

GRAPE VINE

Legion awarded Air Cadet honours

The Georgetown Legion Branch 120 did such a good job sponsoring the 756th Georgetown Air Cadet Squadron that it won the Ed Christensen Memorial Trophy, presented yearly to the top squadron sponsoring committee in the Niagara-Hamilton-Halton area by the Cadet's provincial executive.

The Legion's support helped the squadron almost double in size to 69 cadets this year so there was a full house at the Legion Thursday night when the award was presented during the Air Cadet's annual parent-cadet dinner.

Sponsor Committee chair Joe Poirier, who accepted the award, recently was recognized by the Ontario Provincial Committee of the Air Cadet League of Canada for his 25 years of dedicated service to the Georgetown Squadron.

Applications for Mar. '97 exhibit

"Healthy Halton Hills: It takes a whole community to raise a family," is the theme for the annual open house showcasing agencies and organizations serving Halton Hills.

It will be held at the Georgetown Marketplace on Mar. 1, 1997 and is organized by the Halton Hills Co-operative Program Planning Committee.

Applications for booth space have been mailed to previous participants.

If your club, organization, charity, agency or team has not yet received the application form and information package, you may obtain one by calling 873-2601, Ext. 263.

Town proclaims Youth Appreciation Week

The Town of Halton Hills has proclaimed that the week of Nov. 11-18 be "Youth Appreciation Week" as per a request by the Optimist Club of Georgetown.

Youths under consideration for an award are evaluated on a variety of criteria: scholastic achievements, religious activities, handicrafts and hobbies, community sports activities, activities which were community, church or service club sponsored, clubs, community work and family contributions.

Youth Appreciation Week has grown into one of the Optimist Club's successful activities, arriving in Georgetown in 1977, a result of the efforts of local Optimist Bob Christie.

Fitness leaders course

The Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks department has announced some fall programs for residents.

Fitness Workshop - Applied Anatomy for Fitness Leaders: This workshop has been designed for fitness leaders and other leaders in physical activity who wish to increase their knowledge and ability to apply anatomy, physiology and movement mechanics to exercise design.

Fee: \$68.50
Location: Georgetown District High School
Dates: Nov. 26 & 28.
Time: 6:30 to 10 pm.
For more information, call Recreation and Parks at 873-2601, Ext. 276.

The Big Smoke: who'd guess?

Your faithful observer of the passing scene has recently noted an item for discussion.

A recent trend in the entertainment business in the good ol' USA has brought forth something called 'The Cigar Bar.'

These cigar bars are night clubs - people congregate in these clubs to smoke cigars, drink cocktails, listen to sweet music, talk and dance.

Many of the trendy show biz stars have taken up smoking cigars in public.

Can you imagine? And ladies, too! Of all things! Smoking cigars is apparently now acceptable to the public and it is reported that some stars, like Tom Selleck, who have smoked cigars for some years, have now come out of the closet - so to speak.

By-the-way, we must discuss the size of these closets some time. They must be huge, because every time you turn around, there is another social or unsocial item that has come out of one of these

Only in Georgetown



With Bill Ellis

mammoth closets.

The greatest cigar smoker of all time, the venerable George Burns, would most likely say, "What's the big deal? Doesn't everybody smoke a cigar?"

Pat used to tell me that I was out of touch on these trendy things. Maybe so, but I still think it would be disconcerting for a young gallant to land a date with his dream girl, then have her offer to share her humidor of Cuban Cheroots.

Surely she would not bite off the end of the cigar and spit it out like some old-time cigar smoker.

Most likely a new industry has already been established to manufacture dainty little cigar clippers, with maybe a grand diamond or

ruby setting.

I bet this will be the most popular "cool" gift for your femme fatale this Christmas.

I am told that the best cigars are hand rolled in Cuba. Now, just explain to me how all these quality Cuban cigars are getting into the USA, considering all the US embargoes against Cuba.

A thought occurs - maybe the same tractor-trailer drivers that bring the cheap, contraband US liquor into Canada are taking the Cuban cigars back to the States. The economics of transport dictates that a rig has to be loaded both ways.

Boy, those folks in Cornwall sure know how to make a buck!

In the meantime, it is socially acceptable for you to smoke a cigar in public, but don't blame me if you get tossed out of the Georview!

Bill Ellis is an Associate Broker with Johnson Associates Halton Ltd., Realtor, in Georgetown.

