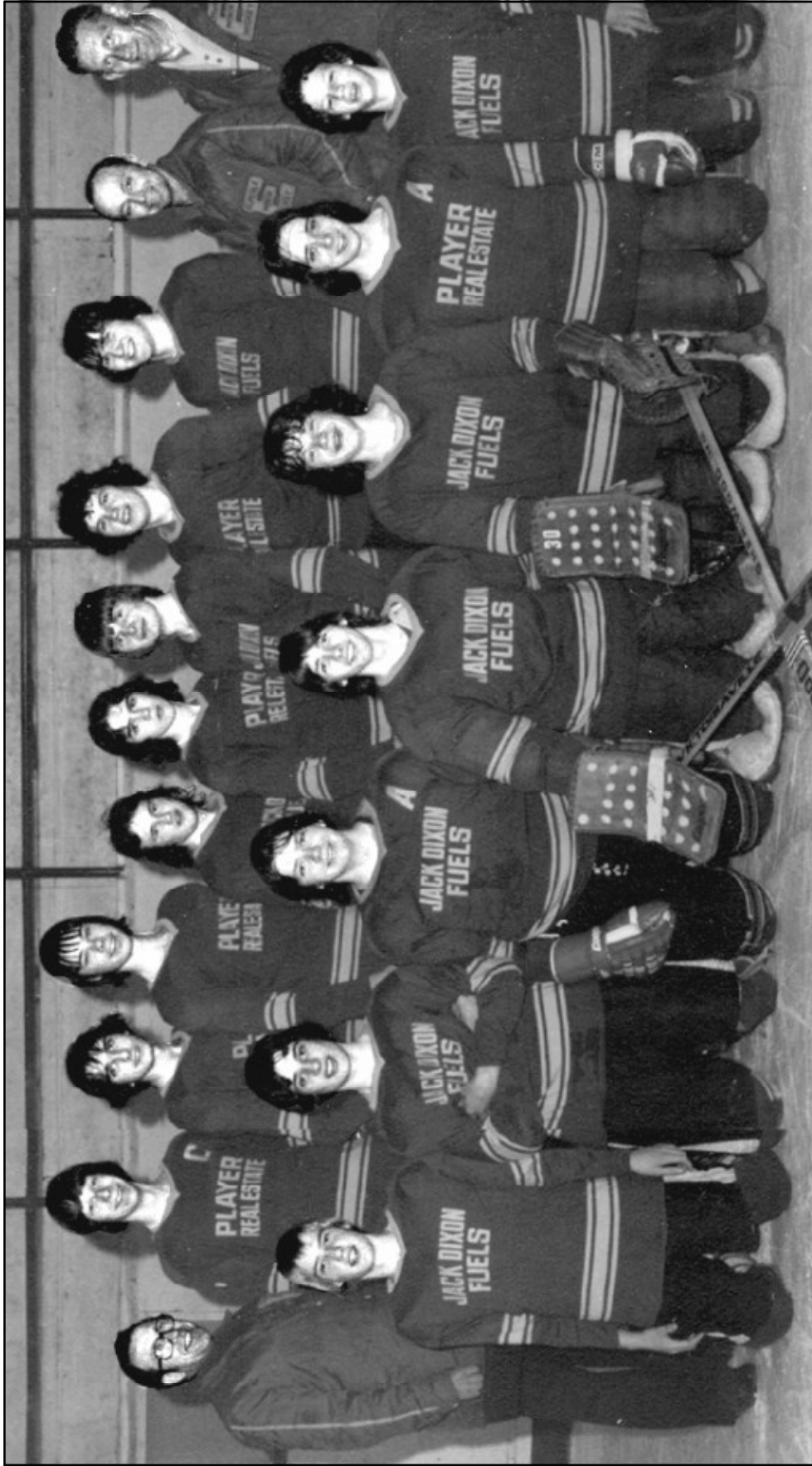
Elmvale Juveniles had now been in the OMHA championship finals six times and had won all six. The Juveniles would not win another championship till 1984/85.

A Note by George Allen –

The final three games in the Nobleton series were some of the hardest-hitting periods of hockey that I have ever witnessed. The Melnyk twins could hit with the best. At one point Julian delivered a devastating check that tumbled his opponent over the boards where he disappeared from sight.

During the runaway win in the first game of the Dorchester series, some of the boisterous Elmvale fans, while the puck was in the Elmvale end and all eyes were turned away, slipped out the door onto the ice and placed a sheet of plywood behind the Dorchester goaltender, ostensibly to help turn back the Elmvale attack. The plywood sheet was one that was used as a ‘dummy goalie’ during practice and had several holes cut in it to sharpen up the aim of the players.

Elmvale Minor Hockey – Midget “A” - 1976-77



Back (L to R) - Ike Stacey (manager – deceased) - Wayne Dixon, Mike Trace, Doug Jones, Bill Luck, Dan Luck, Gary Breedon, Rob Priest, Rob Elrick Torrence Reeve (coach – deceased), Jack Dixon (assistant manager) **Front** – Roger Stacey, Brad Maurice, Wade Brittain, Jeff Bezzo, Russ Stacey, Doug Gillespie, Bart Reeve (Picture supplied by Jack Dixon)



North American Silver Stick Champions - OMHA Peewee Ontario Finalists - 1977

Back - (L to R) Brian Swan (manager), Ed Robertson (trainer) David Trace, Reg Kenwell, Ken Graham, Ross McConnell (Coach) -
Middle - Kevin Swan, Jim Clement, Glenn Jones, Dean Robertson - **Front** - Kevin Steele, Murray Frankcom, Glenn Downey,
 Brian Norwood, Tom VanNatter, Allan Melnyk, Brad Young, Duane Janes

Winning Didn't Come Easily

The first obstacle that had to be overcome was getting to Port Huron through a driving snow storm. Near Galt the bus was delayed about seven hours after having a minor accident in the blizzard conditions. After resuming the trip, a second storm was encountered near Ingersol, and this time the team and supporters were forced to wait out the storm in a service station on Highway 401 along with numerous other stranded motorists.

The bus got back on the road at 4:00 a.m., arriving at the host motel in Sarnia at 6:45 a.m.

The First Game

This impressive Elmvale Peewee team had gone more than two dozen consecutive games without defeat when they met Levack after just a few hours rest. The tournament had been rescheduled to accommodate those who were delayed by storm conditions.

This game proved to be one of the most difficult on the way to the championship.

This was a contest between two evenly matched teams, and Elmvale trailed by one goal for most of the game. Then with less than two minutes left in regulation time, Brad Young scored to put the local boys ahead. Then disaster struck again as Levack evened the game with only 31 seconds left.

Outstanding goaltending highlighted the overtime sudden death periods. By the time they were over, both goaltenders had made 41 saves. Finally, at 6:13 of the third overtime period, Tommy VanNatter put away a set up from Young to climax the marathon.

Kevin Steele, the Elmvale goalie, would get the nod as one of the stars of the game.

Because one of the tournament teams was eliminated by storm conditions, Elmvale got a 'bye' to the final.

The Final Game

This game was played at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning against a team from Hamilton. The boys seemed refreshed by the extra rest that rewards a team on a 'bye'. Tom VanNatter, Reggie Kenwell and Brad Young provided Elmvale with a 3-0 lead after one period of play. David Trace, Kevin Swan, Glenn Jones and Allan Melnyk assisted on the goals.

Brian Norwood scored from David Trace in the second, with Hamilton also scoring to keep the same spread over two periods.

Hamilton scored again in the third to make the score a respectable 4-2.

Duane Janes and Kevin Steele combined goal-keeping duties in this game, an impressive performance that earned them votes toward a place on the International All Star Team.

The International All Stars

Of course the whole team deserved international recognition. In addition the following individuals were named to the International All Star Team: **Duane Janes** (goal), **Tommy VanNatter** (centre), **Jim Clement** (right defence) and **Kevin Steele** (goal).



**third annual international cup
oldtimers' hockey tournament,
copenhagen, denmark, march 4-11, 1978**



Gold Medalists Back – (L to R) - Scotty _____, B. Burns, D. Cosburn, K. Kelly, P. Nicolas, Russ Ritchie, Ron McAuley, J. Johnson, George Ellery **Front:** -Lou Turner, Stan Ritchie, B. Scott, Charie Scott, Ernie Mills, Glenn Locke, Dennis Turner, Mike _____, Don Fleming, B. Kearns - *picture supplied by Ron McAuley*

Oldtimers Bring Home Gold Medals

Elmvale Lance – 1978 – contributed by Ron McAuley

The Georgian Bay Indians Oldtimers Hockey Club left for Denmark two weeks ago, full of enthusiasm and hoping to win a few games at the International Oldtimers Hockey Tournament being held in Copenhagen.

The club returned to Canada Sunday night laden with gold medals, and bringing hockey honours to Huronia from Denmark.

At the tournament, the Oldtimers emerged as champions of the “E” Division, earning gold medals for its efforts and an international hockey trophy.

The team played excellent hockey throughout the tournament, winning five straight games to lock up the championship.

The Oldtimers started out on the right foot, establishing themselves as a high scoring team by crushing Holland 17 – 0.

The second game saw the Oldtimers convincingly defeat a team from Niagara Falls New York, the Damn Yankees, 7-1.

The competition got tougher with each game the Oldtimers played. In game three they earned a 4-2 decision over Lambeth.

The Oldtimer’s fourth game saw them pitted against Chippewa in a semi-final match. By eking out a 2-1 victory, the Oldtimers advanced to the finals, where they met a team from St. John.

The championship game proved to be a nerve-wracking experience for both Oldtimers’ players and their fans. Georgian Bay fought to a narrow 1-0 victory, on the strength of a single goal scored in the first period by Ron McAuley. McAuley’s goal came on a breakaway while the team was two men short.



Russ Ritchie of Elmvale, a member of the Georgian Bay Oldtimers, takes a drink during the stress of the Oldtimer games played recently in Copenhagen. This photo appeared on the front page of the March 10 issue of the South Scandinavian Paper. *This photo was published in the Lance, a reproduction from a Scandinavian newspaper photo.*

New League Added to Accommodate Players



South Shore League Champion Atom B Team – Back (L to R) - Scott McLean (coach), Brad Young, Brad Adams Trent Turner, Jim Hal. And Glen Jones (holding new Midland Civitan sponsored sweaters), Paul Rowe, Dave Linssen, Stephen Trace, Ken Hocken and Ron Mills (manager)
- Front – Brian Devitt, Dave Trace, Doug Maxim, Ken Archer, Mike Pearson, Conrad Higgins and Jim Maw

By the mid seventies Elmvalle Minor Hockey had too many boys to fill our the “Rep” teams and too few players to form an effective house league. Nearby towns were experiencing the same growth, and after informal talks, it was decided to set up a new league for the players that couldn’t make the “Rep” or first teams in the town.

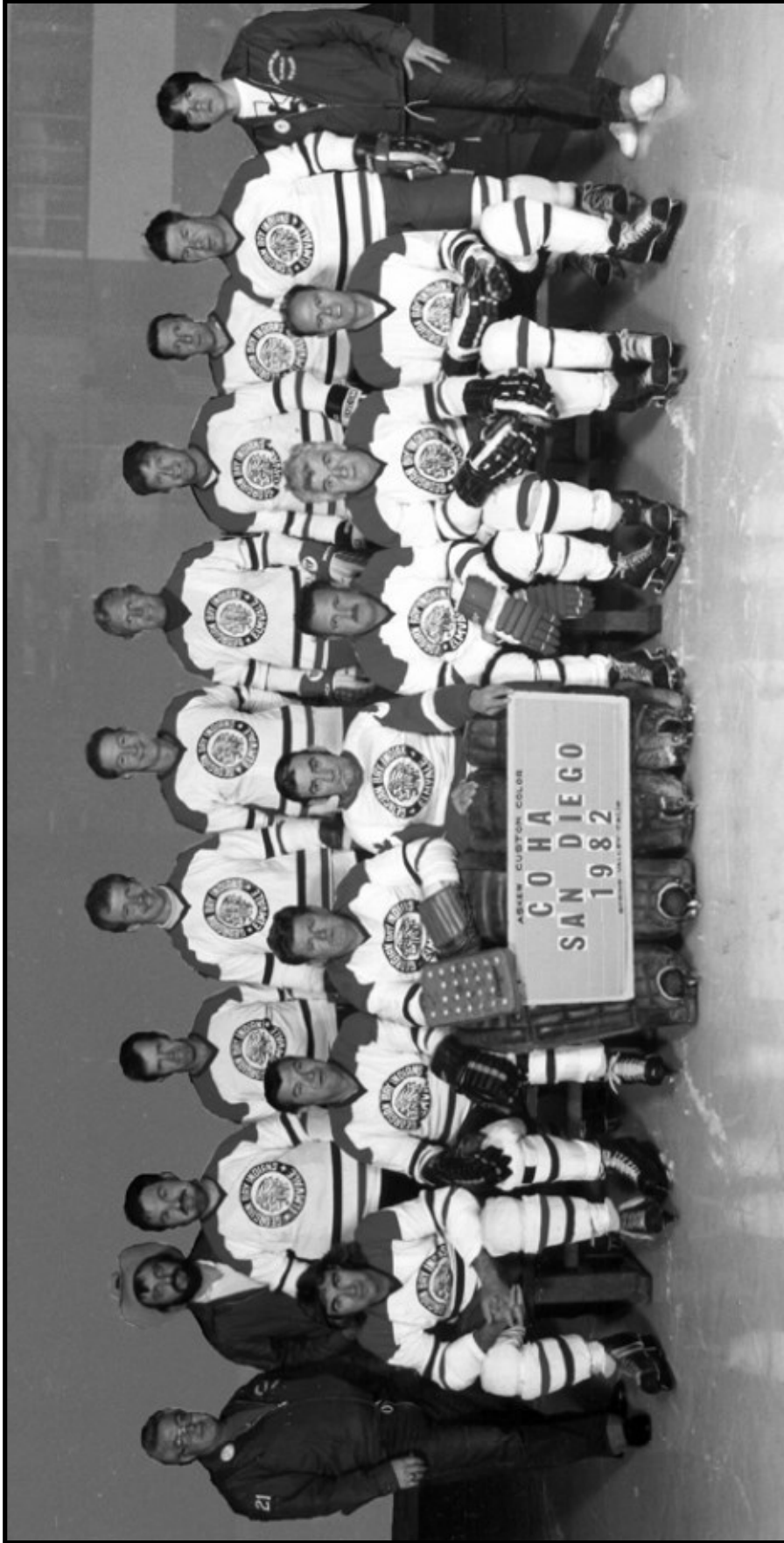
Larger centres such as Midland, Penetang, and Owen Sound would send their minor teams (first year boys of the two-year age group). Other centres such as Elmvalle, Stayner, Meaford, Creemore and Thornbury could use any boys that weren’t chosen for the “A” teams.

Stan Janes and George Allen had a large part to do with the organization and operation of the Elmvalle entries and the league in its formative years.

To add additional interest and excitement, the South Shore League organized an East vs. West All Star Game which was played after the spring playoffs at Wasaga Beach.

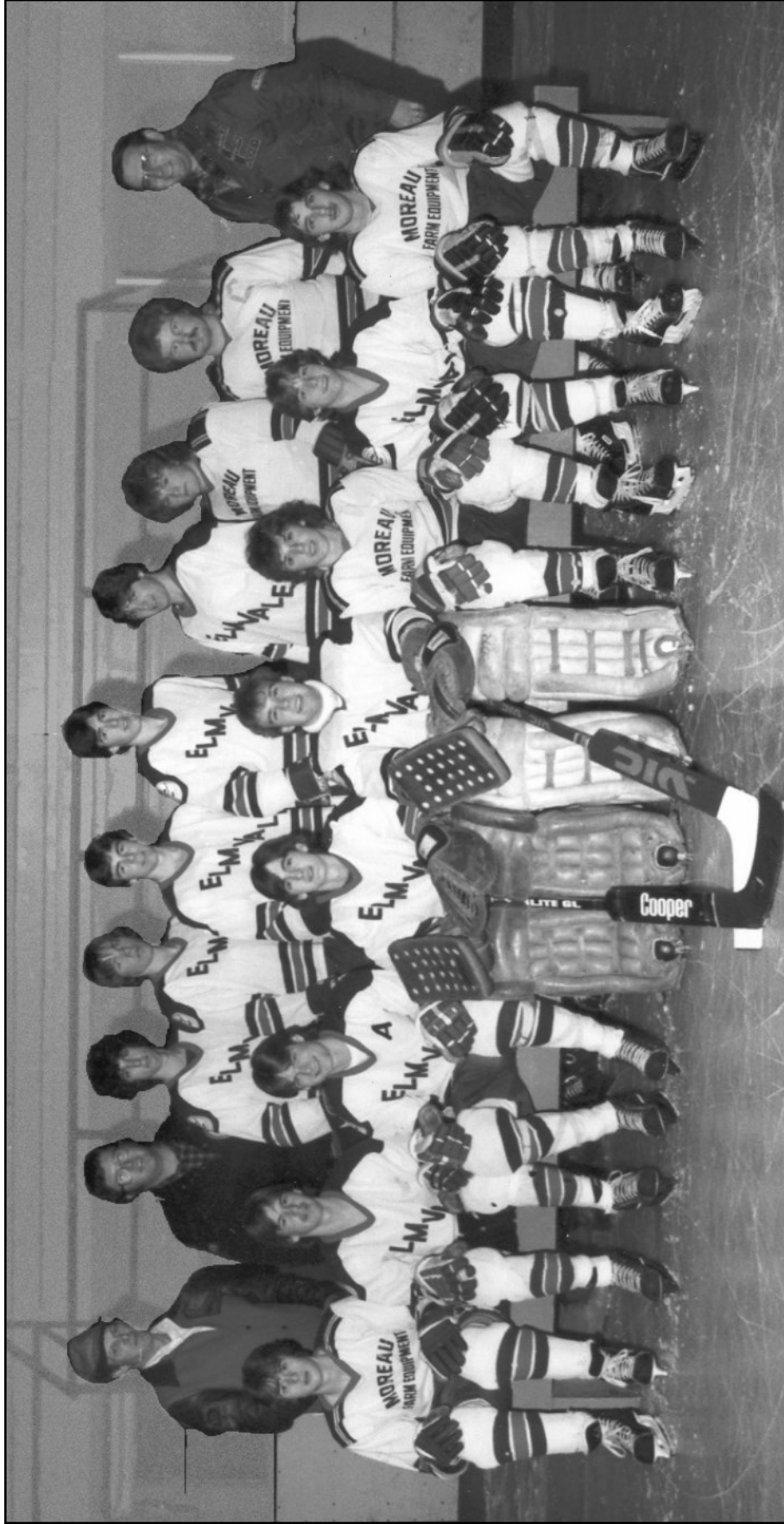
Eventually the South Shore League gave way to the OMHA organization of Additional Entry teams. The success of some of those AE teams is chronicled at the end of this hockey section.

Georgian Bay Oldtimers Gather Gold in San Diego – 1982



Back - (L to R) - Don Fleming, Bill Player, Ed Lowe, Ron McAuley, Larry Simpson, Ken Kelly, Corby Adams, Wayne Hickling, Don Robinson, Charlie Scott, Steve Palmateer. **Front** - Bob Scott, Ken Palmateer, Bob Kearns, Lou Turner, Den Turner, Stan Ritchie, Mick Norman - *Photo supplied by Ron McAuley*

The Comeback Kids



Moreau Farm Equipment Juveniles – OMHA “C” Champions 1983-84

Back (L to R) Ed Robertson (trainer), Brian Swan (manager), Kenny Graham, *Kevin House, Wayne Allen, Rodger Allen, Dan Clement, Mike Hall, * Jim Hall, George Allen (coach) Front – Larry Amos, Dave Bannerman, Sandy Clark, Bill Lord, Steve Cochrane, Dean Roberson (captain), Paul Steele, Steve Chalmers Missing – Murray Frankcom, Randy Greenlaw, Roger House, Tom Luck, Kevin Swan * Didn't play in OMHA Play-offs.

The Comeback Kids

Elmvale had to eliminate Stayer to advance to OMHA play-offs. Stayner is never a team to be taken lightly, so it came as no surprise to the coach when the local boys dropped the opener in a best of three series. The insult struck home, and the local team stormed back to win games two and three by a clear margin on the board.

The quarter-finals was played against a heavy-hitting Stroud squad that powered its way to a lead after the first game. Four games later Elmvale had claimed the series.

The semi-final OMHA series against Pickering was a miscarriage of justice. The Pickering team had completed a very successful swing through Europe and were an evenly balanced, tough hockey team. So tough, in fact that Elmvale was soon behind 2-0 in a best three-of-five series. Then, followed a 2-1 win in Pickering that offered a glimmer of hope. The Moreau Gang ended the game with the three second-year defencemen in the penalty box for the final minute and one half. When the players were unscrambled from a heap in front of the Elmvale goal at the final whistle, the puck was on the goal line but not in the net. Elmvale had survived the 6-4 advantage in manpower.

The return to Elmvale was a disaster for Pickering as they ran into penalty trouble early and lost their composure. Result: a tied series after the Elmvale 4-3 victory, with the final to be played in Pickering.

Extra buses accompanied the team, and those who came were not disappointed. The final score, Elmvale 7 – Pickering Village 2, did not indicate the closeness of the game. It did, however, emphasize the disappointment of a team that had lost its game discipline.

This set the stage for a seven game battle against Belmont. The Elmvale boys played well, but they were soon behind three games to one and were pretty well battered up from all the intense games that preceded these. However, after the sixth game the series

was tied and the Moreau boys were heading home for the final game. Although all six games had been won by a margin of one goal (some games had an empty net goal as well), the final game was won by Elmvale by a score of 6-1. Perhaps that was due to the arena full of Elmvale fans whose imagination was captured by the “Comeback Kids”.

All series went to final games. Elmvale juveniles were faced with elimination in six of their last ten games. There was a lot of excitement in a team with a ‘Shakey’ forward line, ‘Luck’ on defence and the ‘Lord’ in goal.



John Anderson of the Toronto Maple Leafs presents the MVP medal to Ken Graham (Shakey) at the annual Minor Hockey banquet.



Rewarding Impressive Performances

(1983-84 OMHA Juvenile Champions)

Left – Dean Robertson was the captain of the team, and symbolized it's determination. Hard play didn't prevent him from receiving the medal as the most gentlemanly player .

Below: Larry French (President of EMHA) presented the Coaches-of-the –Year trophy to George Allen, Ed Roberston and Brian Swan.

Elmvale Faced Elimination

By George Allen

It was not hard to motivate the Moreau Farm Equipment Juveniles for the fourth game of the best of seven OMHA Finals.



Being down two games to one to the Belmont team was sufficient encouragement to ensure an excellent effort. The fans were not disappointed with the effort; it was the result that was disappointing.

The Belmont goalie stood six feet tall and four feet wide in each of the previous games, and his ability to cover all but the smallest cracks in the net was frustrating.

The highlight of frustration came when he survived a storm of pucks during the first period of the third game. There seemed to be no net left, just the occasional hollow ring of a puck bouncing off the goal posts.

The Moreau Gang had strong goaltending from Bill Lord, great defence work, strong fore-checking, and outstanding backchecking. The pucks wouldn't go into the opposition net. The local boys dominated the centre ice area, passed the puck, got away good shots, and checked well. But, the pucks wouldn't go into the net.

The boys survived short-handed experiences in the early going, slow ice conditions, and a short-handed second goal by Belmont. They saw pucks fly into the air and hit the Belmont goalie on the back on the way down. But the pucks wouldn't go into the Belmont net.

Final Score: Belmont 3 – Elmvale 1. The final Belmont goal was into an empty Elmvale net.

George Allen reported the progress of this team weekly in the Lance. It was an attempt to make hockey into the fun game that it is meant to be, and as the players got better known they would attract more followers. The reports were often in verse form.

Indians Strike Silver in Sunshine State – 1983

by Ron Johnston – Midland Paper – supplied by Ron McAuley

Elmvale's Georgian Bay Indians Oldtimer's hockey team traveled to the sunny climes of Florida and found time enough from their busy schedules of beach-combing and sunbathing to capture the Hockey Tournament in St. Petersburg, Florida. ...

The Indians opened the tourney meeting Toronto Lakeshore in a bleary-eyed match on Tuesday at 8 a.m. Elmvale started fast and built up a 3-0 lead under the eagle eye of manager Morley "Pops" Spiker, who paid generously for this political announcement.

Goals by Jim "27" Brodeur, Bob Hamill, and Corby Adams gave Elmvale the lead, but T.O. roared back with three late markers, and the Indians had to settle for a kiss from their sister.

Wednesday's action pitted the Indians against Sweden's finest oldsters at 6 p.m., and it appeared that the northerners had had too much of the foam (ocean or otherwise) as they succumbed to the fleet Vasteras squad by a 3-0 count.

Highlight of the day's events was the watching of the vapor trails from nearby Tampa International Airport, as "Wild Bill" Player's jet zoomed in and out trying to get all his gear together in one place. Despite his hectic schedule, and intercontinental travel, Bill Player managed to participate in all four games during the week, providing some sound defensive work to the team's play.

It appeared at this point that manager "Pops" and wily coach, Harry Adams, had the Indians in gear and ready to meet the dreaded Swedes again in the title showdown.

This was exactly what transpired on Friday afternoon in the tournament's final game.

The undefeated Vasteras VIK team took to the ice as heavy favorites against the Elmvale Oldtimers, but the sunshine and O. J. of the Old South seemed to agree with the aging pucksters from Ontario.

For two periods Georgian Bay held the mighty Swedes at bay, and the game was tied at 1-1 with one stanza to go.

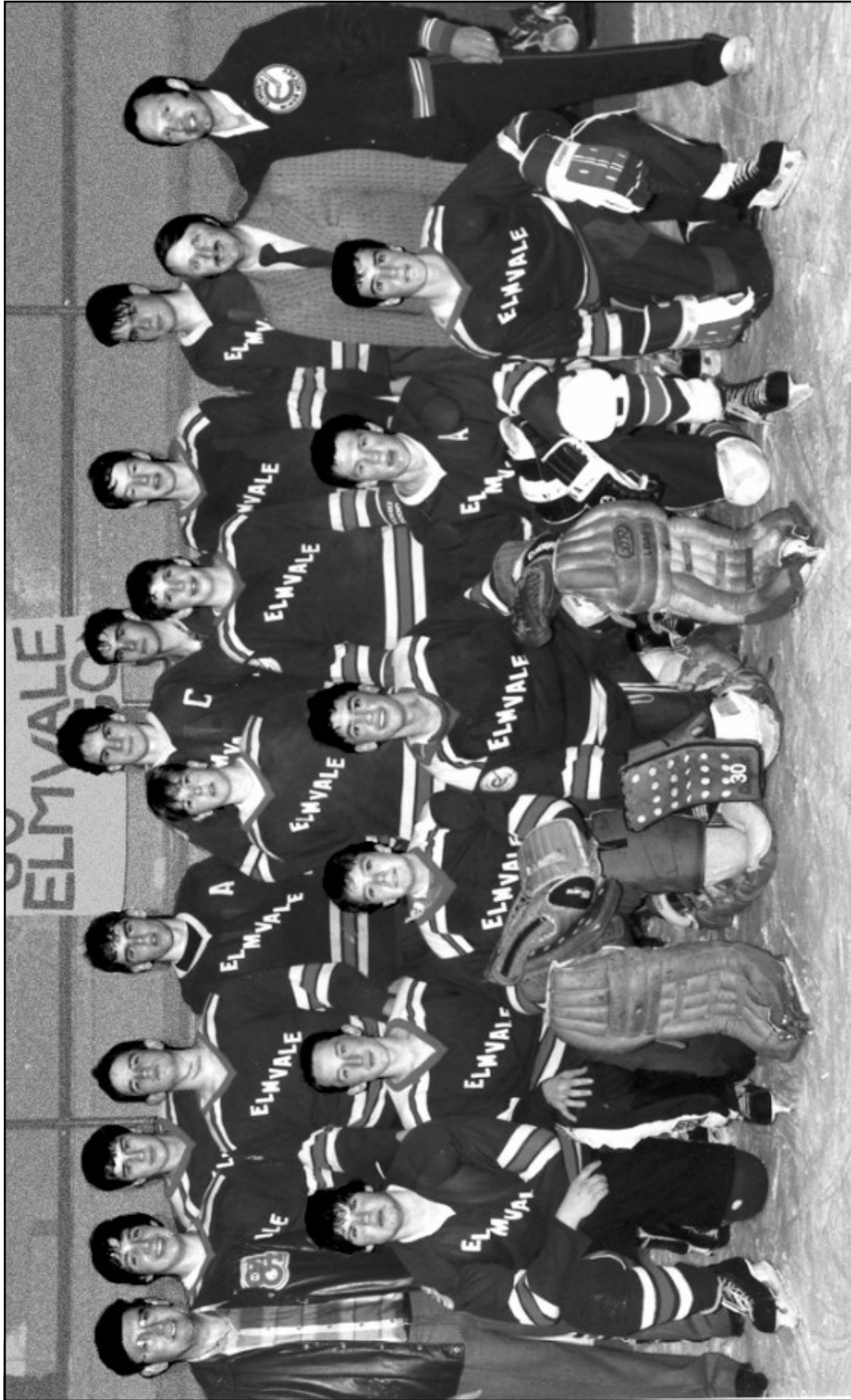
The Europeans proved to be too much for the Indians as they potted a couple of last period goals to take the game 3-1 and with it the gold medal. ...

Here is the list of players for the Georgian Bay Indians Oldtimers Hockey team who once again brought honor and prestige to Huronia.

Both goalies, Bill Grant and Garry Turner played superbly between the pipes all week.

Bill Player, Ron McAuley, Ken Palmateer, Grant Ritchie and Garry Hines manned the blueline in capable style, and the forwards were Charlie Scott, Bob Scott, Jim Brodeur, Stu McKenzie, Larry Simpson, Dennis Turner, Corby Adams, Bob Hamill and Wally Boyer.

Each of the team members received a beautiful silver medal for their week's accomplishments, and good-looking tans for their holidays.



All Ontario Bantam "C" OMHA Champions (first year of back-to-back)

Back – Jim Martin, Jim Ball, Scott Kirton, Todd Belanger, Shane Bywater, Jim Pottage Second - George Allen (coach), Jason Tapscott, Fraser Bell, Jamie Grant, Andy Lee, Murray Archer (manager), George Conn (assistant coach and trainer) Front – Rob Waples, Scott Archer, Craig Cochrane, Mike Rossel, Rob Conn, Steve Dove.

Reaching for the Top - by G. Allen (coach)

(A Tribute to the OMHA Champion Hapamp Bantams – 1986)

For twenty games we struggled for the right to sip champagne
From the cup of final triumph that most teams can't attain.
Supremacy in hockey is not a goal for the faint of heart;
The pressures of a screaming crowd can tear a team apart.

The Smithville series proved our team could win games on the road,
And in Haliburton we learned we had an offense that could explode.
Sterling taught us about the need to play until you hear the final bell,
And we learned, at Belmont, that if you want to win you have to skate like

Kirton showed us how to score with his pair of shifty hands,
And Ball made his opposition feel like a group of 'also rans'.
Conn turned his foes inside-out with the magic of his 'fake',
And Cochrane often dashed the hopes of those who got a 'break'.

Lee was asked to alternate from forward to defence,
But Belanger often got the call when the game was most intense.
Jamie Grant held foes at bay while others took a rest,
While Steven Dove killed penalties and skated with the best.

Tapscott learned to hit the net in games that were most tight,
While Pottage always got a 'piece' of players in full flight.
Shane Bywater set up tying goals with accurate assists,
While Archer slammed home rebounds that other forwards missed.

Waples showed that checking is a prime ingredient,
While Rossel made enormous saves when the defensive legs were spent.
Martin screened the goalies and tapped in some errant shots,
And Bell was quick to tie up those who dallied in the slot.

