

# SCHLOCKEY

*an innovative recess game*



WEDNESDAY EDITION  
The City Edition, 62 pages  
Author's Community Newsletter

## Northern Life

### Sports

**W game catching on like wildfire at local public**  
*Key is action-packed, fun game which can be enjoyed by all children*



CANADIAN INTRAMURAL RECREATION OF ONTARIO  
CIRA ONTARIO



## FOREWORD

The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation has made one of its mandates the encouragement of broad based participation in healthy and safe physical activities. Safety on the playground has become a priority for school boards across the country. Most recently a school in Calgary cancelled recesses because of concerns over safety of its students during the play time.

The freedom to play lies at the *heart* of every child and for many children recess is the highlight of their school day. As educators, we should be searching for ways to make our playgrounds safe and enjoyable for our children.

As an active member of the Canadian Intramural Recreation Association of Ontario, I have often been asked to do workshops throughout the province and across Canada. I always make a point to walk around my school yard the day before I leave in order to randomly check on our schools six schlockey games. No matter the time of year, I will inevitably see all six games in use and no less than a dozen other students hovering about waiting their turn, watching, cheering or simply using the area as a meeting and conversation place.

The game works as a positive outlet for energy with busy children less prone to becoming mischievous. It is a *game for everyone*.

Pat Doyle  
1996-98 CIRA Ontario President

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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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<b>Schlockey</b>	A fast paced exciting game that encourages fair play and co-operation.
<b>Schticks</b>	Bladeless hockey stick handles discarded by hockey players and recycled into schlockey schticks. Ends are cut flat and taped. In the age of fibre glass sticks, all wooden sticks can be hard to find. Do not use fibreglass sticks as they will peel after being cut.
<b>Centre Board</b>	The middle point of the arena. The centre board contains two puck ports. These puck ports are located 9" in from the side boards.
<b>Goal</b>	A 3" high x 4" wide opening located in the middle of the end boards.
<b>Playing Area</b>	The area inside the 20' square area marked by the painted lines or cones. The area is occupied only by the two active participants.
<b>Puck Port</b>	The name given to the two 3" high x 4" wide rectangles in the centre board and one at each end.
<b>Side Boards</b>	Standard 2" x 6" board fastened across the arena.
<b>Viewing Area</b>	The location of all spectators and waiting participants outside of a 20' square area marked by a line painted on the tarmac. Cones could also be used to designate the viewing area.
<b>3 And Out</b>	This is a strategy used to give more players an opportunity to play. After 3 wins, the player automatically hands the schlockey schtick off to the next waiting participant.

## OBJECTIVES

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- To have fun
- To encourage sportsmanship and fair play
- To encourage constructive cooperative play
- To provide entertainment and excitement for students at recess, noon hour or other unstructured play times
- To allow participants to use their natural competitive tendencies in a positive way
- To provide opportunities for socializing
- To provide a co-educational activity

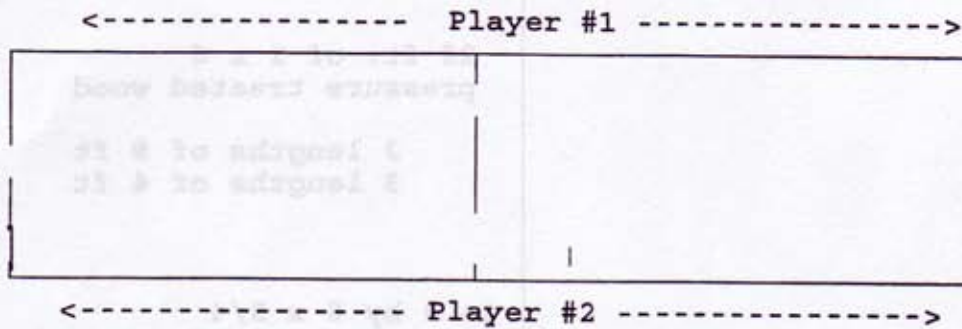
## COMMON SAFETY RULES

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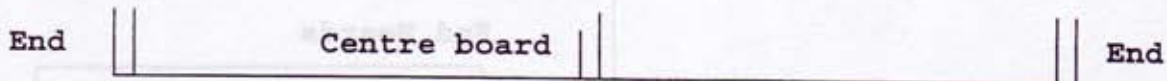
1. There will be **no high sticks, swinging of sticks** or any other abuse of the equipment.
2. Players may play only **one** game and then switch with other players. The only exception is when there is no one waiting in line.
3. There will be **no** jamming of sticks into the holes or blocking of a hole with a stick.
4. No foul language will be tolerated.
5. Good sportsmanship is expected by all participants.

## HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Schlockey is a fast paced, action packed and exciting game played with bladeless "schlockey schticks". The game is played on a 4' by 8' arena. The arena has 6" high side boards, end boards and a centre line or board that contain two puck ports, the openings. Only participating players are allowed in the playing area with spectators and waiting players remaining in the viewing area. **Sticks are old hockey sticks with the blades cut off and the ends taped.**

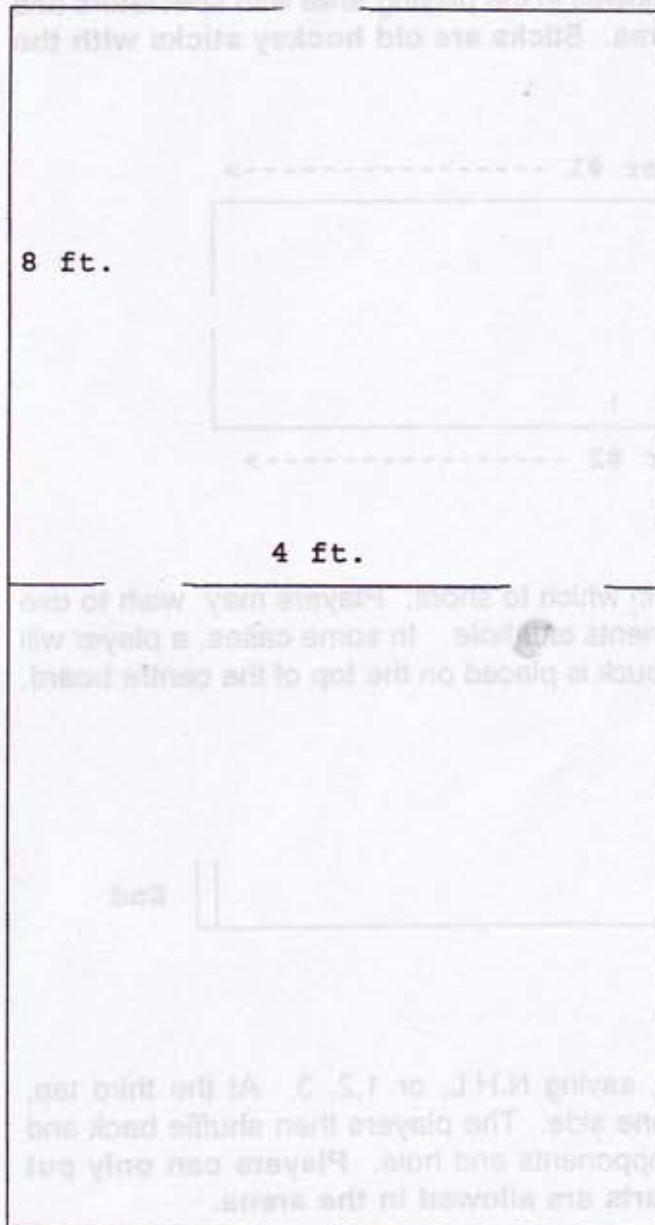


Each player selects a side and a direction in which to shoot. Players may wish to use their forehand for a better shot at the opponents end hole. In some cases, a player will be forced to use their backhand grip. The puck is placed on the top of the centre board.

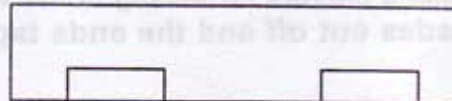


The players then touch sticks three times, saying N.H.L, or 1,2, 3. At the third tap, players go for the puck which will fall into one side. The players then shuffle back and forth trying to shot the puck through their opponents end hole. **Players can only put "SCHTICKS" on the surface. No body parts are allowed in the arena.**

# HOW TO MAKE A SCHLOCKEY GAME



## MIDDLE BOARD



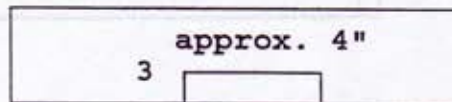
28 ft. of 2 x 6  
pressure treated wood

2 lengths of 8 ft  
3 lengths of 4 ft

1- 4 by 8 x 3/4  
pressure treated plywood

Lots of 3" spiral, galvanized  
nails or screws

## End Boards



## MINI-SCHLOCKEY

Trevor Davies, a teacher at Bridgeport Public School in Waterloo County introduced a version of Schlockey called Mini-Schlockey during a Professional Development day. He was also the first to use screws rather than the 4' spikes in the construction of the game. Using the material for a regular Schlockey game, Trevor was able to make two mini-games and found them most useful on the primary side of his playground.

