

Slim Sports Pickins

To pass the long winter days in the country, I like to head out to the workshop, pound back a few beers and spark up my power tools. And although this might not be the recommended approach to carpentry, it's still safer than the stampede at Sobeys' free sample night. My interest in woodworking sprang up when I realized that if I didn't find something to do I would become my wife's personal handyman from November to May. It sort of worked out, except now I'm her personal cabinet-maker. At least it gets me out of the house.

The arrangement gets two thumbs up from Julie since she's not too fond of the NFL or cigars and both have happy homes in the workshop. This weekend though, I'm losing one of these loyal friends till September. When the gun sounds to end this year's NFL season at the conclusion of Sunday's Super Bowl, we embark on three of the most boring, tedious, monotonous months of sports.

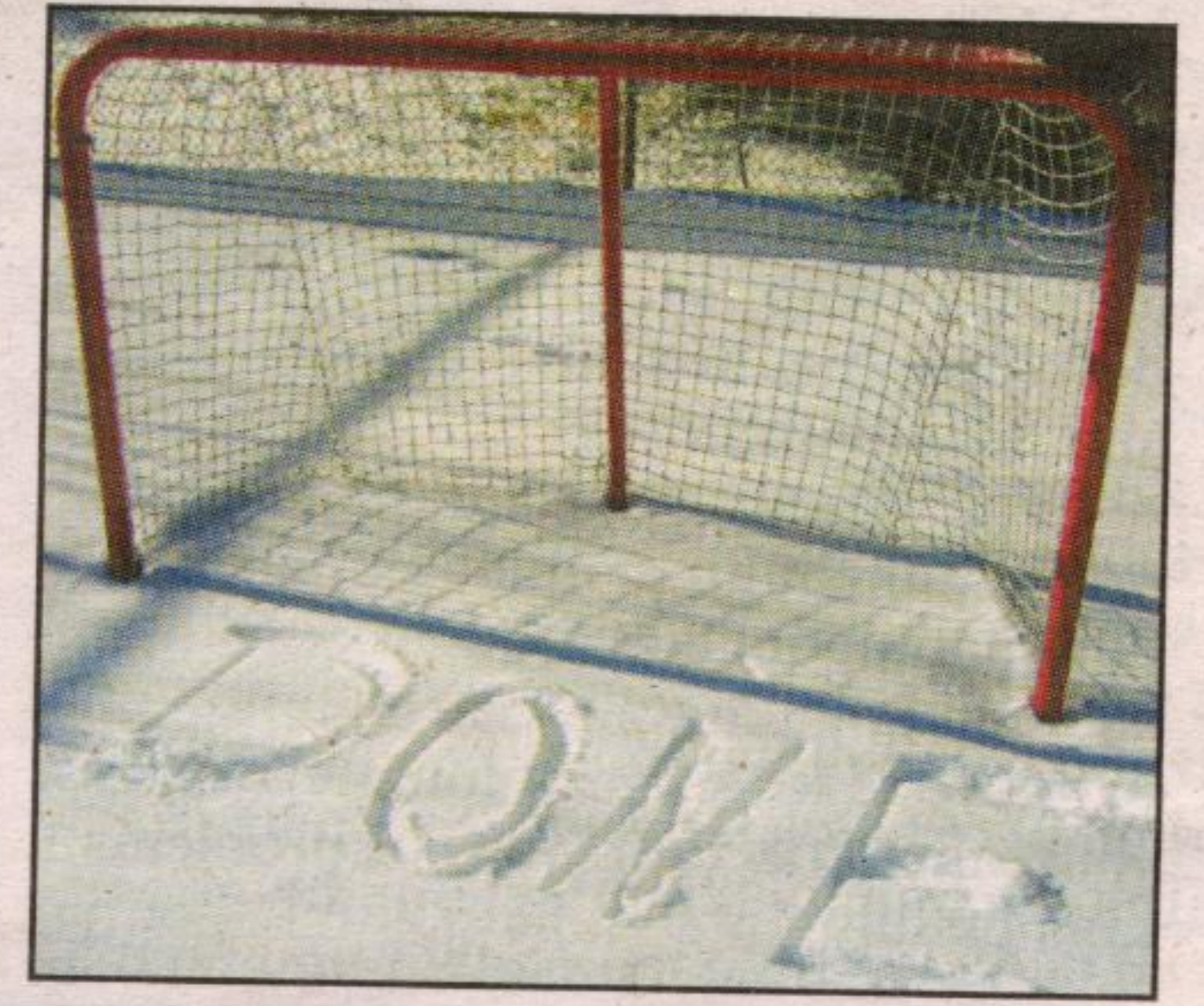
The only championship of any note between the NFL final and the Masters in April is the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Now who watches that? Ok, I watch a bit of it but that's only because it just barely beats throwing myself in front of a moving train. Hey, I'm 5'7" with the hair, I have about as much in common with basketball as a surfer has with igloo construction. There's a reason it's called March Madness. Every sports fan in Canada is sucking his thumb and rocking uncontrollably by then. And that's in a year when there IS hockey to watch.