The boys of fall could claim a win with efforts by a few,
But the tournament win at Elmvale did not supply the glue
To prepare the team for action at Wasaga's Silver Stick;
For individual effort is not enough to do the trick.

The OMHA Play-offs put the test to any team,
And fans that once stood with pouting lips will now begin to scream.
There are those that rise above themselves to the crowd's loud acclamation,
And those who blame the boys in stripes for harsh discrimination.

Those who support the efforts of the players on the ice
Get very little credit, but they, too, must pay a price.
These parents all have stomachs that are queazy half the night,
And they know their child has all the fuel, but sometimes it won't ignite.

There are those in Minor Hockey that spend hours on the phone,
And there are those whose contributions may not ever be well known.
And we who stand behind the bench and sometimes lose our poise
Forget that what we see as unruly young men are really adolescent boys.

The symbol of a winning team is many willing hands
Who make their contribution without multiple demands.
This tribute will carve memories for all of us who care,
And shows the heights to be attained by those who learn to share.



The Tradition Continues – New Leather Jackets to Celebrate an OMHA Championship

Qualifying Round – Smithville – Won by Elmvale in the sixth game of a best-of-five series. The home advantage had been with Elmvale; the sixth game was won in Smithville.

Quarter-finals - Elmvale won three game to one against Haliburton.

Semi-finals - Elmvale won three games to one against Sterling. The final game was a 7-2 Elmvale win in a ten minute overtime period. (for a description of the overtime win see page 251 in Chapters 2000)

Finals – Won by Elmvale in a sixth game (played in Belmont). It was a best-of-five series

* The captain of this team was Scott Kirton who went on to play professional hockey in the U.S. It has Robb Conn as an assistant captain; he could come up with the ‘catch-up’ or ‘go ahead’ goal in crucial games. He went on to play junior hockey, but a shoulder injury ended his career. Jim Ball, ‘A’, loaned a wild unpredictability to the game.

Elmvale Legion Branch 262 became the Sponsor of Elmvale Oldtimers in 1986



Back – Gord Paul, Gerry McBride, Jach Heads, Sam Raven, Den Turner, Larry Simpson, Don Fleming – **Front** – Wayne Hickling
Chris Raven, Bob Kearns, Stan Ritchie, Ron McAuley, Grant Ritchie - *photo supplied by Ron McAuley*

OMHA Elmvale Juvenile “CC” Champions – 1995-96



Back – (L to R) - Aaron Lalonde, Donny Woods, Jeff Pickering, Darren Sage, Jason Nelson, Derek Elliott **Middle** – Bob MacLean, Derek Haines, Donald Parent, Shawn Richardson, Rick McMann, Trace Leonard, Rick Hales, Darryl Madill, Rob Switzer, Kent Fay, Donnie Robertson **Front** – Joel Plug, Mike Kelly, Mark Giffen, Jamie Jacobs, Tye Columbus, Todd Archer, Rory O’Connor
Missing – Chad Moreau, Jeff Hopkins, Aaron Elliott, Tom Hesch - *photo from Springwater News*

Elmvale Juvenile OMHA “CC” Champions – 1995-96

By Mike Townes – The Sports Zone – Springwater News

Elmvale Minor Hockey is now in the “CC” Division of the OMHA. Donnie Robertson, who is not much older than his players, is the head coach. Kent Fay, Derek Haines and Bob MacLean round off the coaching staff in charge of bringing a championship to Elmvale.

The boys had their biggest challenge in the first round. They needed overtime in the fifth game to defeat Meaford. Trailing 1-0 late in Game 5, Elmvale tied the score and Mike Kelly scored in overtime to earn the victory.

Markdale was next up, and the Juveniles breezed by the weaker team in three straight games.

In the semi-finals they played Lakefield and, again, won the best of five series 3-0. The boys had earned a trip to the OMHA Finals. They would be matched up against their arch-rivals from Schomberg.

Game one ended in a 2-2 tie, and it looked like it was going to be a long series, but Elmvale won Games 2 and 3 in a convincing manner and won the OMHA “CC” Championship at home in Game 4 by beating Schomberg 5-2. Elmvale had won the Juvenile championship for the eighth time.

One story from the last game has Elmvale in control with the final seconds ticking down. Manager Bob Maclean had motioned goalie Jamie Jacobs to pose for a picture at the end of the game – but Jacobs posed a little early. Schomberg shot the puck from the other end, scoring on Jamie while the picture was being snapped.

Elmvale returned to the finals in 1996-97 but lost to Exeter. This was the last time the Juveniles have been in the finals. ...

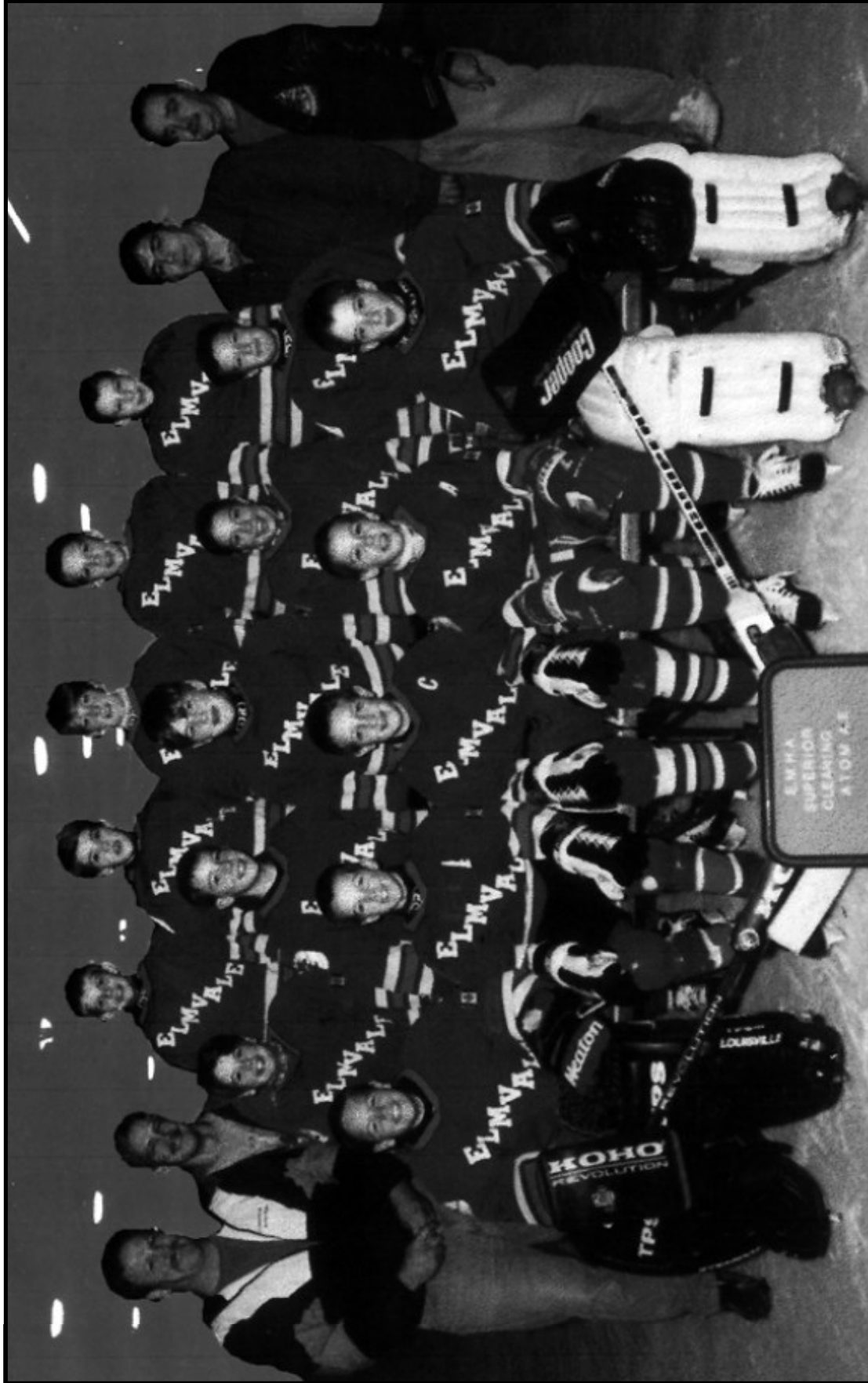


The Aims of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association

Elmvale Minor Hockey Endorses These Aims as Well

- **To encourage and promote certain ideals in all participants:**
 - to play fairly under all circumstances and all conditions;
 - to give opponents a fair chance and not take unfair advantage of any opponent;
 - to win modestly and receive defeat with a smile;
 - to give credit to the team that wins; not to question or dispute the referee’s decision
 - To set the cause above renown;
 - to love the game above the prize
 - Sport for sports sake and for the greatest number





1996-1997 Atom A.E. OMHA Finalists (photo supplied by Paul Craddock)

Back (L to R) - Bob Colyn (assistant coach), David Kenney, Landon Rusk, Jeff Snaak, Sean Bignell, Andrew Tinney, Paul Craddock (coach), Brendon Miller (manager) **Middle** - Don Dempster (trainer), Sean Jaiko, Jeff Colyn, Nathan Dempster, Alicia Ramola, Billy Miller **Front** - Matt Deller, Kevin Temolder, Chris McMann, Mark Craddock, Paul Kingma

Eastern Ontario Novice 'CC' OMHA Champions 96-97



Back (L to R) - Paul Schulz (trainer), Josh Kleingebbinck, Graham Schepers, Jesse Schulz, Jarrett Kennedy, Barry Archer (coach) **Middle** – Tim Kennedy (manager) Greg Wilkey, Josh Booth, Jason Colyn, Blair McKinney, Mike Townes (assistant coach) **Front** – Matthew Archer, Kasey Schulz, Darrel Ropp, Stephen Kearney, Patrick Townes, Robbie Murray

The Elmvale Do-It Centre Novices defeated Ennismore to win the OMHA novice Eastern Ontario Championship two games to none in the best of three series. In game one, Josh Booth, with two goals and Jason Colyn with a single marker, gave Elmvale a 3-2 win. In Game two, Josh Booth, Patrick Townes and Jason Colyn scored, and the Novices held on to a well earned 3-2 win. The game went right down to the last second with Ennismore swarming the Elmvale goal, but the boys held on to win the championship.

Picture and text by Mike Townes

Guardian Drugs Midgets Win OMHA 98-99 Title

The Road to an OMHA Championship

Elmvale 1 at Watford 3

Elmvale 1 at Watford 2

Watford 0 at Elmvale 4

Watford 0 at Elmvale 1

Elmvale at Watford – tie score

Watford at Elmvale – Championship to Elmvale

The Final Series – All Ontario Midget CC Champions

Harrow 0 at Elmvale 2

Harrow 2 at Elmvale 3

Elmvale 2 at Harrow 4

Harrow 0 at Elmvale 3



Victory Picture – Harrow Arena – (photo from OMHA site)

Front row: Ryan Archer, Ryan Baker, Greg Lees, David Drinkill **Second row:** Kyle Lapham, Barrett Truax, Mark Parnell, Scott Trace **Third row:** Drew Ogden, Adam Kuypers, Brandon Sjerps, Chris Callow, Jason Parent, Jonathan Suisham, Colin Vermilyea **Back row:** Coach Paul Craddock, Trainer Jamie Jacobs, Ian Cairncross, Asst. Coach Tye Columbus, Manager Gary Edwards, Derek Smith, Matt Peltonen



1999-00 Midget CC OMHA Champions Back Row (L to R) - Tye Columbus (assistant coach), Greg Lees, Chris Callow, Jonathan Suisham, Matt Peltenon, Drew Ogden, Jamie Jacobs (trainer). Middle Row: Gary Edwards (manager), Barrett Truax, Ian Cairncross, Scott Trace, Adam Kuypers, Mark Parnell, Paul Craddock (coach) Front: David Drinkill, Brandon Sjerps, Jason Parent, Kyle Lapham, Ryan Archer. Champion coaching staff wins EMHA coaching award – Drinkill wins EMHA goalkeeper award

Midgets Repeat as OMHA CC Champions 99-00

Coaching Staff

Tye Columbus (coach) - part of the 98-99 coaching staff

Jamie Jacobs (manager) - part of the 98-99 coaching staff

Cory Schepers (trainer)

Rick Therrien (ass't. coach)

Rick Hales (ass't trainer)

Regular Players – Tim Badger, Jonathan Suisham (98-99), John Daniels, Matt Kenney, captain, Colin Vermilyea, Cory Kelly, Matt Tjart (goal), David Drinkill (goal 98-99), Mark Spring, Andrew Kingma, Kyle Lapham (98-99), Todd Moreau, Colin Brundage, Graham Archer, Ryan Baker “A” (98-99), Kyle Anderson and Greg Lees (98-99).

“AP” Players (brought up for the play-offs) - Jay Townes, Jeff Lees, Darren Fleming, Travis Madeleno

From the Springwater News Apr. 13, 2000

In the Elmvale Arena, on the evening of April 2, the Elmvale Guardian Drug Midgets won the OMHA CC Championship over the Twin Center Stars who play their games in Wellesley which is located 20 miles west of Kitchener-Waterloo.

This is the second year in a row that the Elmvale Midgets have won this Championship. This is the fourth Elmvale Team to win a series in back-to-back years. Former winners were the Juveniles in 1964-65 and 65-66, the Bantams in 86-87 and 87-88 and the Novice AE in 1997-98 and 98-99 (Eastern District Champions).

Significantly, of the 21 players and 5 coaching staff involved in the win, there were only five players from the former Midget Championship year and two from the coaching staff.

This was the sixth game of a five game series. Elmvale won the first two, 5-1 and 3-2, lost 1-0, tied 2-2, lost 3-2 and finally won 3-0.

The twin Centre Stars and the Elmvale Guardian Drugs Midgets were very evenly matched teams with no outstanding players. The coaches used every player on the bench evenly. Although there were penalties, in the six game series there were no fighting penalties or suspensions issued. The boys came to play hockey.

When the fans of the Twin Centre Stars were leaving, they let it be known that they were impressed with the Elmvale coaching staff and the local Minor Hockey Association.

The Coaching staff is a group who played their Minor Hockey careers in Elmvale. In 1996, three of these five boys were on the OMHA Juvenile Championship team. ...

There were almost 1000 people in the Elmvale Arena for the final game. 800 is full.

Ontario Minor Hockey Association Champions Elmvale Baywood Animal Hospital – Atom AE Group 4 2001 – 2002

Over the past season this team competed in the tough Atom AE group 4 division, finishing one point out of first place in Georgian Bay League play. The team posted a 16 wins, three losses, and 1 tie record during the regular season. The team outscored their opponents 98 to 32, showing great discipline – 8 penalty free games. Nathan Hofer, the team MVP, posted an impressive season GAA (goals against average) of 1.6.

This team won the championship at the Port Carling AE tournament and had strong showings participating at both the Regional Silver Stick and Elora Atom Tournaments in the Representative Division.

The season was capped off by the team dominating each playoff series, finishing with a record of 9 wins, 1 loss, and 0 ties to capture the O.M.H.A. Championship.

Team Members – Nathan Hoffer, Ryan Moreau, Brandon Dougherty, Travis Bellisle, Justin Massar, Michael Young, Kyle Kenney, Steven Kenney, Shawn Lambie

Ben Woodhouse, Jay Robertson, Sean McWatt, David Kearney, Craig Spears, Andrew Ball, Mark Wilson, Kyle Francis





Midget AE Ontario Minor Hockey Association Finalists 2001-2002

Back (L to R) – Jason Cowan (manager) Dan Columbus, Mark Craddock, Ryan Daniels, Dave Kenney, Sean Swatton, Scott Reynolds, Paul Craddock (coach) **Middle** – Jason Parent (trainer), Mike Park (Assistant trainer), Jeremy Ham, Mike Priest, Rod McCleod, Jeff Colyn, Ryan Holt, Ryan May, Kevin Temolder, Trevor Columbus (Assistant Coach) **Front** – Chris August, Mike Ditullio, Jeff Moreau, Andrew Tinney, Kevin Craddock, Cory Hull, Matt Deller (photo from Paul Craddock)

OMHA Novice CC Champions 2001-02



Front (l to R) - Bradley McKinney, Craig Knuff, Brody Coles, Garrett Wilson
Second: Ian Badger, Taylor Archer, Jake Hargreaves, Jay Robertson, Brandon Dougherty, Spencer Nelson, Kyle Kenney, Steven Kenney, Frankie Edgecombe, Ricky Archer
Back: Gary Edgecombe (manager), Ric Archer (assistant coach), Brian Nelson (head coach), Paul Kenney (trainer), Dan Clement (assistant Manager)

The Tim-Br Mart Novice had an amazing 48-7-1 record with 304 goals scored in their favour and only 91 against.

The team started off the year with a great showing at the Parry Sound Tournament, losing in the Championship final to Niagara, a close game of 3-1. The Silver Stick Qualifying Tournament at Wasaga Beach was nothing short of exciting as the team was victorious in its task. This led it to the first international play for all of the players at St. Clair Shores, Michigan where the team won 1 of 3.

With this team finishing on the top of the heap after the completion of regular season play, its road to being the OMHA Novice CC Champs was very hopeful. The team successfully got past Arthur and Schomberg, and then went up against Campbellford for the ultimate title. It won three straight games, confirming our hopes of the championship.

Following the excitement of provincial competition, it was back to the GBMHA (Georgian Bay Minor Hockey Assoc.) Finals. Having put Oro and Penetang out of their way, it was the best-of-five against Owen Sound. Owen Sound emerged as winners.

The team's last task of the year was in Elmvale's own Maple Syrup Tournament. Once again it rose to the occasion without losing a contest and won the coveted trophy. The opposition was made up of teams from Exeter, Mitchell, Ayr, Merritton, and Penetang.

*100 th goal as a
Professional 2/9/00*

SCOTT

SCOTT

**PROFESSIONAL
HOCKEY PLAYERS**

**FROM
ELMVALE**

The Kirton Brothers

*300 th goal as a
Professional 12/30/00*

DOUG

Modified from an article in the
Greenville Grrrowl Hockey Magazine

It's Kirtons for the Competition

By Ryan Kouvolo – Greenville Grrrowl Hockey Magazine – South Carolina

In the world of hockey, we have heard about many hockey families: Sutter, Lemieux, Hull, Kirton. Wait – yes, Kirton, to be more specific, Scott and Doug Kirton. Most in Greenville already know Scott Kirton. He is the Grrrowl captain, an offensive threat who has a deadly slapshot, and doesn't mind roughing it up with opponents every now and then, but did you know he has an older brother, Doug?

On December 19, 2000, Doug Kirton was signed by the Greenville Grrrowl, pairing he and Scott up on professional ice for the first time. Doug is a similar player; he poses an offensive threat to opponents and provides veteran leadership in the locker room.

Doug Kirton began his hockey career at Colorado College. He was drafted by the New Jersey Devils as their 12th round choice, 236th overall pick in the 1986 NHL Entry Draft. After three seasons with Colorado College, Doug moved his game to Germany. He played a total of six seasons with Straubing EHC in the German Division 1 league. Doug says that the German game is similar but different to what we have in America. "The playing surface here is a little bit bigger. You don't have as much one-on-one play, since most teams over there play a zone defence. Plus you have mostly older guys over there, guys that have racked up time in the IHL, AHL, and some in the NHL. So it's competitive but not as quick," said Doug.

Scott was asked, "When Doug came to Greenville how did you feel?"

"I was excited to have the opportunity to finally play on the same team with him," he said. "As the younger brother, I have always looked up to him. He has provided me with a lot of opportunities in this sport, so I was happy when the deal was done, because I wanted to pay him back for those doors he has opened for me." As the team captain, Scott believes that Doug has brought a different angle of the game to the team, as well as leadership in the locker room.

When asked a similar question, Doug had a similar reply, "I was very excited to sign on with the team and to be able to play alongside Scott. That was my main reason for coming, but as a hockey player I felt that I could contribute something to this team. I also felt that it was a good opportunity for me to get back into hockey here in America."

Doug had indeed brought something good to the Grrrowl. Since his arrival, the team has enjoyed more success than before. He has indeed provided additional veteran leadership, something the team needed. "Being brothers, and playing on the same team can be good or it sometimes can be bad. It's bad when we lose, and both of us feel that we could have played a little harder, done more to get the win, but when we win, it's a lot of fun," Doug said.

Scott thinks their relationship has helped a team that already connects well, connect even better. Doug added, "When we are on the ice together, there are times when I know what he is going to do. I remember back when we were growing up, and played pick-up games. I would beat Scott up so bad, you know the older brother thing, but now I think he could probably beat me up."

Now with the Kirton brothers on the same team, the only beating they will do is on the rest of the ECHL. They bring experience and leadership to the Grrrowl, something that all teams need to have to be successful.



Scott Kirton

1976-1986 - Scott played in the Elmvale Minor Hockey System, being a key part of back-to-back bantam OMHA provincial championships. By 1986 he had moved to Junior C with the Midland Centennials. From there it was off to the Orillia Laidlaws at the Junior B level.

1988-1990 - Scott was proud to be playing for the Powell River Paper Kings (Tier II Junior A) at Powell River, British Columbia.

1990-94 - Scott attended the University of North Dakota on a hockey scholarship. He played in Division 1 for the university while preparing for graduation. The University of North Dakota is located at Grand Forks.

Season	Team	League	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
1991-92	U. of North Dakota	NCAA	37	5	6	11	68
1992-93	U. of North Dakota	NCAA	30	4	16	20	100
1993-94	U. of North Dakota	NCAA	27	3	6	9	49
1994-95	U. of North Dakota	NCAA	37	8	20	28	65
1995-96	Charlotte Checkers	ECHL	56	17	19	36	176
1995-96	Providence Bruins	AHL	2	0	1	1	0
1996-97	Charlotte Checkers	ECHL	62	16	35	51	170
1997-98	Fort-Wayne Komets	IHL	7	0	0	0	2
1997-98	Wheeling Nailers	ECHL	37	18	23	41	77
1997-98	Columbus Chill	ECHL	33	10	18	28	74
1998-99	London Knights	BISL	40	7	14	21	42
1999-00	Greenville Grrrowl	ECHL	59	25	50	75	135
1999-00	Providence Bruins	AHL	2	0	0	0	2
1999-00	Hershey Bears	AHL	1	0	0	0	0
1999-00	Rochester Americans	AHL	2	0	0	0	0
2000-01	Greenville Grrrowl	ECHL	70	20	42	62	148
2001-02	Pee-Dee Pride	ECHL	28	11	9	20	39



Doug Kirton

Prior to 1982 Doug played in the Elmvale Minor Hockey system. During those years he was the point leader on his teams.

1981 – Doug was in the top 66 at a midget evaluation camp at Kingston.

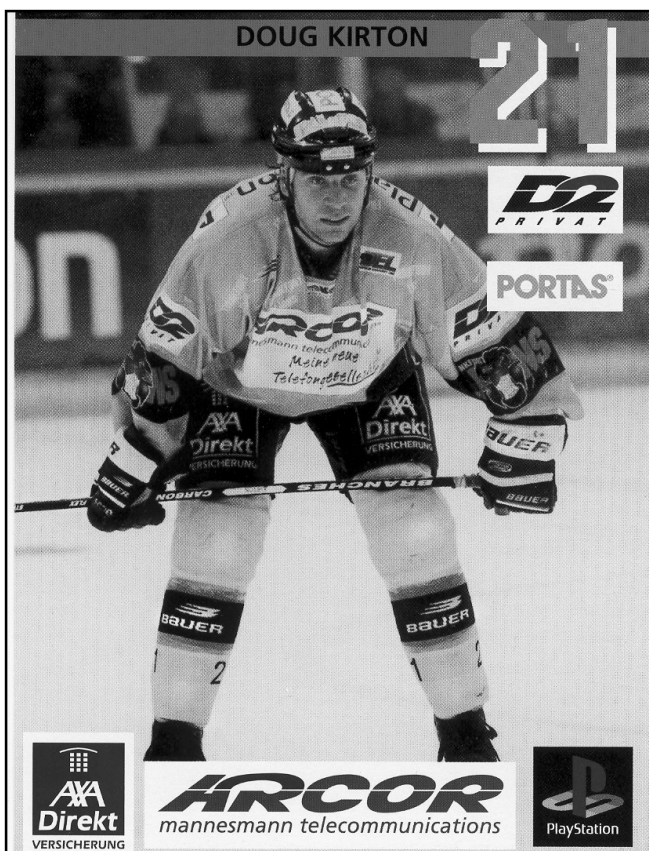
1983 – Doug was drafted to the Kingston Canadians where he played Major Junior A

1984 – He played Tier 11 Junior A for the Orillia Terriers and made a strong contribution to that group becoming Centennial Cup Champions.

1985 – Doug was drafted to the New Jersey Devils of the National Hockey League.

1986 – He got a four year US Hockey Scholarship with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Season	Team	League	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
1986-87	Colorado College	NCAA	38	10	10	20	42
1987-88	Colorado College	NCAA	31	11	17	28	42
1988-89	Colorado College	NCAA	38	8	16	24	33
1989-90	Colorado College	NCAA	37	19	21	40	47
1991-92	Straubing EHC	GerD1	40	77	61	138	44
1992-93	Straubing EHC	GerD1	45	43	51	94	115
1993-94	Straubing EHC	GerD1	46	45	61	106	111
1994-95	Straubing EHC	GerD1	46	37	39	76	64
1995-96	Straubing EHC	GerD1	46	41	52	93	75
1996-97	Straubing EHC	GerD1	59	37	69	106	120
1997-98	Frankfurt Lions	DEL	48	5	11	16	91
1998-99	Frankfurt Lions	DEL	51	8	11	19	57
1999-00	Frankfurt Lions	DEL	47	5	7	12	91
2000-01	Greenville Grrrowl	ECHL	45	6	12	18	42
2000-01	Landshut EV	GerOS	16	2	6	8	48



DOUG KIRTON

FRANKFURT LIONS

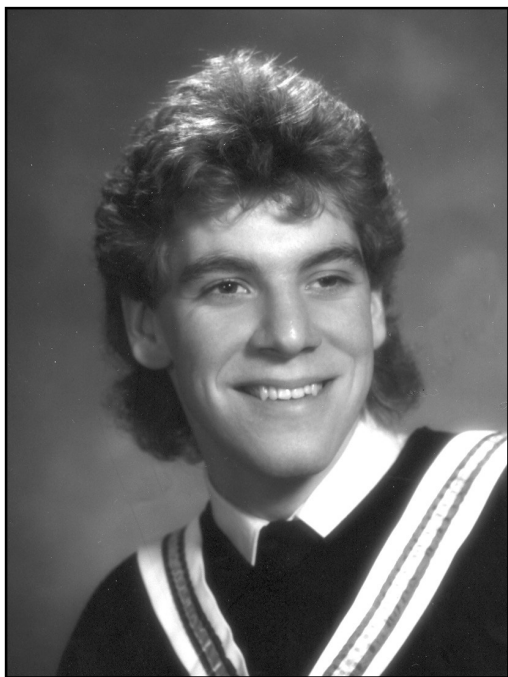
EISHOCKEY

Kirton, Douglas (Spitzname: Mad Dog)
geb. am: 24.7.1966 in Penetanguishene, Ontario/Kanada

Saison	Klub	SP	T	A	Pkt.	Min.
1991/92	Straubing (RL Süd)	14	12	21	33	22
1992/93	Straubing (OL Süd)	45	43	51	94	115
1993/94	Straubing (OL Süd)	46	45	61	106	211
1994/95	Straubing (1. L Süd)	46	37	39	76	64
1995/96	Straubing (1. L Süd)	48	41	54	95	73
1996/97	Straubing (1. L Süd)	59	38	70	108	120
1997/98	Frankfurt (Vorrunde)	28	3	5	8	59

Frankfurt Lions Eishockey GmbH, Hanauer Landstr. 146, 60314 Frankfurt, Tel.:069/4058840

Front and back of the many hockey card that featured Doug—Frankfurt Lions



Below: Doug Kirton Sr. stands between his two sons, on a visit to Greenville, SC during the 2000-2001 hockey season. Doug Sr. gave the boys a good start during their years in Elmvale Minor Hockey. He coached a number of teams on which the boys played. Doug contributed to the skill development of many Elmvale players.

Doug's professional career ended in 2002. He will now rely on his degree earned while playing to set a new course in life.



Hockey Challenge 2003

The Communities Helping Hands Reach out to Jay Robertson



Dave Ritchie, Pierre Pilot, Dean Robertson

Sunday, April 6 was a bright, sunny day between storms, a fitting day for the community to turn out in support of Jay Robertson who was awaiting a bowel transplant and had been in London on that day for blood work. It was fitting that Rev. Margaret Robertson kicked off the event with a prayer for Jay and his family in these troubled times. Then the official face-off took place at 6:00 p.m. with NHL Hall of Famer, Pierre Pilot, dropping the puck.

The first two periods of hockey were dominated by the

fire-power of the Presbyterians and the outstanding performance of their goal tender. The Flying John's (United) were getting depressed. The sharp refereeing of Tim and Tom McGinnis kept the enthusiasm of the youthful players in check as they played under restrictions, no slap shots and no checking.

Phyllis McCullough, organist at St. John's, provided the keyboard music that brought the big town hockey atmosphere to the rink. Her husband, John, had a CD with such songs as Stompin' Tom's hockey song.



Phyllis at the organ and John with computer sound effects



Linda Murray accepts the Peter Whitfield print from Mary Fleming

During the break the raffle winners were announced. Linda Murray screamed her pleasure when it was announced that she had won the Peter Whitfield print of Peggy's Cove. The Maple Leaf hockey sweater, signed by Corson and Tucker found a welcome home at Stan Ritchie's. Annas Robinson went home with a litre of Wally and Myrtle Greenlaw's maple syrup for being the oldest fan in attendance, a youthful 89. That was only slightly older than Hazel Simpson and Elwood



Braedan Allen and his Grandma search for a winner

Langman, runner up.

Many fans had bought a puck for the “Chuck –a-puck” game where contestants attempted to throw their puck closest to the centre face-off dot. Eight winners claimed prizes donated by local merchants.

By the time the third period rolled around, the McGinnis boys had disappeared and a pair of nuns had taken over the refereeing job. It seemed that they were in cahoots with the other game officials, Dan McGinnis (announcer) and Trevor Ritchie (statistician), because the majority of penalties were called against the Presbyters. The nuns and Dan added a lot of colour to the game, and the United John’s closed the gap on the score board. When the game ended, few would remember the score, because the objective of the evening was to join hands with church and community in support of one of our own.



