

Georgetown hosting top aikido experts this weekend

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to the Independent/Free Press

A special bond between the communities of Halton Hills and Tokyo, Japan was formed this week through the 'modern martial art' - Aikido.

This week the Halton Hills community and local Aikido program have been honored with a week-long visit by Chida Sensei, a 7th degree blackbelt and chief instructor at the International Yoshinkan Aikido headquarters in Japan.

During his visit to our community (from October 16 to 26), Chida Sensei made his own contribution to the beautification of Halton Hills in the form of cherry trees.

He and members of the local Aikido club joined Mayor Russ Miller for a special Cherry Tree Planting Ceremony last Monday morning at the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

This planting ceremony marks the establishment of a park of twenty trees dedicated to Japan/Canada Friendship, World Peace and Yoshinkan Aikido. Five trees were planted this year and a total of 20 trees will be planted over a five year period.

The trees were planted close to the picnic tables near the back of the Civic Centre where many of the Town's employees eat lunch in the spring and summer. A special plaque commemorating this event

will accompany the trees.

"This will be a beautiful addition to our Town's facilities," said Mayor Russ Miller, "This is a very nice gesture, I'm very pleased."

During Chida Sensei's visit with Mayor Miller, the two exchanged various gifts including a town pin and button presented to Chida Sensei and a copy of the International Yoshinkan Aikido Federation magazine given to Mayor Miller.

Mayor Miller has been very supportive of the local Aikido program since its inception almost three years ago and was warmly thanked for his efforts during the visit.

On this trip to oversee one of the branch clubs of the martial art,

Chida Sensei will also be part of demonstrations at the club this Sunday (October 25) from 12 - 1 p.m. Top Aikido instructors from across North America will be travelling to Georgetown this weekend for this opportunity. The local club is located 150 Armstrong Avenue, Unit 9 (behind Home Hardware).

The local club now includes 70 members and is headed up by instructors Alister Thomson, Fred Haynes and Cathy Croke.

"This visit by Chida Sensei is extremely important to us as well as instructors across North America," said Mr. Haynes, "Many of these instructors can't travel to Japan, so in a way Japan has come to us."

This is Chida Sensei's second trip to Canada and the Halton Hills community. He came here last February when the program was still being held at Stewarttown Public School.

"This community is very quiet and very nice," he stated.

Chida Sensei has been studying Yoshinkan Aikido for 23 years, two years as a regular student and 21 as an instructor.

He was a 'live in student' for 13 years and worked as an 'Apprentice to the Master'. He explains that Aikido includes both physical and spiritual training that people can take and apply to other parts of their lives.

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HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

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Spooky Splash

Join us at the two Halton Hills Indoor Pools Saturday, Oct. 31, 2-4 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for best Halloween bathing suit (please decorate with items that won't pollute the pool).

World Cup

Canada will battle with Jamaica in World Cup Soccer qualifying action Sunday, November 1 at Toronto's Varsity Arena and George Baines has just the ticket for you.

Soccer fans are invited to contact Baines at 877-5573 or 877-0472 if they are interested in attending the qualifying contest for the 1994 World Cup.

Tickets are \$16.

Canada is competing with Jamaica, El Salvador and Bermuda with the top two teams advancing to third round qualifying action.

Power skating

The Acton Figure Skating Club is sponsoring a Power Skating Program at the Acton Community Centre on Friday mornings for the 1992-93 season.

The classes will take place on Friday mornings with 12 and over taking to the ice at 6:30 a.m. while 11 and under skate at 7:30 a.m.

The program will run for eight weeks with Tracy Wilson of the Milton figure Skating Club working as the instructor.

For further information contact Marilyn Miller at 853-3354 or Leah Sheehan at 853-3226.

Shamrocks winning

The Erin Shamrocks are off to a good start in Mid-Ontario Junior C Hockey League action.

The former Acton Sabres are 4-2-1 in the early going with both losses coming at the hands of Fergus. The Shamrocks avenged those losses Tuesday with a 5-3 win on Devils' ice.



The Halton Hills Gymnastics Club held an awards presentation recently for the top gymnasts of the 1991/92 season. Above are the recipients of the competitive gymnastics awards. Front row (left to right) Danielle Ellis (Most Improved Gymnast), Jennifer Stocks (Teammate of the

Year) and Chantelle Evans (Most Dedicated Gymnast). Back row (L to R) Ashley Johnson (Beam award and Gymnast of the Year) and Jennifer Robertson (Most New Moves). Absent was Maria Simone (Most Promising Elite).

Photo by STEVE LeBLANC

Rebels keep on winning

They just keep winning and winning...

The Georgetown Senior Volleyball Rebels scored a strong 2-0 victory over the Nelson Lords last Wednesday on their home court. With solid defence and powerful hitting, the Senior Rebels took 15-6, 15-12 wins and excited hometown fans at every turn.

The senior squad now boasts a 8-1 season record with only two weeks left before play-off competition.

"Nelson is in second place so this was an important win for us," said Rebel coach Bob McKay, "They gave us some good competition, they're not an overpowering team but they play well on defence."

Georgetown came out flying in the first game with strong blocking from Dave Sands and Adam Poyntz and exciting spiking action from John Katsilieris.

The Rebels were first on the scoreboard but quickly fell behind 5-2 to the Lords. Some strong defence from Ryan Brain and Matt Deruchie brought the Rebels back in command of the game and helped their squad score eight unanswered points on route to an opening 15-6 victory.

First game action saw some nice tips from Brain and great playmaking by Deruchie and Martin Sommer. Andy Elliot got some action in the opening game and made some strong plays of his own.

Local fans saw some classic volleyball in the second game with great diving saves and incredible spikes and volleys.

Nelson stormed out to a 6-1 lead early on but couldn't stop an amazing comeback from the feisty Rebels. Georgetown collected another eight unanswered points and were up by four before the Lords knew what hit them.

The score went back and forth for several minutes until the Rebels shut down Nelson attackers and put the game away 15-12.

Deruchie and Poyntz continued to shine for Georgetown in the second game with great hustle and drive and Jim Katsilieris came in and worked hard on defence.

Game three play saw the Lords score an exciting 15-14 victory over Georgetown for the consolation win. Rebels Dave Vanderbyl and Randy Bond saw some action in the third game and played well for the local squad.

The Senior Rebels also scored a 2-0 last Monday over Burlington's M.M. Robinson, earning 15-6, 15-10 wins.

With just two more match-ups left to go, the Rebels have a strong hold on first place in Halton Regional Volpe Division standings.

Netminder Guirleo back in Raider fold

With some shaky defence in recent match-ups and some key injuries to two wingers and one rear guard, the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders will have a tough time against Central Ontario Junior A competition this weekend.

On Friday they travelled to Milton to take on the Merchants and tonight they host the Oakville Blades.

Wingers Jonathan Levack and Dean Donner, as well as defenceman Colin Hooper are currently recovering from injuries and will probably sit out this weekend.

Goalie Carmelo Guirleo is back with the Raiders. He signed on with the local crew Tuesday evening and will suit up for competition this weekend. Netminder Jamie Syzc has been given permission by

management to look for another team to play for. With three quality goaltenders in the Raiders corps, there just wasn't enough playing time for all three players.

Guirleo recently returned to Georgetown after trying out for the Ottawa 67s in the O.H.L.

Georgetown's Jay Anderson has been named an assistant coach of the Raiders. Anderson takes over for Keith Bennett, who left the Raiders last month in order to follow his son Adam's pro-hockey career. Anderson is also an assistant coach with the Georgetown Juvenile hockey squad.

The Raiders head office are also looking at other players around the area for possible additions to the team.