### How To Build a Mini-Schlockey Game

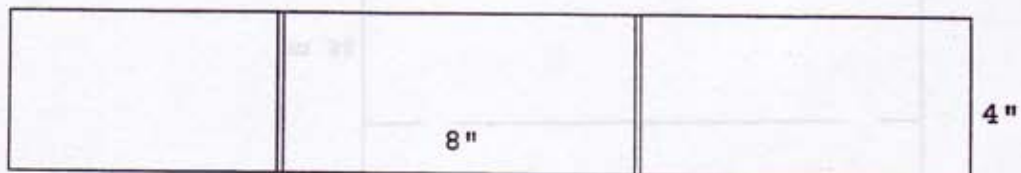
Note: Can make three smaller boards for the price of one large one.

#### MATERIALS:

1. One 4' x 8' x 1/2" sheet of plywood, approximately 42' of 2" x 6" spruce.
2. Lots of arrow 3" wood screws. If smaller diameter screws are used, it is not necessary to drill holes first to prevent wood from splitting.
3. Power screwdriver, jig saw, urethane or pressure treated wood.

#### METHOD:

1. Cut the plywood into 3 equal sheets across the width of the 4 x 8. Then each board will be approximately 4 x 8. Then each board will be approximately 4' x 2.66'.



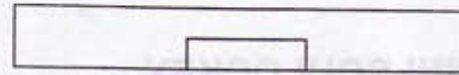
Do not forget to cut the openings for the goals into end and middle pieces with a jigsaw before attaching.



OVERHEAD VIEW



END BOARD

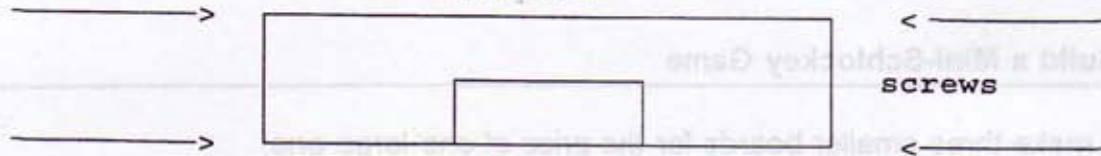


MIDDLE BOARD



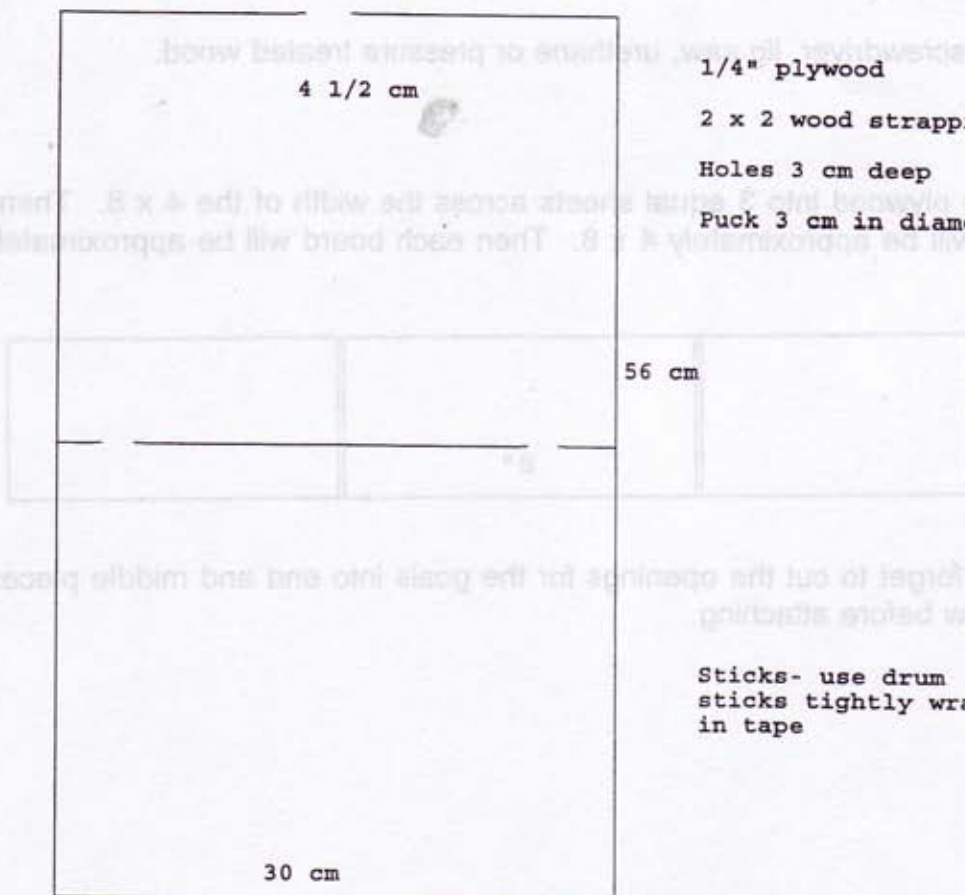
2. 2' by 6' forms the boarder. Screw at each corner form side and around perimeter from bottom ( up through plywood and up into 2' by 6')