The Nuns who replaced Tim and Tom McGinnis



Dan McGinnis and Trevor Ritchie



Tim McGinnis Presents a Ted Lindsay engraved stick for Jay – from Wednesday Night Oldtimers League



Oldest fan – Annas Robinson at 89 and Doug Kirton – Organizer



L to R

Don Bell presented Scott Robertson with \$2,800+

Glenn Butler – United Church minister

Doug Kirton – MC and Challenge Organizer

Rev. Margaret Robertson Presbyterian



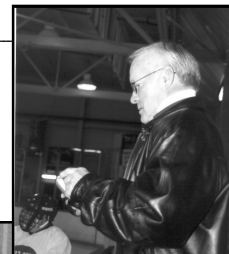
Back – L to R – Doug Kirton (coach), Rob Visser, Rob McLean, Dan Clement, Rick Maw, John Holt, Mark Lambie, Murray MacDonald, Tim Dion, Jason Covey, Stan McNutt – **Front** – Joe and Brad MacDonald (trainers), Paul Muldoon, Greg Beacock, Darren Fleming, Dave Ritchie, Jacob Fay (fan), Rob Conn, George Conn, Jacques Van Bilsen



Top – Presbyterian Team – Champions
Bottom – St. John's United

Left – George Allen

Right – Ted Hore

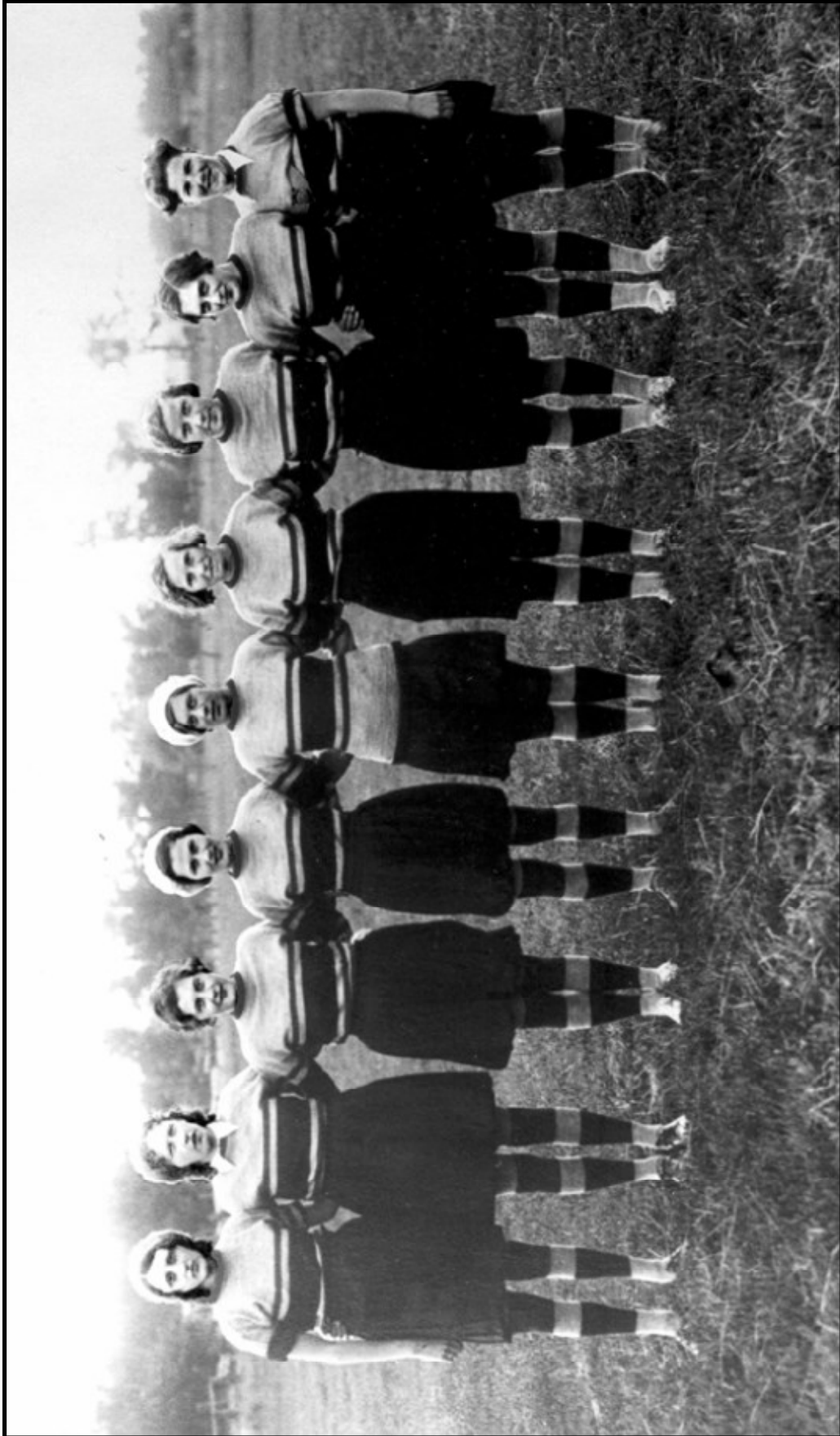


Back – L to R – Wayne Allen, Greg Parnell, Jason Toner, Aaron Elliott, Sean Jaiko, Doug Tinney, Greg Lees, Jeff Lees, Grant King, James Elliott **Front** – Scott McLean, Glenn Butler, Bill Evans, Ken Bye, Dean Robertson, Matt Ververs, Ken Butler
 –Missing – Coaches – George Allen and Ted Hore



The
Softball
Stories

Ladies Softball was Big in 1932 *Photo – Gummy Rowat*



L to R – Orpha Hickling, Belva Trace, Molly Columbus, Verona Rowat, Buddy Lovering, Bernetta Bate,
Hazel Storey, Eileen Columbus, and Letitia Bell



Elmvale Ladies Softball Team – 1934 – Taken at Waverly – Photo supplied by Glad Bate
(L to R) - Mary Johnston, Hazel Storey, Mary K Ritchie, Molly Columbus, Monica Columbus, Bernetta Bate, Margaret Bate,
Verona Rowat, Buddy Lovering

Softball was Always Popular Here



Above – **1936 Men's Team**
 Bob Bell, Norm Durnin, Tim Bate, Joe Dyer, Graham Christie, Bill Campbell _____, Elbert Dutcher, Ed Campbell, Jim Crawford, _____ . *Picture supplied by Dave Campbell*



Left – **1936 Girl's Team**

Top – Doris Gregg
 Belva Trace
 Molly Columbus

Middle – Hazel Storey
 (Simpson)
 Jenet Kerr
 Orpha Hickling

Bottom – Tish Bell
 Jean McKnight
 Bernetta Bate
Photo – Emma Foster



Early 50's Top – (L to R) - Dan Sexton, manager; Dave Minnings, right field; Gene Moran, centre field; Jack Toner, left field; Bernard Hogan, George Elrick (coach) **Bottom** – Lawrence Johnston, short stop; Gene Minnings, third base; Dennis Sexton, catcher; George McDonald, pitcher; Jack Dixon, second base. *Picture supplied by Lawrence Johnston by way of Jack Dixon*

Phelpston – Some Great Baseball History

Clippings provided by Paul Craddock



Joe Kenny, Dave Kenny, Jim Kenney, Frank Guibbin, Dave Laptue, Leo Hall, Jack Minnings

The long history of baseball in Phelpston began in 1910 with local boys playing hardball at Kenny's farm (now Degroot's gravel pit).

The nucleus of that team included Jack Minnings (pitcher), Dave Loftus (catcher), Jack Donovan, Leo Hall and the Kenny boys (Jim, Dove and Joe).

In 1921, a hardball league was formed. It included Elmvale, Hillsdale and Minesing. Phelpston played their home games at O'Neill Park. Phelpston players included Franky Marley, Pete Hall, Bill Campbell, Sandy Copeland, the Crawford brothers and the Davenport brothers. Phelpston claimed the championship in 1921.

In 1950 Phelpston entered a team in a junior men's softball league which included Anten Mills, Minesing, Craighurst and Grenfel.

The Phelpston players were Russ Craddock, Lawrence Murphy, Jack Toner, Dave Stephens, Joe and Bill Marley, Bob French, John Cole, Don Scott, Alex Milburn, George MacDonald and James Arness. By 1952 Allenwood, Moonstone, Crossland, Elmvale, Port McNicoll and Vasey joined the league.

The 1954 Phelpston team won with the original team basically intact. Indeed, the team won three consecutive titles.



1954 - First of three consecutive championships

Russ Craddock, Lawrence Murphy, ___
Jack Town, Dave Stephens, Joe Marley,
Bob French, Bill Marley, John Cole, Alex Milburn and Don Scott

Elmvale Girls Softball was Big in 1953 – The Comets



Back – Edith Robertson, Ruth Bertram, Ruth Ann Greenlaw, Ann Bertram, Connie Tinney, Marie Reynolds, Ann Averil
Front – Shirley McKay, Mary McFadden, Mary Berthelotte, Marlene Tinney, Marguerite Stone, Ann Ritchie

Photo supplied by Marlene Tinney

The Big Years for the Comets were 1954 and 1955



Back (L to R) Annabell Waples, Mary McFadden, _____ Frances Berthelotte, Ann Ritchie
Marlene Tinney Front – Marie Reynolds, Marguerite Stone, Mary Berthelotte, Shirley McKay



Anne Ritchie pitched, Marlene Tinney backed up the pitching and played third. Mary Perthelotte caught, and Mary McFadden played second.

The team had trouble getting committed players by the end of the 50's.

The Comets came to life about 1952. By 1954 the local girls were the best of a six team league, and they played their games at the arena ball diamond on Monday nights before large, enthusiastic crowds. They won the Simcoe County Championship.

The following year the team captured the Barrie and District Ladies Softball Championship, both league play and playoffs. They eliminated Newmarket by one point, 3-2, in an exciting final game. – *materials supplied by Marlene Tinney*



Elmvale Comets Barrie District Ladies Softball League and Playoff Champions – 1955



Back (L to R) - Mary Perthelotte (captain), Anne Ritchie (pitcher), Ann Bertram (right field), Marilyn Jamieson (second base), Ruth Bertram (centre field), Mary McFadden (centre field),
Middle – Marie Reynolds (short stop), Mel Barrett (manager), Alvin Reynolds (president), Cecil Tinney (coach), Less McKay (coach), Ann Averill (first base)
Front – Marlene Tinney (third base), Edith Robertson (right field), Shirley McKay (centre field), Ruth Ann Greenlaw (centre field), Marguerite Stone (left field)

Photo supplied by Shirley Richardson



Allenwood – 1956 Georgian Bay Fastball Champions

Back (L to R) - Fred Beacock, Don Bertram, Ed Robertson, Don Robertson, Glen Bumstead, Harv Graham, Don Fleming
Front – Al Beardsall, Jerry Reynolds, Paul Pursiainen, Stan Ritchie, Doug McConnell, Lou Turner – *photo from Springwater News*

1958 Georgian Bay Softball Champions *Mike Townes – The Sports Zone – Springwater News*

Many things in life, like death and taxes, are a sure thing, but in sports the game or series is not a sure thing until the last second has ticked off the clock or the last hit has been caught.

This was the situation in 1958. **The Allenwood Men's Fastball team was playing Elmvale in the finals of the Georgian Bay Fastball League.** Allenwood had defeated Sturgeon Bay in the finals in 1955 and again won the league in 1956 by beating Vasey to win back-to-back championships. In 1958, they were the underdogs to the Elmvale squad.

Elmvale and Allenwood were arch rivals. It was the older veterans versus the younger guns. The town team versus the country team. The series was big news around the area and was well attended by spectators who expected the series to be long and the scores to be close. The first three games all belonged to Elmvale as the boys jumped into a three games to nothing lead, but the scores were all in doubt until the last out was made. The Elmvale team went into Game 4 expecting to be crowned the 1958 champions and end Allenwood's run at two titles.

Everything was in place for the victory party. The photographer was at Game 4 to take a picture of the new champions, but that game went to Allenwood — so the party would have to be put off until the next game. Game 5, again, saw Allenwood squeak out a win and the series was now 3-2 for Elmvale, but the boys were starting to feel the pressure from the defending champions.

The boys from Allenwood took Game 6 by a close score and the two teams would have to play Game 7 to decide the championship. The photographer, who had attended each game since the fourth one, was again there to take a picture of the champions but the photo was of Allenwood, not Elmvale. The team had battled back from a 3-0 deficit to win the series in seven games for their third championship in a row.



Georgian Bay League Champions – Back (L to R) - Ron McAuley, Jerry Barrett, Leo Belcourt, Dave Campbell, Ed Belcourt, Homer Barrett, Cliff (Tonto) Reynolds, George Sibbald, Paul Rowat **Front – Dennis Turner, Lou Turner, Lou Belcourt, Doug Stone, Cliff “Smokey” Vollick – Dan Rowat (bat boy) - photo supplied by Dave Campbell**



1963 – Elmvale Senior Ball Club – picture supplied by Dave Campbell

Back (L to R) - Paul (Gummy) Rowat, Cliff (Tonto) Reynolds, Homer Barrett, Leo Belcourt, Dan McHugh, Elvie Frankcom, Stan Ritchie, Harry Rowley **Front –** Dennis Turner, Doug Stone, Lou Belcourt, Fred Hayward (Place Hotel Owner), Lou Turner, Bob Chappel, Harvey Graham – Bat Boy – Danny Rowat - **Missing –** George Sibbald, Smokey Vollick, Dave Campbell



1963 – Elmvale Senior Ball Club – A winning year – New jackets for the celebration

Back – (L to R) - Lou Belcourt, Harry Rowley, George Sibbald, Homer Barrett, Danny McHugh, Leo Belcourt, Dave Campbell, Elvie Frankcom, Roy Hayward (Palace Hotel – sponsor), Norm Crane (coach) - **Front** – Stan Ritchie, Dennis Turner, Gary Keeler, Paul Rowat, Doug Stone, Lou Turner, Harvey Graham - Danny Rowat (batboy)

Elmvale Senior Softball Team – 1966



Back – Harry Rowley, Ed Belcourt, Dave Campbell, P. Wanamaker, Leo Belcourt, Danny McHugh, Homer Barrett, Norm Crane, John Brown, Lou Turner **Front** – Lou Belcourt, G. Keeler, Bill Cartmill, Dan Rowat (bat boy), Stan Ritchie, Dennis Turner, Paul Rowat, D. Lowe - **Not Present** – Jim McCallister, Doug Stone

Elmvale Mets are Best in 1967

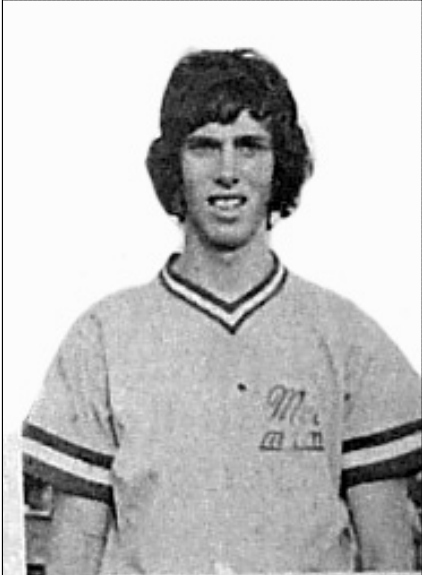
Elmvale Team wins Georgian Bay Rural Softball League



League President – Joe McGuinnis presents the Brown Trophy to Mets captain, George Sibbald

The Brown Trophy symbolizes supremacy in the Georgian Bay Rural Softball League.

Meet Some of the Mets



Below – Lou Turner



above
John Ritchie

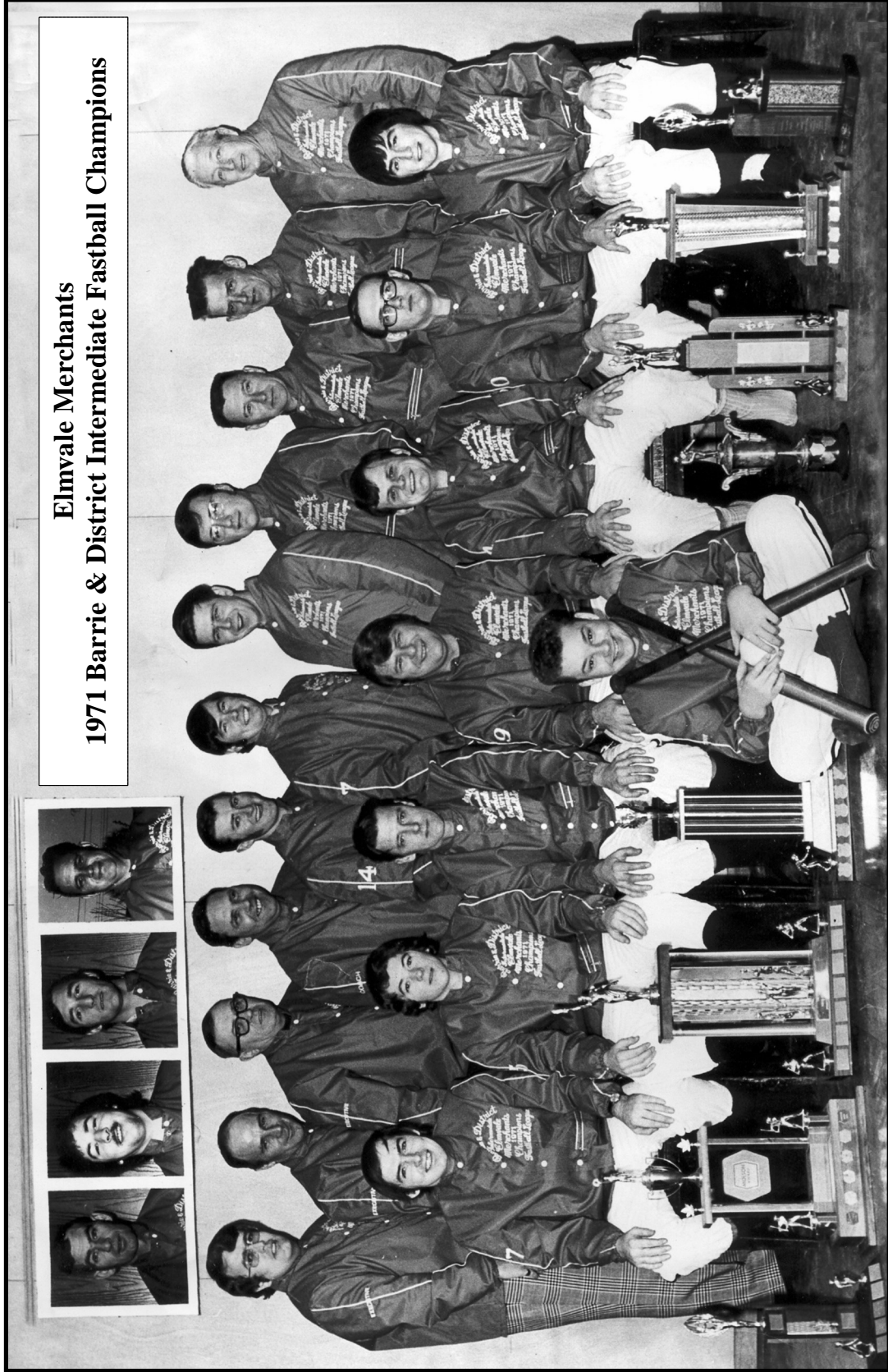
Right
John Archer



Above Right
Fred Spring



**Elmvale Merchants
1971 Barrie & District Intermediate Fastball Champions**



Standing: Peter Vollett (sec.-treas.), Paul Rowat (1st vp), Harry Rowley (pres.), Jerry Reynolds (coach), Chuck Jordan, Garry Turner, Dave Campbell, Michael Stone, Dick Columbus (exec.), Fred Reynolds (exec.), Percy Frankcom (manager). **Seated:** Paul Marley, Bruce Burnett, Jack Knowlden, Lou Belcourt, John Brown, Keith Williams, Mike Kelly, Rob Reynolds (bat boy). **Inset:** Lou Turner, Doug Barnes, Carl Edwards, Den Turner. Absent: Jim Reynolds

Provincial Softball Champions – 1977

This championship was captured at Hurst with snowy conditions affecting the play.



T H E M E R C H A N T S

T H E M E R C H A N T S

Back (L to R) Mike Townes, Don Ritchie, Lou Turner, Bill McClung, Don Fleming, Dennis Turner - **Centre** - John Brown (executive), Danny Rowat, Bill Williams, Doug Barnes, Ken Archer, Brian Handy, Chuck Jordan, Paul Rowat (coach) - **Front** - Doug McMann, Carl Edwards, Garry Turner, Lou Belcourt, Paul Marley, Keith Williams - *photo from Garry Turner*

The Championship Games in Hurst

From the Elmvale Lance – contributed by Garry Turner

“Nine inning games seemed to be a rarity in the final stages of OLSA Intermediate “C” competition, at least, where the Elmvale Merchants were concerned. The final games in Hearst were no exception, with two of the three games going into extra innings.

Game One

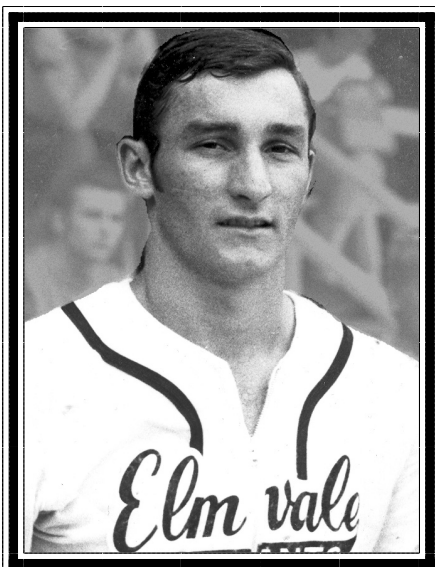
Before the first game the Elmvale team members presented the Hearst team with a memento, a maple leaf with ‘Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival’ inscribed.

This first game was played in the rain on Saturday night. The Merchants played errorless ball behind pitcher Carl Edwards who had 12 strikeouts. In the eighth inning, with the score 0-0, Doug McMann, playing left field, caught a routine fly ball and then made a perfect throw to catcher Lou Belcourt who tagged out at home what could have been the eventual winning run. After nine completed innings both teams remained scoreless. In the tenth a walk and two hits scored two runs for Elmvale, and the final score was 2-0.

Game Two

This game was also played in the rain. In twelve innings Hearst scored four runs on ten hits, and Elmvale scored three runs on six hits. Keith Williams was the starting pitcher, going five innings and giving up one run on five hits. Carl Edwards, in relief, gave up three runs on five hits in the next seven innings. At the end of nine, the score was 3-3. In the twelfth, Heart’s centre fielder, Cantin, hit a home run, then made a super diving catch on what might have been a triple or possibly a home-run hit by Paul Marley and squashed the Merchant’s chance to keep alive in the game.

The Final Game



Right from the opening pitch of the third and final game on Sunday night, the Merchants played sharp, heads-up ball. They scored a run in the first inning and held Hearst scoreless until the top of the fifth when they scored once. In Elmvale’s half of the fifth inning, Chuck Jordan belted a home run . Then Williams singled and scored on Edward’s triple. Three singles in the sixth scored one more run for Elmvale.

Edwards was the pitcher for the Elmvale club, playing brilliantly through the rain and snow.

Northern Hospitality

Carl Edwards – An outstanding athlete who made notable contributions to softball and hockey in Elmvale

The team and spectators had rooms at a great motel in Hurst, and everyone was treated to the finest hospitality by the manager and his staff. This hospitality extended to supplying the team with towels to dry off the game balls, which once they touched the ground, became muddy and slippery.

On Sunday night after the final game, the Hearst Lumberkings hosted a wine and cheese party for the Elmvale visitors. This event was sponsored by the Hearst Chamber of Commerce. Both teams spent a couple of hours exchanging autographs and jokes. Hearst proved to be an excellent host. The Lumberkings coach called the Merchants club a superb ball team whose players conducted themselves in a sportsmen-like manner both on and off the diamond.

The Celebrations at Home

The bus bringing the Elmvale Merchants home was met at the Elmvale Lumber parking lot by two police cruisers, a fire truck, three tow trucks and approximately 40 cars. With lights flashing, horns blaring and sirens wailing, the jubilant parade made its noisy way to the Community Hall. Here the Merchants were overwhelmed by the reception given them by approximately 150 people. Most were loyal fans who had followed them right from the first game of the OSASA play-downs and could be with the team in mind only for the final three games.

Club President, John Brown, introduced each member of the team and executive, and they were each presented with a bottle of champagne by Smokey Vollick. Team captain, Garry Turner, Coach Paul Rowat and playing manager, Lou Belcourt, all expressed their thanks to their team-mates and to the people of Elmvale who had turned out to make their homecoming so memorable. The team and crowd then enjoyed the sandwiches and refreshments supplied and the organ music of Dennis Hubbard.



Celebrating with the triumphant Merchants – Community Hall – 1977

O N T A R I O C H A M P I O N S 1 9 8 2

P.W.S.A. All-Ontario Champions Senior Tier 11



O N T A R I O C H A M P I O N S 1 9 8 2

Back – (L to R) - Tom McLennan (ass't coach), Brenda Middleton, Joan Kidd (manager), Joan Fox, Linda Watson (captain), Jo-anne McGinnis, Brenda Columbus, Anna Storie, John Brown (coach) **Front** – Bonnie Maw, Deb Charman, Angie Kirton, Kelly Grantham, Debbie Smith, Barb Schlorf – Missing – Tricia Downey

Elmvale Angels 1982

P.W.S.A. ALL-ONTARIO CHAMPIONS SENIOR TIER II

B.D.L.S.L. PLAYOFF CHAMPIONS

FIRST PLACE FINISH — REGULAR SEASON B.D.L.S.L.

BARRIE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS P.W.S.A.

MIDLAND TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

PENETANG TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

ELMVALE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

RECORD: 41 WINS; 4 LOSSES; 1 TIE

Debbie Charman —

Brenda Columbus —

Tricia Downey —

Jean Fox —

Kelly Grantham —

Angela Kirton —

Joanne McGinnis —

Brenda Middleton —

Barb Parker —

Carole Pettit —

Debbie Smith —

Allstar Team — B.D.L.S.L.

Most Sportsmanlike Player — Angels

Most Sportsmanlike Player — B.D.L.S.L.

Allstar Shortstop — Elmvale Tournament

Co-Captain

Most Valuable Outfielder — Elmvale Tourn.

Allstar Team — Elmvale Tournament

Most Improved Player — Angels

Most Valuable Pitcher — Elmvale Tourn.

Most Valuable Pitcher — B.D.L.S.L. Playoffs

Co-Captain

Allstar Team — B.D.L.S.L.

Batting Champion P.W.S.A.

Most Valuable Player — Angels

Coach's Award — Angels

Allstar Team — Elmvale Tournament

Allstar Team — B.D.L.S.L.

Most Valuable Player — P.W.S.A.

Bonnie Van Casteren — Most Inspirational Player — Angels

Linda Watson — Captain

TEAM EXECUTIVE:

COACH — JOHN BROWN — ALLSTAR COACH — B.D.L.S.L.

ASSISTANT COACH — TOM McLENNAN

SCOREKEEPERS — ANNETTE CRADDOCK, ANGELA HUMMELINK

MANAGER — JOAN PLAYER

My Life as an Angel – by Angela Kirton

I first started playing for the Elmvale Angels in 1981. Brownie had to go to the Barrie league and receive permission for me to play, as I was sixteen and the league's age requirement was eighteen. I had been playing for the Elmvale Bears, Elmvale's Midget team, as well as Penetang's provincial team. Playing for those teams didn't quite prepare me for my new teammates. You see, some were thirteen years older than I was, and some were married with children. My education on becoming a woman had begun.

Twenty two years have passed since I first wore that Angels uniform, and I am quite surprised at what I feel was the most important aspect of being a member of this team, friendships.

We were an outstanding team. We won the Barrie League in 1982, 1983 and 1984, we were invited to the C.N.E. tournament and were finalists in 1983 and 1984. We won many tournaments, including the provincials in 1982. We competed against many teams across Ontario, and we always had the distinction of being the smallest (population wise). Imagine, Ladies Senior B champions from Elmvale.

The secret to our success, I think, was that we practised harder than anyone else. Every Sunday morning we had a two hour practice. We had more fun practising because we genuinely cared for one another, and we liked being a part of something that was completely different.

My position changed over the years, right field, centre field, third base, second base, and I pitched one game. Before I joined the Angels, I was a pitcher.

My parents were always playing catch with me. I think my mother's hand is still sore.

The Angels hosted an annual Labour Day tournament, and in 1984, we were one team short. Brownie decided to invite the Elmvale Midget girl's team, the Devils, to play. My sister, Debbie was pitching for the Devil's, and Brownie thought it would be fun to have me pitch for the Angels.

Everything was going well until my sister decided to hit me when I was up to bat. We Kirton's are a very competitive group, and I didn't quite see the humour in it at the time. "I am just happy she didn't strike me out," I thought as I limped down to first base.

Life has moved forward twenty years, and while we have all chosen different paths, we are still a close group. The awards, trophies and medals are stored away in boxes, but the memories are stored in our hearts.

