



## Club Officials

Tom Keen (standing from left), Doug Neely, Recreation Superintendent of Glens Falls, Jim Hughes, Jerry Corbett (sitting from left) and Ed Fane have all played a large role in the development of the year's hockey program in Glens Falls. All except Neely have become officers in the newly formed Glens Falls Hockey Club Inc.

# Hockey Organizers Form Corporation

By **MIKE GARCIA**  
Sports Writer

Glens Falls' youth hockey program has undergone a major change.

This past season, the first for an organized hockey league for youngsters, the program was sponsored by the Glens Falls Recreation Department.

Officials who ran the program have separated the league from the recreation department and have formed a non-profit corporation.

Tom Keen, who last year headed the fledgling league, has been elected president of the Glens Falls Hockey Club Inc. Jerry Corbett was named vice president, Jim Hughes treasurer and Ed Fane secretary.

While this past winter's experience was successful, with more than 90 youths participating, a number of factors prompted the incorporation.

The major reason for the move is the new flexibility the program will have in fund raising. Rather than

rely on recreation department funding or high fees from the participants, the club can solicit tax deductible donations. Hopefully, private donations will be received while fundraisers like tag days and coin drops will raise additional funds. Club officials hope that local businesses, civic clubs and organizations will help get the program going.

Recreation Superintendent Doug Neely commented that one of the

# Club Plans Signup

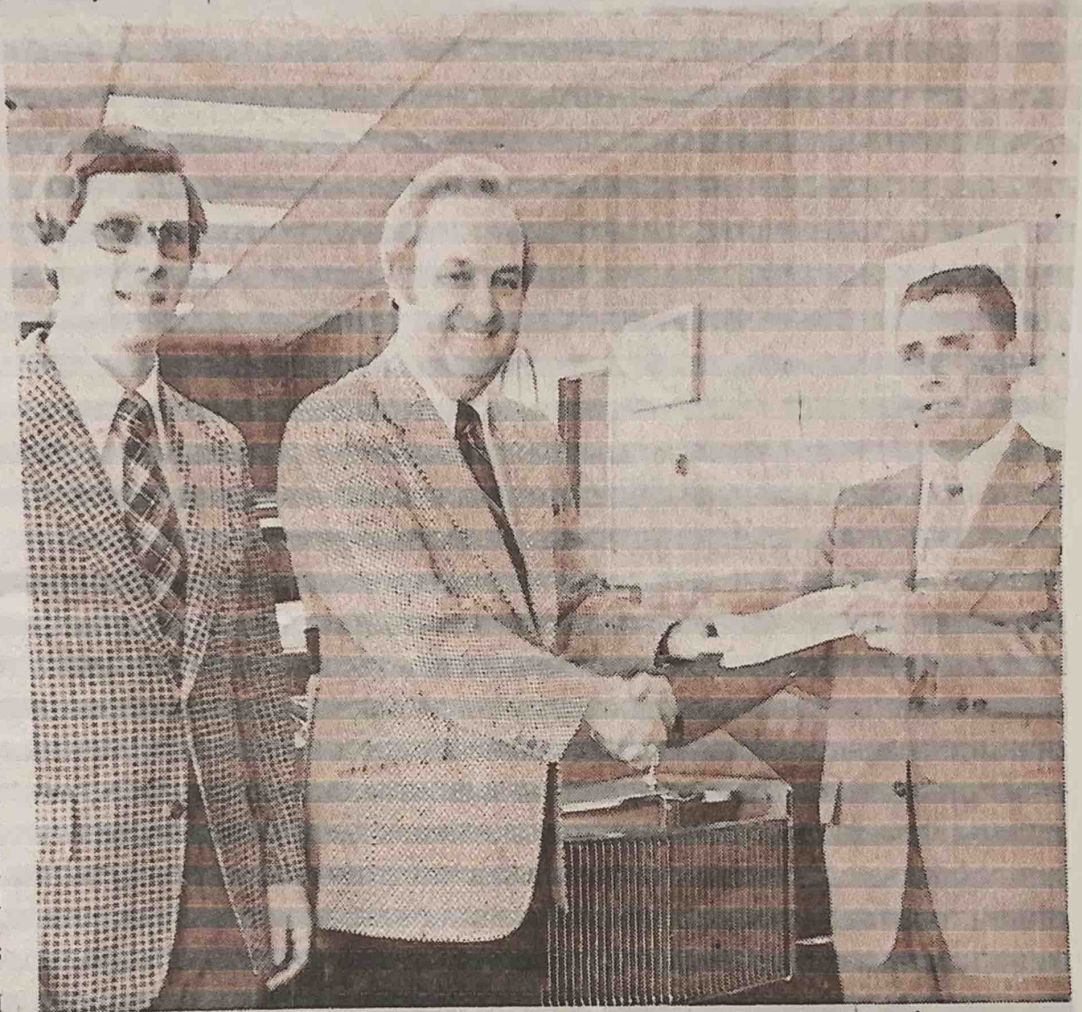
The Glens Falls Hockey Club will hold registration Monday from 2 to 6 p.m. at the rec fieldhouse in Crandall Park.