END VIEW



## LAP TOP SCHLOCKEY

This mini-version of schlockey was first introduced to by Chris Wilson a Physical Education Teacher who had been using the game for some time. Chris was a handy man in his spare time and came up with this idea after some rainy day recesses.



1/4" plywood

2 x 2 wood strapping

Holes 3 cm deep

Puck 3 cm in diameter

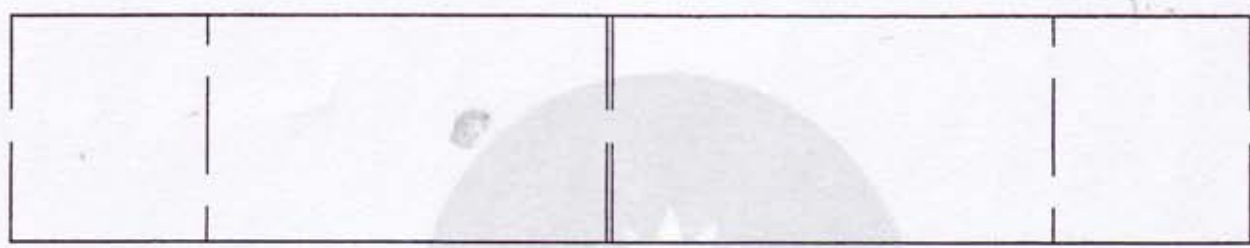
Sticks- use drum  
sticks tightly wrapped  
in tape

## VARIATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. In the wintertime the boards can be leaned against a building at night to avoid snow build up.
2. A bucket of water can be poured on the game to make ice, the puck will respond like a pinball. However, daily maintenance is required since the game not only freezes to the surface preventing it from being moved.
3. Painting a safety zone around the perimeter keeps spectators at a safe distance.
4. Wedges fastened in the corners make a more "rounded game".



5. Two games placed end to end make for a greater challenge and enables two players to play on each of them.

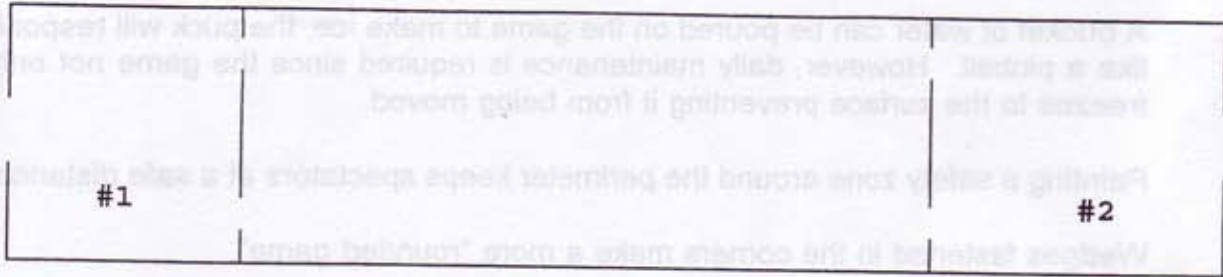


6. If the centre board is removed a game of "shots" can be played.



Players alternate one shot apiece until someone scores. Start on the \*.