The absence of hockey this year has spawned some fairly irrational decisions. Some guys have taken up watching Poker and subsequently found themselves in underground Texas Holdem' tournaments saying things like, "All in!". The "all" standing for stupidity. One of my buddies recently came up to me all excited and asked, "did you watch that soccer match between Man U and Liverpool the other day?" "No," I said, "but I was able

Jeff Lumby's view from the country

to Tivo that new reality show, *Stirring Paint*. I'll watch it later when my heart rate flat lines." No one will ever be able to convince me that soccer should be viewed by anyone other than the officials who call the games. When you invest 3 hours of your life in a sport that routinely ends its games in nil-nil draws, you can't be critical of folks who watch *Wheel of Fortune* for the heightened vocabulary. Fans of soccer will always counter by saying, "it's not about the scoring." It couldn't be! Look it's a great game for fitness and bus burnings, but as far as a spectator sport goes it ranks right up there with chess, tetherball and that damn trampoline basketball. Who thought that one up?

Now, all that nastiness about European football aside, you might find this of particular interest. I've been known to sit down and watch my share of curling. Soccer guy is really upset now. "How can you say soccer is boring yet you can watch 8 guys pushing granite down a hall-way of ice into an enlarged bullseye?" You know, it's really hard to defend my interest in curling. A bunch of guys sliding, sweeping, and yelling things like, "Hurry! Hurry hard!" But curling is intensely strategic. The condition of the ice changing by the minute. Split second sweeping decisions. Do you go for the difficult double takeout or raise to the button to take two? "Ya that's really gripping Jeff, where's the next tankard at?" Alright, fair enough, we'll agree to disagree on soccer and curling. Maybe I find it interesting because it's one of the



only things on during these upcoming lean months.

There was a recent news article where some nutty scientist computed all of this weird data to determine the single most depressing day of the year. Fun project, sounds like the stuff federal grants are made of. After including seasonal factors, suicide rates and other salient depressing details, he concluded that January 24 was the ultimate bummer day of the year. The upcoming three-month sports drought has to have played a role in settling on this date. Football's done. Hockey is really done! The next tennis Grand Slam isn't until Wimbledon. Arena Football, NASCAR, Cricket, Figure Skating, Diving, Swimming, Track, bowling, darts... no thanks! And there's only so much golf and curling on. It looks like I'll be participating in a new sport for the next three months. My wife calls it Antiquing.

We Want to Hear From You!

Provincial Greenbelt Plan

HALTON REGION



Should more than 4,000 additional acres in North Halton be included in the Provincial Greenbelt Plan?

