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PHOTO BY JENNIFER PYRAH

Enjoying the day at the Milton Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament at Granite Ridge Golf Club were (left to right) Jamie Cunningham of Action International, Louise Cook, The Halton Compass, and Donna and Norm Coulter, former owners of Northend Nissan.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN BAKER

Attending the Greater Toronto Marketing Association Lunch in Oakville last week were (left to right) Burlington Mayor Rob McIsaac, Moldex CEO and keynote speaker Jonathan Fischer, Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

EDITORIAL

The only clear memory I have of the Iranian Hostage crisis was the announcement in January 1980 that six of the would-be captives had escaped from Iran, disguised as Canadians.

At this time a popular sport in Canada was listing ways in which Canadians and Americans were different. The most popular difference ascribed to women was that only a Canadian woman would go to a swish party in Gucci shoes only to leave them at the door, spending the evening in stocking feet. For men it was the more prosaic fact that all Canadian men had a telltale ring of road salt staining their trousers some six

inches north of their shoes. For a fairly new immigrant it was great fun, even if I did need most of the jokes explained to me.

One thing that was never explained to my satisfaction was how the Americans in Iran were disguised as Canadians. OK, they used Canadian passports, but that hardly seemed to require the use of false moustaches or the like to carry off the deception.

In recent years it has been fashionable for Canadian students travelling abroad to sew little Maple Leaf flags to their backpacks to announce definitively that the wearer is NOT American. If we are to believe the television commercial, a Tim Hortons coffee mug dan-

gling from the pack has the same effect. A friend told me last week that his brother who is in the oil-well capping business with the likes of Red Adair has quit the Gulf region, never to return. Some weeks ago the brother was coming down in an elevator to the lobby of his five star hotel in the company of two Americans in business suits. When the elevator doors opened, Arab extremists let fly with sub-machine pistols killing the Americans outright. My friend's brother dropped to the floor, as if dead, and survived the ordeal. Did he live because the terrorists recognized him as a peace-loving Canadian? Rather unlikely, it turns out. So many Americans in the Middle-East have taken to disguising themselves as Canadians by wearing Maple Leaf pins and flags that the bad guys have now decided that all western looking people are 'Damn Yankees' no matter what they claim, and fair game to be shot on sight. This gives a somewhat deadly edge to the game of 'spot the difference'.

I've always had the sneaking suspicion that a lot of Americans look down on us Canucks as being poor country cousins from, what else, a poor country. With the jingoism that is the Fourth of July in the good old US of A, I am surprised that any American would want to be one of us, if even to save their life. I live in hope that it may again be fashionable to be American and that we will be left in peace to wave our little red-and-whites without the worry that we will be rewarded with a hail of lead meant for our more belligerent cousins.

I wasn't born here but I have been a Canadian now for the majority of my life. I have never been made to feel that I was ever an outsider in this country. Never made to feel awkward or different. Immigrants have a special passion for this country, if you need proof of this look around at the next Leafs game (if there ever is one) to see who actually sings the words to O'Canada and I'll bet you can pick out the lustiest singers as people who probably weren't born here. Being born here can be said to be an accident of birth, choosing this country involves an act of choice, very like marrying for love. One of the latest 'brides' of Canada is our own Karen Coleman who was made a citizen earlier this year, after what seemed to be a horrifying examination. At least that's what we assumed, after months of being spot quizzed by Karen on "what is the capital of." We were very, very relieved when she passed. We wish her and all our fellow Canadians a peaceful and a joyful Canada Day. God Bless.

THE HALTON COMPASS

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OAKVILLE

TRAFALGAR WAR MEMORIAL

Honour Roll Now Available for Final Review

Construction of the Trafalgar War Memorial is nearing completion. This memorial, located at the corner of Central Park Drive and Oak Park Boulevard in Oakville, will include an Honour Roll specifically dedicated to Trafalgar Township residents who served in one of the Great Wars (WWI, WWII), and the Korean War.

A comprehensive list of names compiled by the Trafalgar Memorial Committee is being published from June 30th to July 31st to confirm existing details and gather additional information. The list, as well as "correction" forms are available on the Town's website at www.oakville.ca, and at the following locations:

Oakville: Town Hall, Sir John Colborne Seniors Centre, Oakville Seniors Centre (Kerr St.), Community Centres, Libraries, Legions and the Halton Regional Centre.

Milton: Town Hall, the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre (MSAC) and the Legion.

Burlington: City Hall, the Burlington Seniors' Centre and the Legion.

If you have any questions, or are interested in donating to the Trafalgar War Memorial please contact:

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For information on Town meetings, services and programs visit www.oakville.ca