7. The game is divided into two boards rather than one, and each end is painted with the logos of the Montreal Canadiens and the Toronto Maple Leafs; half of the bottom piece of plywood is painted blue and the other half red.



CHILDREN A HIT AT K-W SCHOOL

By Gary Nye

Kitchener's Crestview Public School has  
started a new activity.

What's new? A new program.

Great Kitchener's program says

the school activity was held to a

total success in celebrating physical

education. Not to mention how many from those

who are now youngsters who once had a

very good time.

Aggression has once toward in

physical education - that has been sought to

be - it has been varied on small gymnasiums

and where this is often against child where

it and this strength management teaches

they also that attempt to measure a book

of physical education.

Their "activity" - a game that

is held by physical education teachers

and who are introduced to it when the night

highlights public school.

And it has taken the school by storm. In

it you can be the noise that the sound of a

ball will instantly unleash an army of

players who will not hesitate for one of

the activity boards but to grab a ball it

it will inevitably be a group of boys that a

on every afternoon.

What they will watch the two

activity participants face off in the center line,

their sticks three times, and begin another

set. They cheer on their favorite and watch

it move instantly as the players in for the two

it that evokes victory and a challenge from

next-to-the player.

So it goes here. Day in and day out -

physical activity with the ball, evocative

moment of luck and risk on three-quarter

of gymnasiums.

It's a sound heard here throughout the

...the universities now that feature the

one of the morning, millennium after the first

day's peak of the day is dropped would

11:41 a.m.

The "activity" is only for "the year old

scholarship enthusiast David Heston says

and sometimes even laughter. "You get to see  
people that are older than you."

The Grade 4 youngsters in an afternoon

school. During a recent morning session, he was

a number of matches before finally being called

- and forced to wait for his turn again - by an old

student. "You gotta try and trick the guy,"

he says, trying to explain the technique. "You

pretend you're going to shoot it into the hole

the entrance the barrier which contains the

hoop, but you shoot into the other."

Koch and Gillis believed from the day

that activity would catch on - but nothing is

the

More than 200 students participated

the CBL - the Crestview School League. At

one, two weeks after league play ended, the

activity boards, most of them built through the

voluntary efforts of parents, continue to be used

constantly.

"We have more than enough boards

and we're still getting more activity boards, but we

don't have enough to go around. Koch says he

is a fan. "If we could have more boards, it

would be a real treat."

Activity is a new game. It's easy

to try out at various other Ontario schools.

But at Crestview, activity is part of

larger effort to provide more structured physical

education and in the process, curb aggression

throughout aggression.

The year, according to activity, the

school has strong after-club school

participation with the help of the St. John's

Park Olympic Club.

And Koch notes the strategy is

worked that the number of students getting the

involvement has decreased significantly.

"We're simply not seeing some of the

students coming to the office for their

(behavior) we were seeing before," he says.

APPENDIX

## Kitchener-Waterloo Record

October 1993

### SCHLOCKEY A HIT AT K-W SCHOOL

By Gary Nyp

Kitchener's Crestview Public School has gone stark, raving schlockey.

Which isn't a bad thing.

Grant Koch, Crestview's principal, says the school's schlockey ways have led to a marked decrease in rambunctious playground behavior, not to mention fewer visits from those harder-to-handle youngsters who once beat a steady path to his office.

Aggression that once spawned in playground altercations - that staff here sought to curtail - is now being vented on small plywood boards where child is pitted against child, where skill and brute strength manipulate bladeless hockey sticks that attempt to manoeuvre a puck through tiny, strategically placed holes.

That's "schlockey" - a game brought here this year by physical education teacher David Gillies, who was introduced to it when he taught at Bridgeport public school.

And it has taken this school by storm. In fact, you can be the house that the sound of a recess bell will invariably unleash an army of youngsters who will race headlong for one of seven schlockey boards just to grab a spot in what will invariably be a lineup of more than a dozen eager aficionados.

While they wait, they will watch the two schlockey participants face off at the centre line, tap their sticks three times, and begin another match. They cheer on their favorite and watch each move intently as the players vie for the lone goal that ensures victory and a challenge from the next-in-line player.

So it goes here. Day in and day out - the playground echoing with the loud, staccato thumping of puck and stick on three-quarter-inch thick plywood.

