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The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

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A wee bit o' Irish

It didn't take much searching for photographer Ted Brown to find a "wee leprechaun" to grace the front of today's paper. Protecting her "pot

o' gold" with her shillelagh, Maggie Brown has her own reason for an annual celebration on St. Patrick's Day: it's her birthday.

TED BROWN Halton Hills Weekend

Back from the Gulf, first stop: McDonalds

By JANET BAINE

Tom Gale lost 25 lbs when he was fighting the war in the Persian Gulf.

On his first day back, he and some other soldiers went to McDonalds, his mother Marilyn said.

"He could buy pizza there in town, but they couldn't have meat and cheese on it at the same time," she said.

Tom Gale, 31, left for the Gulf last August and was among the first 85 Canadians to return home on March 2. Tom is posted in British Columbia and he only had a brief stop-over in Ontario before heading home to his family.

Marilyn said her son has two week off to spend time with his wife and three children.

Knowing that Tom is home safe and healthy is a huge relief for Marilyn, who says of all her children, she is closest to her son Tom. They've spoken on the phone six or seven times since he's come back, she said.

Other homecomings she has watched on television have brought tears to Marilyn's eyes, since they bring back memories, like the return of her own husband, a paratrooper in the Korean War.

"I remember when my cousins came back from World War II. I hung around with them when we were kids and one came home missing an eye," she said. "This time they came back healthy and none of them were hurt."

While Tom wasn't hurt, Marilyn said it will likely take him some time to recover from his experience. He jumps six feet every time the phone rings or there is a loud noise, she said.

"It takes a toll on the whole family having their father away," Gale said. One son was misbehaving and had to have a serious chat with his grandfather, Marilyn said.

Tom's 3 year-old daughter Krystal began screaming when Tom left the house to drive another relative home: she was afraid he wouldn't come back again.

Tom called his mom three times last weekend, and mostly talked about his family, she said. He still hasn't told her much about what he was doing or the experiences he had in the Gulf. He is a vehicle mechanic with the army and was in Bahrain. Some scud missiles were directed there, so sirens went off at times.

Marilyn hoped he would come home to Georgetown for his sister's wedding in May, but now Tom doesn't think he will be able to.

Marilyn will always remember the kindness of strangers during her son's absence. One woman she didn't know gave her a yellow rose when she heard Tom had returned. Others stopped to talk, to ask questions and show their support when he was away.

Boudreau sentenced Monday

By STEVEN LEBLANC

Brian Boudreau testified at provincial court March 6 that he now regrets taking his four-year-old son Luke away from his mother but that his actions were done in the interest of the child.

Boudreau pleaded guilty last month to charges of abducting his son and breach of probation. He was charged last October after he and Luke were discovered by authorities in Hawaii and sent back to Canada. Last April, Luke was not returned home after a weekend visit with his father.

During his testimony, Boudreau explained he was in a "confused state of mind" during the abduction.

As well, he said he feels regret for separating the boy from his mother, Janet Cipryk, and that during the abduction in Hawaii, he would often cry at night while watching his son sleep.

Boudreau contends that he has had several attacks on his life since being in jail. Prior to the abduction, he had been on probation for assaulting his stepson Josh, Cipryk's 14-year-old son from her previous marriage.

While on the stand, Janet Cipryk explained she first became aware that her son was missing through a letter delivered by a stranger. She says the letter was from her husband and stated that he had Luke and that if she didn't call the police she would receive a call in a few weeks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Sunday Brunch

The Tradition Continues

A casual relaxing mid-day meal among family and friends is a delightful activity for many on Sunday.

The cosy, country setting offers a warm and inviting feeling for your gathering.

For your enjoyment our chef prepares new & seasonal breakfast specialties each Sunday.

Traditional favorites include our carving

station and the popular Create Your Own Omelette Station.

Plus - fresh made waffles, a selection of country breads, fresh fruits and berries, pastries from *Dufflets*. Fruit Juices, homemade desserts and other creations to please your palate.

The tradition continues Sundays, at Jack Tanner's Table.



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