

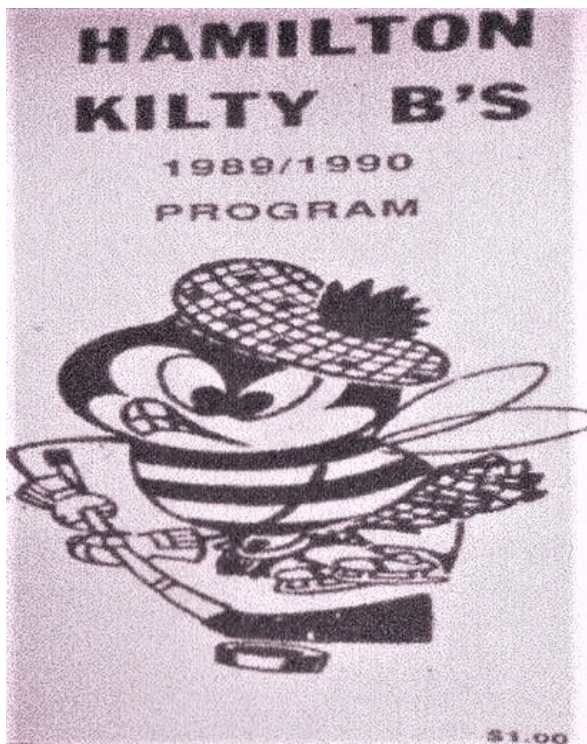
#117 Mtn. Mem. The Kilty B's  
THE MOUNTAIN'S HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT  
by Robert Williamson.

The purpose of this story, promoted by Jo Brouwer, is to enrich Hamilton's Mountain heritage. At this time of year, the world goes wild over hockey playoffs, so we should focus on the Mountain's Dave Andreychuk Arena and our Kilty B's Junior Hockey team. According to their president, Mountain resident, Mike Spadafora, this Mountain team is about to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as one of Hamilton and the area's oldest Junior "B" hockey teams established in 1973.

You may recall some of the other team names of that era: Hamilton Cubs, Burlington B's, Burlington Mohawks, Burlington Industrials, Hamilton Aerovox, Hamilton Mountain B's, Fincup B's and Burlington Cougars to name a few. Games were usually played at the Hamilton Forum and Barton Street was known as one of the toughest streets in Canada.

The Kilty B's team moved into the Mountain Arena in 1977 when it was known as the Hester Street Arena. The team name originated with the Scottish ancestry of the team's sports medicine practitioners, Bob McMillan. Because of the team's popularity the wooden benches were replaced by single blue seats transferred from the Toronto Exhibition Stadium during renovations for the Blue Jays 1977 inaugural season.

In 1986 the Kilty B's switched their primary colors to Boston Bruins yellow and black and regularly drew 2,000 fans per game, winning the Golden Horseshoe junior championship in 1992-3 and the Ontario Provincial Junior "A" Title in 1993-94.



Several hockey legends have been associated with the team over the years. Hockey broadcasting legend Ron McClean refereed several of their games, Don Cherry was often seen scouting at rink side and Gordie Howe was a ceremonial guest when the team became part of the Red Wing organization in 2002 and won the league championship in 2006-07.



The Kilty B's name returned in 2018 when Mike Spadafora took over as president and the team became an affiliate of the OHL's Bulldogs. Their winning ways returned in 2022 capturing the Golden Horseshoe and Ontario Junior Hockey League Championship and the Golden Horseshoe in 2023. The team has also proven to be a destination for hockey development, annually turning over a large portion of their roster. Mike Spadafora's input helped make this story possible.

*Mountain Memories by award winning writer Robert Williamson of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society appears monthly to preserve Hamilton's Local Heritage.*