Softball is Alive and Well in 2003 – Elmvale Spitfires

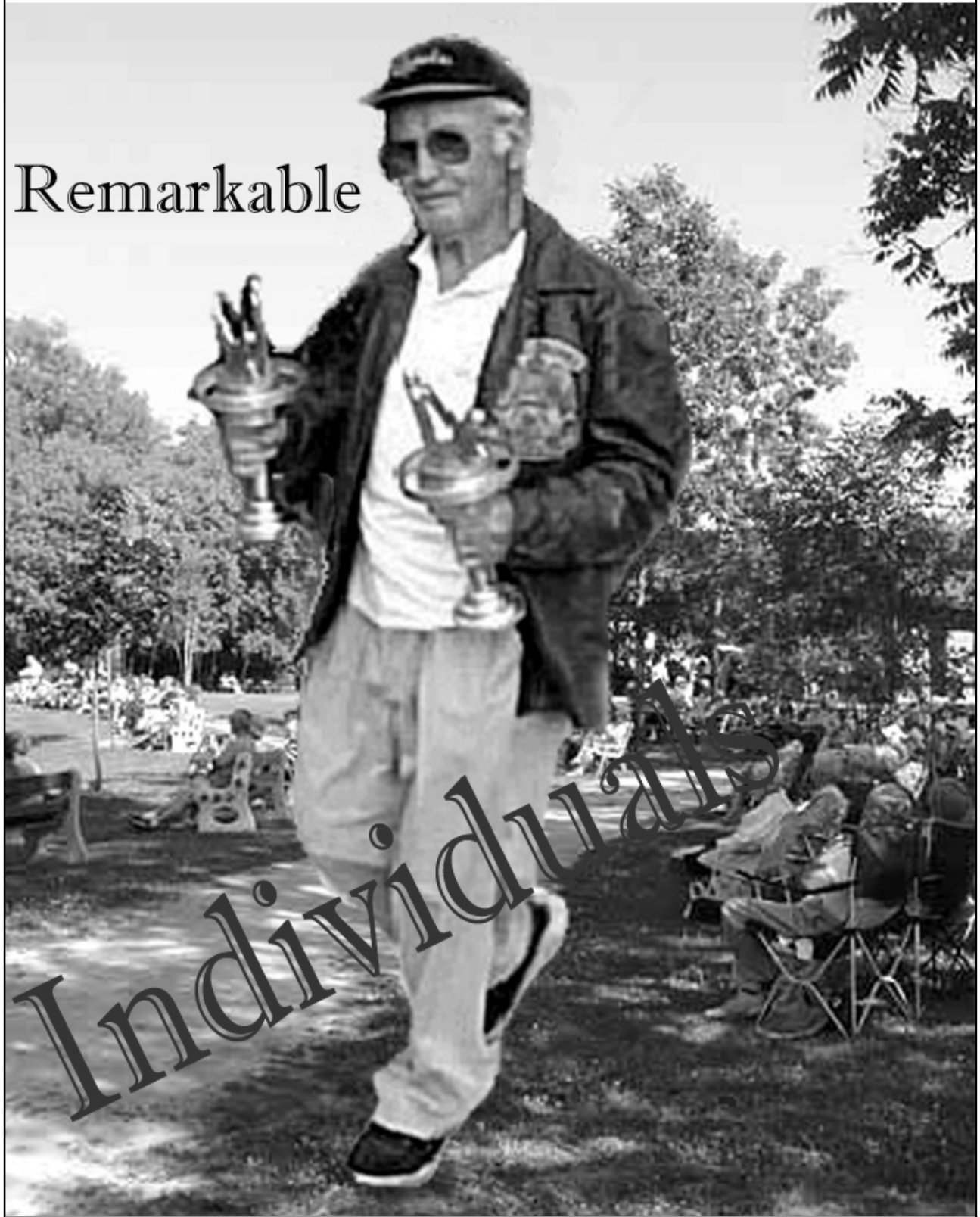


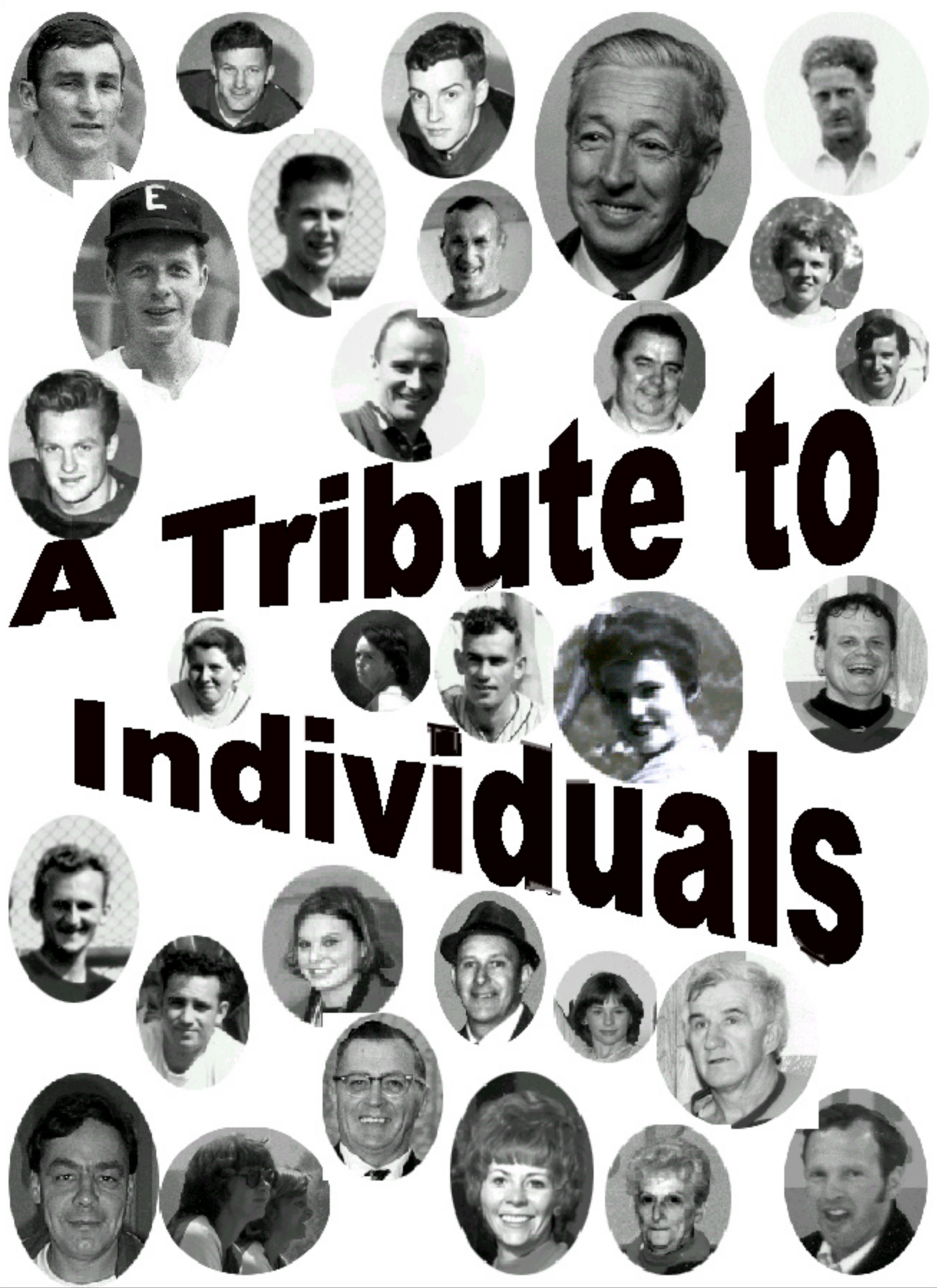
Back (L to R) - Dan McLean (coach), Heather Spence, Jody Ryan, Carrie Archer, Erin Tjart, Darbie McLean, Dara Beacock, Wanda Spring (assistant manager), Brian Collins (assist. coach)
Centre – Holly Columbus, Karla Jamieson **Front** – Megan Collins, Sara Collins, Corrie Spring, Ashleigh McLean – *Photo from Springwater News*

These young ladies take their softball very seriously and play in the South Simcoe Ladies Fast Pitch League where they were league and playoff champions in 2002. Most of these young ladies have played together since 1999 and participated in Ontario Provincial Women's Softball Association Championships starting as Midget Girls, and in 2002, as Junior Ladies. Most of the teams at this level are from large centres in Ontario such as Hamilton, London, Guelph, etc. Although the ladies never won a medal, they fared very well, considering the competition.

The Spitfires home games are Sunday nights at 8:00 p.m., and their fans are growing in numbers. Come out and experience the excitement of ladies fastpitch.

Remarkable





A Tribute to Individuals

Notable Contributions to Elmvale Minor Hockey



This is the trophy that pays tribute to the men and women have made an outstanding contribution to minor hockey in Elmvale.

Doug McConnell Memorial Trophy
donated by the Little NHL Hockey Association

“In memory of a man dedicated to Elmvale Minor Hockey and to the Little NHL Hockey Association.”

The first entry reads;

“In appreciation for past services – Frank Archer, Tom McMan, John L. Coe

1972-73	Nellie Ritchie	1988-89	Tom McGinnis
1973-74	George Allen	1989-90	Bob McLean
1974-75	Jack Dixon	1990-91	Paul & Marlene Lambie
1975-76	Carole Frankcom (Huth)	1991-92	Carol Kelly
1976-77	Stan Ritchie	1992-93	Linda Ritchie
1978-79	Ross McConnell	1993-94	Darren Robertson
1979-80	Marshall Hubbard	1994-95	Ralph Archer
1980-81	Marshall Hubbard	1995-96	Mike, Cathy, Chad, Chris Moreau
1981-82	Ed Robertson	1996-97	Murray Lees
1982-83	Larry French	1997-98	Theresa Sedore
1983-84	Gary and Norah Elliott	1998-99	Fred & Fran Archer
1984-85	Michael Jacobs	1999-2000	Debbie Kennedy
1985-86	Eileen Reynolds	2000-01	Joan Klein Gebbinck
1986-87	Murray Archer	2001-02	Mike Townes
1987-88	Norm, George & Jim Hales		



Earl (Bud) Vollick Memorial Trophy
 recognizing
“The Coaching Staff of the Year”

Selected by their peers

1983 – 84	George Allen, Ed Robertson, Brian Swan (juvenile)
1984-85	Leland Rowat, Norm Taylor (peewee)
1985-86	Stewart McKenzie, Brian Turner (peewee)
1986-87	George Allen, George Conn, Murray Archer (bantam)
1987-88	George Conn, Al Beardsall, Dan Clement (bantam)
1988-89	Gary Bumstead, George Hales
1989-90	Norm Hales, George Hales, Darren Robertson, John Archer
1990-91	Dennis Juniper, Jim Hales, Bill Buck, Lorne Dubeau, Paul Toner
1991-92	Lorne Ogden, Mike Hales, Jim Johnson, John Belesky, Craig Grey (atom)
1992-93	Warren Lillie, Don O’Connor, Randy Sweet, Vern Weiss (bantam)
1994-95	Donnie Robertson, Dean Robertson, Kevin Belcourt, Paul Hopkins, Mike Moreau
1995-96	Doug McMann, Tim Hesch, Bob McLean, Bill Madill
1996-97	Paul Craddock, Bob Colyn, Larry McMann, Brendan Miller, Don Dempster (atom)
1997-98	Pete Kenney, Dan Ritchie, Richard Tjart, Murray Lees (bantam)
1998-99	Paul Craddock, Tye Columbus, Jamie Jacobs, Gary Edwards
1999-00	Tye Columbus, Rick Therrien, Jamie Jacobs, Cory Scheppers, Rick Hales (midget)
2000-01	Brian Nelson, Ric Archer, Paul Kenney, Gary Edgecombe, Dan Clement
2001-2002	Paul Craddock, Trevor Columbus, Jason Parent, Jason Cowan

John Brown – Elmvale Sports Icon

By G Allen – Sources: Lance, John, ...

Beginnings in Hockey

John started his formal sports career at age 5 and 1/2 when he begged his parents to let him call Cecil French for permission to join the Little NHL organization. The hockey organization in Elmvale at that time was affiliated with the Little NHL in much the same way that it is now a part of the OMHA. Boys usually waited till after age six to join, but John was impatient to get his hockey career started.

Cecil listened to the pleas of this enthusiastic lad and then produced the pledge card that every player was required to sign. It required the player to promise to work hard at school, be a sportsman on the ice, model gentlemanly conduct off the ice, and represent his community with dignity when visiting other communities. It seems to John that the pledges on that card have as much relevance today as they had then.

After John got off the phone, he knew that his career was launched. He had the support of his parents and the guidance of some excellent coaches and managers. He remembers Norm Crane as a community oriented individual who worked behind the scenes to ensure the success of both hockey and softball endeavors. Norm was also John's coach when the Elmvale Juveniles won an Ontario Juvenile D Championship.

John's love for hockey was further enhanced by Jack Whitfield and Frank Roberts who were coaching hockey at that time. T. R. McKenzie was managing hockey teams and supplying financial backing for the hockey organization. John mentions, with some admiration, that T. R. often found a few bucks in his pocket to cover the lunch or other road expenses of some of those players who couldn't afford the trip. John also mentioned the strong influence of Doug Bumstead on hockey in Elmvale.

Those who coached and managed were also required to come up with money to pay for ice time in other arenas. Midland had artificial ice which could be used before the natural ice was made in Elmvale. These caring individuals extended the season for the local boys and made it possible for them to be more competitive when playing other towns.

In explaining the improvement of hockey skill levels in Elmvale in this era, John pointed out that there were a number of outdoor rinks that were host to kids at all hours of the day. One of the rinks was located on Patterson Street, a second was located on the vacant lot where Dr. Patchell's house is now located, a third was maintained by the Copeland family on Amelia Street, a fourth was at Baker's on Houden Street, and there was another at Bill Campbell's. There were even nets at the Campbell rink. Pucks that missed those nets often broke windows in the house. The panes were seldom replaced till after the hockey season was over.

The local outdoor rinks were not the only surface that hosted a good hockey game.

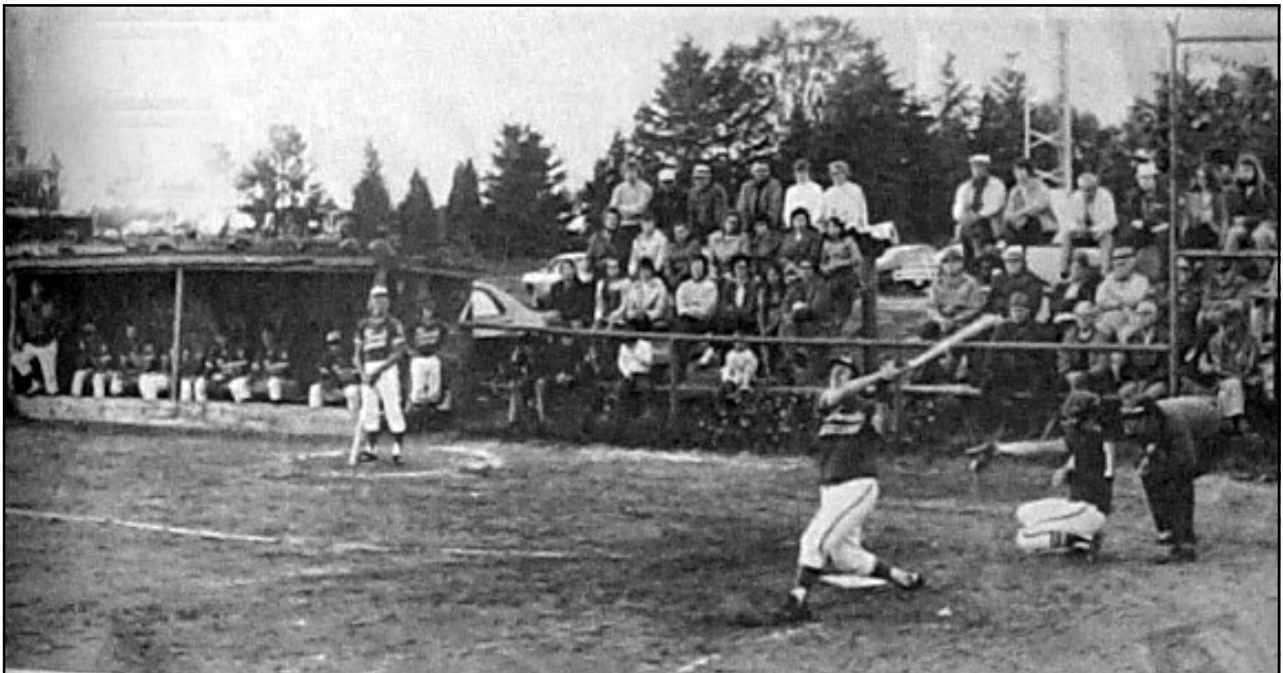
Street hockey was popular, and it occupied the times between good ice surfaces and dry ball fields. John says, "I played with a group of boys in their late teens that were serious about their game: Homer Barrett, Mel Barrett, Lou Turner, Den Turner, ... guys of that age group. No wonder we were in great shape."

John played Junior C hockey with Penetang.

Summers on the Ball Field

John joined organized ball when he was eight, although he had been involved with pick-up games long before that time. These teams, involving kids of a wide range of ages on the same team, were sponsored by the Legion, the Lions, and the I.O.O.F. These teams played against Wyevale, Wyebridge, Hillsdale etc. T shirts were the only uniforms.

Years later, at age 17, John got a chance to play on the Merchant's ball team. He says, "I warmed the bench a lot, but it was the most thrilling experience to get into the game and be directed by Lou Belcourt. Lou directed the players from his position behind



the plate. He studied the batters, knew the skills of the pitchers and positioned you so that you had the ball coming to you in your playing range." One of the highlights of John's career was to be part of the 1977 Ontario Championship Team.

He has a lot of respect for the work of Gummy Rowat: "All the players enjoyed him as a coach; he was hard-working, fair and had a great sense of humour." He says, "Bill Crawford was as dedicated a coach as I ever encountered. Percy Frankcom was one of the most influential workers in hockey and softball; he even got the arena operating as a business. Bob Stacey was just a plain, good coach."

When John spoke of his sports career and successes, his conversation was thickly sprinkled with all those people who were a part of his life. When he wasn't playing organized ball, he was "shagging" ball to two of his idols, Jack Tipping and Homer Barrett, at the ball diamond at the school.

The Ontario Champion Juveniles

When John was playing bantam hockey, he realized the possibilities for that group of players. Then many of the same group played again as midgets. In the finals that year they were soundly beaten. John felt in his 'gut' that when they came together as juveniles they would be able to triumph. He went from merchant to merchant on main street seeking sponsors for team pants (a first for Elmvale). By the time the season got underway, the juvenile team was equipped with a full uniform.

Throughout the year the team played Parry Sound and an Orillia Juvenile A team and emerged victorious. Orillia won the 'A' championship that year. Elmvale went on to win the 'C' Ontario Championship.

John recall winning an 'A', 'B', and 'C' tournament in the afternoon, and then loading up to head for the Ontario Finals in Ayr. The team had energy enough left to win that final game. (*See story on page 84*)

About the time John was reducing his involvement as a player, he began his contribution as an administrator and coach. He and Mike Patchell started the Simcoe Rural Softball League. As well, he had a turn as president of Elmvale Minor Hockey.

Coach of the Angels

For a guy who had a consuming interest in softball, it is not difficult to understand how his attention was drawn to another group using the diamond. This group of young women was being tutored by Joan Player who had honed her skills in the Barrie leagues. John started offering tips, and soon he was hooked. His involvement with the Angels lasted from 1977 to 1984.

Joan and John had their labors bear fruit in 1982 when the Angels won the All Ontario Ladies Softball Championship. John says, "It certainly was a highlight of my years in sport."



John Brown (L) tried out for Barrie Sr. A with Stan Ritchie. John wasn't ready yet.

Climbing the Ladder as a Referee

During the years, 1967-1974, John was doing a lot of refereeing in the local area. He was catching the attention of those in the Georgian Bay leagues, and was called upon to do play-off games in the larger centres. Bill Oldfield, head referee, often called him to the hot bed of Owen Sound to referee the Ontario Finals. As well, he got the opportunity to 'line' for Senior "A" play-off series.

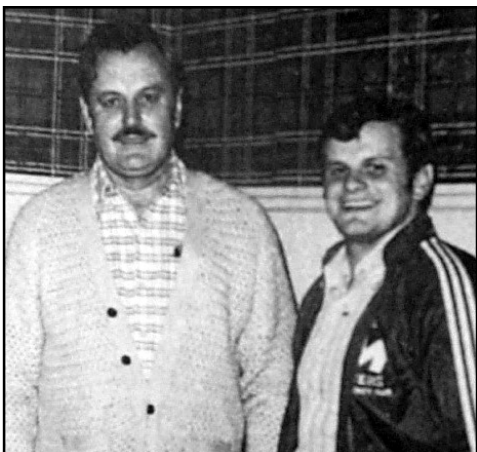
John was invited to training camps for the American League, the World Hockey Association and the NHL. "It was a thrill to just train with the best and have the privilege of greeting people like Bruce Hood on a first name basis."

Following the Hockey Scene as a Scout

For 5 years John was contracted as a scout for the Windsor Spitfires. This meant travelling to arenas within an approximate 100 mile radius to observe a prospect in action, and hoping that he wasn't thrown out in the first few minutes for fighting. One of the thrills of this position was attending the NHL draft at Centennial arena in North York each year. He also was in communication (informally) with Guelph and Kitchener about prospective players.

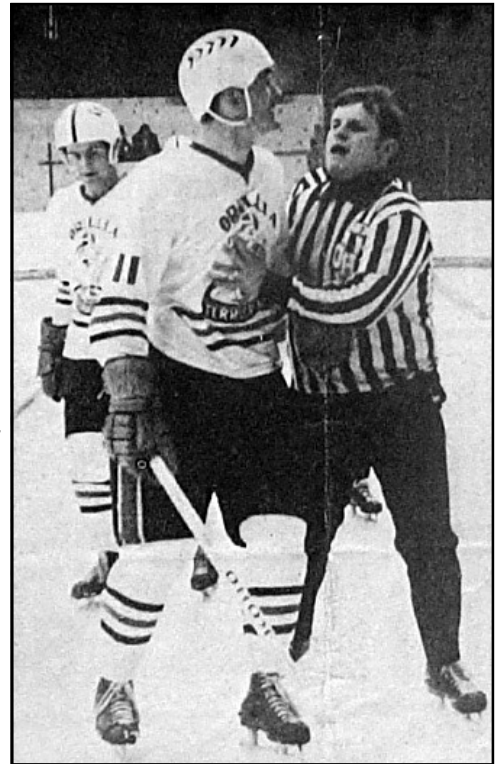
The years of working as a scout had many rewards, but the greatest reward was being part of the wonderful family of people that make up the hockey organizations in Ontario. John was "simply in awe" last year when during his weeks of recuperation in hospital, he received a "bushel" of cards from people he had met and worked with during his years in sports.

John spent 13 years on the Elmvale Recreation Committee.

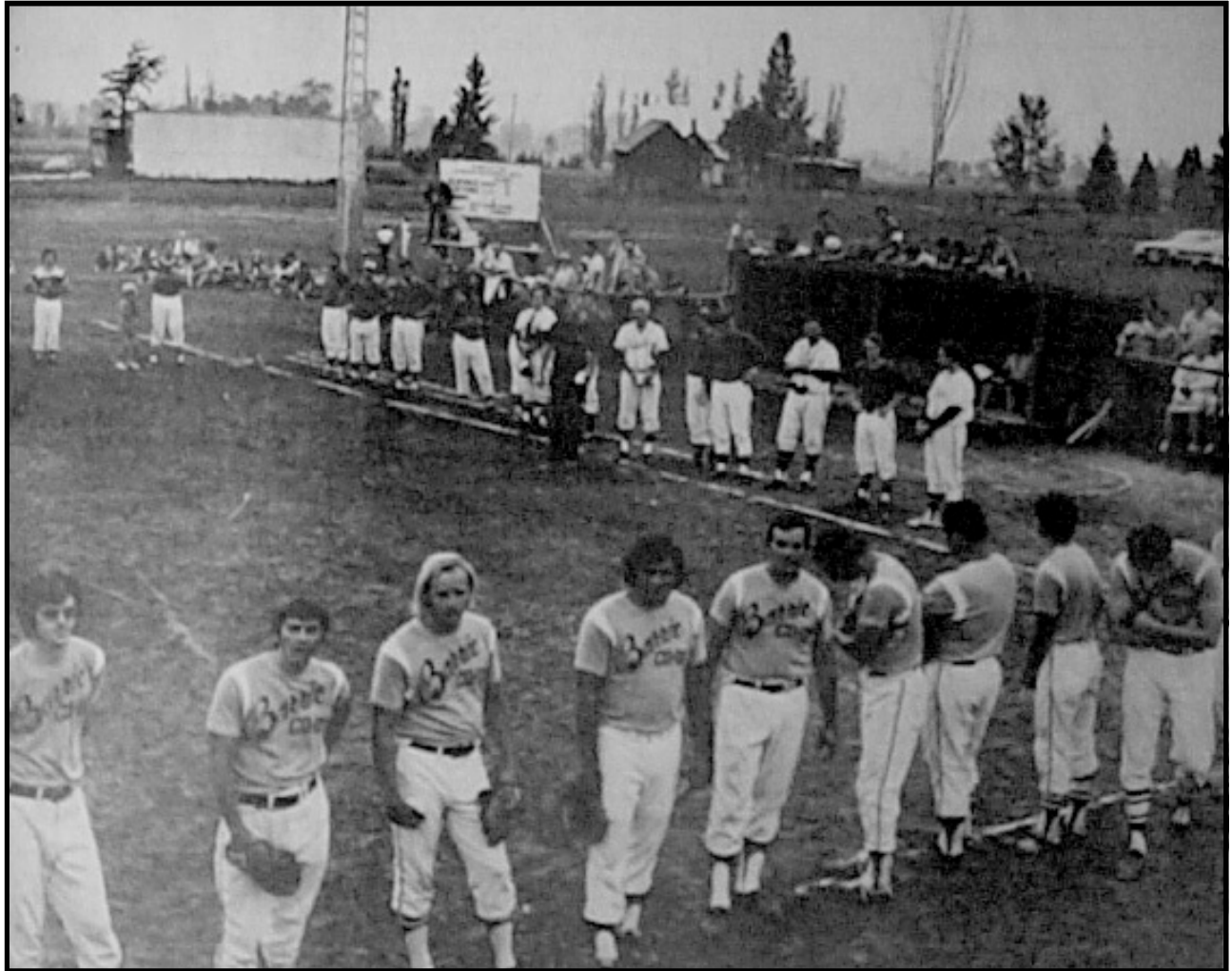


John served his turn as an organizer of hockey and softball leagues. At left he is seen handing over the presidents position of the Simcoe Rural Softball League to Bob Sheriff. John was instrumental in founding the league.

In the 70's John did a turn as president of Elmvale Minor Hockey.



1972 – A Sports Turning Point – Lighting the Park



Ernie Brown and Arthur Evans MPP (Simcoe Centre - Progressive Conservative) cut the ribbon to officially turn on the new lights at the rejuvenated Elmvale Ball Park.

“This town isn’t very big,” Mr. Brown commented, “but everything they have done, they have paid for, and that’s pretty good for a village of 1000 people.”

Other officials taking part in the ceremonies included: Harry Rowley, president of Elmvale Merchants; Cecil French, reeve of Elmvale; Earl Elliott, reeve of Flos; and Percy Frankcom, chairman of the Light the Park committee.

A special presentation was made to Percy Frankcom in recognition of his leadership throughout the project. He drew the attention of those 300 plus fans who attended the ceremonies to the many people who had contributed physical labour and to those who had contributed financially.

The Mets and Merchants lined up on the first and third base lines for the ribbon-cutting. Both played that evening.

Chuck Jordan

*An impressive athlete
On the ball field and on the ice surface*

The End of a Successful Year Barrie and District Fastball League 1970-71

Left – Lou Belcourt was the team’s
“Batting Champion”.

Chuck Jordan was “Most Valuable
Player ” in the playoffs.



*Elmvale Senior Hockey – KIL was
defeated by Elmvale after 18 unde-
feated games – Jordan had 4 assists.*



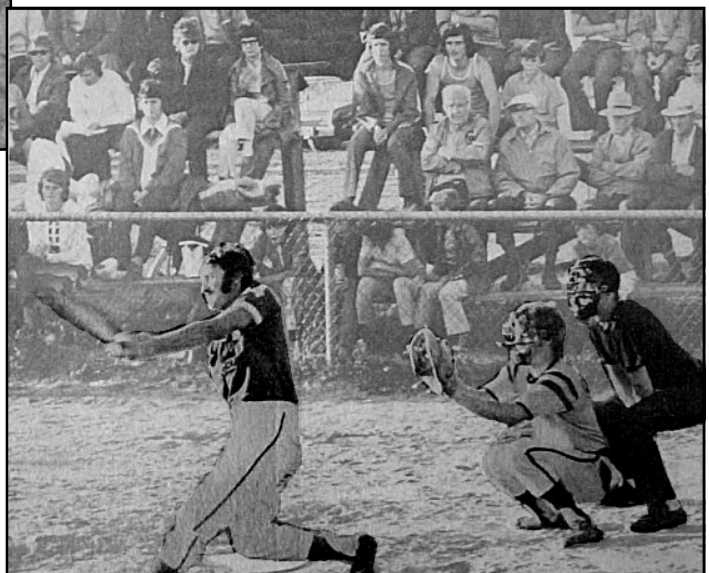
Sterling performer for OMHA Champions

Chuck receives the championship trophy em-
blematic of juvenile hockey supremacy in the
“C” division. Elmvale beat Alderwood in the
final game.

*1972 – 4 Elmvale players are named to First All Star Fast-
ball Team (Barrie and District) – Dave Campbell (first
base), Werner Kaul (pitcher), Garry Turner (third base),
Chuck Jordan (short stop) * Chuck was the only unani-
mous choice.*

**Lance Headline – Chuck Jordan belts
grand slam in Elmvale Merchant’s 10-4
Win – ...The blow which really sunk the
visitors was Chuck Jordan’s grand slam
home run in the seventh inning for the
Merchants.**

*This homer by Jordan was a tape-
measure hit as it landed in the dirt on the
race track in left centre field ... one of the
longest ever hit.”*



Power Hitter from Phelpston – Joe Marley

In 1960 Joe was chosen to be the Most Valuable Player in the Barrie and District Senior Softball League.

The Barrie Examiner called him the ‘holler guy from Stewart’s’, the guy that keeps you awake by firing the ball at you any time from his position behind the plate. Yet, Joe was not always a catcher. He played any of the other infield positions with cool-headed efficiency and was particularly sharp at second and third.

Although his batting average was nearly always near the top, in 1960 it was an impressive .361, sixth best in the league.

Joe’s play-off performance in the final game against Barrie Legion may have been enough to clinch the MVP title. He collected four hits, best of anyone.



1962 Barrie and District Senior Softball Champs – Back L to R – George Faulkener, Boomer McCann, Art Martin, Lorne Armstrong, Fred Cuttings, Jim Poole, Bill Bertram – Front – Jim Bertram, Butch Boyd, Larry Woods, Jim Armstrong, Bill Raycraft, Nick Calhoutty, Joe Marley.
Seated – David Raycraft, Jerry Raycraft

Stan Ritchie – Local Sports Legend

Stan's hockey career has spanned more than 5 decades. He was playing for Stayner at age 16, an outstanding defensive player who was coming to the attention of scouts. By age 18 he was invited to try out with the Toronto Marlies. Two years later he was a star with the Midland Red Wings and helped them win the All Ontario championship.

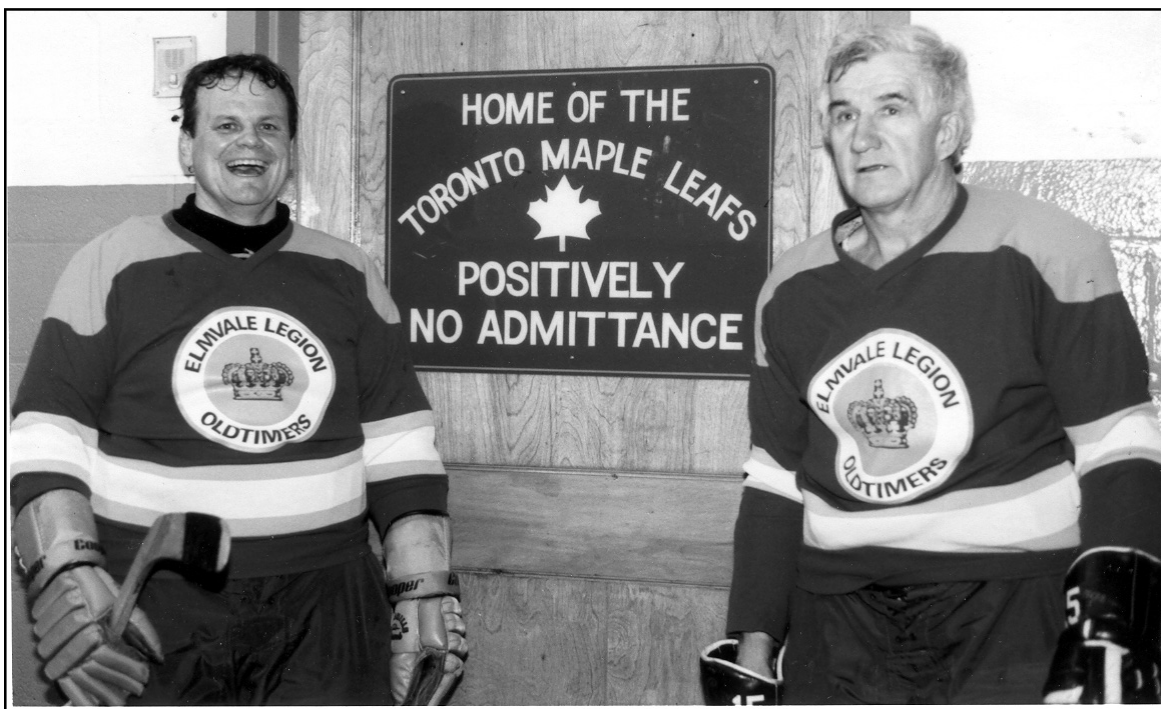
Stan played Senior "A" Hockey with Collingwood from 1955-1964. During these years the Collingwood arena was filled to the rafters with supporters for those exciting play-off games. He was such a prominent player that he was invited to try out with New Haven in the International League. Unfortunately, he broke his leg, and his dream of a professional career was dashed. When he recovered from this setback, Stan went to Barrie to play with the Barrie 7-Ups where he remained from 1965-1971.

At age 37 Stan returned to Elmvale to play, this time with the Elmvale Senior League. Since that time he has played for years on the Legion sponsored Old Timers Hockey Team.

Stan spent 14 years teaching Mini-tykes the skills needed to play the game. His patience and understanding was what every young person needs when they are learning the game.

