

WINTER FOR CHILDREN

“I wasn’t naturally gifted in terms of size and speed; everything I did in hockey I worked for.” - Wayne Gretzky

JACKIE & MAX EXCITED ABOUT HOCKEY



Sylvia Lismore

It was a cold night and a fog covered everything. Jackie Taylor, 10, was disappointed. The junior hockey game was cancelled. It was to be his first time playing and he was anxious to start.

He sat, staring out the window at the mist.

“Don’t worry Jackie,” said his mother Annie. “It will be better weather next week. You can get some practice before then.”

He sighed, “I hope so Mom, I will be on the team with Eric. He is going to teach me.”

“Well, cheer up,” said his Mom. “You have a whole week to practice. Next week, you will be ready for it.”

“Do you think my hockey outfit will be here by then?”

“Yes,” she said. “Then you will feel like a true hockey player with the right outfit and a little more skilled because of the extra practice.”

Max, his terrier with wired-hair, ran into the kitchen and sat beside Jackie, wagging his tail.

The following evening, Eric, the young coach for the new team, took Jackie and a few of the boys to the outdoor rink.

Near the end of the week, Jackie was thrilled playing hockey, especially when Eric said he was very good.

Max was excited and ran back and forth as the boys skated around the rink chasing the puck.

Two weeks later, a hockey match was arranged with another school.

Jackie was glad that his new hockey gear arrived and felt proud to be dressed in the team colours of green and yellow.

The boys took their positions on the ice and the game



started.

Jackie, and the rest of the team, were upset that they couldn’t score a goal, even though they tried very hard.

At halftime, Eric took the boys aside and said, “Don’t let this get you down. The other team has had more experience, but I can see you are very good. It won’t be long before you are much better.”

This motivated them and the parents cheered them on.

The confidence Eric gave them seemed to make a big difference. Jackie surprised everybody by shooting in the winning goal.

His team shouted in excitement.

Max ran onto the ice and jumped into Jackie’s arms as if he knew that Jackie had done something special.

The team decided to make Max the official mascot.

Sylvia Lismore writes short stories.

“A man’s health can be judged by which he takes two at a time - pills or stairs.” - Joan Welsh



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If you live on a street listed at the end of this feature, you are valuable for three reasons.

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Call me (905) 306-0100 and schedule a 30-minute meeting. I’ll even visit your house if you wish.

2) Perhaps you have talented family members who want to access events that help develop their skills. Here are some of the talents I seek to discover.

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- ▶ Musicians
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- ▶ Administrators

3) We seek paper boys and paper girls. Here are the streets that Local City Fun is currently focusing on:

- ▶ Acala Crescent
- ▶ Trisha Downs
- ▶ Any home on Mississauga Valley Blvd
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