

# LOOKING BACK

By: Scott Brooks

Many businesses have come and gone over the years, but some remain. Here's Acton Motors in 1957 when they were a Volkswagen dealer. Photo Credit: Dills Collection



## SPORTS TALK

### Portugal or last chance for Poland

With the World Cup in Russia starting in less than three weeks, the excitement is gradually building. So far, we have looked at the chances of the odds-on favorites—Germany and Brazil. Now is a good time to review other potential winners or pretenders, depending on who you are speaking to. The current European champions, Portugal, come into the tournament on the back of their historic triumph at the European Championships held in France two years ago. They boast of arguably the best soccer player ever born on the continent of Europe in Cristiano Ronaldo. The 33-year-old Real Madrid star has won almost every available title in professional soccer except the world cup. His list of achievements includes: multiple Ballon D'Ors—the award for the best soccer player in the world—titles in Portugal, England and Spain as well as medals for Portugal—the highlight of which was captaining the Portuguese national team to the Euro title in 2016.

Apart from Ronaldo, the Portuguese team has experienced Coach Fernando Santos at the helm with a midfield anchored around Joao Moutinho and William Carvalho, and their defence set up is led by Pepe who currently plays in the Turkish

By  
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league. For all their talent, Portugal is still a one-man team and it is hard to see them—on paper—progressing beyond the quarterfinals, but they can never be ruled out of contention. Portugal is in Group B and will face off against Spain, Morocco and Iran.

Poland has always had a good history of success in the Olympic and World Cup soccer tournaments. They won the Olympic soccer gold in 1972 and have placed third in the World cup on two occasions—1974 and 1982. Their recent record hasn't been great. They last qualified for the World Cup in 2006. However, in Robert Lewandowski, they now possess a truly world class player. The 29-year-old who will be playing in his first World Cup, has always tracked in the top brackets in terms of goal scoring in almost every competition he competes in for club and country. He should get assistance from the supporting cast that includes Wojciech Szczesny, who plays for Italian giants Juventus, and Napoli's Arkadiusz Milik. Poland should be able to progress from Group H which also has Senegal, Japan and Colombia. What happens after that is anyone's guess.

The World Cup starts June 14 at 11 a.m. Eastern Time.

## JUST A THOUGHT

### For shame



By  
**Trish Bell**

Canadians are a complacent bunch. We love to watch—and scorn—our cousins to the south every time they appear ignorant to the facts of history, geography and anything outside the good ol' USA. Picking them apart like buzzards at a fresh kill, we puff out our chests and wait for the world's applause, as if making fun of their mistaken bravado justifies our own. We claim to be the well-bred, well-educated PROPER members of the world family but our own naivety—particularly on all that is Canadian—appears limitless. And one of our worst examples rest in just what it means to be a Canadian citizen.

Sure, we watch bum-numbing hours of hockey, drink beer from the bottle like it's water and ensure we pay homage at every Tim Hortons we pass—even indirectly—on the way to the cottage. We usher in summer with a May Two-Four. We talk about the weather endlessly because we have more of it in one day than most places have in a year. And we apologize so much that we are now looking for things to be sorry about. But—while entertaining—none of these examples demonstrate any understanding of the rights and responsibilities being a member of this great nation entails. Oh sure, people claim to know their rights; they throw the words around like a naughty five-year-old who thinks he can hold his parents hostage by holding his breath. And yes, Canadian citizens—be they immigrants, naturalized or born here to Canadians themselves—all have rights under the law. Several in fact. We have democratic and legal rights; equality and language rights; the right to freedom of religion, expression, assembly and association. And we have the rights to enter, move

around and leave Canada as we choose—although, I cannot find mention of our right to millions of dollars should we choose to leave Canada, enter an unsafe place in the world and be detained by another government or group, but alas, let us leave that for another debate.

These rights are law. Canadian girls and woman, for example, are protected under these laws because “Canada's openness and generosity do not extend to barbaric cultural practices that tolerate spousal abuse, ‘honour killing,’ female genital mutilation, forced marriage or other gender-based violence.” Yet, as a nation we know of numerous cases where we have hidden behind their right to culture so as to not impose our laws, simply because we do not know our rights and responsibilities well enough to take a stand against appalling traditions. These laws are not new. They have been passed by parliaments and legislatures, and derived from English common law, the civil code of France and even the Magna Carta of 1215. They are celebrated in our Canadian Charter and Ontario Code but they are not new, and if we actually knew these rights and laws, our ignorance would not prevent us from speaking up.

But as Uncle Ben tells Spiderman, with great power comes great responsibility, and it is in this realm that the average Canadian truly gets a failing grade. It may surprise you to learn that as a Canadian, you are responsible for caring for communities—essentially volunteering; yet,

despite this responsibility being listed in the Charter, the majority of the work continues to rest on the shoulders of the minority. In addition, we have long since been responsible for protecting Canada's natural, cultural and architectural heritage for future generations, making a celebration of our Canadian history—Canada Day for example—not a senseless racist act as the anti-right would insist, but merely a duty to protect and celebrate our Canadian culture.

But that is not the only responsibilities we share. To the surprise of many, the act of getting a job, working hard and taking care of one's family is not just an ideal but an actual responsibility of Canadian citizenship. One used to remark on why they would list that as an actual responsibility—today one wonders why no one recognizes it as such. And this is the fundamental flaw of our time. What was once silently understood is now required in print so that it might be open to scrutiny by those who should not have such time on their hands. And this is how responsibilities have become only rights. We don't see jury duty as an opportunity to serve, merely a job to avoid. We all understand that we are supposed to obey the law, but do we actually ensure those who don't—especially those in power—re brought to justice? After all, “no person or group is above the law.” Even the act of voting is thought of as a right, when it is ever as much a responsibility, that sadly, it appears the vast majority of us couldn't be bothered participating in.

No, perhaps us Canadians should be a little less loud when making fun of our neighbours down south. They may be loud and boisterous but they do know what it means to be a citizen.

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