Not Just a Hockey Player

Stan played softball for Allenwood for many years. He also played for a number of years in the Barrie League for Torgus Automotive. Then he returned to Elmvale and



John Brown and Stan Ritchie knocking at the door of the Toronto Maple Leafs

At the Height of Brilliant Sports Careers

photo from Dave Campbell



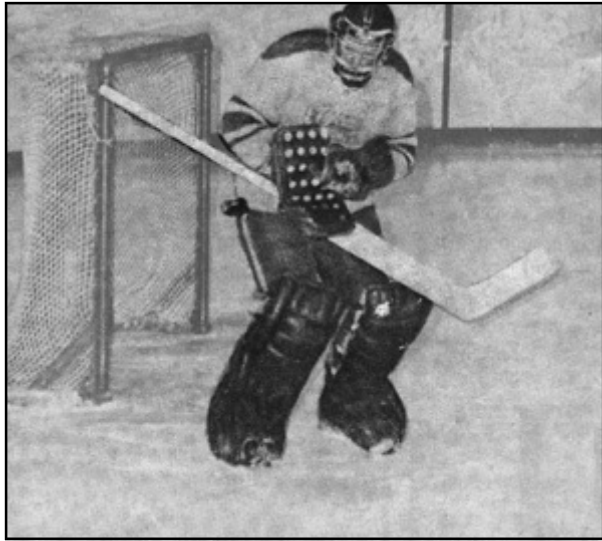
Pictured – Left to Right

Paul Rowat – “Gummy” was an exciting ball player during the fifties and early sixties. He went on to coach the most successful ball club in Elmvale history. He could take his turn as an umpire as well. Many will remember him contributing his electrical skill when the ball team decided to “Light the Park”. In the year 2000 Gummy was given the honour of carrying the Relay 2000 Cross Canada Relay Torch into Heritage Park. His peers had put him forward for the special recognition.

Dave Campbell – He played on winning minor hockey teams, winning school volleyball and basketball teams, had years of recognition as a winning curler and is pictured above holding the league batting title while playing for the championship Elmvale Merchants.

Homer Barrett – He so dominated the sports scene in this area that a “Homer Barrett Park” was named in his honour. A lot of his peers in hockey and softball name him as the best player of all time. Homer held a lot of trophies during his time.

Garry Turner is a Champion at Many Sports



Garry in action during a Senior League game

A Unique Profile

1966 – Senior Track and Field Champion at Elmvale District High School

The Hockey Record

1961-62 Little NHL Bantam Champions

1962-63 Midget OMHA Finalists

1964-65 OMHA Juvenile “D”
Champions

1965-66 OMHA Juvenile “D”
repeat champions

District 10 Champions – 1976

Garry Turner
(skip)

Lou Turner
(vice)

Keith Williams
(second)

Peter Vollett
(lead)



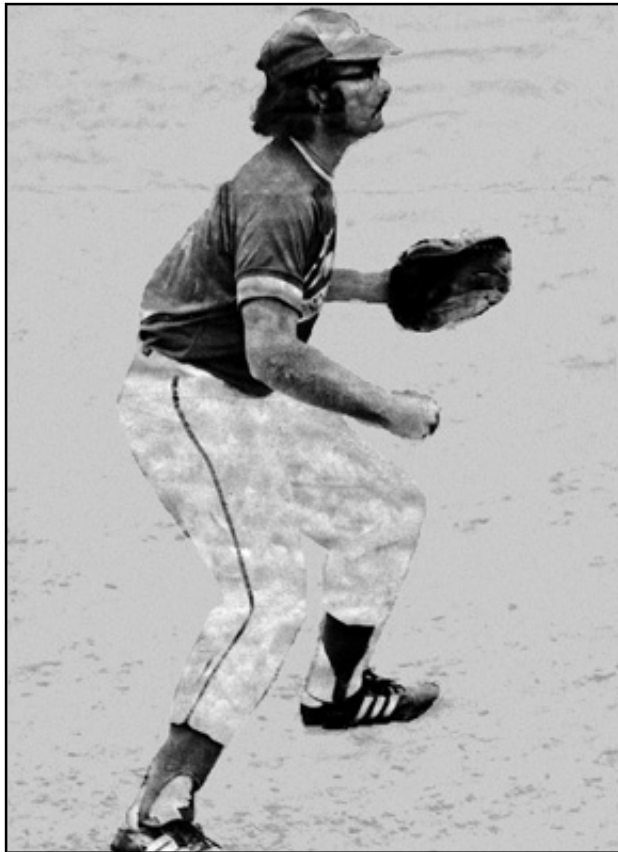
The Turner Rink Knocked off Toronto Rink

The Elmvale rink qualified for a shot at the provincial championship by eliminating Bill Creber’s Toronto rink in two straight games at the Tam Heather Curling Club in Scarborough. Winning away from home made the victories more satisfying.

The Creber rink had been ranked as fifth best in the province, so the Elmvale wins were seen as a major upset. Yet, victory did not come easily.

In the second game the Elmvale rink had to overcome an early 4 –1 deficit in the early ends. Even at that it took 13 ends to decide the game.

This was not the first time that players on this team made a good run for a provincial championship. Lou Turner had skipped teams to the finals on two previous occasions; London in 1969 and Guelph in 1971. Peter Vollett had been on the 1969 team as well.



The Softball Career

Garry played for Elmvale in the Barrie Senior Fastball League for 17 years. During that time the team won 5 championships.

The Elmvale third baseman made three trips to O.A.S.A. Ontario Championship tournaments with the Merchants, but without bringing home the hardware.

In 1977 Garry was a member of the All Ontario Championship team. This was a time when the Merchants travelled from town-to-town eliminating opponents on the way to the final tournament weekend in Northern Ontario at Hearst. This was a highlight of a lengthy fastball career.

Garry is still playing fastball at age 55.



Team Ontario, the Elmvale Team, parades with the other provincial teams at Newfoundland in 2001– Lou Turner, Bill Truax, John Archer, Garry Turner, and Bob Storey – Representing Elmvale Legion – Branch 262. Team Ontario came in second (Seniors). In 2002 the Elmvale boys again came second. Second place in a Canadian competition is quite an accomplishment!

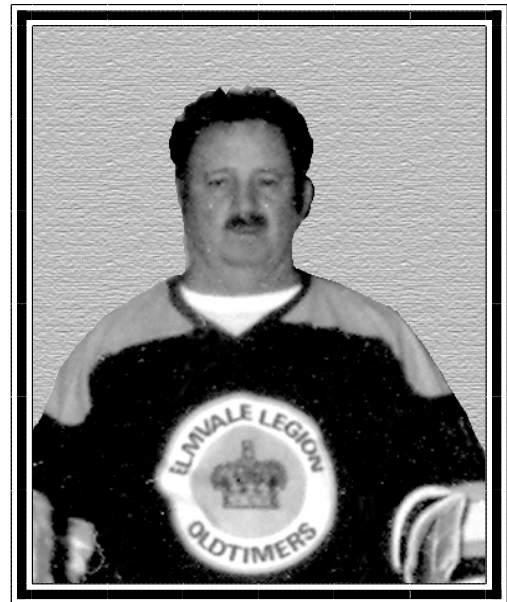
Sports Figures with Unusual Longevity



Ron McAuley (Left) - As the reader goes through the sports pictures in this book, it will become apparent that many of the sports figures were champions at a number of sports over many years. Ron can be found in softball pictures, hockey pictures and curling photos. He was one of the organizers and charter members of “Senior Curling” in Elmvale. He has traveled, in recent years, on the Oldtimers hockey circuit. That impressive record is outlined below. Ron still plays hockey three times per week in the Wasaga arena, a group of comrades who meet for recreational games.

Dennis Turner – Den has played softball and hockey with winning teams for more than four decades. He has been a prominent curler over those years, and he still curls using a “curling stick” because his knees don’t like the crouch position. Yet, he still manages to end up as champion or finalists.

Den Turner is quick to volunteer to help with anything to advance sports in this commu-



The Impressive Oldtimers’ Record

The team, Georgian Bay Indians, was formed in 1976 by Jim Johnston of Midland and had players from Midland, Elmvale, Beeton, Oshawa, Toronto and Montreal. By 1986 it had a more local flavor and was sponsored locally by the Elmvale Legion. The Indians played throughout Europe and North America.

Switzerland	1977	gold	California	1982	
Denmark	1978	gold	Florida	1983	
Florida	1979	gold	Arizona	1984	
gold					

George Conn – Minor Hockey Champion for a Quarter Century

Some of the Player Awards



A Major Contribution to Minor Hockey

1959	Jr. A Division of Little NHL	Consolation Finalist
1960	Jr. A Division of Little NHL	Consolation Champs
1960/61	Pee-wees OMHA Ontario Finalists against Paisley Coach was Norm Crane – Only eight players for the final game.	
1963/64	Pee-wee AHL team won Little NHL tournament in Cannington – Coach, Lou Belcourt; managers – Bill Conn and Tom McKenzie)	
1963/64	Midget D OMHA Ontario semi-finalists – Coach (Bob Chapple), Manager (Tom McKenzie)	
1964/65	Juvenile D Champions	
1965/66	Juvenile D Champions	
1967/68	Juvenile D Champions	
<hr/>		
1974-75	coached Juvenile OMHA “DD” Champs	won against Dorchester
1986/87	- assistant coach Bantams OMHA	- Winners against Belmont

KITCHENER RANGERS



JR. "A" HOCKEY CLUB
KITCHENER MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
400 EAST AVENUE KITCHENER, ONTARIO

June 29, 1964.

Mr. George Conn,
Allenville,
Ontario.

Dear George:

I stipulated in a previous letter that I would inform you of the New York Rangers try out camp. The confirmed dates for the try out camp are August 31 through until September 4, at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium. I believe you will find this arena one of the nicest in the country.

Would you please report to me on August 30 at the Mayfair Hotel in Kitchener. I am looking forward to your appearance, and would appreciate very much if you could possibly arrange your own transportation here. We will REIMBURSE you for same. However, if you cannot arrange transportation due to financial difficulties, inform me at the above address, and a ticket will be forwarded to you.

I would like to thank you for your prompt answer to my first invitation, therefore, until August 31, I wish you a very pleasant summer.

Yours sincerely,

NEW YORK RANGERS

Lou Passador

Lou Passador,
Chief Scout.

LF:kh

Enclosed is a stamped, addressed envelope - will you please write and let us know whether or not you will attend.

George was invited to the training camp of the **Kitchener Rangers OHA Junior A Hockey Club**. During the try-outs he was injured. His hopes for a hockey career in the OHA were dashed.



Elmvale Beats the Barrie Athletics (From 1897 Chronicle)

Last Wednesday night the unvanquished Elmvale hockey team came down to play the Barrie Athletics, and returned home still unconquered. The few spectators had the pleasure of witnessing a splendid exhibition of shinny and general rough play in the glory of which both teams participated.

At times the visitors showed some slight knowledge of combination, but the Athletics, apparently, hadn't heard of such a thing.

The ice in several places was covered with water. This, however, before the game was finished, had been transferred from the ice to the clothes of the players.

Jas. Craig acted as referee. He evidently thought that the fun was too good to stop, and only rang his bell occasionally to show that he was still on the ice. Had he run the game according to the rules, most of the players would have decorated the fence the greater part of the game.

Elmvale had the best of the game, and managed to score three while the Athletics put in two. ...

Elmvale -Goal, Ellis; point, Kenny; cover point, Nixon; forwards, McEachren, Greig, Kennedy and Ritchie. *Examiner*

Salute to Tim and Tom McGinnis

Few have contributed more to the Elmvale sports scene than Tim and Tom McGinnis.

Why they haven't had a greater share of recognition is anybody's guess.
Their skills at softball and hockey welcomed them to a lot of different teams,
And to find a street hockey game in progress was the answer to their dreams.

They played ball hockey in the summer and umpired a softball game or two.
They didn't even mind chasing a golf ball through the early morning dew.
The boys could play a spirited hockey game in winter or take their turn as referee,
But my attention is drawn to all the things these guys have done without a fee.

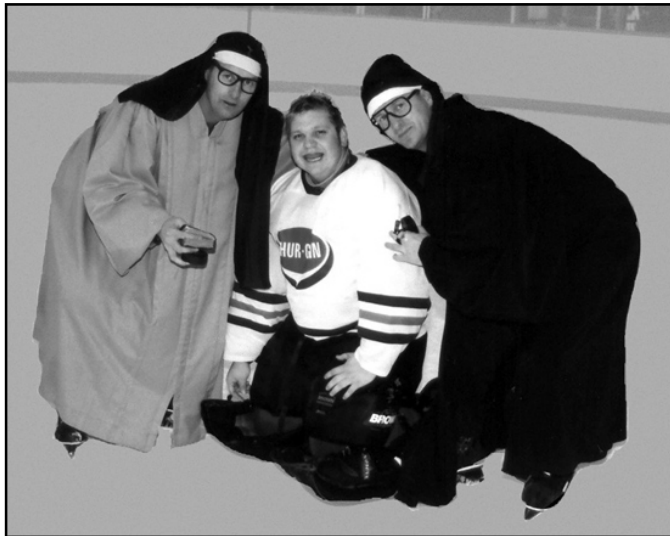
They have always been there for house league boys to raise their level of skills.
They organized house league tournaments because these boys, too, need thrills.
Working in the house league does give you a face folks recognize,
And there are seldom newspaper cameras around when you finally win a prize.

Tim and Tom raised funds for individuals who had been in an accident,
And they were there to "light the ball park" when big bucks were being spent.
They volunteered to staff the bar when hockey dances were being planned,
And when it came to the dreaded clean up, they were always close at hand.

Tim and Tom modelled attitudes that sports figures should pass to everyone;
Play with fairness and determination in an atmosphere of fun.
They coached their teams and raised the funds, always modelling good cheer,
It's too bad they wouldn't run a clinic for those who would like to volunteer.

I'm sure that this community is grateful, although it is sometimes short on words.
Fortunately, offering service in the sports world often has its own rewards.
While I can't speak out for others, I must say that I'm impressed.
With "Tim/Tom" contributing to the sports' scene, this community is blessed.

George Allen



April 2003

Tom and Tim bring some **order** to a hockey game sponsored by the churches and with benefits going to Jay Robertson.

As referees there are nun finer.
Here they try to explain the finer details of the game to Ken Bye.

They had looked up a "Ted Lindsay" engraved stick to present to Jay.
Their hearts go out to anyone in need.

Women Who Made a Difference



Shirley Furlong, at the urging of Percy Frankcom, convinced a number of local girls who were going to Barrie for figure skating lessons to join a local club that she was willing to organize. Shirley called on other 'moms' - Audrey Guthrie, Marion Clute and Dorrie Feigehen.

Other local girls were attracted to the new club, and it eventually had 38 skaters in that first year.

The Club went on to provide a skill building organization that gave local girls (and boys) the self-confidence to perform before local, national and international audiences.

Angela Kirton – More than an Angel

Angela has boxes of trophies and awards. Part of her sports story is outlined below; the rest is on the pages dedicated to the Angels.

- 1978 – Intermediate Girls Track and Field Champ – HCES.
- 1982 – Senior B Ladies Provincial Softball Champs – Angels
- 1983 - Female Athlete of the Year – EDHS & Volleyball Award
- 1984 - Female Athlete of the Year – EDHS & Basketball award
- 1993 – Played at Skydome – Slo-pitch
- 1992 – Defensive Player Award – Barrie Slo-pitch
- 1995 – Defensive Player Award – Barrie Slo-pitch
- 1996 – Outstanding Player Award – Barrie Slo-pitch
- 1997 – Defensive Player Award – Barrie Slo-pitch League



Elmvale Comets – Dominant Team of the Decade

Tribute to Marlene Tinney

Marlene Tinney has been a sports champion
for more than half a century.

She was playing with a victorious softball club
way back in 1953.

When there wasn't practice or a Comet game, there was al-
ways a sandlot game to play,

You could count on the Reynolds family
to continue the family softball rivalry.

Then by the late 1950's the Comets
could no longer recruit

Enough able bodied players to fill out every suit
Marlene missed the camaraderie of those girls, the chal-
lenge of reaching for the top,

But if you're from an athletic family, sports is
not a thing you drop.

Marlene was a familiar face on the ski hill
that was located east on the 5 th line.



Marlene Tinney



**Marguerite Stone
A Prominent Comet**

Although that enterprise, too, had enjoyed its best years
And by now was in decline.

There was always skating in the arena, and if you need
that extra thrill

You could try your hand at dodging trees,
As you tobogganed down Cook's hill.

Now it was at the nearby curling rink that Marlene
got most of her sports satisfaction

The challenge of bonspiels out-of-town seemed
to have a special attraction.

Then in 1998 she viced an Ontario Senior
Diamonds Team;

As a senior she'd attained the heights of which
most other athletes only dream.

*At age 70 Marlene rode her bike from Thornbury to Collingwood as
a part of the "Parade of Hope" to help with the fight to curb "Aids
in Africa". She rode the 22 km in about 1 hour and 20 minutes.*

Tim Belcourt – A World Class Second – 1987

Regionals – After their elimination from the Regional competition at Stroud, the team went to Harriston to participate in a ‘Challenge Round.’ Even here they were relegated to the “B” side before clawing their way back to a championship. After this win they were qualified for a trip to the Brier.

The Ontario Championship (Tankard) - The Howard Team was tied with Werenich (7 and 2 records) after round robin play. Werenich advanced to the final with a ‘bye’ due to a win over Howard in the round robin. Now it took Howard an extra end to squeak by Paul Savage in the semi-final. Howard was ready for Werenich and disposed of him in eight ends.



Labatt Brier – The Howard Rink had a 9-2 record after round robin play, and they earned a ‘bye’ into the final against Bernie Sparks of B.C. The Russ Howard rink won a trip to the World Championship with an 11-6 victory.

President’s Cup (Symbol of World Supremacy) - After round robin play, Ramsjfell of Norway had an 8-1 record while Howard of Team Canada had 7 wins and 2 losses.

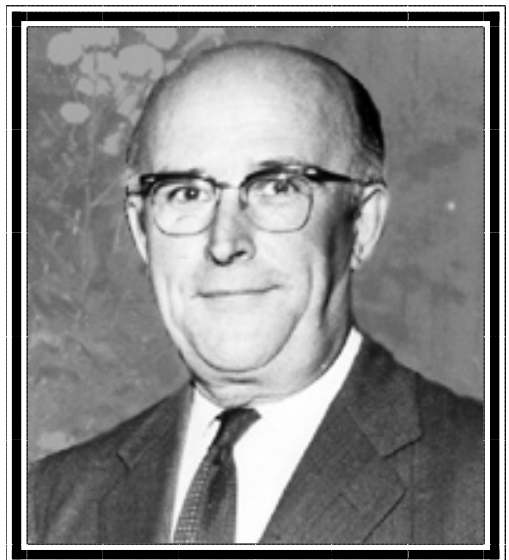
In the final game against Schmidt of Germany, the Howard team was down 5-4 going into the final end. When Schmidt missed a freeze, Russ made a nose hit for five.

Tim Belcourt was third among the seconds with a 72 percent average.



Les McKay used his location at the Hardware Store to handle the administrative duties as manager of the Elmvale Comets. He worked with the prominent hockey teams as well. The pages of the Sports Edition of Chapters show the dedication of Les to sports in Elmvale. He took his turn at coaching as well.

Bunny Trace remembers that he always took time to give a ‘coin’ to Les Trace because of his good name. This was the type of man he was.



Doug McConnell – Prominent Locally and Provincially

Materials Supplied by Joan McConnell

From the **Sports Scene – Elmvale Lance**
1972

The minor hockey world suffered a severe blow two weeks ago when forty-one year old, Douglas McConnell passed away at his home on the eighth concession of Flos. Doug was probably one of the best known hockey men in Ontario as far as the minor systems went.

He was involved in almost every facet of the game from referee to president. Doug started his minor hockey career in Elmvale as an OMHA referee about 15 years ago when referees didn't know what it was to be paid for their many hours of devotion.

Since then Doug has been involved in the following: Secretary-treasurer of Elmvale Minor Hockey for many years, Registrar for all Ontario Minor Hockey, vice-president of Little N.H.L., convenor for the area, referee-in-chief of Georgian Bay League, and he was also District Convenor, Bill Oldfields' right hand man. Bill could always count on Doug for assistance when needed



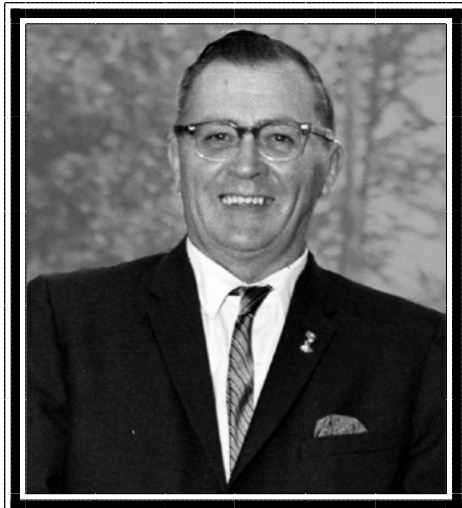
Doug McConnell

Doug always played a big part in the organization of the Midget and Juvenile tournaments and also the Easter tourney. This past winter he was president of Elmvale Minor Hockey, along with being secretary.

His first love of the game was always refereeing, and his second eldest boy, Ross is following his father's footsteps as he is already enrolled in Bob Nadin's Referee School the first week of September in Etobicoke.

Doug leaves his wife Joan and three boys, Jim, Ross, and Rob.

A man who was involved in so many areas of the game will be definitely missed, not only in Elmvale, but all over Ontario, and at the same time he will be hard to replace.



Harry Rowley – Community Sports Icon

Materials from Lois Draper and Harold Townes

Harry was a sportsman all his life. In the mid 40's he joined the Elmvale Curling Club and curled every year until his death in 1978.

Even as a very young boy his love of hunting was evident. When he was about 10 years of age, he shot a big gray owl, and his father had it stuffed. For years it sat on the China cabinet. This interest in hunting led him and some of his friends to form a Hunt Club up "North".

That Club served as a magnet at deer hunting time, and it still attracts the younger men that were part of the club at that time.

In the late 40's he and Cecil Townes coached and managed a ball team of 10 & 12 year old boys. Sometime in the 50's he became involved in hockey and baseball, serving sometimes as coach and sometimes as manager. As well, he served on the committees that organized and financed the team and the leagues.

Dick Columbus was a prominent softball pitcher and curler in this area in 50's and 60's. He recalls that games were played among teams on concessions 9, 10 and 11. The first baseman and catcher had the luxury of having gloves. The rest of the team caught the ball with bare hands.

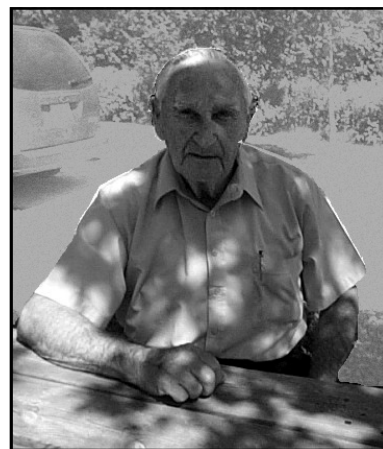
The first team that Dick remembers was one that was organized by Clair Dutcher (mid thirties and early forties), and he was the pitcher. Joe Bell caught, Bob Bell was short stop or second, Tim Bate played first, Dr. Milligan was short stop, and Bill Campbell

played first base. This team played in a league that included Hillsdale, Vasey, Port McNicoll, Victoria Harbour, Penetang and Ebenezzer.

Dick got his start pitching at age 18, while in the air force, stationed at Halifax and Iceland. At the northern outpost the boys sometimes played at 3:00 a.m. because there was still plenty of light. The games were against the Americans or the Brits, the Americans being the more competent at softball.

When he returned to Canada, he and Joe McGinnis organized a team in the summer of 1946. In the middle to late fifties, Dick remembers that Paul Rowat was the catcher, Joe McGinnis played third, Homer Barrett acted as short stop, Stan Ritchie played second, Harold Townes played first, and there was an outfield that included Mel and Jerry Barrett with George Sibbald. Dick pitched during the late 40's and the 50's.

When asked about the umpires, Dick was quick to give credit to Harry Rowley, Jimmy Crawford and Frank Reynolds.



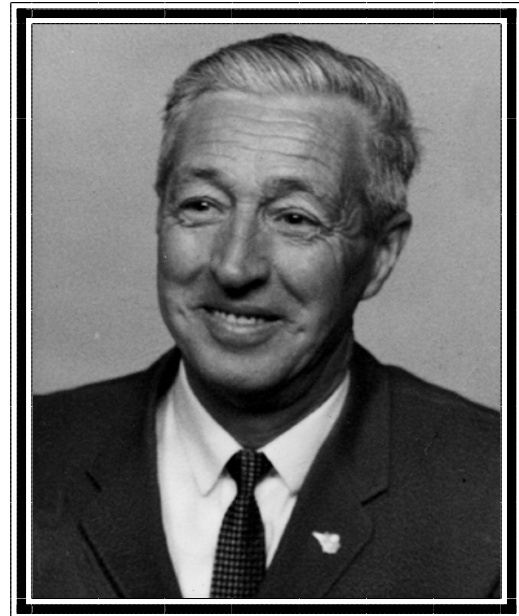
Percy Frankcom – Builder, Organizer, Coach, Manager

Elmvale Lance – 1976 – contributed by Ron Frankcom

Percy retired from his International Harvester implement business in 1959 and then devoted his energy to the Elmvale sport's scene.

Always active in **minor hockey**, he coached the 1955-56 Elmvale Juvenile team that went on to win the OMHA championship. It was the beginning of a remarkably successful coaching and managing career that brought Frankcom teams numerous championships and awards. As recently as 1971-72, he was still active in minor hockey as the manager of the Bantam A team.

He was also an enthusiastic supporter of Elmvale **Merchants Intermediate C hockey** team and became the 'voice' of Merchants for his public address duties at all the team's home games.



In baseball, Mr. Frankcom managed the **Elmvale Merchants to back-to-back championships of the Barrie and District Fastball League** in the 1971-72 seasons. He remained on the Merchants **baseball executive** until the end of the 1974 season and left the baseball scene last year only to devote greater time to the rebuilding of the community arena in his capacity as arena commissioner.

As **arena commissioner**, beginning in 1973, Mr. Frankcom effectively organized the rink activities and used his business skills to successfully manage the arena's financial affairs. He was responsible for many of the improvements not only to the old rink, but to the refurbished arena which re-opened in November (after the fire). The new lighting, the plastic boards, the compressor and condenser installed during the rebuilding period were all largely arranged at his initiative. Many feel the strain of the planning and hectic rebuilding program exacted a heavy toll on his health.

Greatest Accomplishment

Perhaps Mr. Frankcom's greatest accomplishment was the **installation of lights at the ball park**. For years the idea of baseball lighting had been a dream until he spearheaded a community drive that resulted in the new lights being turned on in June 1972. Built at a cost of about \$7,500, the new lights literally revived the game in Elmvale.

Perhaps Frank Archer said it best, "No one has contributed more to the sporting community of Elmvale than Percy Frankcom. He did his job with devotion."

** Percy was also responsible for helping Shirley Furlong get **figure skating** started in Elmvale and he used his position with the Lions Club to help get financing for the new venture.*

Hardware from the Intermediate Softball League

Y
E
A
R

E
N
D

1
9
7
1



L
E
A
G
U
E

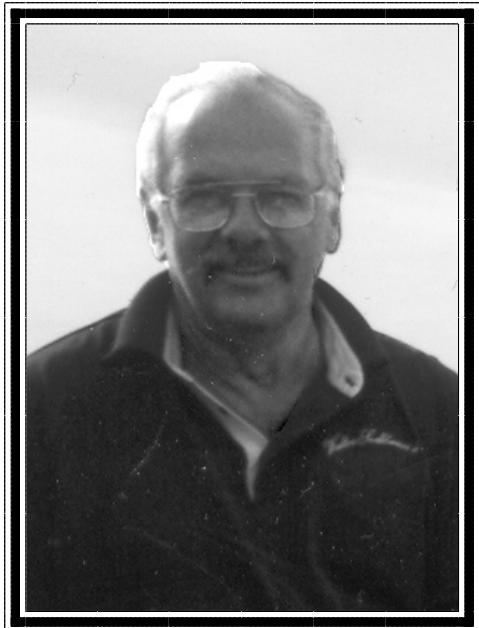
A
W
A
R
D
S

(L to R) Percy Frankcom (manager – league trophy) – Lou Belcourt (catcher– play-off trophy)
Carl Edwards (pitcher – MVP trophy and new Frankcom family trophy for being the leagues best
regular season pitcher with 8-0 record) - Bill Bertram (Co-op team)

Lou Belcourt – Outstanding Player, Coach, Manager

- Coached, with Bill Conn, All Ontario Little NHL Bantam team
- Coached Intermediate Hockey OHA Finalist team
- Manager of the Championship Western Ontario (WOAA) Hockey team
- convenor for OHA Intermediate and Senior hockey leagues
- 1961 – played for Elmvale in Georgian Bay Softball league
- 1962 – played for Torgis Automotive in the Barrie Senior League
- 1963 – caught for Elmvale in Barrie and District Softball league – “best team ever”
- John Brown and Lou stayed and played for Woods BA (senior) for several years
- Late 60’s and early 70’s – Elmvale entered the Barrie Intermediate League and won several consecutive championships. (The team just added crests to the first jacket. Players attribute that to Percy’s thriftiness.)
- Lou was an avid curler who had some success at the county level during the 80’s.
- Coached minor softball for a number of years.
- Lou is an enthusiastic golfer

* Lou caught for years for his brother Leo in the Barrie and District Softball League. Leo was rated 5 th in Canada at one point, and Lou was rated as one of the top catchers in Ontario. Lou was the on-field coach of the teams for whom he played.



Some of the many sports and commitments of **John Archer**

1964-65 - OMHA Juvenile Champions – player
 1965-66 - OMHA Juvenile Champions – player

1970's – trainer, coach, manager – Minor Hockey

1993-94 - assistant coach – Midget Hockey Team that
 toured Sweden

1996 playing coach – Elmvale Giants Fastball
 Team – 4th in International Fastball
 Tournament – Haarlem, Holland

2001 - Royal Canadian Legion Seniors Curling – 2nd in Canada – Stephenville, Nfld.
 2002 - Royal Canadian Legion Seniors Curling – 2nd in Canada – Forest, Ontario.

Tom McMann – He Served Minor Sports

Photo from the Elmvale Lance – 1975

Elmvale Legion Squirt
 Champions – 1975

Back – Peter Steele
 (manager), Danny Tinney,
 Jeff Archer, Lary
 McMann, Mike Handy,
 Tom McMann (coach).

Middle – Kenny Graham,
 Kevin Steele, Steven
 White, Bradley Steele,
Front – Paul Steele (bat
 boy). Missing, - Brian
 Belcourt (captain), Tom
 Van Natter and Conrad
 Higgins.

Tom McMann and Peter
 Steele coached some im-
 pressive teams.



As well, Tom coached hockey in the 70's and managed the arena. He often went to the arena before school and scraped the ice after young figure skaters had their morning practice. He was even known to coach a Little NHL entry during his noon hour.

Ron Frankcom – Championships in Five Decades

Elmvale curlers Ron Frankcom (left) and Lou Turner met in 1973 in the final game of the Simcoe County men’s competitive curling league. Both teams had won their respective divisions.

Winners – Lou Turner, Colin Elliott, Dave Campbell, and Peter Vollett.

Runners-up – Ron Frankcom, Garry Turner, Michael Jacobs and Gary Elliott



Michael Jacobs Garry Turner Ron Frankcom

Pictured above – Two of the most successful sportsmen in the Elmvale sports scene. Both have a closet full of trophy clothing, and display cases of hardware and crests. There should be no shortage of material for a Hall of Fame.

Highlights of the Ron Frankcom Years

1955-56 – OMHA Juvenile championship team (hockey)

1958 – Allenwood Softball Champions – Georgian Bay Rural Softball League

1985 – Governor General Curling Champions – Midland

1966 – 2002 – total of 13 Ontario Curling Association badges

Many of Ron’s curling badges were awarded while he played in Midland.

