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Georgetown hero to get a Medal of Bravery

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Georgetown Gemini

Georgetown's Adam Forrest is both a hero and a good luck fishing talisman to his uncle Floyd Foster.

Two years ago Forrest saved his uncle's life and now both are planning a trip to Ottawa this fall when Forrest will receive a Medal of Bravery for his act of heroism.

Forrest, now 20, was fishing with his uncle at Washdale Falls, north of Washago on July 23, 1994 when Foster got caught in an undertow and was pulled into a whirlpool.

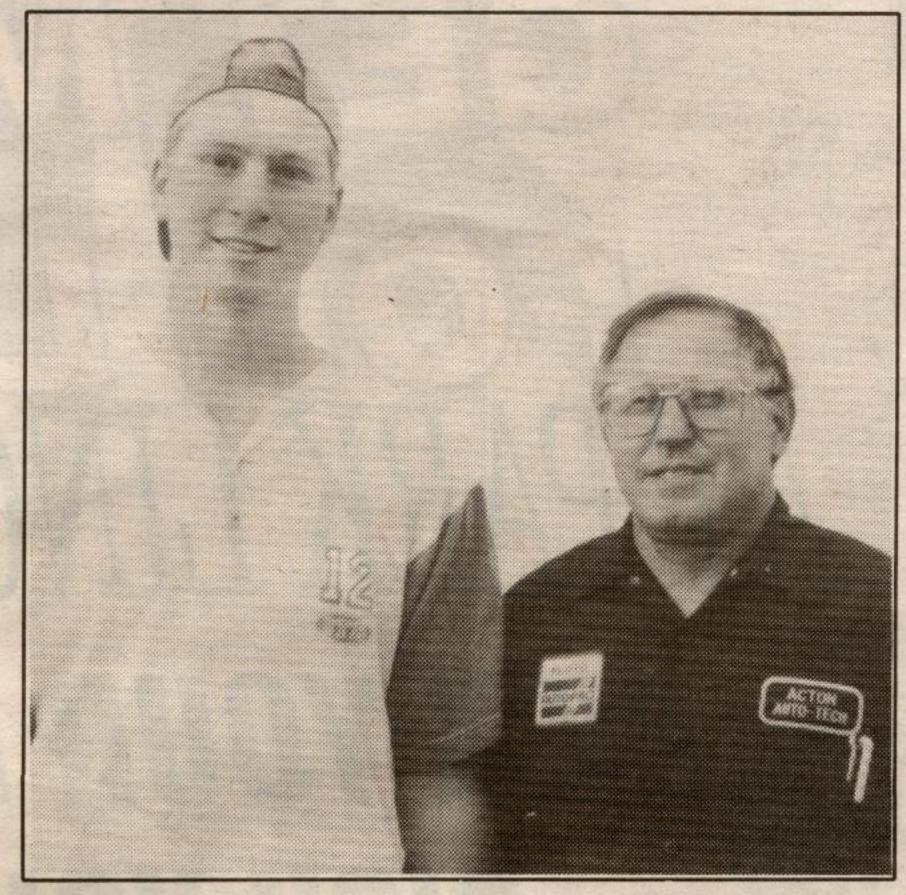
Forrest says he didn't think

– he just jumped in to try to
save his uncle.

"I just grabbed for him – the current pulled him away twice, but I managed to find him again and pull him to shore," Forrest explains.

"To me he's a hero," Foster insists.

"I was gone and he kept trying to find me. When I was unconscious I was on a whitecloud and it was like a neardeath experience, but Adam pulled me back," Foster recounts, noting that he quickly



MEDAL OF BRAVERY: Hero Adam Forrest with his uncle Floyd Foster, who he saved from drowning.

What Are You Doing?

The Gem wants news about your community group!

recovered in hospital.

Although the incident occurred two years ago, just weeks ago Forrest received a letter from Prime Minister Jean Cretien officially notifying him that he will receive a Medal of Bravery, one of 18 being handed out this year by Governor General Romeo Leblanc.

"Getting that letter in the mail was pretty cool and I'm excited. I'm not going to brag, but when I opened the letter I

thought 'right on,'" says Forrest.

Both Foster and Forrest, fishing buddies for at least 10 years, say the incident made their already close relationship even closer.

"Uncle Floyd says he wants to take me on more fishing trips - just in case," Forrest says.

No word if they will take their poles when they head to Ottawa this fall for the award ceremony.

Towntrack ranking dismissed

A Provincial official has dismissed a private firm's benchmark ranking which showed Halton Hills at 78th on a list of 94 Ontario municipalities.

Ward 2 Councillor Rob Heaton delivered the study to the *Gemini* and suggested the Town needed to do some economic development work.

Nancy Bardecki, Municipal Affairs and Housing Finance Director said the Towntrack benchmark ranking was "badly done" and that the Municipal Finance Officers Association first alerted her to Towntrack last year, indicating that the company's work was "dangerous" because it was "done badly and that the data was mis-used."

Bardecki said that Towntrack used an annual Financial Information Return (FIR), financial information reported to the Ministry, to base its indicators on, but that "the FIR data is not comparable among municipalities because of the wide variety of methods used to report their finances."

"You just can't take the FIR data and divide it among the number of households and use the result as a reliable benchmark indicator."

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