

GRAPEVINE



operating in Georgetown for over two years I think that this is what Acton needs."

Weekdays the fitness centre opens at 5 a.m. and closes at 10 p.m.

Park transformation

The conversion of Prospect Park into a fairground for the 85th edition of the Acton fall fair is almost complete. Crews of dedicated volunteers began putting up miles of snow fencing, bleachers and display cases early Saturday morning. Some will take the week off work to be ready for the biggest event on Acton's social calendar.

School kids from all over Halton will descend on the fairgrounds tomorrow (Friday) for Education Day. Once again the Acton Agricultural Society will provide milk or juice for the students along with special programs.

Spring construction

Construction is "imminent" at the Forest Creek rural estate subdivision east of Acton on the Fourth Line north of Highway 7. Charleston Homes reports 12 of the 18 house sites have been sold and with closing dates from the end of December through till May. Construction of a road into the development is almost complete.

Dedicated donors

Once again Acton blood donors rose to the need to make last Thursday's Red Cross donor clinic at the Legion a success. Eighty-five units of blood were collected from the 97 people who showed up at the last clinic before Canada's blood supply system is turned over to Canadian Blood Services. Acton blood donor clinic volunteers and donors will be honoured at a Halton Hills Red Cross appreciation night September 17 in Georgetown.

Timber sports

Axe throwing, water boiling and wood splitting are some of the lumberjack skills featured on Sunday during three woodsmen's shows at the fall fair. Timber sport team member Michelle Parks of Acton, a member of the 1994-95 Eastern Canadian Women's Timber Sports championship team, said they will compete against the clock as they chop blocks of wood and climb poles.

"People will see how an 1800's lumberjack would have worked with bow and crosscut saws and how a modern lumberjack would use a chainsaw," Parks said.

Fair organizers said the show is a real crowd pleaser and will replace the motorcycle stunt rider who has performed in past years.

Mill Street muscle

Now there's no good excuse for that couch potato look. Acton's first fitness and nutrition centre held its grand opening at 7 Mill Street East on Saturday and drew a steady stream of curious people all day.

Tomas Apulinario of Personal Fitness with Tomas has signed a five-year lease for the building and can't wait to whip Acton into shape.

"I guarantee results," Apulinario said last week, muscles rippling as he set up the exercise equipment and displays of nutritional products and workout wear sold at the centre.

"I'm a certified physical trainer and have nutritional training and after



FUN FALL DAYS: 3 year old Nigel Buttivant had fun at the Trunk Sale with his new wind catcher whirly-gig. - Angela Tyler photo

Enough already!

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



This may sound odd, coming from a columnist but this Canadian is sick and tired of the press creating the news. Specifically, the treatment of the one year anniversary of Princess Diana's tragic death was nauseating. It was obvious that the common people were not interested in a repeat of last year's group hysterics. And yet the press persevered, trying to make a story where there was none. Diana is gone. Let's let the lady rest in peace.

At the same time, the one year anniversary of Mother Teresa's death passed almost without notice by the world press. There were a few small stories buried on page 10 or at the end of the 11 o'clock news. But no real coverage. No pithy stories about how her nuns are carrying on her good works.

There was lots of attention paid to how much money had been raised by Elton John's recording but not a word about how many starving souls had been saved in Calcutta and around the world.

I suppose Mother Teresa and her work is just not sexy enough to sell papers. If only one of these women could be picked for sainthood however, few of us would have a hard time choosing. But would we buy a paper or magazine which chronicled her life. Seems not.

Regular readers will know that I'm a sports fan. I even risk eternal damnation by arguing with both my priest and ex pastor that the Argos are better than the Tiger Cats. The overblown coverage of Mark McGwire's breaking the single season home run record ruined the whole event for me. It was bad enough the McGwire assumed the credit for reinvigorating the game after the disastrous strike of a few years ago. The TV and radio announcers were just nuts. On the night McGwire hit his 60th homer one broadcaster said that this would go down as one of the great moments in the history of mankind. Whoa! Back the bus up!

Let's see now. The discovery of

language, the arch, worldwide exploration, giant strides in medicine, flight, man on the moon. How twisted must you be to think a man hitting a ball with a stick has a place in this list?

Another announcer said, "Years from now you'll remember where you were when McGwire broke the record." Now my co-worker Steve is an even bigger fan than I am. When he heard about this outrageous claim he said, "Sure I will - I was watching a re-run of Frasier on another channel." Why does the press try to make these things bigger than they really are? It just ruins the enjoyment of the event by those of us who love the game. The hyperbole turns you off.

