

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



One more Doug Gilmour testimonial

Leafs fans were shocked last week to learn that captain Doug Gilmour and Dave Ellett were traded to the New Jersey Devils.

While I can't pretend to be any kind of hockey authority – my son can't believe I'd write a column about hockey when I've just barely got that offside rule straight in my mind – I have a couple of Doug Gilmour stories to share.

My daughter and I were at a Blue Jays game a few years ago and there was quite a commotion in the stands halfway through the game. It seems Doug and his bride-to-be were watching the game too. He was sitting a few rows back and one section over. (We had better seats than Doug Gilmour!)

I wouldn't have recognized him if he hadn't been pointed out to me. He wasn't wearing his helmet and I couldn't see his legs – that cow pattern would have been a dead give-away. But he was there and was signing autographs, according to the boy in front of us, who showed us his signed baseball cap.

We bee-lined back there to get an autograph too. The ushers were holding back his fans until between innings so Doug and his seat-mates could enjoy the game they'd come to watch. Unfortunately the game ended and Doug was gone before we could make our way to his seat, but I know he made at least one child a die-hard fan that afternoon.

I heard another "Encounter with Doug" story from a friend who had run into Mr. Gilmour at the C.N.E. last summer. Her kids were getting off a ride and Doug was waiting in line for his turn. The kids ran for pens and paper and caps, and though he was at the head of the line by the time the boys returned, Doug promised to sign autographs when the ride was over.

And he did. For free!

This story impressed me because it fell on heels of the Goldie Hawn saga. You remember that incident: Goldie Hawn and her beau Kurt Russell have a cottage on Lake Rousseau (in Ontario's Muskokas) and Goldie went on record complaining about the rude tourists who kept buzzing by the cottage (mansion would be more accurate – I saw the pictures!) They had no privacy, Goldie whined. She just wanted to be left alone.

Now, I can sympathize with public figures and the difficulty they must have just doing everyday activities, always in the public eye. I wouldn't want a bunch of gawkers watching me while I was on vacation either. But the flip side is that she put herself in the public eye – and she doesn't mind if I pay seven bucks to gawk at her in the movie theatre.

The comparison was inevitable: Goldie may look great, especially for 50, and she may be a fine actress, but she lost a lot of goodwill from her public on that vacation. Doug Gilmour, on the other hand, is not only a great hockey player, but a fine person who respects and values his fans. He didn't seem to mind being recognized as long as he could have his fun too.

So while Toronto has lost a terrific hockey player and a classy guy, Doug Gilmour has a legion of fans who will be loyal to him, wherever he winds up.

Same time last year ...

1,573 Halton Board of Education employees receive lay off notices ... The Red Dog Café is named Entrepreneur of the Year and Acton IGA's Connie Bath is named Employee of the Year by Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce ... The Canadian Mental Health Association opens its office at 9 Mill St. W.



Your LETTERS

Educational idea for March Break

To the Editor,

March Break is quickly approaching and for many parents it means searching for activities to keep their kids busy throughout the week.

The challenge is to find something that's fun, fits into schedules and, ideally, educational.

One suggestion is the Ontario Science Centre's Bayer Human Body Science Quest, a program promoting the educational, interesting and fun aspects of science.

Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited to develop a 200 to 600 word summary outlining their idea of what would make an interesting and interactive display for the Science Centre's Human Body exhibit.

Speak up against taxes, reader says

To the Editor,

The Chrétien government's recent budget was not so much a fiscal plan as it was a massive sideshow.

Its primary purpose may very well have been to divert attention away from the government's plans to impose a massive C.P.P. tax hike on Canadians.

It won't work.

Taxpayers will soon realize that the Liberal government has hammered them with the biggest tax grab in Canadian history.

Worse, this tax grab falls most heavily on young Canadians just entering the job market. It will likely drive many bright, hard-working young Canadians with marketable skills out of the country.

Finally, if Chrétien and his fellow Liberal MPs want us to pay higher C.P.P. premiums, they should

The summary must explore question about the human body or human biology and outline an exhibit that's interactive – it could involve pushing a button or turning a knob. In addition, the summary should detail the exhibit's concept (how it works, size, materials required, etc.).

Kids can win a grand prize consisting of a chance for them to work hands-on with scientists at the Science Centre to develop the exhibit concept, a new Compaq Presario computer, return transportation to Toronto for up to two adults and two children provided by VIA Rail and two nights accommodation provided by Holiday Inn Worldwide.

Submissions should be sent to the Bayer Human Body Science Quest, Suite 500, 160 Bloor St. E., Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1B9.

Through support of this program parents are helping to further encourage the study of science, while letting their kids be creative and have some fun over March Break. The perfect solution.

Kathy Pashby
Bayer Human Body Science Quest

cut back their own gold-plated MP pensions.

On that issue, however, the budget was strangely silent.

That's why it's time for taxpayers to speak up.

After all, if there's anything worse than a huge new tax, it's a huge and hugely hypocritical new tax.

David Somerville, President
National Citizens' Coalition

**SOMETHING
BUGGING
YOU?**



Write a letter
to the Editor!
Deadline is Monday
at noon.

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