Materials supplied by Ron Frankcom

Russ Craddock – A coach for Players of All Ages

Pictures supplied by Paul Craddock – modified by G. Allen



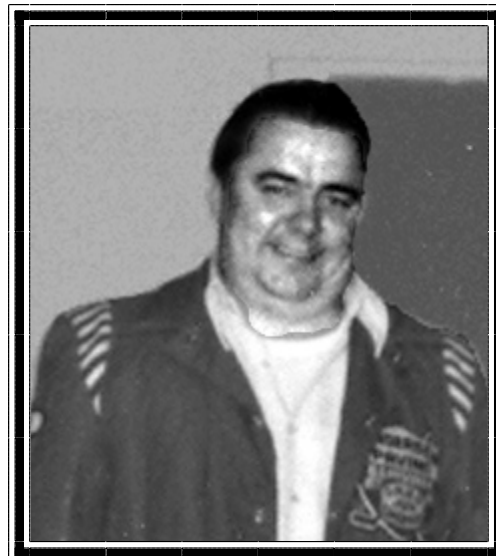
Left

Russ – taken from 1965 – 66
OMHA Juvenile Championship
Photo

He was coach again when the
Juveniles won the OMHA
Championship in 1967 – 68.

Right

Russ – taken from the Midget
Team photo – 1972-73



1963 – 64	OMHA Bantam Finalists
1964 – 65	Bantam
1965 – 66	Juvenile – OMHA Champions
1966 – 67	Juvenile
1967 – 68	Juvenile – OMHA Champions
1969 – 70	Novice Rep
1971 – 72	Juvenile
1972 – 73	Manager of Midget Rep

Russ coached in the Elmvale Senior League as well, but the number of years is unknown. He coached the successful Phelpston Seniors.



Paul Craddock – Can You Top This Record?

By G. Allen with Assistance from Debbie Craddock



1976 – 77 **Assistant Coach; Juveniles**
Harry Adams (C), Harry Ritchie (M)

1977 – 81 **Assistant Coach** – Pee wee,
Bantam, Midget - House League

1982 – 83 **Coach – Midget Rep** –
Nelson King
(Assistant C), Claire Norwood
(T), Glen Bumstead (M)

1983-84 **Organized Phelpsston Men’s Team**
(Part of Elmvale Senior League) so
graduating minor hockey players would
have hockey (eg. Ken Graham, Kevin
Swan, Paul Steele, Aaron Elliott, Jamie
Jacobs, and Phelpsston players who had
never played in minor hockey.)

1994 – 95 **Assistant coach of Novice** – Larry McMann (C) - Won South Simcoe
League Play-offs

1995 – 96 **Coach – Atom A. E.** – First ever alternate team (AE) in Elmvale

1996 – 97 **Coach – Atom A.E.** – Lost in OMHA finals (3 of 5) - in the sixth
game to Lambeth

1997 – 98 Applied to coach juveniles – not enough players

1998 – 99 Asked to coach midgets because there was no juvenile team. **First
ever
team to win a Midget OMHA Championship in Elmvale** – Tye Co-
lumbus
(AC), Gary Edwards (M), Jamie Jacobs (T)

1999 – 2000 **Coach of Juveniles** – lost in quarter-finals to Lucknow

2001– 02 **Coach of Midget AE** – OMHA Finalist to Park Hill – Trevor Columbus
(AC), Jason Parent (T), Jason Cowan (M), Mike Park (AT) - **Coaching
Staff of the Year**

2002 – 03 **Coach – Midget AE**

2003-004 **Coach of Juveniles**

Player Record

Hockey – in Elmvale Minor Hockey system (67-75) - OMHA Juv. winner in 74-75
Little NHL Grand Champs (peewee 68-69) (bantams 71-72)

Lacrosse – Elmvale – 67-68 Midland - 69 – 70

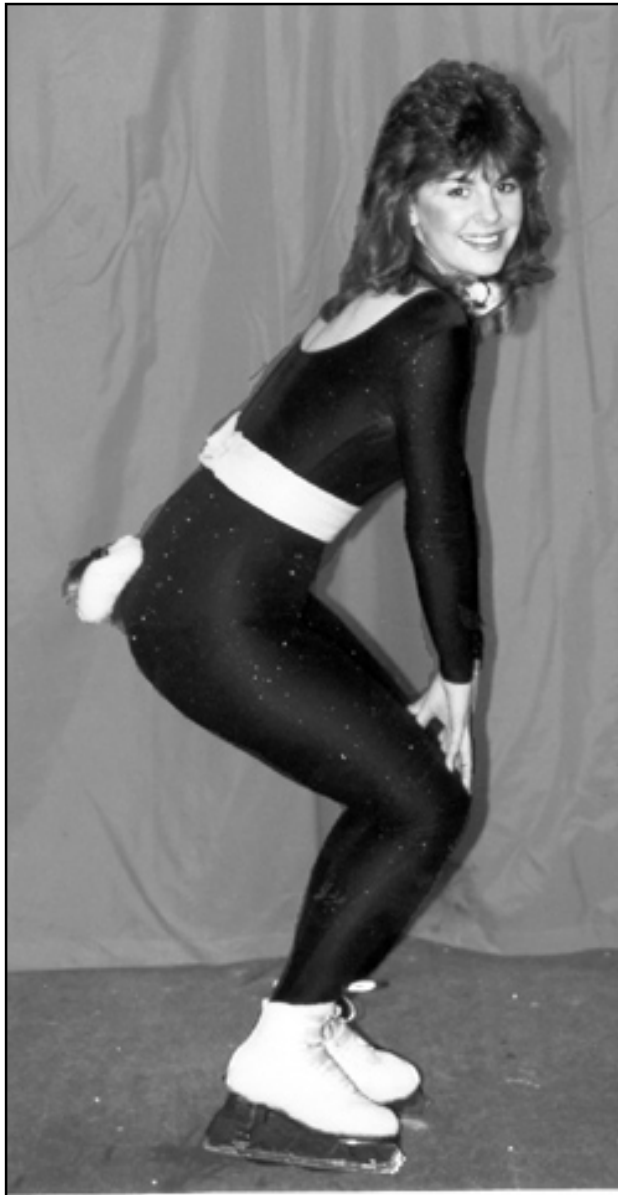
Softball - 66-72 (Pee wee – Phelpsston); 72-74 (Bantam – Elmvale); 75-80 (senior
Phelpsston) - 80-82 (Elmvale Senior Fastball)- 82-84 (Phelpsston Men)
85-87 (Wyevale Senior Softball); 88-2002 (Thursday Night Elmvale)

Broomball – 76-83 – Elmvale Men’s Team **Football** Championships – 72-76
EDHS

Debbie Kirton – Prominent Figure Skater

Materials – Norma Kirton

Debbie started skating at Elmvale Figure Skating Club at age four. She started off-season skating at eight, either at the Mariposa School of Skating in Orillia or at the Huronia School of Skating in Wasaga Beach and continued till age 14. During this time she continued to skate with the Elmvale Club and taught for two seasons.



Career Highlights

CFSA Test Skating – 7th figure, Gold dances,
Jr. Silver Free Skate

Medals – Central Ontario Huronia Winter Games
Silver Medalist – 1976
Huronia Winter Games (1977) -
Intermediate Ladies – Silver Medal

Competitive – Novice Ladies
Pre-Novice Ladies – Silver Medalist at Central Ontario
Sectionals – first after figures,
second over all.

Debbie took up speed skating out of the Aurora Club for about one year. She competed at the National's in Ottawa but did not

Norma Kirton – Figure Skating Mom

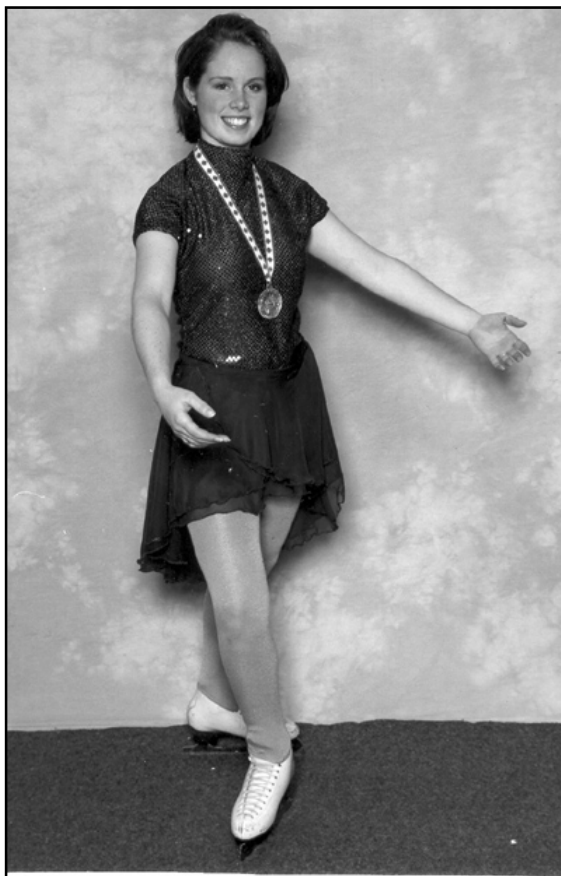
Norma was reluctant to submit a picture or even give the number of years that she devoted to organizing carnivals and test events for skaters in this community. She says that she was just part of a team that set the stage for the great girls' programs that were offered in the Elmvale arena during the 70's. So I pass on the gratitude of the community to the whole team.

Yet it was Norma who put in the hours to make sure that the figure skaters of the 70's had a place in the "sports" book.

During these busy years Norma was also "Hockey Mom" to a lot of Minor Hockey teams.



Corrie Spring is the 23 year old daughter of Fred and Wanda Spring of Elmvale. She first started skating at the Elmvale Figure Skating Club in 1983 at the age of 3. She has been an active member of the EFSC for over 18 years. At the age of 19 she competed at the Inter-



club Competition, consisting of 17 clubs, held at the Essa arena. Corrie placed second in the Silver Artistic Event. She then advanced to the Central Ontario Interclub Championships representing Elmvale on January 30, 1999. Skating to the music of her "River Dance" program, she finished 6th out of 20 skaters competing in the event.

She has also achieved many other accomplishments including Skater-of-the-Year in 1994 and Most Achieved Senior in 1996 & 1997. Corrie earned "Double Gold" by passing her Gold Dances and Gold Artistic Program. Few skaters get this far and many coaches do not have this to add to their resume.

Corrie assisted with the younger skaters at EFSC for over 10 years. She is presently at Level 1 certified coach with Skate Canada and has her first coaching job with Wasaga Beach Figure Skating Club this year (2003-2004). Congratulations, Corrie!

Christie Archer – Athlete for the 2000's

Materials provided by Ric Archer

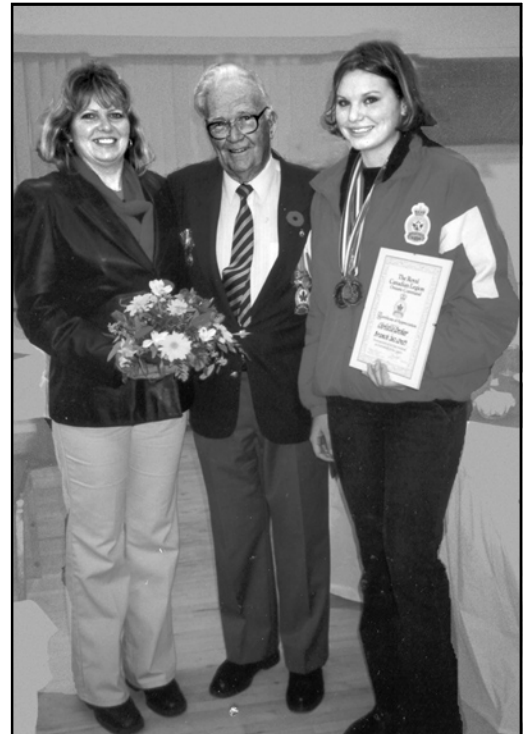
Seventeen year old Christie Archer is the daughter of Ric and Darlene Archer and is a grade 11 student at Elmvale District High School. Christie is also a member of the South Simcoe Dufferin Track and Field Club that is based in Barrie, and is coached by Mr. Rick Nigro, a teacher at E.D.H.S. Without Coach Nigro's dedication, Christie would most certainly not have experienced the level of success that she has.

Christie has been competing since she was a grade 7 student at Huronia Centennial Elementary School. Her specialty is hurdles – 80 m, 100 m and 300 m, but she is also very competitive in the 100 m sprint and the shot put. This year she was entered in a pentathlon for the first time at York University and won the gold.

At time of writing, Christie is preparing for the Ontario High School Championships to be held in June, and she has also qualified for the Canadian National Championships to be held in Saskatoon in July.

Christie's Notable Accomplishments

- 1999 – champion – Legion Track Meet – Midland – Intermediate Girls
- 2000 – champion – Legion Track Meet – Midland – Senior Girls
- 2000 – provincial record – Ontario Track and Field Championships (O. T. F. A.)
200 m hurdles - Bantam Girls
- 2000 – provincial championship relay team member O. T. F. A.
- 2000 – championship – 80m hurdles
- 2001 – OFSSA (Ontario Federation of Secondary Schools Association) gold medal winner in 300 m hurdles – Midget Girls
- 2001 Midget Girls – Track and Field Award – E. D. H. S.
- OFSSA silver medal in the Junior Girls 300 m hurdles
- 2002 – Legion Provincial Track and Field Championships – silver medal – Junior Girl's 100 m Hurdles
- Legion National Track and Field Championships – bronze medal winner Sherbrooke, Quebec – representing Ontario in the Junior Girls's 100 m Hurdles.



Christie (right) being honoured by Elmvale Legion Branch 262 – Dieppe veteran, Jack Bennett, made the presentation. Left – Christie's mom, Darlene

Scholarship Candidate – Candice Wilkey

Attracting the Attention of Universities

Burnaby British Columbia – July 1999

**Results at the Canadian Junior
Championships**

Gold Medal – Long Jump

Gold Medal – Triple Jump

6th – 100 m hurdles



Report on Etobicoke High School Track and Field Meet – “Her triple jump, best of 12.21 m, blew away the field by over half a metre (2 cm short of Canadian high school record). Her winning margin in the long jump was more than a foot, and it was only seven cm short of the personal best of Jessica Zelinka, Canadian Junior Champion.”



Recognition at “Parade of Champions” Heritage Park – Millennium Year

Rick Nigro, teacher at EDHS and coach, flanked by Candice Wilkey (left) and Christie Archer (highlighted elsewhere)

Candice had just accepted an athletic scholarship in Michigan State. Part of the evening was dedicated to wishing her well in her new challenges. (See Chapters – 2000 Edition for a more complete story of Candice’s triumphs.)

Christie Archer was noted as a rising track star of Elmvale fame. She was setting records on the track locally and competing successfully in provincial track meets.

The community had a chance to thank Rick Nigro for his contribution to the success of these and other local track and field enthusiasts.

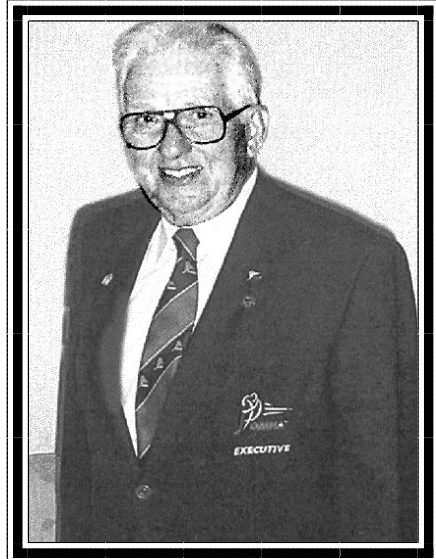
Part of the reason for the sports evening was to recognize those athletes (track and field) that must leave Elmvale to progress in their sport.

There are only four “Life Members” of the OMHA Elmver McFadden is one of them. – by G. Allen

Elmer started his hockey career in Elmvale in 1944-45. He was part of a Bantam team (13 + 14 year-olds) coached by Cecil Townes and Cecil French. He was one of three over-aged players allowed to play during regular season play, but forced to sit out when the team moved on to provincial play-offs against Powassan.

In 1946-47 Elmer played juvenile hockey on an Elmvale team that played in a league against Midland and Penetang. Although they practiced on an open-air rink in Elmvale, they played most of their games in Midland which had an indoor rink. The Penetang rink was open to the winter elements, and the ice surface sometimes had to be scraped of about one inch of snow between periods. The lights were within striking distance of a hockey stick.

In 1951-53 Elmer played hockey for the Stayner Royals, a senior hockey team.



Elmer in Lifetime
Membership Jacket

After Elmer went to Schomberg, he played hockey in three bush leagues, then got married and his playing career came to an end. An administrative career was just beginning. A local shoemaker and Elmer started a house league of 12-14 year-old boys in nearby Nobleton. He was enlisted as a referee, a position he held for 15 years.

In 1955-56, Schomberg Lions sponsored a bantam team coached by Elmer; this was to be his first experience with the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA).

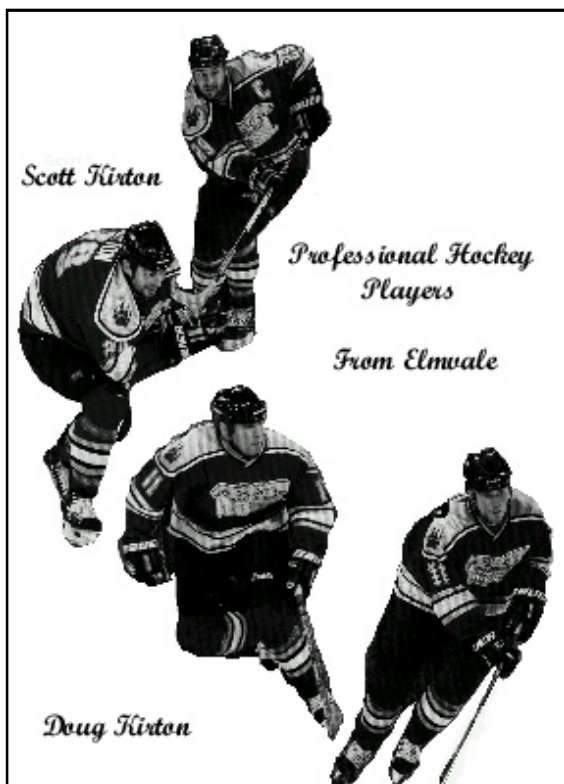
In 1957, he was part of a group who formed Woodbridge Minor Hockey. He was the first president, a position he held for 13 years. The president and secretary made up the executive.

The York Simcoe Hockey League was formed during these years. His interest in this league lead him to run for a seat on the OMHA executive, and he was elected on his first nomination. Again, with the OMHA, he found himself responsible for refereeing.

From 1970-80, Elmer was a director of the OMHA in charge of the York Simcoe League (which stretched from Steeles Avenue to Orillia) overseeing an increase from 85 to 233 teams.

In 1980, when he became a vice-president of the OMH, he should have been relieved of league duties, but was assigned to supervise the Georgian Bay League. 1986-88 – Elmer served as president of the OMHA. From 1988-98, he remained active as a past president. In fact, Elmer made ten different trips to Europe accompanying teams on tour. His contribution to hockey has been such that in 1999 he was given the position of Life Member of the OMHA, a position shared with only three other living officers. He is justifiably proud of this recognition by the world’s largest hockey organization.

Hockey Scholarships Lead to Professional Careers



Scott Kirton, played his minor hockey in Elmvale.

Highlights – Scott could boast of back-to-back bantam OMHA championships while playing with Elmvale. Then it was off to Powell River B.C. where he played Tier II Junior A.

By 1990 Scott was in the University of North Dakota on a hockey scholarship.

Scott's professional career included stops at Charlotte Checkers, Providence Bruins, Fort-Wayne Komets, Wheeling Nailers, Columbus Chill, London Knights, Greenville Grrrowl, Hershey Bears, Rochester Americans, and Pee-Dee Pride. (*See Chapters 2002 for a more complete story.*)

Doug Kirton – Doug, too, is a graduate of Elmvale Minor Hockey. In 1983 he was drafted to the Kingston Canadians to play Major Junior A.

In 1984 he was a part of the Orillia Terriers (Tier 11 Junior A) Centennial Cup Champions. Then in 1985 he was drafted to the New Jersey Devils of the NHL before starting on his four year scholarship with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

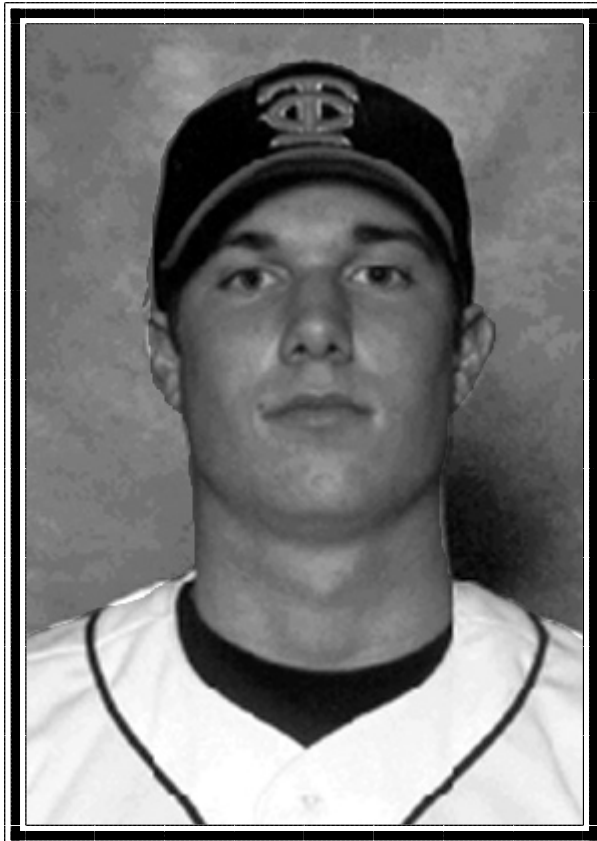
Doug spent the 90's playing professional hockey in Germany before joining his brother to end his career with the Greenville Grrrowl, South Carolina, in the 2000-2001 season. (*See Chapters 2002 for a more complete story.*)

Graduate of Michigan State – Sean Patchell

Sean Patchell was part of the Vernon, B. C. team that won the Centennial Cup. That championship brought Sean to the attention of scouts from Michigan State University. He was offered a five year scholarship which took care of his education.

Sean's grandpa, Dr. Doug Patchell, was one of the organizers and fund raisers who brought artificial ice to the arena in Elmvale.





Matt Tjart

Wyevale, Ontario, Canada

Elmvale District

Pitcher

6-1; 180

Freshman

Matt is the son of Gwen and Richard Tjart. He began playing competitive sports in Elmvale at the age of 8. Now at nearly 20, he boasts sport achievements paralleled by few.

Matt was a member of the 1998/99 Elmvale Midget Hockey team that won the OMHA Ontario Championship in a back-to-back campaign. The following year, as Ontario Finalists, they almost claimed a third title.

While playing competitive hockey was a joy and was rewarding, Matt's greater love was baseball. At an early age it was apparent to people in the know that he had a gift; he was a talented lefty that threw hard.

Matt played three years in the Elite Baseball League, CEBC, out of southern Ontario, played two years with Richmond Hill Phoenix and spent his final year with the Canadian Thunderbirds. While in the CEBC he played in numerous tournaments in Ontario, Quebec and the USA. It was during these years that he was scouted by the Toronto Blue Jays, LA Dodgers and Pittsburgh Pirates.

Matt's education has always been a focal point in his life and he opted to pursue a baseball scholarship. While during his year with the Thunderbirds, he was approached by a number of NCAA schools in the USA, and after visiting with these schools and talking to the coaching staffs, he decided that Tusculum College in Tennessee seemed to be the best fit.

Matt is presently studying Physical Education, and his desire is to go into the Teaching profession. We wish him well.

Materials supplied by Richard Tjart

Recent Softball Success Story

Photo and Story – Wanda Spring



Members of
Wyebridge Indians – 2000

**John Daniels
and
Mark Spring**

The Wyebridge Indians
competed at the Ontario
Amateur Softball Association Cham-
pionships at Napanee.

They earned silver medals
at the provincial
Tournament.

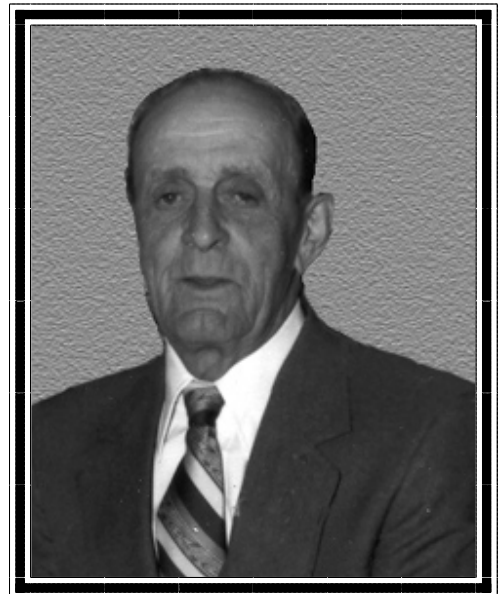
Cecil Townes

Father of Minor Sports in Elmvale

Materials – Harold Townes

Although Cecil never played hockey, he certainly left his mark on the sports scene in Elmvale. He coached the 1948 team of juveniles (sponsored by the Lions) that practiced on the outdoor rink (present community parking lot). Games were played in Midland.

At that time parents did not drive their children to hockey games; Cec would fill the back of his pickup truck with players. He would pick up Bob Stacey and Harve Graham on his way to the games.



If their game took them to Coldwater, the players would have to get out and push the truck up the steep hill on the return trip. Cecil French coached the team.

In summer Cec Townes organized a juvenile ball team. With no others of similar age to play against, the team had to play against adults and even challenged a team from Toronto. The local boys were no match for the southern team. Again, transportation was supplied by Cec with his trusty pickup. Harold became a driver of one of the trucks when he was too old to play on the team.

Cec added his labour to the crew that built the new arena in Elmvale.

Thank You Mrs. Dixon

By George Allen

By the early 1970's the one-room schools had been shut down,
And the rural population was being bussed to the new school in the town.
The principal, Mr. Archer, saw the potential for increasing teams,
As well as helping a lot of rural kids with their adolescent dreams.

The school became the 'administration centre' for a lot of minor sports.
Frank organized minor hockey between stints of doing school reports.
I was secretary for Minor Hockey in the winter and organized minor softball in the spring,
And Tom McMann spent so much time at the arena, you'd have thought he owned the
blasted thing.

With Huronia Centennial acting as 'sports headquarters', there was a lot of secretarial work
to be done.

Mrs. Dixon, the overworked secretary, was the person we had to call upon.
She was secretary for six hundred pupils and never lost her poise
When she was asked to make a registration form for the minor hockey boys.
And in the midst of preparing a press release for the Elmvale Fall Fair,
She could be phoning hockey coaches about an up-coming tournament in Ayr.

Ruth took applications for Elmvale walk-a-thons and made schedules for volleyball.
When coaches had questions about basketball tournaments,
she had to take the call.

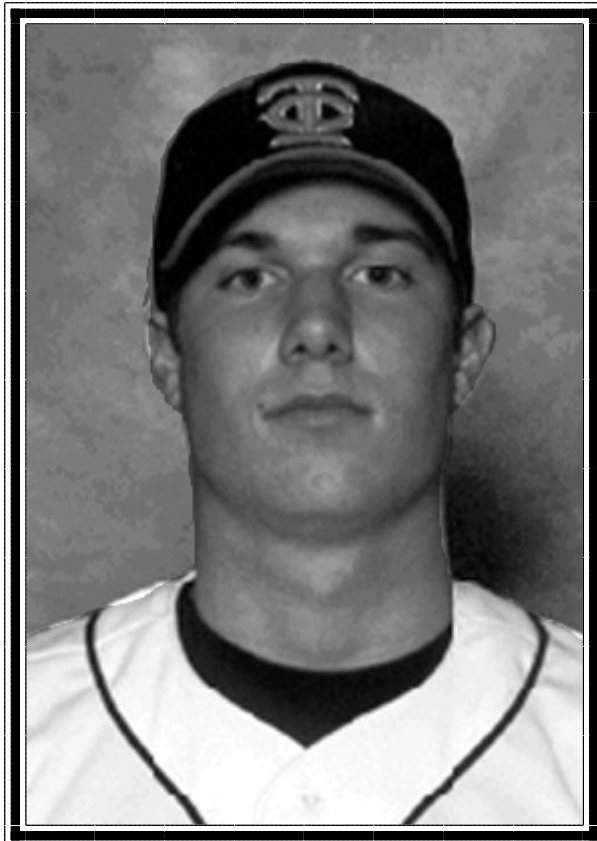
She was handling Track and Field inquiries at her busiest time of year,
And the extras just kept piling on with the Minor Softball season drawing near.

Ruth never got her name on a trophy, the newspaper didn't note her contribution.
I think this humble woman would have been embarrassed
by any kind of recognition.

She was one of the unsung heroes who work without remuneration
and get very little praise.

And the "little jobs" they are asked to do are often measured off in days.
Yet, I bet when Ruth got to St. Peter's door he was familiar with her name,
And said, "You can get a little rest now, Ruth; you've made your contribution to the
game."

***Frank Archer would get my vote as a "Sports Builder" worthy of inclusion
in an Elmvale Sports Hall of Fame. He recruited players, raised money for minor
sports, spent years on the executives of minor sports, helped bring roller skating to
Elmvale, and was general administrator for sports teams and organizations. He
and Tom McMann were recognized on the "Doug McConnell Memorial Trophy"
for their contributions to Minor Hockey.***



Matt Tjart

Wyevale, Ontario, Canada

Elmvale District

Pitcher

6-1; 180

Freshman

Matt is the son of Gwen and Richard Tjart. He began playing competitive sport in Elmvale at the age of 8. Now at nearly 20, he boasts sport achievements paralleled by few.

Matt was a member of the 1998/99 Elmvale Midget Hockey team that won the OMHA Ontario Championship in a back-to-back campaign. The following year as Ontario Finalists they almost three-peated.

While playing competitive hockey was a joy and rewarding, Matt's greater love was baseball. At an early age it was apparent to people in the know that he had a gift, a well set up lefty that threw hard.

Matt played three years in the Elite Baseball League, CEBC, out of southern Ontario, two years with Richmond Hill Phoenix and his final year with the Canadian Thunderbirds. While in the CEBC he played in numerous tournaments in Ontario, Quebec and the USA. It was during these years that he was scouted by the Toronto Blue Jays, LA Dodgers and Pittsburgh Pirates.

Matt's education has always been a focal point in his life and he opted to pursue a Baseball scholarship. While during his year with the Thunderbirds, he was approached by a number of NCAA schools in the USA and after visiting with these schools and talking to the coaching staffs, he decided that Tusculum College in Tennessee seemed to be the best fit.

Matt is studying Physical Education, and his desire is to go into the Teaching profession. We wish him well.

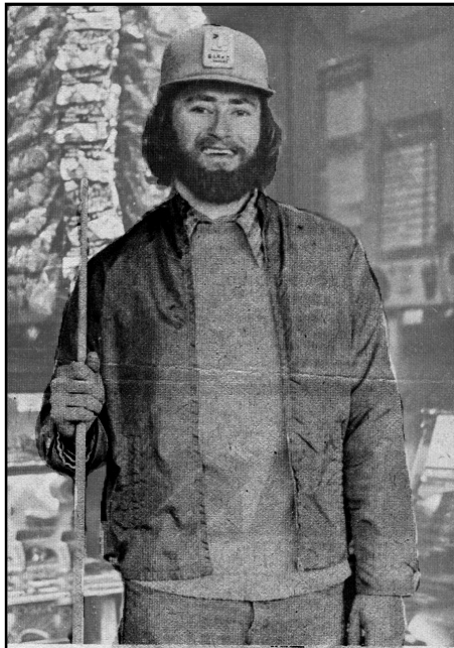
Materials supplied by Richard Tjart



Other Sports



Elmvale Competes in All Kinds of Sports



Jordan Qualifies for Finals

1976 file and photo from the Lance

Chuck Jordan became the third player to qualify for the final round of the All-Elmvale snooker championship when he eliminated Doug Barnes. Others in the final rounds included Dave Lalonde, Fred Ellery and "Muff" Archer. The snooker challenge attracted over 40 participants. The champion snooker player received a cash prize and a trophy.