Halton Region would like to hear your views on including additional lands in the recently announced Provincial Greenbelt Plan. Regional comments on the Greenbelt Plan have been provided to the Province and these comments included support for a Halton Hills Council decision to include, within the provincial Greenbelt Plan, more than 4,000 acres in the southwest portion of Town of Halton Hills and a small portion on the northern edge of the Town of Milton. The map below shows the lands considered for addition. The Province, in December 2004, indicated that they were providing opportunities to hear additional comments from municipal Councils. Halton Hills Council reconsidered their earlier comments and rescinded their request to include these additional lands within the Provincial Greenbelt Plan. Halton Region Council will hear comments on the inclusion of these lands, at the following meetings:

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

9:30 a.m. (Planning & Public Works Committee)

Please note that each speaker at the February 23 meeting may make a 10-minute presentation. Delegates who wish to present at the March 2 Council meeting, (9:30 a.m.), where the Committee recommendation will be considered, should make their presentation first at the February 23 Planning & Public Works Committee meeting. Council presentations will be limited to five minutes.

Where: Halton Regional Centre Council Chambers
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville

How: To pre-register, please call the Clerk's Office at 905-825-6000, ext. 7928 or toll-free at 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866). To be included in the agenda for the February 23 meeting, the Clerk's Office must receive speakers' names and written submissions by February 16. Those wishing to speak on February 23 who are not listed on the agenda, may still register through the Clerk's Office or at the beginning of the meeting.



For the most up to date information on Halton's response to the Provincial Greenbelt Plan, go to www.region.halton.on.ca and click on Provincial Greenbelt Plan, or visit the Clerk's Office at the Halton Regional Centre. Additional material for Committee and Council will also be available on the website by Friday, February 18, 2005.

For more information, please contact

Jane Glohecy, Director, Planning & Transportation at 905-825-6000 ext. 7966
toll-free at 1-866-442-5866 or email at clohecyj@region.halton.on.ca



TOWN OF

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

The purpose of this Notice is to advise that a Public Information Meeting to review and seek input on a proposed by-law to regulate Business Licensing will be held on:

Monday, February 21, 2005

Council Chambers, Halton Hills Civic Centre
1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills

8:00 pm Public Meeting

The proposed By-law recommended by the Business Licensing Committee provides for the continued licensing of:

Amusement Establishment	Exhibitions	Public Halls	Restaurants
Refreshment Vehicles	Taxicabs	Limousines	Newspaper Dispensers
Salvage Yards	Kennels	Flea Markets	Driving Schools
Bed & Breakfast	Trailer & Tourist Camps		Garages & Car Washes

Retail Sale of Pets, Motor Vehicles, Gasoline, Second Hand Goods, etc.

Trades - Electrical, Plumbing, Drain & Septic Tank, Building Renovators and Heating, Air Conditioning and Ventilations

Adult Entertainment Establishments

The proposed By-law recommends the licensing of:

General Trade Contractors	Rental Sign Distributors	Accessible Taxicabs
Food Stands	Towing Services	Hotels and Motels

Retail Sale of Tobacco, Food and Goods

Personal Care Establishments - Barber Shops, Hair Salons, Electrolysis, Tattoo Parlours, Body and Ear Piercing, Beauty Parlours and Spas, Tanning Salons, Alternative Health Care and Massage Clinics.

Copies of Report No. CL-2004-0035 dated December 17, 2004 communicating the strategy recommended by the Business Licensing Committee is available at the Clerk's Department, Civic Centre, Town of Halton Hills and the Town's website at www.haltonhills.ca. On February 7, 2005 the draft By-law will be posted on the Town's website, or a copy may be obtained by contacting the Clerk's Department.

You are invited to ask questions or express your comments regarding the proposed Licensing By-law at the Public Meeting, or in writing to the Clerk, Town of Halton Hills, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, Ontario, L7G 5G2.

Interested persons wishing to speak at the Public Meeting on February 21st should call the Clerk's Department at 905-873-2601 ext. 2332 to register as delegation.

1 Halton Hills Dr., Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2

Tel.: 905-873-2600 • Fax: 905-873-2347