Boys and girls from seven to 19 are eligible to enroll. A parent must sign the application at the time of registration.

Registration fees are based on the cost of individual insurance coverage and must be paid at the time of registration. Older applicants will have to pay a larger fee.

The hockey club is a chartered non-profit corporation formed in 1975, and plans to present a program of amateur hockey for Glens Falls.

Local businesses and clubs are urged to participate in the venture and may contact Keen or Welcyng, the financial director, for further information.



## *Check Presented*

Dave Welcyng, left, watches on while Den Wilhelm of Den Wilhelm Auto Sales and Service presents a check to Tom Keen, the president of the Glens Falls Hockey Club, Inc. Wilhelm is the first businessman to sponsor one of the teams in the club.

Corbett also said it is hard to get the youngsters in the program up to sufficient skill levels which would allow them to be more competitive with players from other towns. "We've just got to have ice time," he said.

Keen said Saratoga skaters get about 7½ hours of ice time a week, 8½ if they are All-Star team members, for practice alone. Saratoga High School also started a hockey team on a club basis as a direct result of the city's fine youth program.

"If little places like Brasher Falls, Potsdam and Chazy can build arenas, it doesn't make sense that Glens Falls, Hudson Falls, Queensbury, South Glens Falls, Fort Edward and Lake George can't support a rink," Corbett observed.

"It can be done here and now is the time we've got to go forward with some kind of facility," said Keen. "We're going to do it with or without the city."

The Glens Falls Hockey Club is an incorporated, non-profit organization and belongs to the American Hockey Association. The purpose is to build a hockey program in the area. The city gave the club \$5,000 for the purchase of equipment and this, "gave the program a boost," according to Keen.

"We appreciate what the city has done but we're not married to the city," Keen said. "We need a facility."

Corbett, who is from the Saranac Lake region, finds it hard to believe that Glens Falls area does not cash in on its location during the winter.

"This area has a natural winter sports setting -- West Mountain, cross-country trails, Lake George," said Corbett. "They're missing the boat by not having a skating facility."

purposes of the recreation department is to trigger these programs, to give groups like this a chance to get out on their own.

In the initial season, the department purchased a great deal of equipment -- helmets, goalie pads, masks and the like. Neely mentioned that the equipment will be loaned to the club, with the stipulation that it will be given to kids who otherwise would not be able to play.

The department also will continue to set aside time on the hockey rink in Crandall Park for the club's use.

With a turnout of over 90 skaters the first year, a second consideration of the club officials was the expected expansion of the program. Again, additional flexibility will be gained by the incorporation. If financially possible, the club will be opened to all interested youths in the Warren and Washington County area.

The incorporation also facilitates the joining of the American Hockey Association, the recognized governing body of youth hockey. The program will be organized along the guidelines of the AHA and will follow its rules and policies.

The money to be collected by the club will go for more equipment and uniforms. Players will probably have to furnish their own skates and possibly their own sticks and will have to pay some insurance costs and a small membership fee.

Corbett, a sanctioned AHA official, will head an official's association that will monitor the club's games. Volunteers will be relied on; they won't be paid. Corbett plans to train the officials.

The club anticipates forming a street hockey league in September. This will serve to help the kids learn positions and pick up on some fundamentals before hitting the ice.

Anyone interested in coaching, officiating or just working with children in some way may contact any of the club officers.



## Nick Cantiello: Time Out

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# Ice Would Be Nice

The pictures on Page 16 of today's Post-Star show youngsters of the Glens Falls Hockey Club having a great time playing games.

More than 100 youngsters, ages 7-16, participate in the youth hockey program which is in its second season of existence. But how much longer will the interest level of hockey be kept alive in this area for both coaches and kids? Being at the mercy of the elements,

skaters in the Glens Falls area are lucky to get four or five weeks of good ice time each winter.

Three winters ago, we used this column to point out the need for an enclosed skating rink in this area which has winter weather at least one-third of the time. More recent talk of covered rinks has come from the mouths of local politicians, many of whom used the rink as a campaign issue.

Local service organizations don't seem interested. Nothing but talk has been expended the last three years. And while hockey flourishes in nearby Saratoga Springs and in the Capital District, the sport is in an uncertain state in this area.

"I can foresee our program going down the tube if we do not get ice," said Glens Falls Hockey Club President Tom Keen

who said the main priority of the club is to get a covered, artificially refrigerated rink.

Jerry Corbett, vice president of the club, said being at the weather's mercy was one problem at the existing rink and easy access to the rink was another.

"One big problem here is that we can't keep people off the ice (before it is sufficiently frozen)."