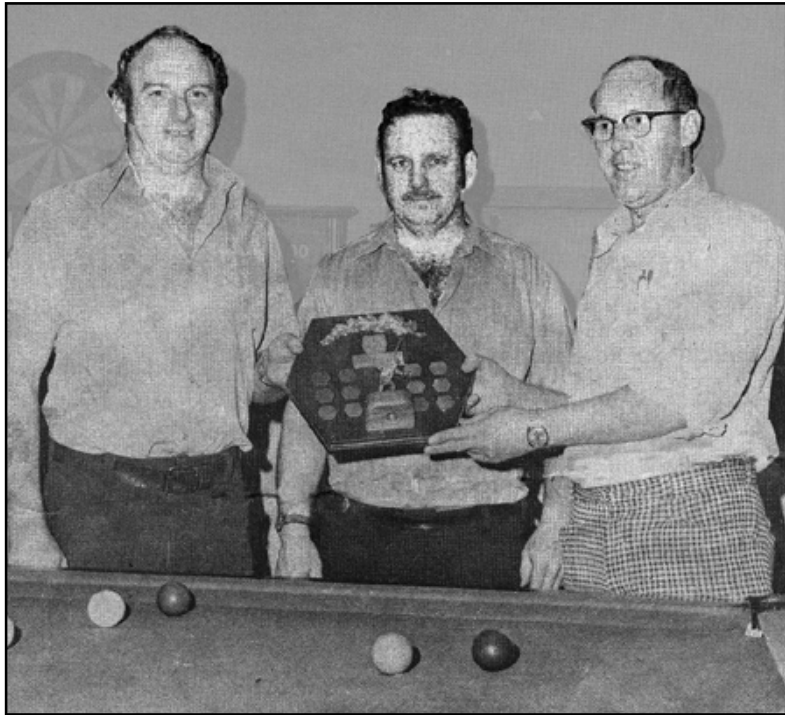
Below

Wasaga Golf and Country was the site for golf competitions and camaraderie.



(L to R) - Ed Campbell (hardware), Bob Storey (farmer), _____, Reg Cooper (grocery), Tim Bate (bakery), W. S. Campbell (hardware), Jack Ritchie (Texaco fuels) _____, Sitting - Pat Burton - Wasaga Golf and Country

Indoor Sports have always been Popular in Elmvale



Billiard Champions

Stan Janes presents
the
Molson Trophy
to
Jack Fleming
and
Den Turner

Homer Barrett Park is Popular in Winter

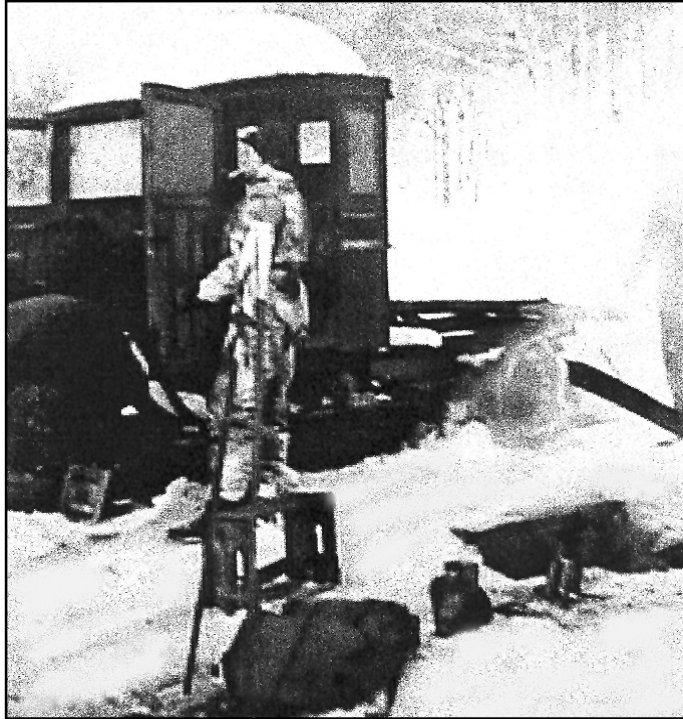


Front toboggan – Carol Watson (Allen), Erin Watson Back toboggan – Braedan Allen,
Michael Allen, George Allen (Grandpa).

Homer Barrett Park has been a gathering place for children and adults, particularly during the Christmas vacation when the first snowfalls bring slippery conditions.

The Ski Hill on the Fifth of Flos

based on conversations with Harold Martin and Marguerite Stone



The Local Ski Club

Elmvale had an active ski club in the early forties, a club of perhaps twenty that held meetings in the automotive shop operated by Harvey Cotton. The club used a ski hill accessed from the 5th of Flos (behind Jungle Zoo).

The ski club had fashioned a ski tow using the power of an old truck that, according to Harold, was purchased for \$15.00. Some wooden pulleys had to be designed with grooves to provide a drive for the rope lift. No one wanted to approach the gruff Mr. Shaw (Wally's dad), a man with the expertise, lumber and equipment to produce such a product.

Harold was nominated, and much to his surprise found that Mr. Shaw was not only receptive to the idea, but enthused about the venture.

The old truck was put up on blocks with the gas tank placed on the top of the cab so that there would be a gravity feed to the carburetor. Sometimes a fire had to be started under the engine to warm the oil in the pan so that the old motor would burst into life. This engine drove a lift containing about 500 feet of rope that brought skiers to the summit of the slope.

A Barrie ski club made regular visits to the Elmvale site. Finally, Harold was asked to go to Barrie and address that group on how to get started making a similar site. He addressed a large crowd, and the result was the early stage of the Snow Valley Ski Hill. Other participants in this presentation included Gwen Corcoran and Bob Lambie.

An Early EDHS Volleyball Team



Back – (L to R) Bruce Yarwood, Principal, _____, Dave Campbell, Earl Spring, Dale Atkinson, John Beardsall? Dave Osborne, coach **Front** – Mike Stone, Colin Elliott, Ron Dutcher, Jim Dickie - Circa 1960 - *Photo supplied by Dave Campbell*

Grand Opening – *(This would appear to be the opening of a new indoor facility.)*

The Grand Opening Masquerade Carnival will be held in the Elmvale Rink on Thursday evening, Jan. 21, 1897. It will be one of the most enjoyable events that Elmvale has ever seen.

The rink is large and well lighted and has a commodious gallery. No drafts will give you a chill. Come and occupy a seat in the gallery.

The Elmvale Silver Cornet Band will give fine selections of music.

Prizes: - Best Lady's Costume; 1st., \$1.50 – second, pair of skates

Best Men's Costume; 1st., \$1.50 – second, \$.75

Best dressed clown – \$1.00

Open race: 8 miles – 1st., \$3.00 – 2nd., \$1.00 – egg race, 10 cents

Entrance fee to races – 10 cents.

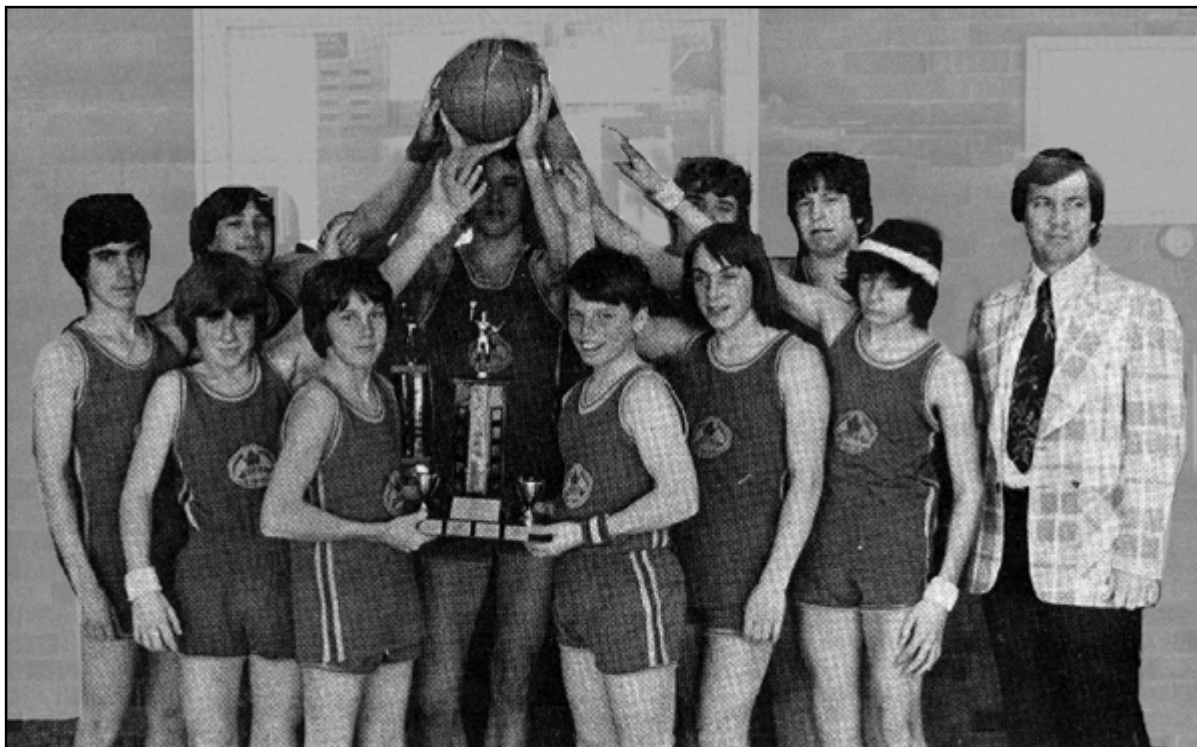
Costumers will have the ice from 7:00 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. No farce costumers admitted. Skaters will be allowed on the ice from the time the costumers are done till 10:30. Admission: Adults, 10 cents – children, 10 cents – costumers free *Alex Stewart, proprietor*

O
U
R
L
A
D
Y
O
F
L
O
U
R
D
E
S



A
R
E
A
3
C
H
A
M
P
I
O
N
S

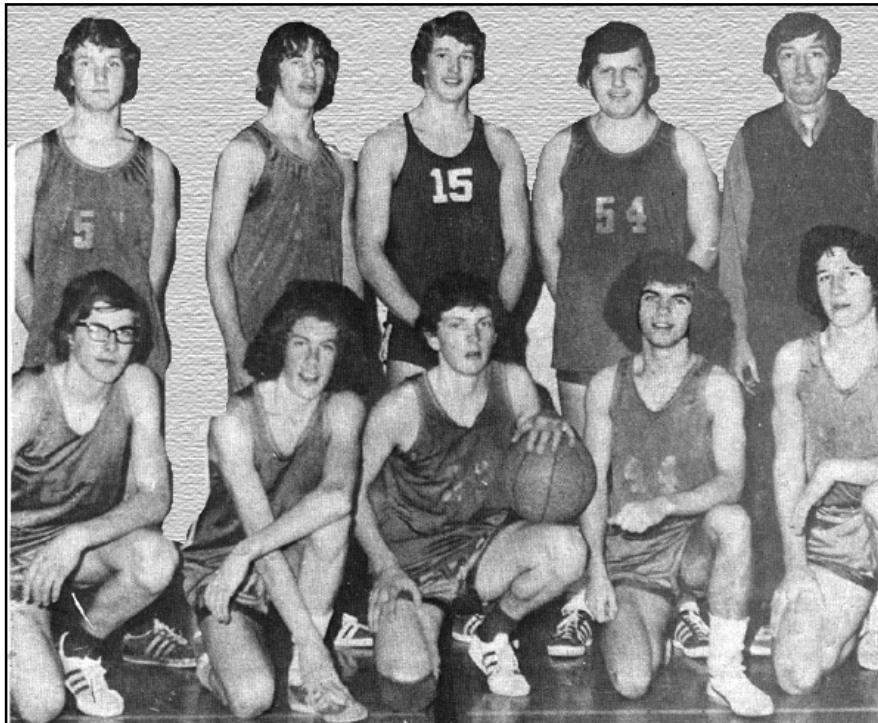
OLOL and St. Patrick's combined to dominate girls softball in Area 3 Schools during the 70's. This picture, taken in 72, includes; **Back** (L to R) - Avril Bentley (manager), Sharon Murphy, Anne Kenney, Nancy Jaeger, Marlene Klein Gebbinck, Julie Stone, Bunny Murphy, Annette Craddock (coach) **Front** - Bernadette Craddock, Mary Franssen, Angela Craddock, Agnes Van Laarhoven, Mary Anne O'Neil, Mary Kenney - *Lance Photo by way of Bunny Trace*



Area 3 Champions – HCES – 1978 – **Back** (L to R) - Danny Trace, Dean Fauvelle, Allan Hynes, Tom Van Natter, Gary Lahnsteiner, Mr. Davies (coach) **Front** – Randy Mooney, Stephen Trace, David Linssen, Ken Silverthorn, and Don LaRose



1973 – EDHS Junior Girls Basketball Team – Back (L to R) - Jo-Anne McGinnis, Muriel Archer, Mary Ferguson, Mrs. Sharon MacKinnon (coach), Kathleen Lake, Lana Stoddart, Diane Graham, Judy Bertram Front – Margie Clute, Debbie Gillespie, Bev Ritchie, Bev Martin, Susan



1974 – Elmvale District High School Junior Boys BB Team

Back (L to R)
 Joel Doolittle
 Ray Kitchen
 Ab Brereton
 Dave Hofmann
 Barry Navarra (coach)

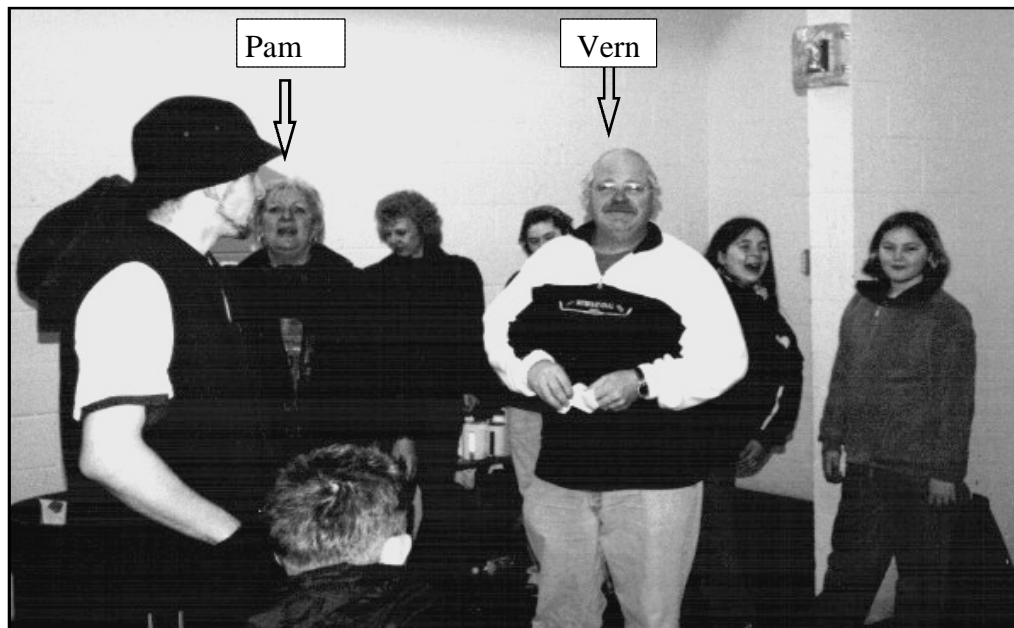
Front
 Del Bertram
 John Trace
 John Finlay
 Rob Rance
 Peter Ritchie

Lance clippings – Bunny Trace

A Game for the Handicapped – Sledge Hockey

The Beacock Family brought the game to this area.

Photos supplied by Pam and Vern Beacock



Pam has been fund raiser and organizer. Vern has been coach and inspiration.



L to R. Mark Bernat, Adam Robbins, Graeme Murray, Gail Dwinnell, Darryl Beacock, Jeremy Wright, Jason Wright, Amanda Beacock

It took a group of family and friends coupled with a lot of ingenuity to create the equipment needed to bring hockey for the disabled to this area.

The sport of sledge hockey and ice picking had originated in Medicine Hat, Alberta in 1980. However, it took Pam and Vern Beacock, members of the Simcoe County Parents of Disabled Children, to bring the game to Elmvale. They saw an opportunity to bring disabled and physically fit together in a game that both could enjoy, but acquiring the equipment at manageable costs was the obstacle to be overcome.

The “sledge” is the means of conveyance for the ice picker or sledge hockey player. It is a board with a pair of skates mounted on the back, a block on the front to aid balance, and a back support to give some comfort as the sledge is hurtled over the ice.

The rider propels the sledge along the ice with a pair of poles with ice picks in the ends of each.

In 1987 you could buy sledges for approximately \$200 from an outlet in Medicine Hat or if you desired a lighter variety, you could order aluminum sledges from Toronto at a much higher price.

The solution for the Elmvale group of parents was to manufacture their own sledges. The neighborhood was scoured for old skates, and even the dump attendant was alerted to keep an eye for skates being thrown out. The skates were removed from boots and attached to the wooden sledge bottoms. The cost of the wood for the sledges was shared by those who ended up building them. Campbell’s Hardware in Elmvale donated the paint to complete the job.

Twelve sledges were completed in that hen house turned workshop that served as headquarters for Craig Beacock’s mechanic’s business. Thus began a new form of hockey in this area. Sledge hockey became the sport that allowed handicapped and non-handicapped to compete on equal terms.

By 1999 the Elmvale Bears were being featured in the Toronto Star (see picture below).



According to the Toronto Star – April 15 edition:

You are never too old

The Elmvale Bears' oldest player, Gail Dwinnell, 56, of Severn Bridge, is the goaltender for the team. Affectionately known as 'Grammy', she had suffered an ankle-shattering accident that had failed to heal. To maintain the thrill of team sports that had always been important to her, she turned to wheelchair basketball and sledge hockey.

“Elmvale Bears are the only parent operated team in Ontario” (Pam Beacock)

Most teams are operated by municipalities through their recreation services. Not so with the Elmvale Bears. Parents organize fund raisers such as Christmas cake sales and their equipment upgrades have traditionally been castoffs from other teams.

By 1998 Pam had become fed up with scrounging for assistance and decided to seek the assistance of Ronald MacDonald Children Charities in order to purchase new aluminum sleds at \$500 each. Pam's husband, Vern, was skeptical about the possibility of receiving a donation that would cover the \$10,000 required. Pam's persuasive letter, pounded out on her old computer, was enough to convince the charity to come through with the whole amount.

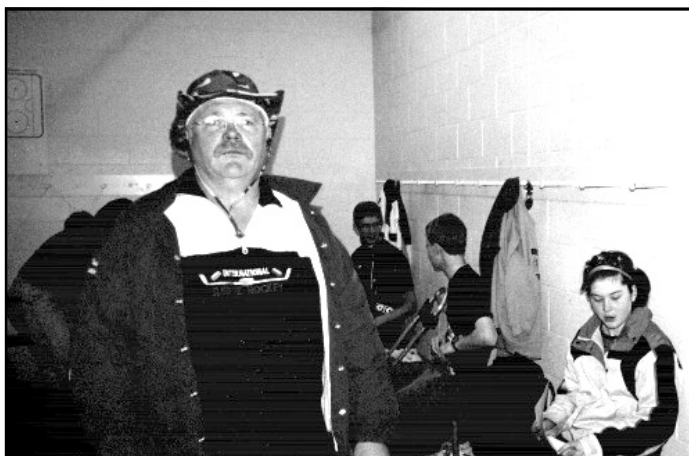
The Bears are a Dominant Team

After acquiring new sledges, the team showed remarkable skill and spirit in a Waterloo tournament that attracted 43 teams from Canada and the United States, as well as one from Sweden. The Elmvale team powered themselves to a bronze medal finish. The team is coached by Vern Beacock who reminds his players to work on upper body strength during the summer.

Better Things Ahead

Sledge hockey has come a long way over the last 12 years in the Elmvale area, but more improvements are necessary according to Vern. Priorities include better ice time (presently 7:00 a.m. Sunday morning) and the location of sponsor(s).

One of the moms who comes from Gravenhurst, Bernene Murray, says that practices require her to leave home before 5 to make the practice on time. She brings her disabled son, Graeme, and a physically fit friend, Adam. Her son was disabled after a polio-like virus attacked his spinal cord when he was three. Yet, they are happy to be part of an organization that gives the disabled such wonderful opportunities.



disabled son, Graeme, and a physically fit friend, Adam. Her son was disabled after a polio-like virus attacked his spinal cord when he was three. Yet, they are happy to be part of an organization that gives the disabled such wonderful opportunities.

Vern Beacock – Head Coach of
the Elmvale Bears
Photo – Pam Beacock

The E. D. H. S. Girls Flag Football Dynasty

Photos and text supplied by Ric Archer



Back (L to R) - Thayne Hallyburton (manager), Christie Archer, Brianne Nigro, Mr. Rick Nigro (coach) - Middle - Valene Spence, Brittany Abrey, Karen Spring, Erica Salyn, Megan Kenny Allison Spence, Rachel Smeding, Melissa Evans Kendell McLean, Michelle Baks Front - Kristina Bender, Michelle O'Neill, Chelsey Corrigan, Lindsey Knuff, Christal McDonald

“Elmvale Eagles” have been the teams to beat in Simcoe County since 1998. In the five year period between 1998 and 2002 these girls have won the championship at both levels every year.

How can such a small school not only compete with, but dominate, the big Barrie and Orillia schools one may ask? There are actually two reasons. **Firstly**, our teams exhibit great strength of character and heart. We rarely get mad, and we never give up. We respect the rules of the game, members of opposing teams, officials, and each other. We play every game with dignity and pride. **Secondly**, we have a system for our success, and

we stick to it. Our wishbone multi-option offense is introduced to our players when they join as juniors, and that same system is continued throughout their football careers. Many a strong opposition defense has been totally baffled by our ability to march the ball down the field employing a myriad of inventive tactics. We also use a variety of defensive sets that keep the opposition offense guessing.

Coach, Rick Nigro, started this very successful program upon his arrival at Elmvale District High School in 1996. He had been coaching flag football at Barrie Central for five years before that and brought his passion for the game with him. He was joined on the coaching staff by Ric Archer in 1998. He had also coached football at a Barrie high school.

Over the years Elmvale has fielded many talented players, and as a result, basked in the glory of several championships, but our real strength is our small school team spirit



E. D. H. S. Junior Eagles – Simcoe County Flag Football Champions – 2002
Back – L to R – Lucinda Obma, Alysha Paris, Holly Bolton, Stefanie Archer, Nicole Krupa,
Laura Mullings, Melissa Kenny, Tracy Ritchie, Mr. Ric Archer (coach), Erin Tjart
Middle – Candace Corbett, Heather Temolder, Leah DeGorter, Melanie Foret, Kelly Giffen
Front – Jenny Lee Ritchie, Brook Kenny, Katy Garvan, Nicole Townes, Emily Spence,
Rene Tatarchuk, Megan Gauthier

ELVALE WAGLES 73-74-75



The Cream of the Crop – 1973-74 - Back (L to R) - Raymond Black, Larry Falon, Bruce Toner, Ed deGorter, Ab Brereton, Dave Grexton, Ken Bertram, Del Bertram, Paul Craddock, Keith Rossel (coach) - **Second** – Barry Navarra (coach), Steve Townes, Dan Dwinell, Rob Rance, Jeff Columbus, Dave McClung, Bob Dunn, Jim Dixon, Chuck Kenney, Mr. Roberts (principal)
Third – Dave Hofmann, Peter Ritchie, Brian Loftus, Mike Kenney, Mark Archer, Paul Patchell, Joel Doolittle, Norbert Straeche, Glen Ball -**Bottom** – Owen Spring, Craig Martin, Fred Spring (managers) - **Missing** - Peter Beardsall, Steve Dunn, Dan Ritchie

ELVALE WAGLES 73-74-75

Best Football Team of all Time – 1973-74 EDHS Eagles

Picture on previous page – photo courtesy of Jack Dixon

Georgian Bay secondary School Association Champions

Undefeated during the regular season – undefeated during play-offs

No opponent scored any points in any game

**Ell Crawford
Inducted into
Horseshoe Hall
Of Fame**

December 2, 2001

*By Lorrie Giffen
in the Springwater News*



On December 2, 2001 the late William Ellsworth Crawford of Minesing was inducted into the Horseshoe Ontario Hall of Fame. El's daughter, Irene Miles, graciously accepted a plaque commemorating her father's outstanding contribution to the sport of horseshoes. Charlie Hastings, First Vice president of Horseshoe Ontario presented the award and recounted El's devotion to the sport, which he began playing competitively in the form of quoits during the early 1920's. In later years his horseshoes were made at the blacksmith shop in Minesing, and his Sunday afternoons were spent gathered with friends and family at Midhurst Provincial Park for horseshoes and a picnic lunch.

El was one of the founding members of the Barrie Horseshoe Club in the mid 1950's and was the Barrie Singles Champion 12 times between 1960 and 1976. Other highlights of his career include a first place finish for a four-man team at the 1957 Royal Winter Fair with teammates Wray Faint (left), Logan Cruise (right) and son-in-law , George Miles. Ell was also known to have beaten such horseshoe "greats" as Canadian Champion, Dean McLaughlin, in 1959 at Port Credit, as well as Canadian/World Champion, Elmer Hohl, at a Richmond Hill tournament in 1962, and he was the 1971 Ontario Senior champion.

Ellsworth Crawford died on February 4, 1978, but he is fondly remembered as a man famous for his kind heart, keen humor and love of horseshoes!

Just for the Fun of It – Low Organization Sports



Kids used to have time for kite flying and the fair grounds was the big open space needed for the sport. Here Doug Tinney gives a hand to Danny Palmer, Brad Dwinnell, Kenny Madill and Melanie Palmer. – *Laura Turner's scrapbook – photos from the Lance*



Trent Turner and Duane Janes over the Wye



Lou Turner shows his 'stuff' in the broom throw competition at a local bonspiel.

Sport Fishing for Salmon on Georgian Bay *by Joe Rowntree*

One day I was at the curling club and George Allen was talking to some of the guys about producing a new book of sport stories in the Elmvale area. He turned to me and said that he would like some information about sport fishing. Well, I have been fishing around here for a few years. Everything from fishing speckled trout with a worm and hook to down rigging with sonar fish-finders and cannon balls.

One time I took my now son-in-law, Charlie, and his father out to Giant's Tomb to fish for some bass. The weather turned bad, and we decided to come back in. When we got out from behind the big island, the waves were about 4 to 6 feet high. We were in a 15 foot aluminum bass boat with a 40 horse motor. It was so rough that Charlie was thrown out of the bow seat towards the back and was caught by his dad and myself before he went overboard! The seat was broken off, and his fishing rod was snapped in two as he tried to grab anything that would stop his tumble. We kept heading towards shore about 3 miles away at a pace that would allow us to head into the waves and yet not capsize us in our boat that was by now too small for these conditions. Hindsight is a wonderful thing. If my foresight was as good as my hindsight, I would be a lot better by a dam sight.

When we got close to the mainland, the wind subsided, and the sun was shining brightly, but nobody wanted to do any more fishing that day. When I checked the gas tank, it was so empty that I think I could have drunk what was left!



It was from that day that I vowed I would not go fishing on Georgian Bay again unless I had a boat that would handle rough water. I now have a 20 ft. boat with an I/O engine and a hardtop roof. On several occasions the water has washed over the bow and onto the roof with this boat, but I did not think that I was in danger.

It seems that when anyone tells a story about a sporting event they tell you about the exciting things, or the close plays, or the one that got away. Well, in fishing there are a lot of stories about the one that got away, and it's hard to pick out the best one to tell.

One day my friend Nelson and I were fishing at the North West Point of Beckwith Island when one of the rods popped up from its release, and I jumped up and pulled it out from the rod holder. By this time we had caught a few salmon and considered ourselves to be good at landing them. Well, I could tell this was a good size by the way he fought the lure, and the 20 lb. Line was stretched to the limit. After about 10 minutes and lots of instruction from my buddy, he finally surfaced, approximately

75 feet from the boat.

Not for long – down he went, taking a lot of line and giving my clutch a workout. A salmon has a very large and broad tail which give him a great deal of power to fight for his release. At last he seemed to tire, and we got him close enough to net. Now this story is like the one about having a small boat. Nelson grabs the net and does a farmers pitch fork jab at this big fish, and he goes right in the top and out through the side of it. The lure came out of his mouth at the same time, and he was gone.

Now when this story is being told it seems to me that the fish gets bigger and the net gets smaller, but without trying to make this too big an exaggeration, I think he had to be at least 30 pounds, and this is a true story about the one that got away.

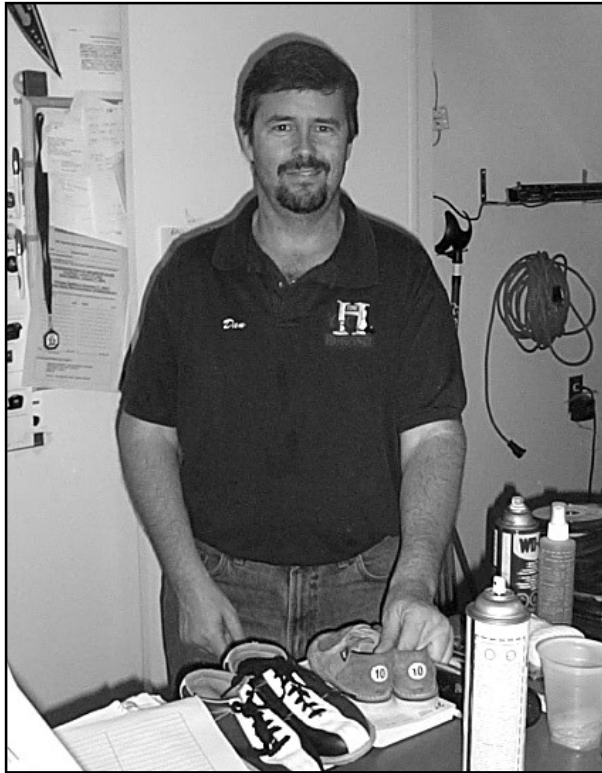
I like salmon fishing best of all nowadays because of the big water and all the gadgets that go with it. I like to say when you go fishing in a boat and don't catch a fish at least you had a boat ride. One other great thing about fishing is that at the end of the day I can eat my results. I am a big fan of hockey, baseball and curling, but I don't like the taste of pucks or baseballs, and curling stones are much too crunchy for my taste.

If you have never had the experience of going sport fishing, and in particular, fishing for salmon, let me try to tell you how I do it and what equipment I use to take advantage of this wonderful sport. First of all, to go fishing on Georgian Bay you need a good reliable boat that can take some rough water because this bay can catch you off guard even though when you started out it was a beautiful day. A "Safe Boating" course is a good idea. The law says a life jacket for each person is a must. You should have a VHF radio, if you need help the coast guard always monitors channel 16, and you can call fellow boaters to give you info on what they are using to catch fish. A cell phone is a good idea, if for no other reason than to call home and tell them you are going to be late "again". Next, you need downrigger rods and reels because salmon are strong fish. Now you need downriggers (electric, of course), cannon balls, a decent fish finder, a compass, a temperature probe (salmon like 54 degrees), maybe a backup trolling motor, strong leads and more lures than you ever thought you would own. Lures can have strange names – silver fox, watermelon and monkey puke. You should have a live well to keep the fish fresh until you get home.

