

EDITORIAL

From the desk of the late Hartley Coles

Family, home attacked

In a bid for more focus on home economics in secondary schools, home economics educators in Ontario note that the United Nations set aside May 15 as the International Day of Families. It's a propitious time, families are under attack despite the fact cultures around the world view the family as the basic unit of society.

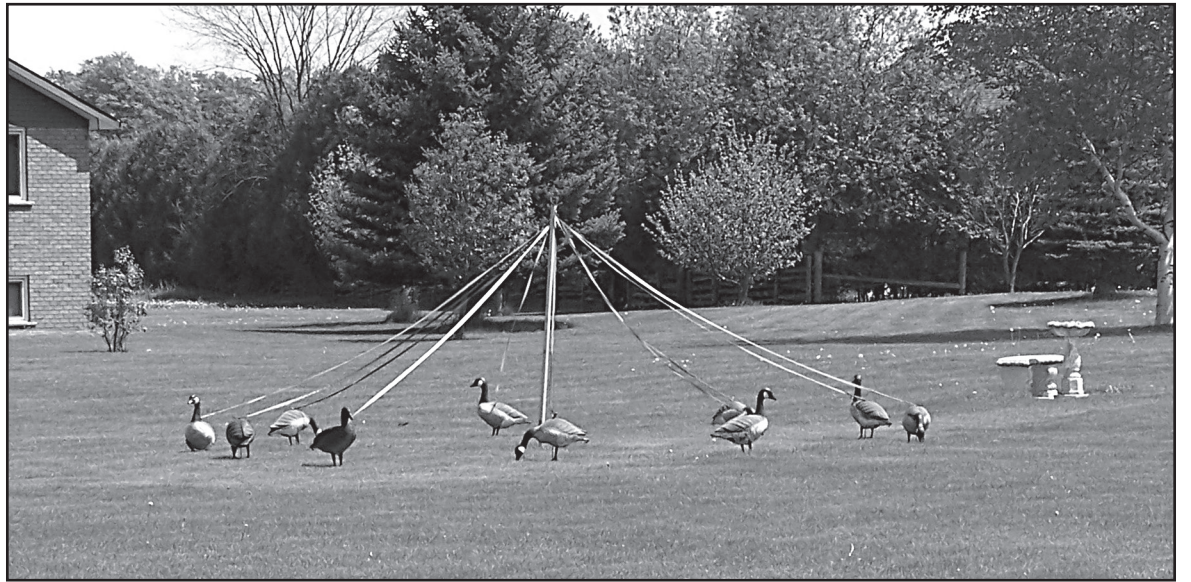
The educators point out the family unit is continually weakened by domestic violence, pressures of increased economic and market demands, unemployment, obesity, illness and other factors which the movement to high-tech and out-of-home experiences does little to alleviate. They suggest our frenetic lifestyles crave the return of home-cooked meals and the "embrace of family at the end of a day."

They acknowledge that the word "home" offends some people, conjuring up images of oppression, ignorance and inequality. However, the educators ask: "Where should we look forward to going at the end of a day's work or study? Where should we spend time with our families? And where do we choose to invest most of our earned income? The answer is obvious. Of course, it's the home. There's no reasonable substitute.

The teachers think the answer to the problems besetting today's families could be solved with more emphasis on family studies in the schools. "Family studies classes have never been more important," they say.

Education is indeed part of the answer. However, to safeguard families and the home, Canadians who value home and family life and can see the social costs of either ignoring or promoting contrary values, should be on the offensive against the factors which war against stable home life.

The family is the basic unit of society. Strong families make for a strong country. Canada was never stronger than when the home was considered the most important component of this country.



MERRY MAYPOLE: A sure sign of spring as the Rockwood geese have returned in spite of the local road construction. - Marie Shadbolt photo

Letters

An accident waiting to happen...

To the Editor,

I'm fed up, and I have to vent. I challenge your reporters to set up shop for 30 minutes on Churchill Road North, in the vicinity of Tanner's Road from 8:30 to 9 a.m. It would blow your mind! If the teachers at MSB think they have a problem on Acton Boulevard, you ought to write about the irresponsible parents now dropping their children off on Churchill Road.

Just what is wrong with some of our Acton parents? I suppose as a result of the parking attendants at MSB school, and the recent story of the children being injured by vehicles in the vicinity of the school, a large number of parents are now delivering their precious cargo to the school, via Churchill Road North.

In the past three days, I have witnessed at least 10 vehicles, dropping their children at

the side of the road, in one instance, the parent opened the sliding door of the van and the children just ran from the open door, in front of traffic going north and south bound. All drivers hit the brakes, screeching rubber. What is wrong with these parents? Have they no regard for the safety of their own children, let alone the drivers who have to suddenly hit the brakes? Perhaps these children need to be taken away from these irresponsible parents for their own safety. Are these not children at risk.

I sound like a cranky ole' fart, but I'm not really. I just fed up with what Acton has become in the past few years and what some parents and some of their children, are doing to this lovely community. Why did they move here in the first place? I bet it was the small

class size, the multitude of outdoor sports, our churches, our community clubs, and our sense of small time rural community, then why, if they hate living in this slow paced community, why don't they go back from whence they came and leave us to our peaceful, enjoyable little community, our pride in our small class sizes, our pride in the multitude of outdoor sports, our pride in our churches, our pride in our community clubs, and the peace and tranquility they so desperately wanted at one time. Now we have to content with speeding parents, mostly mom's I might add, who don't seem to give a damn about who they hurt, injure or what lesson they are teaching their precious little cargo.

Regards
Heather Savard
Acton, ON

Looking Back

Ten Years Ago

• The Feds agreed to match \$1.7-million in Ontario SuperBuild funding for the \$11.3-million Georgetown South community centre.

• A consistent level of superior customer satisfaction, savvy business practice and strong sales earned Achilles Mazda another Dealer of Distinction award.

Five Years Ago

• Acton High School students ranked 271st of Ontario's 719 English and French public and separate secondary students, according to the Fraser Institute report.

• Acton's John Eddolls, former Town swim instructor and world lifesaving medal winner, appeared in the film *Victor* that chronicles the life of the later Victor Davis, a two-time Gold medal Olympian.



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