

Teen Outlook

Reunion Snowfest



GDHS report

JAMIE HARRISON
Herald Special

Did you know that Georgetown District High School is getting a new all-weather track? This is only fitting seeing as the Rebels cross-country team has won the OFSAA title umpteen times in recent years. This is just part of the renovations that will be taking place at GDHS in order to spruce it up for the Centennial Celebration in 1987.

The Georgetown District High School Centennial Celebrations are in full swing, this Saturday, staff and students, both past and present, will take part in the Snowfest to be held at Terra Cotta Conservation Area. This will entail skiing, tobogganing, and various other winter associated

activities. For further information call 877-5966.

Monday Feb. 2 Georgetown District High School officially went smoke-free. This was done in an effort to "extinguish" smoking altogether at GDHS. The student common area (formerly known as the smoking area) has now been made into an area designed for students to congregate and socialize outside of the classroom setting.

The decision to ban smoking at GDHS is not one of impulsiveness made by Georgetown High's Principal Barb Singleton, but, rather one of which a great deal of thoughts has gone into in decision which is now being used at a Peel high school.

When I first entered Georgetown District High in September of 1984, smoking was forbidden on school property by anyone who had not yet reached the age of 16, a rule which was not enforced by staff to any great extent. By the time I entered Grade 10, ninth grade students were banned from the smoking area. This year from September to the end of January, students in both grade nine and ten were now banned from using

the Smoking Area. As of Feb. 2, at 8 a.m., Georgetown District High School had officially gone butt-free in hopes of reducing, and possibly even eliminating, smoking by students at GDHS.

To coincide with the smoking ban, and to help those staff and students who want to quit, to butt-out, the school is now offering a Smoke-Enders style clinic in which interested staff and students offer each other moral support in overcoming their vices.

Now, some people may find the whole concept to be rather unfair and unconstitutional, just as some students who were dismayed and even outraged by the situation, not so much by the actual closing of the smoking area, but by the fact that staff are still permitted to smoke in the staffroom. "It is unfair that the teachers are allowed to smoke in the staffroom, and us not being allowed to smoke in the area designated for us," declared one smoker dismayed at the thought of not being allowed to smoke on school property. "Smoking is the individual's freedom of choice," was the opinion stated by Bobbie Matchett, an ex-smoker.

As an ex-smoker myself (I have recently celebrated my third month smoke-free), I tend to greet this decision to ban smoking at Georgetown District High School with mixed feelings. On the one hand, I feel the majority should not have to suffer for the vices of a shrinking minority, but, on the other hand I feel this should be a matter of personal choice (eg. would you not become upset if you were told you could not do your favorite activity, buy your favorite brand of beverage, listen to certain forms of music etc...because some people find it to be offensive? I should think so! It contradicts the very morals this nation and all other "free" nations were built on).

Congrats to the Georgetown District High School Rebels swim team! They placed a close second behind rivals, Queen Elizabeth Park High School, led by coaching team of Bray, King and Vella. Good luck at the Hamilton-Haltos this Thursday. Go Rebels!

Two GDHS bands will be taking part in the High School Star Search Contest 'Battle of the Bands' being sponsored by Toronto Rocks, and Pizza Pizza: featuring First Class and Tempest. Good luck guys, show 'em Georgetown knows how to rock!

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Comeback for mom



AHS report

By HEATHER QUINN
Herald Special

The great thing about Acton High, and all high schools, is that the opportunities are open to anyone. This year our school has 15 adult students: the highest number in its history. Coming back is pretty difficult, but the adults think the students at Acton High are terrific.

Marie Zions, mother of four former students, came back this year to complete her Grade 12, and has applied to different colleges to study nursing. Although Mrs. Zions said it took a lot of guts to open the front door the first day, she loves coming here and really thinks the teenagers of today are intelligent.

She also says she has a lot of sympathy for teens, and knows what it feels like to have a pile of homework! Mrs. Zions' marks are good and she is also an active participant in the coming school play "Preppies". Mrs. Zions plays the part of Marie Pantry. She is also very pleased with the teaching staff and thinks they are a real credit to the community.

The Lions Club is selling solid chocolate Easter Bunnies for \$3 each in the heartpit. Proceeds go to the Club. The students decided to do the selling because of all the wonderful things the Lions Club does for the high school. It's the students' way of saying "thank you".

Feb. 16-22 has officially been proclaimed as Heritage Week in Ontario. The school has gotten into the spirit by displaying a little of Acton's past in the Library. Antiques include a 100 year old dress, an 85 year old Christening gown and a 1920's friendship blanket.

The school is still looking for articles to display, so if you have some old photos or objects lying around the attic, dig them up and bring them in. It's an interesting way of teaching history!

There is a very unique and special group in the Acton High School that few people know about. The group helps teenagers deal with the tragedy of death. The group is headed by Marg Tamblyn, a Counsellor at Acton High. On Thursday two students will travel to the CTV studios in Toronto to tape a talk show on the group. The group was started in November and has helped many teens deal with the loss of friends and relatives. The plan is to get a group like this going in each and every high school in Ontario.

In sports action the Acton High Senior Girls Volleyball team competed on Feb. 12 at E.C. Drury High School in Milton. The girls won three games to zero with scores of 15-6,

15-9 and 15-13. On Feb. 17 the girls travelled to the Lord Elgin Bur Bear Volleyball Tournament and came home victorious. The girls beat MM Robinson in the semi-finals and then competed against Milton for the finals. Winning scores were 2-15, 15-8 and 15-13. Congratulations ladies!

The Junior Girls Volleyball team was also in the winning spirit after taking on Loyola High School. The girls defeated Loyola two games to one. Winning scores were 9-15, 15-13 and 15-7. Outstanding players for Acton were Lisa Nadhazi and Lesia Shrubsole who displayed great team spirit and control.

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