

**Psst - he's a she...****The best  
kept secret  
in town**

The Mississauga News

By ROB McCORMICK

It's most fortunate that the Mississauga Minor Lacrosse League Cawthra Pee wee B champions didn't throw their captain in the shower when they won the title last week.

It would have been embarrassing.

Not that Donni Rosa wouldn't have deserved the accolades. The high-flying, little centre was instrumental in the Mill Paper squad's league-leading record this season, scoring 32 goals and 18 assists, the third-best total on the team.

But no showers, please.

It would have been far too traumatic a way for the other 15 players on the club to discover that their captain was a girl.

That Donni's real gender was the best-kept secret of the season had nothing to do with any league regulations or restrictions on who plays with whom.

The conspiracy between her mother and coach Bert Kelly was born after common-sense consideration of some of the problems that would have been inevitable had Donni's real identity been revealed to her team-

mates.

Consider, for instance, that at Pee wee age (11 and 12), boys are not always wild about members of the opposite sex. Collins was candid enough to note, in fact, that some of his players just hate girls.

The coach and the prodigy's mother felt it likely that Donni, should she be introduced as a young lady, would not receive her fair share of passes and other courtesies that might otherwise be expected from one's fellow team members.

So Donna Lynn Rosa, 11-year-old Grade 6 student at St. Alfred's, became Donni Rosa, a competitive, speedy, scrapping centreman just as capable of tossing her 95 pounds at her opponents as she is of putting the ball in the net.

Both of which she did at regular intervals throughout the season and during the playoffs.

Her prolific points output was matched only by the lengthy periods spent in the penalty box. By season's end the little lady had accumulated 28 minutes in the cooler, making her the second most penalized member on

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DONNI, er, DONNA LYNN ROSA