HEY! Remembrance Day: what does it mean to you?



"Remembrance Day is just that: a day to honour the memories of the men who

went and didn't come back and those who were injured."

S.A.C. Ed Culerhouse, (Ret'd), Royal Air Force, 1948-54



"To me it's about remembering all the boys that went overseas and

never came back. I knew quite a few of those boys."

Pipe Cpl. Charles Valentine (Ret'd), Lorne Scots, 1937-46



"It's necessary. If you've never gone through a war then you can only go

through the memories."

Sgt. Harry Bottoms (Ret'd), Royal Army (Black Watch), 1939-45

Will ours be the generation to drop the torch?

As I'm writing this the sun is setting on another Remembrance Day. I fear the sun may be setting on the whole tradition. Are we fumbling the torch passed on to us by our parents?

Last Sunday was one of the nicest parade days I can remember. As the final few notes of the Last Post sounded, the sun broke through the clouds. The flags, the Legion members, the vets (fewer each year) and the children stood reverently for the familiar ceremony. As we marched off, I noticed that the crowd seemed smaller this year. Is Remembrance Day going to survive the '90s? It's up to us and we're running out of time.

If you talk to a veteran about it, their eyes often cloud over and they wonder why people don't seem to care any more. For them, the memories are personal and vivid. Obviously the war has been over for 50 years, but has the sacrifice our troops made been diminished by the passage of time? I hope not.

I can still remember my family telling war tales. Not about the battles, but about the adventure, the loneliness and how difficult life was

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



here. My Mom would tell me how gut-wrenching it was to go through the lists in the newspaper and find one of her friends named. My earliest recollections are of my parents and teachers stressing the debt of gratitude I owed to everyone who served. Those who gave up their lives were to be remembered forever. It was a trust given to my generation. It wasn't an optional thing.

So what happened? How did we get to the point where, with the exception of the vets who have never broken faith with fallen comrades, we can only get a few hundred souls out for Remembrance Day on a dry, relatively warm day?

Obviously, part of the problem is with us, the parents. If we don't take the time to teach our kids the importance of those long-ago events, why

should Remembrance Day seem important to them? We have to build a bridge to the present. It has to be explained that our victory in Europe has resulted in 50 years of peace and prosperity.

I think the school boards are fumbling the torch. All school boards should demand that students in all grades take the time to understand what our troops did for us in far-away battlefields. This is not to say we should be glorifying war. Exactly the opposite. The remaining vets are the consummate experts on the futility of war and its terrible costs. We should be using this resource to teach our children while we still can.

I was furious at the indifference shown by the schools in Halton to the 50th Anniversary of V.E. Day. The children of the Netherlands show more respect for our glorious dead than the vast majority of Canadian kids do.

I applaud the six public schools and two Catholic schools who supported the Georgetown Legion's Remembrance Day poster contest. Evidently, one school declined. All schools now have parent councils.

Perhaps these councils should be taking a look at next year's participation. Why should any school decline?

Participation by Acton schools was good - individual principals and teachers appear to be making the effort to keep Remembrance Day alive. How long will this continue, however, if the Boards don't supply the resources and determination to honour our glorious dead?

The Ontario school boards showed no hesitation to scare the hell out of several generations of kids by exposing them to the imminent destruction of our society through nuclear holocaust. Why won't they teach the positive results of the war?

The Halton Board is quoted saying they don't endorse poster contests, so as to "reduce the impact on classroom time and resources taken up by such contests." Pardon? There is no time to celebrate 50 years of peace? This is no ordinary group asking for the school board's participation. There's no personal or monetary gain involved for the Legion. The argument that, should the Board endorse the Legion, they

would be obligated to participate in numerous contests with other organizations is specious at best, and deceptive at worst. If the trustees of the boards can't see the difference between a Remembrance Day project and other contests, perhaps they should step aside in favour of others who can, and who are not so timid to set priorities for our children.

The statement that "our students have a wide range of skills and abilities that are not always able to be reflected or appreciated in a contest atmosphere" substantially underestimates the ability of our kids to learn about and appreciate one of the most monumental events in our history. Somebody has a lot to learn here - and it's not just the kids. These people make me want to gag.

I hope all the politicians will remember the indifferent attitude shown by the Halton Board to the Legion's effort to keep Remembrance Day alive in the eyes of our children.

Mike O'Leary is a columnist for The Georgetown Gemini.