It's a sound heard here throughout the day. It's the unmistakable noise that shatters the silence of the morning, milliseconds after the first schlockey puck of the day is dropped around 8:15 a.m.

"This is really fun," nine-year old

schlockey enthusiast David Marchesseault says of the game that attracts both girls and boys - and sometimes even teachers. "You get to beat people that are older than you..."

The Grade 4 youngster is no schlockey slouch. During a recent morning recess, he won a handful of matches before finally being ousted - and forced to wait his turn again - by an older student. "You gotta try and trick the guy," he says, trying to explain his technique. "You pretend you're going to shoot it into one hole (at the denture line barrier, which contains two holes), but you shoot into the other."

Koch and Gillies believed from the start that schlockey would catch on - but nothing like this.

More than 200 students participated in the CSL - the Crestview Schlockey League. And now, two weeks after league play ended, the schlockey boards, most of them built through the volunteer efforts of parents, continue to be used constantly.

"We have more than enough demand to have several more schlockey boards, but we just don't have room to store them," Koch says with a shrug. "If we could have more boards, the lineups would be a little smaller."

Schlockey isn't a new game. It's played by children at various other Waterloo region schools, some of whom also boast leagues.

But at Crestview, schlockey is part of a larger effort to provide more structured group activities and, in the process, curb inappropriate playground aggression.

This year, in addition to schlockey, the school has, among other things, added a basketball court, with the help of the Stanley Park Optimist Club.

And Koch insists the strategy has worked, that the numbers of students getting into trouble has decreased significantly.

"We're simply not seeing some of the students (coming to the office for rowdy behavior) we were seeing before," he says.

**PLAY SCHLOCKEY:** *New craze captures students at Tait Street School*

By Rob Cameron

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When I was first assigned the task of covering the phenomenon known as Schlockey that was taking over the playground of Tait Street Public School, I immediately asked myself: "Schlockey? What's that?"

Nothing could prepare me for the answer. Travelling to Tait School, I sought out the man who was responsible for the Schlockey craze, vice-principal Ian Bowers. By asking questions about the game, I thought I'd have a better understanding of it.

When I was informed that the game involved shooting a hockey puck with a bladeless stick around an arena of wood, I wondered how easy it was to shoot a puck with a deformed stick.

The Vice-Principal expressed his joy at seeing so many kids playing Schlockey every day. "As long as they're not fighting and hurting others."

Soon enough, I joined Bowers on the playground during afternoon recess and was led to the Schlockey arenas: enclosed areas of wooden frames with small openings in the end and centre boards.

As kids from grades one to five stormed the playground, they lined up at the arenas and a few kids held the so-called "schlockey schticks." The players performed a bizarre ritual of tapping their sticks together three times after the puck was placed on the arena's centre board. The tapping was Schlockey's answer to a face-off. With amazing energy, the kids dashed after the puck, shooting it around the wooden arena in the quest for a goal. The sound of puck hitting wood filled the air until it was drowned out by cheers of a kid who had scored.

Weaving my way through the crowd of kids, I asked them why they found Schlockey so appealing.

Confidently, a young girl named Michelle Wilson replied: "I almost always win."

"It's like hockey," I was told by Lindsay Howlett, "You can play against people and win or lose, it's all for fun."

But the simplest and most fitting answer came from Melissa Sellars: "Schlockey is awesome."

Overwhelmed by the enthusiasm the kids put into the game, I decided to try it myself. Big mistake.

Facing a kid half my height, we tapped our sticks together and the puck fell on my side of the arena before I knew it. Defending my

goal, I fought back, but didn't gain much ground. Unable to adjust to the short schlockey schtick, my defense slipped and the puck went through my goal.

Swallowing my pride, after all the game was for fun, I tried another match. Getting a feel for the best way to use the bladeless stick, I was able to take the offense and score.

After playing the game and feeling the adrenaline rush and enjoyment it offered, I finally understood not only how the game was played, but what its appeal was.

Using simple equipment and easy rules, the game was one to be played by all for one sole purpose. To have fun.

**Cambridge Reporter**

April 18, 1995

**SPORT WAS CREATED BACK IN THE 1950s**

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Schlockey is a fast-action game based on hockey. It's played in a 4 foot x 8 foot "arena" of wood, enclosed by 6 inch high boards. A small 3 inch x 4 inch opening in both end boards serves as goal.

