

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Skatepark condition questioned

A Town staffer's contention that there are "no major divots or holes" unfilled at the Acton skateboard park is dubious at best and potentially dangerous at worst.

A visit to the park beside the Acton arena last Thursday, and again on Monday, found several areas where chunks of concrete are loose, one big hole at the base of a ramp, and cracks on almost all of the features. As well, at least one base cement pad has shifted and is now uneven, providing quite a bump for an unsuspecting rider.

As 30 participants of the Town's Epic Sports Camp, as well, as casual boarders, BMXers and scooter riders used the seven-year-old facility last week, several riders said they make a point to telling other kid about the areas to avoid because of "dangerous" and "scary" cracks and holes. They said they felt comfortable using the park despite the poor condition of the concrete – a special blend intended to stand up to hard use on a regular basis – because they know where the problems are.

Town staff said "some cracking" will be treated this summer, and some were repaired in 2009 and 2012 with transparent epoxy filler, and while the cracks may be visible, the voids are filled.

All park users should check out conditions before they ride, but pre-teen boys should not have to issue safety warnings to others avoid cracks, holes and uneven surfaces at a Town facility, named for three Acton teens who died in a senseless train/car accident 13 years ago.

PAST PAGES



TEN YEARS AGO

- A bidding war erupted in the sale of the former YMCA building on Mill Street – listed at \$215,000, it was sold to an unidentified buyer with plans for apartments and commercial space under Power of Sale for \$267,900.

- Acton businesswoman Kristine Cieslok negotiated to buy 7 Mill St. East to open Blue Springs Spa and Salon – a full service day spa – in the building, currently home to fitness/training centre.

FIVE YEARS AGO

- A screaming five-year-old Acton girl tried to save a Toronto woman drowning in her family's Acton pool by throwing her a pool noodle, but the 31-year-old woman, a non-swimmer, was pronounced dead in hospital.

- The historic building housing the Hide House and 1.6-acre site, but not the company, are listed for sale as owners tried to save the ailing business, which earlier filed for bankruptcy protection.



STAR GAZERS: A large crowd enjoyed a primer on astronomy with Norm Elliott of the North Halton Astronomy Club, and Acton library supervisor Marie Vickery last Thursday at the library. During sessions this fall, participants will move outside to view the night sky through high-powered telescopes, including one donated to the library by the Astronomy Club. – Ted Tyler photo

Welcome Georgie-Porgie

Oh, by George that little gaffer has become a gift from above. Yes, as we all know the royal baby, third in line to the throne, arrived last week and sent the world into a tither.

Prince George of Cambridge or George Alexander Louis Windsor has arrived, and his parents when presenting him to the world for the first time, actually glowed. Considering what Prince William has gone through with the media in his lifetime, he stood before all the paparazzi and embraced the well-deserved title of father and husband.

However, as adorable as the new family is, they are also a famous family and one that the media will consume. The British economy is already forecasting that Georgie (doesn't the nickname just make you want to call him Georgie-Porgie...) has rejuvenated the faith we have in the royal family and financial analysts predict that the one week old baby will generate up to £60-MILLION into the British economy. The little guy even has his own Wikipedia page online. It is quite the burden, and at the same time accomplishment, for one so few days on this earth.

Aside from that the young



By
Angela Tyler

family has had scores of Canadians and Americans chastise how the little gaffer was buckled into his car seat. I found it interesting while one commentator criticized and analyzed the method of security, another said it was better than when Princess Diana who brought William home and didn't even use a car seat. However, out of all of them I found a blogger by the name of "Dad or Alive" to be the best description: "Pretty cool to see Prince William bring his son out in his car seat, put him in the car and drive his family away... welcome to the club, bro."

When the birth was announced the world watched while both sets of first time grandparents arrived to see Georgie-Porgie proving that although they may be famous they are just like the rest of us. Grampie Chuck and Camilla looked happy, and Grandpa and Grandma Middleton were glowing like their daughter and son-in-law, yet it was Great-Auntie Anne, also known as the Princess Royal, who

shared her honest and somewhat less "Royal" opinion of the event. "Nothing to do with me, but it's very good news." O-M-G that was freaking hilarious I thought. So sorry if more media attention has been taken away from you Anne and you've sunk further and further away from ever sitting on the throne, but perhaps another response might have been in order.

Of course, the Duchess, whom we all just refer to as Kate, was absolutely stunning when she debuted as a mother barely a day after having Georgie-Porgie. I was disgusted by some members of the media who insisted on drawing attention to her "still predominant bump". I felt like screaming "are you serious? She just gave birth!" I know I wish I looked even half as good as she did the day after having either of our children. Yet my disgust soon changed back to elation when I read that the dress Kate wore that day is sold out and now has a four-week waiting list for those wanting to buy one.

Prince George of Cambridge, all eight-pounds, six-ounces of you have caused quite a ruckus in the world and in my eye it's a pretty good one. Welcome.



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