



## 20 YEARS AGO

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**A GRAND OPENING:** Acton's Videoplex store held its grand opening this past Saturday. Joining in the festivities were (left to right) Councillor Norm Elliott, Brenda Watson, Videoplex President Barry Kenny, Vice-President Joe Cacciola, Janet Clarke and Councillor Rick Bonnette. - Angela Tyler photo



## SPORTS TALK

### Spring forward

As we move our clocks and watches forward this weekend, I'm reminded that much warmer weather is around the corner—hopefully, I'm not jinxing anything.

Apart from the usual thoughts of gardening and lawn food, this also means regular baseball, and Major League Soccer (MLS) are either here already or coming soon.

It goes without saying that the Blue Jays had a season to forget last year, while Toronto's soccer franchise, Toronto FC (TFC), had one to remember grabbing Canada's first ever Major League Soccer title.

If the baseball spring training results are anything to go by, Blue Jays fans may be in for another challenging season. TFC, on the other hand, has started the calendar year in a somewhat indifferent form. In three competitive games played so far, they have won, drawn and lost one each. Yet despite this less than impressive start, they are into the quarterfinals of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Football Associations (CONCACAF) Champions League competition. They will be facing Tigres Club of Mexico in a home and away playoff.

The good news for Blue Jays

By  
**Michael Oke**

nation is that the organization has kept, by and large, the bulk of its roster.

The only surprise so far has been the recent designation of Ezequiel Carrera—not a deal breaker in my books. The expectation is that the team will hit the ground running and make the playoff outright without the need for a wildcard berth. Still, a long way off, though, with over 180 regular season games. The regular season kicks off March 29 against the New York Yankees.

TFC, on the other hand, have an uphill battle motivating themselves for the regular season. The greatest obstacle to success can be past successes. The defending champions may need to pay big bucks for sports psychologists to keep the team on their toes this season. The one silver lining is their participation early in 2018 in the champions league with the winner getting to play in the World Club Championships against the likes of Real Madrid, Liverpool or Barcelona. Definitely an added incentive for the team. It is expected that the momentum from this competition will carry on into the MLS regular season, and of course it is critical that the payers stay healthy.

I say welcome—early—spring.

## JUST A THOUGHT

### Do you know her?



By  
**Trish Bell**

Today is, apparently, International Women's Day; a day originally designed to celebrate women's achievements throughout history and across nations although now more focused on the idea of promoting women's rights in a world obsessed with #MeToo and #TimesUp. Canada has certainly jumped on the bandwagon for this party. We marched, shook our fists and carried our banners as we fell in line. We celebrated a feminist prime minister, who perhaps by looks alone was merely a ploy to encourage women to get into politics—wait am I still allowed to say that women objectify men too? We were issued a bizarre budget that borrows more and more money to ensure that women are recognized and feel important, while offering little in the way of substance. After all, the little girls of tomorrow will be just as disadvantaged as today as we leave them a poorer nation with weak international presence and a sluggish economy that works for no one. We even issued polls so that we might gauge the masses and their thoughts on women in celebration of this important acknowledgment day. The survey, conducted on behalf of Historica Canada—you know those great history moments people—shows that 40 per cent of respondents were unable to identify or specify the contribution of three Canadian women: famous artist Emily Carr, world-known writer Lucy Maud Montgomery or politician and social activist Nellie McClung—even though this last one appears on our money. Issued by Ipsos online—so not a foolproof picture of society at large - the survey clearly shows we know little of the women who came before us or of the history of our own nation. Yet, what surprises one further is that when one really looks into it

there are so many great women who did so many great things, long before #MeToo was even possible.

For example, it was a woman who helped to identify the rays emitted by different elements, leading to the creation of x-rays. It was also her sickness and death that lead—no pun intended there—to us learning to protect ourselves from such rays. Her name was Marie Curie. You've probably heard of her but didn't know what she did. Nor did you know she was also the first person to ever earn two Nobel prizes in two different fields or that it was her idea to use mobile X-Ray trucks to accommodate the shortage during the first world war. And yes, she did all of this in the early 1900s, before women even had the vote. Or perhaps you think computer language was always a man's domain. Then you would be surprised to learn that it was Ada Lovelace, daughter of the poet Lord Byron, who in the mid-1800s first created a computer program and perhaps saw the true potential of Charles Babbage's calculating machine more than he did as a future apparatus that could take on more than just vast mathematical calculations. She took the initiative to rewrite a paper about his Analytical Engine and add her own mathematics and ideas so as to ensure a place in the work. American Navy Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, also pioneered computer programming with her work on machine-independent programming languages, some of which continue to be the standard. Even our understanding of fossils, atoms, space, math

and bugs were first the result of work done by women. But science and math are not the only places women have shown their abilities in our history.

Margaret Knight was an avid inventor, even earning the nickname "the Lady Edison." She earned 27 patents for everything from safety devices to internal combustion engines. Helen Keller whose childhood illness left her deaf, blind and mute, worked hard not only to learn and be part of the world around her, thanks in great part to a great teacher, Anne Sullivan, but she also worked hard to ensure future children would enjoy the same opportunities as her. And Canada too has her share of historic heroines. Annie Gale, an immigrant, was the first woman to be elected to a municipal office—or act as acting mayor—in the entire British Empire in 1917. Adelaide Hoodless pushed for home economics to be taught in Ontario schools and helped found the Victorian Order of Nurses, National Council of Women and the national YWCA, one of Canada's biggest proponents of women's rights. And interpreter Charlotte Small would explore and map over 20,000 km of western Canada, while raising 13 children and enjoying 58 years of marriage—all before Canada was even a nation. The list goes on and on.

Clearly, we need to ensure women continue to hold an equal place at the table of humanity. All people should have access to the same things. However, I think before we talk of all the hardships we girls endure, it might be prudent to look at the thousands of women who came before us and persevered despite the challenges that befell them. After all, knowing their stories and contributions is the best way to honour any hero... women included.

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