

GRAPEVINE

Battle of the Books

Question: What Canadian book features a girl with red pigtails who lives on an island?

You can bet the McKenzie-Smith Bennett students competing in today's (Thursday) Halton Hill's library Battle of the Books know the answer is Anne of Green Gables.

Literature trivia is the focus of the round-robin contest in Georgetown, this year featuring teams from nine schools including the MSB senior team of Cassie Hunter, Synnoeve Stockinger, Sarah Lewis, Hayley Green, Dawn Stevenson, Rebecca Lewis and Jenny Keats. They are Acton's only entry in this year's contest, the 15th annual.

Students win points for correctly naming book titles and authors from questions submitted by library employees.

Subway spic and span

There's no such thing as too clean for Gus Galimanas. His relentless scrubbing, disinfecting and polishing has earned him the cleanest Subway Salads and Sandwiches franchise in Southern Ontario award five years running, ever since he and wife Marie opened in Acton after relocating from Parry Sound. The Halton Health Department is also impressed, giving Subway top marks for cleanliness.

"We've had people use our wash-room and say that it was cleaner than theirs at home. Now that's clean," Gus said recently. Acton Subway also rates tops on almost all monthly spot inspections by head office checking

for efficiency, output, staff product knowledge and customer service.

Kinettes camp out

Kinettes from far and near gathered at the Blue Springs Scout Camp on the weekend for their Zone Nine Spring conference, hosted by the new Acton club. Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson lunched with the Kinettes and thanked them for all of the community work that they do.

"Since the Acton Kinettes have been in existence they've really done a lot, helping the arena and holding a teen dance at the Acton Legion. I really appreciate all the work they do."

The Acton Kinettes have 15 members.

Survey Says...

Grade 2 and 3 students at Robert Little school used a feature in the March 19 issue of The New Tanner as a teaching tool and came up with suggestions on how to make Acton a better place to live. Teacher Kathy Mayo used the Tanner's regular feature "Our Survey Says" and the question, "What would you change or improve about Acton?" as part of a project with the Credit Valley Conservation to improve the community.

While Tanner respondents wanted more development, a renovated downtown and the Red Dog Café to re-open, the students opted for making Fairy Lake "all sparkling and clean," and drinkable, cleaning up the school yard and Black Creek, less development with more green grass and a bigger toy store.



REMEMBER WHEN Acton and District Hockey League played in the old arena? A nursery for the intermediate hockey team this one, "The Jones Boys", photographed in the 1932-33 season, played for "bush league" honours until World War 2. Front row, left to right are George Molozzi, Jim McGeachie, Herb Woods, Jim Jones, and Leo Marzo. In back are coach "Doc" Pearen, Thos. Gibbons, Gord Cook, George Footitt, Herb Cook and manager "Pop" Jones who sponsored the team. Photo loaned by Bob Marshall.

You can make a difference

Not long ago, I was part of a group discussing some local situations involving the government. "Why bother," said one man, "they aren't going to listen to me. They'll just do what they want anyway." I thought at the time, is that true? Can one person no longer made a difference? I wonder.

Isn't history defined by men and women who disregarded they theory that you can't fight city hall? Most of these "heroes" were just plain folks who through ambition or circumstance rose to the occasion. Most were doing the right thing. Against incredible odds they stayed the course and in the end triumphed. Tyrants, however, surrounded themselves with armies and riches. (Power corrupts?)

So who are these people who left the world so much better than they found it? Here are a few of my heroes. I'm sure you have your own list.

My contemporary hero is Mother Teresa. Born to poverty, she dedicated herself to the poorest of the poor in Calcutta. Single-handedly she built her order into a worldwide effort. I wonder, if early in her life, someone said, "This is a hopeless task?" I'll bet there were plenty. After all, who cared about the poorest of the poor? Undaunted and armed with only her understanding of God's word, she forged ahead. From what I have read this seemingly frail, unassuming nun eschewed all temporal rewards. When she died she owned only two saris and yet, the rich and powerful trooped into India to pay her homage. (A spectacle I'm not sure she would have approved of.) This one woman, against incredible odds, made a difference.

Last week marked the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King. Can you imagine how terrifying it was for

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



King, a black preacher, to make his voice heard in the American South? In his time, uppity black folk were shot or hung if they became too much of a nuisance. In the end, they got him, too. They killed the man but not the dream. His memory became the conscience of a nation.

I grew up listening to stories of Winston Churchill. He saved England in her darkest days. At a time when his country was in deepest depression and many were recommending a negotiated truce, Churchill rallied his people by force of his own personality.

"We shall fight on the beaches, etc." Granted, Churchill was to the manor born but so was Chamberlain.

Churchill couldn't conceive an England under enemy rule. All of the breeding and education couldn't produce the depth of dedication to his country that Churchill had. Those emotions come from deep inside. Against all odds he rallied a world to victory. It's also interesting that after the war he was dumped from office. Perhaps peace doesn't need a conscience.

Down through the centuries the common thread of heroes is their belief in their own vision, an ability to rally others to the cause and the courage to defy the wisdom of the day.

Ghandi brought down the Raj. What were the odds against that? When before had the might British Empire been defeated without force of arms? If Columbus had listened to the scholars of the day, he would have stayed in Spain. Lincoln had no great shakes of an education. He fought a civil war on principles. If I had told you 25 years ago that Nelson Mandela would be president of South Africa would you have be-

lieved me? Assuming of course, that anyone of us would have even heard of Nelson Mandela 25 years ago.

At this time of year we should also be thinking about someone who made a huge difference. Almost 2000 years ago a simple man walked the earth. The son of a carpenter, He would not defer to the movers and shakers of the day. His radical message was that we shouldn't kill each other. We shouldn't steal, lie, commit adultery or worship false idols. We should respect and love each other.

He took on not only the Roman Empire, but also, the dominant religious thinkers of His times. He was not looking for riches or comforts here on earth. He only wanted to guide us to a better life in the hereafter. His reward was to be tortured and crucified. Today His name is used by one person as a prayer and the next as a curse. I wonder what He would say about the world we have created. Have we really come very far in 2000 years? Would we crucify Him again? We do seem to slaughter the righteous.

So how does all this relate back to the original question? It's just this: I believe one person can make a difference. I'm not saying we have any Churchills or Kings or Ghandis in Acton and I'm pretty confident we don't have a reincarnation of the Son of God in these parts. But each of us, in our own way, can use our talents to make this little corner of the world a better place.

Is there a senior or widow who needs help? Maybe just a visit and a smile. The Cancer Society, United Way, Arthritis Society, etc. are always looking for help. ASSIC might need drivers. Maybe you can't free the slaves or save England. But you can make a difference. But first you have to try.

Perhaps Easter weekend would be a good time to think about it.

"Our Survey Says..."

Last week, The New Tanner celebrated its 10th issue. This week we asked you how you like the paper, is there something you would like to see more of and if you read the advertising? Here's what some of our readers said...



I like reading the local news. Maybe less sports. I would like to see more people oriented stories.

Michael LeBlanc, Acton



I enjoy reading The New Tanner. It's nice to read Acton news instead of Georgetown news. I do read the advertising.

Cyndi Frame, Acton



I like the paper. We're between sport seasons, but keep covering the local teams. I find the advertising helpful. I'm glad the paper's back.

Mary Anne McGrath, Acton



We think there should be more sports. The kid's page is cool; we want it back every week. We tried the crossword, but didn't finish it. An easier crossword for kids would be good.

Mike Gerrow and Brendan Dick, Acton

This week's New Tanner survey by Angela Tyler