Perhaps the biggest made for TV scandal is the one currently rocking U.S. President Clinton. Polls still show that most Americans think Clinton should stay in office and finish his term. Infidelity, it would appear is not an impeachable offence.

I think that, because of the way the press has spun this story, most Americans are missing the point. The question isn't whether Clinton was having sex with Lewinsky, or anyone else for that matter. It doesn't matter if he is a cad or a bounder, which he is, by the way. The real question is: did he lie under oath? This is largely ignored by the press in order for them to concentrate on more salacious details of this tawdry affair.

President Nixon was not forced from office because of the Watergate burglary. Nor were the infamous tape recordings the cause. Nixon lied, under oath, to a special counsel investigating the Watergate mess. When he erased portions of the tapes that proved him a liar, he was ob-

structing justice. Those are indictable offences which led to the call for his impeachment and his ultimate downfall.

don't think he will be forced from office. The spotlight is so firmly on the sex part that everything else is lost in the shuffle. History will not be kind to this dirty little scandal nor to the way Congress and the Senate have handled it. Nor to Starr for that matter. I don't understand why prosecutor Starr included all the lurid details in his report to the House. Surely he must have known that this amount of titillation would deflect the public's attention the crimes of any consequence.

I can see only one possibility. Starr began this inquiry over four years ago investigating the President and Mrs. Clinton's involvement in the Whitewater real estate scandal back in Arkansas. It seemed like every time Starr had Clinton in his sights, Bubba would invoke executive privilege or turn loose the White House lawyers who would frustrate Starr's initiative. A guy can only take so much and maybe Starr took it all personally. Maybe he thought Clinton would weasel out of this mess like he has done so often in the past. So Starr decided to at least take his revenge on Clinton's reputation. Why else would he publish descriptions of the coming and going in the oval office?

I'll admit it - I read all the juicy details strictly as a research assignment, of course. This is when I began to question the motives for the report sent to Congress. I mean, will anyone ever smoke a cigar again? There must be easier ways to quit.

I finally had enough and turned the page. "Does size matter" screamed the headline there. "Oh, my God," I thought, "surely they aren't printing a comparison?" The article was about class sizes in Ontario.

It's nice to be a Canadian.

LETTERS

Georgetown gets the progress

To the Editor:

As a new resident of Acton (two years), I find it perturbing to note the bias that the Town of Halton Hills shows Georgetown. Georgetown grows and prospers - a wide range of development underway, which the mayor actively promotes. Meanwhile, Acton has grown at a slow pace with nominal new business development.

In fact, the government of the Town of Halton Hills has gone to great extents to IMPEDE the development of new businesses within Acton. The most notable being:

1. After Canadian Tire left Acton and opened a new store in Georgetown, the only service was the local Home Hardware. As the local retailer prospered, they made plans to demolish the abandoned gas station on highway 7. The planning department has done everything to stop this development; from obscure bylaw requirements to suggesting that the sewers be run down the middle of Highway 7 at three times the expense of alternates. They endanger \$600,000 + in potential development.

2. A local developer is attempting to remove a second eye-sore - an abandoned warehouse on main street (Highway 7) but requires a bylaw change to facilitate an anchor store. The zone change makes the plaza a viable development with a greater chance of success. Once again, bylaw officers step in to prevent business - requiring a \$7,000 impact study. Both developments would remove

dangerous - ugly buildings which sit on the main street. Both developments would create local jobs and provide residents with more choices. Both developments would funnel dollars into the local area through \$1 million + in development dollars and additional business tax revenue. Both developments would benefit Acton.

I would like to make two suggestions:

1. It is time that the mayor shed the Georgetown centric view. The mayor needs to support development in all areas of Halton Hills to the benefit of ALL residents - not just Georgetown.

2. The Town of Halton Hills staff should focus on the basics before moving to business prevention. The burned out house that stands across from my own - on main street - has had a notice to condemn on its since April. The due date was 90 days, which is over three months ago.

To my chagrin, the elimination of the Georgetown centric views of our town government may not be possible. Go to the internet to view the evidence - start at www.haltonhills.com, click on About Halton, then Halton At A Glance. Under Halton Hills sites: Town of Halton Hills - Home Page (Georgetown) - need I say more?

Michael Weening

More letters on Page 6

September 18, 19 & 20 - Come join the fun all weekend!!