

# PEPP-JALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

Minor hockey in Rossland today is quite a factor in the lives of our youngsters. It takes up a lot of the spare time of around 150 of them on the average, every winter and supervising the progress of these kids also takes up a lot of the spare time of many people who volunteer their time and effort to make the program the success it has turned out to be.

I guess most people who think about minor hockey in Rossland, rate it as having its beginnings at the time the arena was built.

If you are looking at it from the angle of organization, that would be correct, but if we dig back into the years prior to the opening of the arena and the formation of the Rossland Minor Hockey Association, we find that agent by the name of Ed Walters ran an open-air rink on his property which was available to any Rossland youngster who wanted to use it.

I'm told it got quite a play too, with Ed acting as icemaker and supervisor as well as coach and manager.

Since then, the movement has progressed by leaps and bounds, reaching its peak over the past few years. During last season a change was made in the format, house leagues were run in the most populous divisions and rep teams played many games with out-of-town teams and many of these visited Rossland.

This format allows the top calibre kids more ice time,

but it allows those not-so-adept youngsters to get themselves plenty of time on the ice also. This is also one of the places where the volunteer help comes into play. Transportation is a big factor in out-of-town games and the kids are fortunate to have so many people who are willing to dig in and supply it.

Practically all the work that goes into the supervising of Rossland's minor hockey players is geared to prepare them for a chance to play for our Junior Warriors and quite a number of them have graduated to the parent club over the years. This year's crop at training camp was a good sample.

Some outstanding examples of the kids who have come up through the minor ranks in the RMHA are Jim Stuart, Jim Cotton, the Cox boys, Rick and Ron, the Stantons, Tom, John and Gary, Rick Dominici, Joe and John Caron, "Hoss" and Bob Drake, Bob Hook, Billy and Robbie Martin, Ed and Gene Legare, Ken "Butts" Bertoia, Rick and Eddie Rosse, Lyle "Tinker" and Mike Oliver, John MacMaster, and the three McFarland boys, John, Steve and Dan.

The list of people who have assisted in the development of these youngsters is an impressive one. Many of them are still helping today, while newcomers show up all the time; among those who have helped administer the affairs of the organization are Dr. Phil McCormack, Jack Fisher, Brian Rennison, Don

McKay, Rollie Phillips, Jim Markle, Maurice MacArthur, Jim Schuck, Geoff Davies, Gary Holm, Arnie Sherwood and Lloyd McLellan. Among the women who have served various terms on the board are Vi Krest, Patsy Fisher, Marilyn Davis and Barb Armour.

There are probably other who have been missed in this report but it's pretty hard to get all the data on an organization as long-standing as this one. Suffice to say that we owe a debt of gratitude to everyone who has helped forward the cause of minor hockey.

Minor Hockey Week, the annual celebration of the cause, is now country-wide in its scope and threatening to creep across our boundaries to the south. Remember, if you will, that Minor Hockey Week was born in the West Kootenay country. That's quite a tribute in itself.