But most of all you need a lot of patience. I've seen me go out and travel over 60 miles in one day and not put one fish in the box, but then the next day have my limit in an hour. Something like hitting a home run – a hole in one – an eight-ender – a hat trick – shooting a bull's eye – not all days are the same, but with a little luck and a little skill you'll want to do it over and over again.

One other quality you absolutely must have to be a sports fisherman is to be able to "stretch" the truth a little bit.

Bowling Making Its Mark in Elmvale



Dan McGinnis
Mr. Bowling in Elmvale

Photos – G. Allen Text – Dan McGinnis

A Sports Business is Born

Springwater Lanes Bowling Centre came about as an idea I had as a youngster growing up in Elmvale. My Dad would take us bowling now and then in Wasaga Beach in what was a very run down facility. There were pails hanging from the ceiling throughout the building to protect the patrons from the outside elements and the lighting was poor. The smell of smoke that was customary throughout most public places was very evident. Having said all this, I am not sure what it was about this atmosphere that made me want to be part of it. I guess that despite all its downfalls, the common factor was that the people I saw were having a good time.

As a disgruntled factory worker in 1994, I decided that now was the time to get serious about self-employment. I did a lot of research,

and I was turned down a few times by people not sold on my idea. After all, this was an expensive operation requiring a building with a lot of space and other specialty features.

It was at that time that I went to see Bruce Roberts at the Carpet Shoppe at the north end of Elmvale. I had been told that he was thinking about retirement, and I thought that the building he was in may be suitable for the Bowling Centre.

Well, Bruce wasn't ready to retire, and now that I know him, he likely never will be, but he told me then and there that he liked my idea and that he could erect a building just south of his, in the price per square foot that I thought sounded feasible.

At that point we both go to work. Bruce had zoning bylaws to deal with, and I had the chore at hand of doing a business plan and selling my idea to the bank and to my wife Anne. Somehow it all came together, and by early summer of 1995 the hole was dug, the



foundation was laid by the new company established by Paul Archer called 'Linear Masonry', and the construction firm of the late Clancy Fagan began putting up the building.

The Bowling Centre Comes to Life

On October 25th, 1995 Springwater Lanes was open for business. We had bowling leagues every night for adults. As well, we had senior leagues a couple of afternoons a week and a youth league on Saturday mornings.

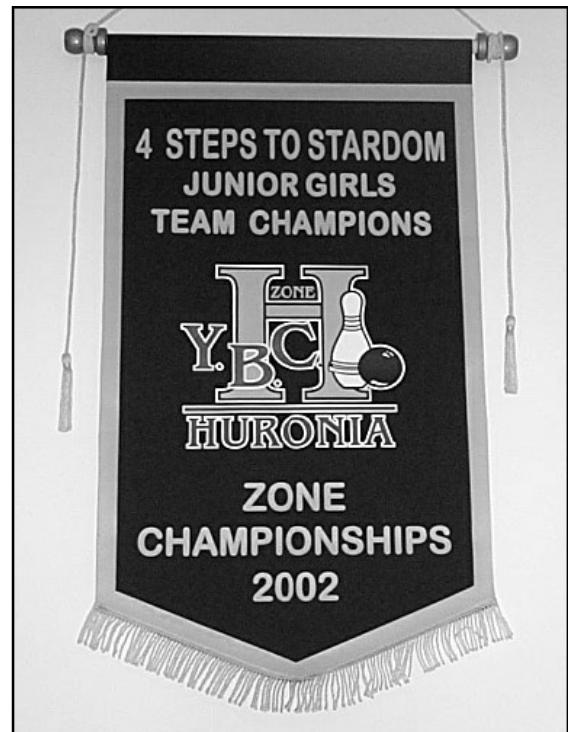
As a new bowling centre, we were told to be patient because it would likely take about five years for our youth bowlers to become competitive with the other youth bowlers throughout the other twelve centres in our zone. That prediction was pretty much on the mark, but we beat the calendar by one year.

In 1999, our Bantam girls team, made up of girls aged 5 to 10 became the first team from Springwater Lanes to win a zone championship. Amanda Fleming, Sara Fisher, Ann-Marie Grant, Jeanette Dobson and Stacy Dobson, coached by Anna Blatherwick, brought home our first Huronia zone banner with an impressive win. The girls then went on to play in the 'Provincials', and although they didn't place, they gained valuable experience that would help them in their bowling careers.

The Banner Years

In the year 2000 Springwater Lanes really got on the map. The Bantam girls, with a new cast of characters led by a couple from the previous year, had a repeat. The Team coached by Harve Boyko and made up of Sara Fisher, Jeanette Dobson, Sarah Townes, Kiersten Schulz and Dawn Andrews won the zone. Also that year, Krista Klein Gebbinck won the zone as the Bantam girl single, and her brother Brian won as the Junior boy single! That year we won 25% of the available spots in our zone, and we went on to do the same thing in 2001. For the third straight year our Bantam girls won the zone. This time the team was made up of Sarah Townes, Heather Dobson, Jennifer White, Kelly Belcourt and Kiersten Schulz. The team was lead by the coaching of Harve Boyko. We also won the Bantam girls single spot as Jeanette Dobson took the honours, and our Bantam boy single, Scott Fleming, won the zone as well.

As you can see, the youth bowlers from Elmvale were becoming well known throughout the zone. In 2002 we were at it again. This time the boys team in the bantam division got into action, winning the zone. Rick Wilkins coached the team of Zach Wilkins, Josh Wilkins, John Carter, Mason Charles and Kyle Corriveau to victory. As well, for the second year in a row, Scott Fleming won the zone round as the Bantam boy single.



Our junior girls team made up of Amanda Fleming, Sara Fisher, Stacy Dobson, Dawn Andrews and Ann-Marie Grant, coached by Sue Dobson, also won the right to go to the 'Provincials'. At the 'Provincials', Scott Fleming had an outstanding tournament. He finished second in the province, just a few pins out from a trip to the 'Nationals'.

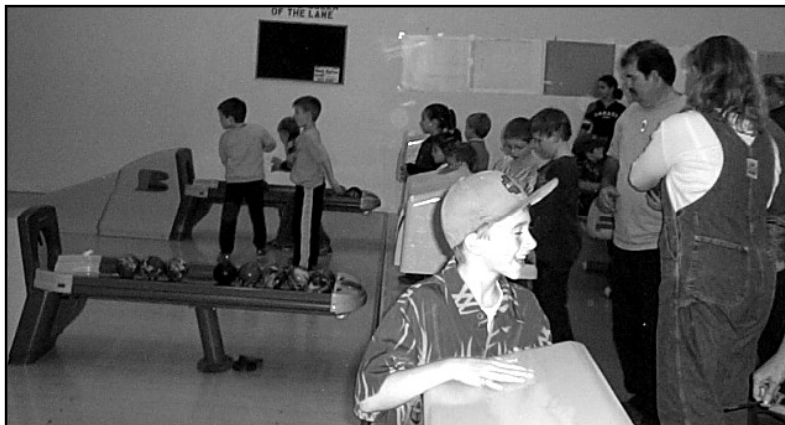
Also in 2002, Bryan Klein Gebbinck, an outstanding youth bowler from Elmvale, won the right to play on a senior boys team from Huronia in the 'Winter Games' in Guelph.

Bryan led all bowlers in the tournament in the zone round and went on to play very well at the 'Provincials' where the team came up just a little short.

In 2003, our streak of winning a team spot at the zone round was snapped. Midland youth bowler had an outstanding year and won each and every team spot in Huronia! We did, however, win half of the available singles spots. Jeanette Dobson won the Junior girls division, Zach Wilkins won for the Bantam boys, and Scott Fleming won as a first year junior. At the 'Provincials' Jeanette finished sixth. Zach Wilkins won a bronze medal, and Scott Fleming, playing against boys as much as three years older, once again finished in second place with a silver medal! He played extremely well that day, but just happened to come up against a bowler from another zone that played just a bit better.

Well, as you can see, from our inception until now, Springwater Lanes, and the town of Elmvale have been very well represented both in Huronia and at the 'Provincials'. I am sure with the talent level that we have created, you will see some of these youngsters make it to the 'Nationals' in the near future.

A Social Meeting Place



Springwater Lanes offers so much more than just competition. We have leagues all year long that are more like social events than strict competition. Bowling is based on a handicapping system to even out the talent level of the players.

It gives me great pleasure to see the number of elderly people that bowl in leagues. I even had a gentleman tell me a couple of weeks ago that the only day of the week that his blood sugar levels are where they should be is Thursday, the day he bowls in our Bob James Senior League. His doctor won't, however, write him a prescription for his bowling.

We try to keep the leagues fun. We play music, have theme nights and 50-50 draws, and compete to go to tournaments. Many just come for recreation, fun and exercise.



Springwater Lanes

The place to
celebrate a
birthday or anniversary

When I visited to take this picture, the place was filled with children and adults, none of whom I recognized. The Lanes are a magnet bringing a lot of visitors to the village.

The Party Place

We also put many families through the doors; people that come in for birthday parties. We have computerized scoring and bumper bowling so the ball won't go in the gutters. We have an excellent price structure for birthdays and family bowling. It is so satisfying to see at most birthday parties, three generations of people enjoying this facility and choosing bowling to help fill their leisure time.

At night, on the weekends, the place turns into a night club type atmosphere with disco lights, black lights and loud music while you bowl with balls that glow in the dark. We also have karaoke for young and old. We have many groups that book the entire place for big team parties at the end of the hockey and baseball season. I have many bookings from the Barrie area because the big groups appreciate the intimacy. It is much easier to come here and let us do the work than it is to have to arrange for your own food, music and entertainment.

It has been my pleasure to provide a facility that the entire community and area have enjoyed for the last nine years. I appreciate George Allen putting this book together and giving me a chance to blow my own horn and more importantly sing the praises of my youth bowlers. I also want to put in a plug for Mike Jacobs and the Springwater News for giving me a forum to do this on a regular basis. I look forward to serving the entertainment and recreational needs of the community for many years to come, and if you haven't been into Springwater Lanes, 120 Yonge Street, Elmvalle, 322-0676, What's stopping you?

The “Outward Bound Club” of Elmvale District High



(L to R) Mike LaRose, Mr. J. C. Handley, Doug Baker, Peter Archer, Rob McClung, Don Whitfield, Ted Lynn, Paul Minings, Bob Finlay, Brian Loftus, and Brian Minty.
Absent – Peter Kenney, Toney Stone and Ric Archer

Elmvale Lance – Thursday, May 13, 1971

Fourteen Elmvale District High School students known as the Outward Bound Club, will take part in a three-day 42-mile canoe trip this weekend to test seven canoes built in the school's Industrial Arts shop Program.

The seven fibreglass canoes were constructed in the shop class of J. C. Handley during the school term after Christmas. This week the boys are adding the finishing touches.

This is the second year for the canoe voyage.

** Before this program was over, several hundred canoes had been constructed at the school and tested in the wilderness. Many former students of Mr. Handley learned their love for nature and their manual skills in these years of vocational training.*

Some Hunters Got to Bring Home the “Big One”



Fred
Reynolds

Len
Dwinnell

Jack
Campbell

Cecil
Wright

1971
Lance Photo

Phyllis Truax – Grandmother on a Mission with a Snowmobile

More than one grandmother competed in the “100 Marathon” to raise money for the Elmvale Lions’ Club.

The event was organized by Don Hocken, seen here explaining the course to Phyllis Truax.

The participants started from the Sales Arena on Highway 92 and had food and gasoline provided at checkpoints along the way.

The year was 1973. Membership in the Snowmobile Club cost \$5.00 per family.

Lance Photo



Do You Remember When? Horse Racing at Elmvale Fair

1
9
7
2

Town
&
Country

Supplied
by
Bunny
Trace



1
9
7
2

Town
&
Country

Supplied
by
Bunny
Trace

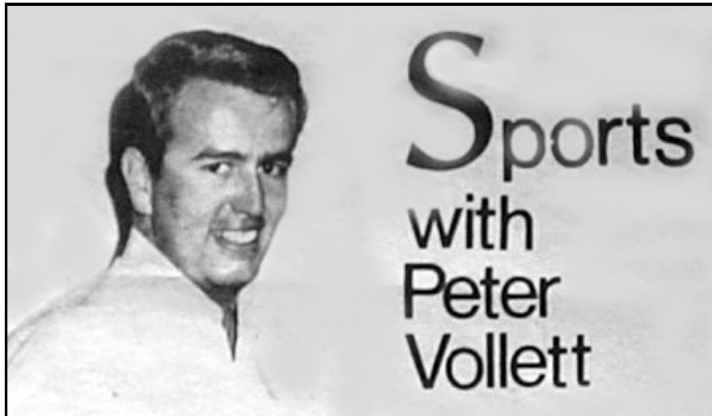
Horsing racing was part of the Elmvale Fall Fair for nearly 100 years. Here two trotters race to the finish line. Demon's Vola , owned by Marvin Graham, won the first race on Saturday.

A New Sport on the Tracks – The Tractor Pull (antique category).



Scott Graham puts his Allis to work pulling the 'Terminator' at the Elmvale Fair in 2001. The "Pull" also included 'Modifieds' and 'Souped-up trucks. Portable seating is brought in.

The Sports Reporters



*From the Elmvale Lance
Sept. 20, 1967*

First, in answer to the thousands, no millions, of letters received at the Lance asking for an explanation as to why your most faithful scribe's column did not appear in last week's paper, I will answer my adherents this way.

The rigors of sports writing became so unbearable at times that a frequent vacation from this business is almost a necessity. For this reason, my superiors at the Lance, noticing that the quality of my work was degenerating, suggested that I relinquish my talents for a week. Upon their most welcome suggestion, I organized a whirlwind tour of Expo 67 and Boston for Sept. 4 to 9. Returning just in time to participate in the Barrie and District Senior Softball golf tournament on the 10th.

After such an eventful few days my condition was so degraded that to fill my duties to the paper would be an impossibility. Please excuse.

A Winning Combination

In order to have a winning team, you must first have a general desire to win. Then comes personnel, co-operation and coaching.

It is seldom that the combination of these essentials can be incorporated into any team, no matter what the sport.

The Elmvale Mets of the Georgian Bay Rural Softball League displayed this perfect blend and exploited it in winning the Brown Trophy, emblematic of league supremacy.

Coach Cliff 'Smoky' Vollick, the driving force behind this year's Mets team, established seasoned players like George Sibbald, Lou Turner and Doug Kirton as his nucleus, using their experience as a stabilizer.

Over the season the Mets collected 12 wins, 2 ties, and 2 losses, including play-off action.

Vollick's Mets also showed great versatility as some of his players were not confined to one position. In the final game against Port McNicoll, pitcher Gary Turner filled in as catcher, and George Sibbald was moved from the outfield to third base.

In bringing the Brown Trophy back to Elmvale, after too long an absence, the Mets climaxed a truly illustrious season.

Reviewing his championship team, coach Vollick commented, "I am proud of everyone connected with the team, and also, I would not trade any player of my team for any two players in the Georgian Bay League.

First Arena was a Model of Co-operation

By Jerry Chapple (written after the arena reconstruction in 1975)

With the completion of construction to the Flos-Elmvale Community Arena, many younger citizens may not be aware of the events connected with the building of the original arena back in 1950. The following article by Jerry Chapple documents the story and the community co-operation that made the arena construction possible. Mr. Chapple, a charter member of Elmvale Lions Club, and one of the original arena committee members, did extensive public relations work at the time of the arena construction. Mr. Chapple is employed with the Elmvale Lumber Company and has resided in the village for the past 30 years.

The original conception was inspired by the early members of the Elmvale District Lions Club and heartily endorsed by its expanded membership.

The whole thing was a fantastic example of community co-operation. Agreement was given by the Flos Agricultural Society to allow the use of their fair ground. The support of the Flos Township council was received in unstinted measure, and too, the Village of Elmvale council, which was up to its neck in the other Elmvale project that was underway at the time, namely that of the restoration of the community hall.

We remember the decision of the Flos Council to donate trees along the township roads that were large enough to cut for logs, and how with many back-breaking hours of labour, with axe and crosscut saw (no chain saws in those days), the trees were felled. We remember with nostalgic pride the sunny day in March 1950 when the long line of 19 teams drew the logs to Copeland mill for machining into the lumber that subsequently was used for the cement forms and back boards. The Copeland family never did get around to sending a bill to the Arena Committee, but that was typical throughout the district. We remember the Elmvale Planing Mill donating the use of their cement block-making machine during the evenings, and some of its staff and many local men worked six evenings a week to make at least half of the large number of blocks required. Enough of the local blocks were laid that fall to provide a natural ice surface, and in the summer of 1950, the balance of the blocks were purchased to complete the erection of the walls.

While this was going on, many people were participating in one of two door-to-door canvasses to provide the necessary financial assistance. Young people, yes, and older people too, were busy staging variety and stage shows to raise further funds (Very good shows they were, too.)

On February 19, 1951, there came a very welcome letter from the Department of Agriculture notifying us that the first of two cheques for \$2,500.00 would be presented in March of 1951.

Looking back, acknowledgment should be given to the former editor and publisher of the Lance, Alex McAuley, for providing a great deal of space in the Lance for Lion and arena affairs, much of which was not provided until almost going to press time. The Lance actually served as liaison officer for the district, enabling people to keep in touch with progress of the arena. It was utilized, too, for publication of lists of donations and names of voluntary helpers

who gave freely of their time, yes, and money too.

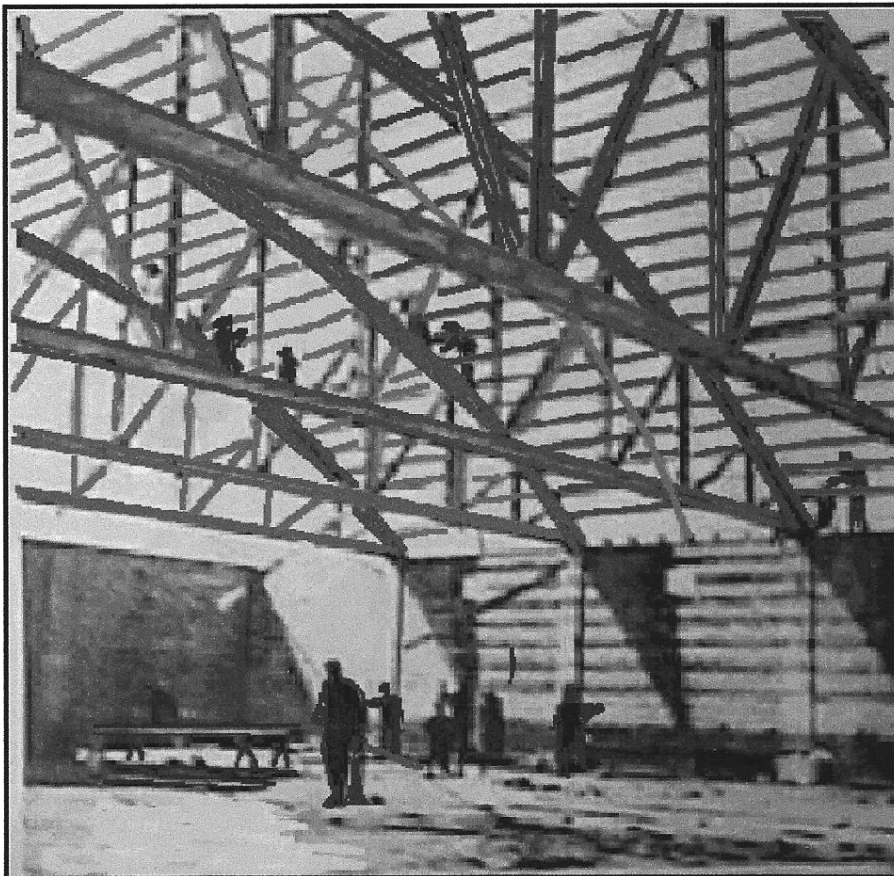
Many things are pleasant memories. One of these was the draw for a registered Ayrshire heifer calf, donated by Howard Ritchie (who is still a Lion). Oh yes, the winner of that draw gave it back to the Lions Club. It was put up for auction and guess who bought it back? Why, Howard, of course.

Reg Bertram and his family should be mentioned for their devoted and unflinching energy in providing help and leadership. There must be special mention of Ross Bertram for his truss design and his supervision, but then so many people helped and gave all they could give. We remember the weeks of search for sufficient steel plate for the truss plates, and then the picture in the *Lance* on February 4, 1952 showing the happy faces of the Arena Committee as they watched the second arena truss being raised and positioned by means of a central gin pole. We remember, too, the many days of cheerfully donated labour mixing concrete for the footings and the concrete pilons, and even the mixers were borrowed.

Shortly after the roof was put on, temporary dressing rooms and a refreshment booth were built. (The booth served them well for eight years, again voluntary help.)

By 1960 the arena was equipped with washrooms, and by 1963 the artificial ice-making plant was in operation.

Many incidents have come to mind as we write this, but in general, the overall impression of the kindness, generosity and all-round willingness of those asked to help have stayed with us over the years, and looking back down those years, we, on behalf of those that (at that time) had committed themselves to that tremendous project, say 'thank you' and 'well done'.



**This was truly
a community arena.**

It took the efforts of everyone to construct the arena.

Here the arches are being put into place. Others were involved with canvasses or putting on shows to raise money.

The blocks, mixed on the site for the walls pictured here, are still a part of the new arena that is in use today (2000)

This photograph is a touched-up version of one taken in 1950.

Memories Linger from 30-year-old Slaying

By Carey Moran – Free Press – Feb. 9, 1996

No matter how many years go by, a Wyebridge woman will never forget the shocking murder of a six-year-old Port McNicoll boy.

It was 30 years ago Sunday evening that little Michael Kent's body was found in a dimly lit corner of the parking lot at the Elmvale arena.

He had been stabbed four times in the stomach and three times in the back.

"It was an awful thing, and I'll never forget it as long as I live," Hazel Guthrie said Thursday.

On Feb. 11, 1966, the Kent family — parents John and Anne, John David, 8, Michael, 6, Kevin, 4, and baby Allison, 9 months — travelled from Port McNicoll to Elmvale for a hockey tournament. At 7:30 p.m. Michael went into the arena ahead of his parents after the family car became stuck in the muddy parking lot.



The Elmvale Arena – site of the murder of Michael Kent – Feb. 11, 1966

Mrs. Guthrie and Michael's mom were sitting together watching the hockey game, when Mrs. Kent became concerned that Michael was missing.

"She thought he was with her husband who was coaching the hockey team," said Mrs. Guthrie. Both Mrs. Guthrie's son Bruce and Michael's older brother, John David, played on the team.

It didn't take long for searchers to begin combing the arena and grounds. A Midland resident, Jack Coutemanche found the little boy outside, face down in a snow bank near the curling club. "When they found him, his father got in the back of our car with the boy and my husband drove him to the doctor's office. Blood which had pooled inside the boy's wind-breaker oozed onto the back seat, but nobody knew anything about this blood until after," said Mrs. Guthrie.

He was dead on arrival at Dr. D. J. Patchell's office in Elmvale. His tiny body was taken to Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie for an autopsy.

A fish knife found the next day on the curling club's roof is believed to be the murder

weapon. The unique knife, made by Ernst Gerling Co., Solingen, Germany, with only two Ontario distributors, was the only solid piece of evidence police had to go on.

Pictures of the knife were circulated in every area school, as police hoped one of the hockey tournament participants or spectators could remember seeing the knife that day.

Retired OPP officer and Penetanguishene native, Ray Grenier, was a constable in the village of Elmvale in 1966. He was assigned, along with 25 other officers from Elmvale, Stayner, Midland, and the Criminal Investigations Division, to the investigation.

“It was such a big case that anyone with any kind of record at all was visited and asked to produce an alibi,” said Mr. Grenier from his Orillia-area home.

Police at the time had several suspects in mind, including a Midland youth who had a similar knife. But it couldn't be proven that he had it with him that day in Elmvale.

Mr. Grenier remembers the shock of Elmvale and Port McNicoll residents after the death.

“Elmvale was just like any other small town; everybody knew everybody else. It was a real shock,” he said.

“I had a family, and it was real close to home. It was just such an unusual thing — no rhyme or reason to it.”

According to press reports at the time, many parents refused to let their children out at night anywhere in the village. Some minor hockey games slated for the area had to be cancelled.

Although neither Mr. Grenier nor the current investigator remember a letter, a Free Press Herald report from March 9, 1966 indicates an anonymous letter was submitted to the paper by someone who claimed to know the identity of the killer.

It is not known if that person ever went to police.

OPP Senior Constable Graham Thomson, is currently in charge of the Kent murder.

“I've reviewed the case several times now myself,” said Mr. Thomson, who said he's done work on it about 10 times since taking it over in 1973.

Laser testing and other modern technology has been tried, to no avail.

Although a recent Crimestoppers re-enactment last fall on CKVR prompted six calls to the Huronia West OPP detachment in Wasaga Beach, Mr. Thomson said the case is no closer to being solved.

“There was nothing offered that wasn't known or enough evidence to pursue,” said Mr. Thomson, who added, “It isn't likely the case will be resolved, not unless somebody comes forward and says, ‘I know who did it’”.

“Until the murder is solved, the case will always remain open”, he said.

In the meantime Michael Kent was buried in St. Margaret's Cemetery in Midland. Soon after, the Kent family sold their small variety store in the village when Mr. Kent, who was an assistant supervisor at the Port McNicoll elevator, was transferred to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

At the time, a \$4,000 reward was offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer; \$1,000 from Port McNicoll, \$1,000 from the village of Elmvale and \$2,000 from the Province of Ontario.

Crimestoppers continues to offer a reward in the case.

Meanwhile, each year a memorial trophy in his name is presented by Midland Minor Hockey to the most improved player in the Tyke division.

1977 was a Big Year in Local Sport – *by John Brown* Written in the Lance – *Headings added by G. Allen*

Introduction:

The year 1977 is gone, sports fans, but certainly not forgotten. It was a year of many happy memories for those who participated, those who engineered the successes and also the ever popular Elmvale and district fans who, as in the past, continued to support whatever sport they fancied.

In the following recap of the 1977 sports we will not be doing them in specific order of importance or in successive months.

Broomball

This brand new sport to most Elmvale people took off like a jet when it was originated in 1977. It was successful both at the gate and on the ice. Phelpston Schlamb Sheet Metal won the championship without losing a game in the maiden season. Leo Marley was the manager.

Figure Skating

After many years of hard work on the part of Elmvale's Figure Skating Sweetheart, Michelle Simpson took on a National flare. Michelle, after becoming Eastern Canadian Ladies Novice Champion, travelled to Calgary to compete for the Canadian honours. The skating sensation, as she is considered by her local clubs, certainly didn't let her supporters in Elmvale down and finished the competition in third place. ...

Georgian Bay Old-timers

An old-timers team was formed in the area. It was known as the Georgian Bay Old-timers and was made up of Midland players, fellows who had formerly played in Midland, and four Elmvale players. The Elmvale players were Ron McAuley, Den Turner, Lou Turner and Stan Ritchie. Bill Player was elected coach of the Bay Team.

The team travelled to Zurich, Switzerland to compete in an international old-timers tournament. It finished third in the tourney, two points out of first, but the boys enjoyed a trip which none of them will ever duplicate.

Russ Howard Gains Fame

Russ Howard's rink, from the Midland Curling Club won the Elmvale Annual three day bonspiel in what was considered the most competitive and best organized spiel since it was originated. The Elmvale spiel has earned the distinction of being the best little spiel in the country.

Incidentally, Howard's rink went on to the British Consoles as the unheard of underdog, but when he left Brantford after winning four of his nine games, he was known and had earned a great deal of respect.

All Ontario Intermediate "D" Fastball Championship

The year 1977 was a historical year in Intermediate fastball. The Elmvale Merchants, after fifteen (15) years of frustrations and many travelled miles, finally won the All-Ontario Intermediate "D" Fastball Championship. Thanksgiving weekend the Merchants boarded a bus and headed for Hearst, where they defeated Hearst two games to one in the best of three series. The Merchants were led by the battery of Carl Edwards and Lou Belcourt through many exciting, extra-inning games of O.A.S.A. fastball, '77.

When the Ontario champion Merchants returned home from Hurst on the Monday of Thanksgiving weekend, they were met at Elmvale Lumber Ltd. by a large array of cars, fire trucks and tow trucks, all blowing horns, sounding sirens and flashing their lights. They were then greeted by 200 anxious, proud Elmvale citizens as the festivities moved into the Community Hall where the players were introduced and given a bottle of bubbly by team President, John Brown. The players commented on how emotional they felt being received by friends and neighbours.

The Elmvale Mets

For the Elmvale Mets this was definitely a rebuilding year. ...

Coach, Mike Townes, is definitely in the driver's seat in Simcoe Rural Fastball League, mainly because he has a year's experience under his belt, and so do his youthful Mets. Managers, Lou Turner and George McGinnis will add their experience to the team.

Peewee Fastball Team

The Elmvale Peewee fastball team, made up of many of the same players who were in uniform when the Peewees won the hockey championship, showed equal prowess in fastball. The Elmvale boys had little trouble in winning the Georgian Bay Peewee Fastball Championship last August. Coach of the team was Ross McConnell, and the manager was Tom McMann.

The Elmvale Angels

The Elmvale Angels came on the scene in 1977, with a real smash, under the sponsorship of Elmvale Sporting Goods. The Angels won the Georgian Bay Intermediate Ladies Fastball Championship, playing eighteen (18) games, winning seventeen (17) games and losing one (1).

Although the Angels had a very impressive record, Phelpston pitcher, Bunny Murphy was a very deserving league most valuable player. The coach was John Brown and the manager was Joan Player.

The Greatest Loss

Elmvale and area sports fans were witnesses to many rewarding victories in 1977, but they also suffered one of the greatest losses in the history of Elmvale Sports. The loss came on Sunday, August 28th when the town was stunned by the death of Homer Barrett. Homer was an outstanding athlete and a true gentleman.

The Final Chapters

This Chapters – Sports Edition - may substitute for an Elmvale Hall of Fame,
And for those whose story wasn't told, it really is a shame.
You see, some folks had photos in the basement that they said they'd like to share,
But somehow they never got around to checking out the albums that were there.

Some thought Chapters was a good idea; yes, they'd like to make a contribution,
But then 'tomorrow' is the favoured deadline for those ruled by procrastination.
I suspect that they won't find their story missing, so there won't be any sorrow,
Because if they're planning to buy a sports book, it will likely be 'tomorrow'.

Others had some wonderfully insightful stories, but, "Please don't put them down"..
So you'll still have to go to the Coffee Shop to get some of the best sports stories
in town.

When some folks were asked to paint a verbal picture because there was no
photograph.

They said if they put their words on paper others would just break down and laugh.
So they told me of other places to get the story; folks that were excellent with a pen.
Perhaps some day the stories will get produced, but I don't know where or when.

Yet a lot of folks dug through albums to find photographs they could share;
They helped identify the players, and they then labelled them with care.
They didn't want to list their accomplishments, be accused of self-congratulations,
But they consented to keep a public record to inspire future generations.

You see, we check progress in the future by measuring from mileposts from the past,
And achievements not posted publicly are forgotten very fast.
So those who shared their memories and sports stories have helped to raise the bar
For some 'hopeful' that thinks a small town kid has no chance to become a star.

George Allen

Special thanks to Bunny Trace for editing these stories. We may have corrected spelling, added missing punctuation to an article, but we tried to take care not to change the intent of the writer.

If you find inaccuracies in photo identification or content of stories, please let George know. A correction can be made for subsequent printings.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.