

Time for a change

BY BRENDA MATHIES

This year's seasonal closing of The Glen Eden Ski and Snowboard School will bring with it a different sort of closure. The school has been run under the executive directorship of Doug Leeming for the past 24 years, but the time has now come for a change.

In this time of growing privatization, Conservation Halton has announced that they will be going against the trend. Beginning next season, Conservation Halton staff - not Leeming Recreations Ltd. - will be running the ski school.

During the past 24 years, Doug Leeming has built a team of ski instructors and support staff that has been recognized nationally as well as internationally by the ski industry. Proudly, Doug Leeming boasts that his staff has been able to provide "high-end technical training" with 60-65 thousand lessons a season. The camaraderie that is evi-

dent in this group of teammates is strong and incomparable. When Leeming first started at The Glen Eden Ski School, he employed five full-time and 24 part-time people: As of the end of this season, he has 20 full-time and 220 part-time staff.

Paul Tremblay, Assistant Director of Leeming Recreations Ltd., believes that now is the time to do something new. Phoenix Club Sport & Travel is that something new. With the cooperation of ski shops in Oakville, the newly developed Phoenix Club Sport & Travel will enable Doug Leeming and his team of professionals to continue to provide great ski experiences. We wish them all the best in the future.



Doug Leeming

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cheerleaders return home from Hong Kong

BY MEGAN CAVON

On February 3rd, eight Milton cheerleaders from the Super Cheerforce team returned home from a week of celebrating the Chinese New Year in Hong Kong. The girls are now back in their small town with many memories of their trip.

Their Hong Kong experience started, strangely enough, with green spandex and floating airplanes. At the dress rehearsal, the team found themselves distracted by men wearing lime-coloured outfits with inflatable planes attached around their waists. The spectacle caused no end of laughter from the team. Any trip with such a beginning is destined to be exhilarating. The itinerary for the following days included a lot of shopping, Chinese food, a bus tour and a junk-boat tour of the Hong Kong harbour. Some last minute training and rehearsing were intermixed with this exciting agenda.

The parade was the highlight of the trip. For two minutes Super Cheerforce performed upon a stage and, according to Alicia Robinson, "It felt as if the whole city was there just to see us." This was followed by stunting, dancing, jumping and tumbling along the parade route. A whole stadium was shut down specifically for the show where the Super Cheerforce spent ten minutes cheering in the Chinese New Year. There were fireworks, demonstrations, bright costumes, people peering down from apartments and multitudes screaming in unison. Most people rarely get a minute of fame. These rural Canadian cheerleaders were showered with adoration for all of parade day as well as for the rest of their stay.

The Chinese, very interested in cheerleaders, treated the girls like celebrities. Everywhere they went, people stared at them; and every day that they were there, the team was written about in a newspaper. Natalie MacMillan knows both sides of the stardom coin. She says that the Chinese were obsessed with the whole team, adding that she "got a standing ovation at a shopping center," but, on the other hand, "A scary old man followed me around and took pictures. It was creepy."

Most of the Milton girls have been cheering for four or five years. They have struggled to balance practices and schoolwork. For those who live in the country - Cailin Drijber, Ashleigh McGinnis, Kristin Morrow and Lyndsay Richardson - getting rides into town every time that they meet has been an extra challenge. Their reward has been this incredible opportunity to visit the Orient, to celebrate the Chinese New Year, and to proudly represent Canada while showing off the true power of cheering as a national sport.

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