



Cathy McLeod

# Second City

By CATHY MCLEOD

I have indulged my love of acting and performing but I always let it fall by the wayside. With the tremendous loss of two family members in the past six months, it has been brought home hard that if I want to pursue something then... do it now baby! I found an inspirational quote which I will now keep as my mantra: "It's never too late to become what you might have been"

My brother is a stand-up comedian, and he recommended my taking classes with *Second City*. In all honesty I didn't even know they offered classes and with the reputation they have I was thrilled.

I signed up for an adult intensive course which meant that we condensed an 8-week course into 2 jam-packed weekends. Churning up all of those emotions all weekend was quite exhilarating and very tiring. Tiring for my husband as well since he came into Toronto with me and had to while away the hours by going to the golf show (poor baby) and movies. Thanks honey!

Upon entering my very first class I was fraught with nerves and anticipation on what was to come. Was I shy? (For those who know me, you can stop laughing) It was more the question of "am I good enough?" The class comprised of 14 diverse individuals, actors, models, extroverts and introverts, people just exploring



Jerry Schaefer

and feeling just as nervous. I met a terrific guy from Rockwood named Dave Mills who is a veterinarian in Georgetown. It was nice to have someone there from my neck of the woods. I asked Dave why he signed up and he said "just for fun". And with the great good fortune of having Jerry Schaefer as our teacher that just what we had.

Jerry is a senior instructor at The Second City Training Centre and a veteran of the Second City and The Chump. Unbeknownst to me, Jerry is a good friend of my fellow Halton Compass columnist Jeff Lumby as well as being cast mates in the Red Green Show. That didn't garner me extra special treatment though, darn it!

One of the first things Jerry said was that class would be a safe environment where you can feel free to let go and not be judged...how fabulous that is in this day and age actually find a place where you will not be judge and let things fly. I let it fly at home but always have to apologize. What fun it was, to find my inner child, release him to the masses and... get away with it!

Improv looks so easy and of course that's how it should look. I found that we were able to explore improv techniques, break it down, figure out what is going on and rebuild with those tools, or something like that, easy huh? We did a lot of improv games which focus on stretching your emotions and imagination. It was a great time I met some great people. I have also decided in which direction I will pursue things, so stay tuned!



Dave Mills

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I had previously sent this letter to you via mail, but I then noticed in your paper that you needed my address and phone number as well as my name. I will resend the letter with that information below.

This letter is in regard to your front page photo and article entitled "Moving House" in the Feb. 25, 2005 issue.

Your information stated that this was a century log house being preserved for its historical significance by its new owners the

Dufferin Aggregates.

I'm not sure where you got your information from, but I am going to enlighten you and your readers to the truth of the matter.

As a lifetime resident of the area, I vividly recall the construction of your so called "historical century home" in the early years of the 1980's.

In fact my brother as a teen acquired a summer job stripping the logs for this home. He is now 41 years old. If we do the math, this leaves the home not much more than 25 years old, which is a quarter of a century, with no historical significance.

Any homes that had historical significance

and were indeed century homes in this area were burned to the ground via the fire department, by the new owners the Dufferin Aggregates, as they prepare for their quarry expansion.

If we want to talk about any significance of this area as a whole, it would be that the land on which these homes sat on are situated on the Niagara Escarpment. This land is slated for limestone extraction by the Dufferin Aggregates.

You should have double checked your information with the Dufferin Aggregates, as they would have personally negotiated the sell of (sic) the home from the previous owners and builders, the Muspratt family. They would have discussed the age of the home at that time.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Salt

## the mayor's column



Everyone in the pool! To most of you this gives pleasant thoughts of summer and a warm day sipping a cold beverage, then going for a refreshing dip in the pool. To your Council, pooling has a whole new meaning, and it is not a pleasant one. When former Premier Mike Harris amalgamated the municipalities of Metro to become the City of Toronto, he put in place pooling. Pooling is money collected by the Region to go directly to Toronto to offset their social costs. Halton Hills gives four million dollars a year to Toronto.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE! This was legislated by the Province. Can you imagine what your town could do with this money. If your home is assessed at \$250,000, you will be paying approximately \$175.00 to the City of Toronto for their social programs. I don't believe the homeowner should be paying to offset social programs in Toronto! These social programs should not be put on the backs of the property taxpayer. Many municipalities are balking at this concept, including the Town of Halton Hills. We strongly believe that the Province should review their position.

In the category of "you are never too old to play hockey", I take my hat off to all the participants of the Sports Unlimited

Oldtimers Hockey Tournament. There were five divisions that included a team of 65 years and older. Yes, you read this right! One centreman was seventy-five years old, and skated like the wind. The tournament welcomed a team from St. John's Newfoundland. Former long time Treasurer and CAO of our town, Ray King, also played.

On March 3rd, the Gordon Morton 9th annual Fun Day Bowling Tournament was held. Accolades to Gordon for organizing this event. I witnessed seniors from Acton, Georgetown, Milton, and Streetsville all enjoying themselves at the Georgetown Bowling Lanes.

Kudos to the recently announced 2004 Citizens of the Year - Tom Schenk in Georgetown, and Linda Doherty in Acton. By all accounts, two worthy choices!

The Mayor's showcase is presently displaying the unique works of art of Mr. John Tatham. The display includes hand painted canoe paddles, and wood burned and hand painted pictures.

Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342, or by e-mail at mayor@haltonhills.ca

## EDITORIAL

Back in my distant and callow youth on Bay St, I remember asking George Cohon how McDonalds chose the locations for their restaurants. He told me that they mapped out where all the churches were located and plopped the restaurants in the middle. In the seventies you could define suburbia by the location of the Golden Arches. A new housing development was felt to have arrived once the Big Macs were available in the neighbourhood.

As we grow older our tastes and expectations change. In my household civilization is felt to have arrived when there's a sushi bar in town. The opening of two sushi bars in Milton has pushed the town, in my wife's eyes, to the stature of a major cultural centre. And now we have a martini bar, "Schemanzi's" open in town. If this keeps up it's going to start feeling like Manhattan around here, or with all our green and pleasant, Central Park.

Letters to the editor are welcomed. However, we do not necessarily support or endorse the comments or opinions expressed by the writer(s). We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and telephone number of the writer should be included. Letters may be sent into 35 Crawford Crescent Box 129, Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0, emailed to editor@haltoncompass.com or faxed to 905-854-4761.

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