The arena is divided in half by the centre line. This board has two more openings known as "puck ports."

A regulation hockey puck must be shot through the goals using bladeless hockey stick handles known as "schlockey schticks."

Two players stand on either side of the arena and a puck is placed on the centre line.

The game begins after the players tap the schticks together three times. The puck falls on either side of the board, and each player scrambles to score on the other's goal.

After a player scores, the loser is replaced by a player who is standing in one of the waiting lines on both sides of the arena. The game of Schlockey itself isn't a new one. The game was founded back in the late 1950's in Waterloo County. A Mennonite teacher noticed that a few of her students were playing hockey too roughly.

The teacher gathered the students and didn't allow them to leave the school until they had designed a game. The game had to use hockey sticks and a puck, be able to be played by boys and girls, but would have no body checking. Most importantly, the game had to be fun.

The for students came up with the game that would later be known as "Schlockey". After disappearing shortly after its creation, the game slowly spread throughout Waterloo Region after being re-introduced to a rural public school in 1989.

Pat Doyle was the physical education teacher at Bridgeport Public School and helped start the public emergence of the game. When colleagues asked about the game, Doyle realized that it needed a name. Since it was popular on playgrounds and its origins were based on hockey, Doyle put the words "school" and "hockey" together to get "schlockey."

## **Northern Life - Sudbury's Community Newspaper**

Wednesday May 18, 1994

### **NEW GAME CATCHING ON LIKE WILDFIRE AT LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL: *Schlockey is action-packed, fun game which can be enjoyed by all children, year-round***

By Keith Lacey

After more than 30 years as a physical education teacher with the Sudbury Board of Education, Dave Amos has seen fads and trends come and go as quickly as children rushing outside for recess.

But there's a new game in town, Amos figures hundreds, if not thousands, of Sudbury and area school children are going to eat up once they try it.

The name of the game is "Schlockey" and it was invented by an Ontario teacher named Pat Doyle, who introduced it to various physical education teachers at a conference in Orillia two years ago.

Amos, Physical Education Consultant with the Sudbury Board of Education, is currently introducing this new game at several local elementary schools.

And so far, the response has been nothing short of remarkable, said Amos.

"It's a great game because virtually anyone can play it, it's a good fitness activity, it's easy to play with only a few rules and it's just a blast for the kids," he said. "They really do love it and I'm hoping more and more kids will be given the opportunity to try it out".

Schlockey is a fast-paced, action-packed and exciting game, where participants stand on the opposite side of a 4 x 8 four "Schlockey arena", which comes with six-inch high side and end boards and a centre board across the middle, which has two holes or "puck ports" in the centre and one at each end.

As in hockey, goals can only be scored by depositing a regulation puck in the end holes.

The only equipment needed are regulation hockey pucks and old hockey sticks, with the blades cut off and the ends of the stick taped.

Two players play at a time and remain standing throughout play on opposite sides of the board.

After knocking their sticks against each other three times, the players go to it knocking the puck off the centre board and trying to stick handle the puck into scoring position and depositing the puck through the end hole. The defensive player tried to block the puck from going in the end puck port and getting into the offensive zone so he or she can score.

The defensive player can only go on the offensive after manouevering the puck through one of the two centre holes and then trying to score through the end hole in the offensive zone.

Because the game is so new, various schools have set up their own rules and players often play until a goal is scored or after one or two minutes, depending on the age and stamina of the players, said Amos.

"The game looks pretty simple, but it actually takes quite a bit of skill to stick handle the puck and try and score," he said. "It's also a good workout for the upper body because the kids are really moving around".

"More than anything, it's just plain fun. I've watched many children playing this game in the past couple of months and they really love it".

Because so much physical energy is exerted, players only have to play a minute or two before they get tired and the next two players can step in and take over, making it a mass participation sport at virtually no cost, said Amos.

"All it takes to make a playing surface is a piece of plywood and some two x six," he said. "It only costs about \$65 to make a board and it will last forever".

"It's also a non-violent sport with no body contact and that is something I personally think we need more of, especially for younger school children".

If the popularity keeps growing Amos believes there could be leagues for individual and team play up and running among elementary schools as soon as the next school year.

For the children at Jeanne Sauve Public School who were enjoying a game of Schlockey Monday afternoon, the game is every bit as much fun as Amos is promoting it as-and more.

Amos' goal is to have every school in the public board system at least try the game within the next few months.