

GRAPEVINE



Service club support

Thanks to the continued generosity of the Rotary Club of Acton, the local Scouting and Guiding movements have been able to expand their programs and buy new equipment. On Tuesday night, members of the Acton Scouting community gratefully accepted a \$2,250 cheque from Rotary officials at their regular meeting. The Scouts used the money to help purchase some winter camping equipment.

Next Tuesday, representatives of the Acton Guiding movement will accept their Rotary cheque - the third in three years - that will help pay for 14 pairs of snowshoes and unit flags.

New psychiatric service

Summit House, a non-profit charitable organization providing outreach and case management service to adults with chronic serious psychiatric illnesses, has opened an Acton office at 8 Mill Street East. While Summit House provides affordable and safe housing for its clients in other parts of Halton, its initial plans in Acton are to provide counselling and support for the approximately 80 psychiatric patients living here.

Summit House officials say their goal is to help people with psychiatric illnesses to become more independent and self-sufficient.

Arena utterances

While the newness of the \$5.3 million Acton Arena and Community Centre is beginning to wear off, the facility, which was opened last year, continues to draw a lot of comments - mostly good from regular users and visitors. Recently, some hockey dads from Troy, Michigan, up for a tournament, were checking out the facility.

"Designed by a Mennonite," sniffed one of the men as he checked out the latching mechanism on a rink board door, indicating that high tech was better than the simple, yet legantly efficient, latch.

Not 10 minutes later, another hockey dad, this one from Fergus, was overheard saying that every time he visits the Acton arena he's newly impressed with design and function of the building and added that Acton doesn't realize how lucky it is to have a state-of-the-art facility.



Storm blows over Acton

Once they got over the awe of actually being on the ice with NHL draftees, including Tampa Bay Lightning-bound Eric Beaudoin (left), members of Acton's Galvcast Novice house hockey team had a great time as they hosted a practice in Guelph recently with members of the OHL Guelph Storm. Along with some great advice, the Novice team picked up Storm calendars and autographed photos.

Novice team member, Acton's Thomas Glassford (right) said it was "pretty neat" to skate with Storm players.

"Not too many kids get to do that," Glassford, adding that Beaudoin was "just a regular guy," until he started to skate. Glassford said he picked up a good tip by watching Beaudoin - he's going to work at keeping his head up when he's on the ice.



Pizzaville

Acton pizza lovers now have another choice as a Pizzaville franchise has opened in the former Mr. Muggs coffee shop - now known as Family Coffee Shops - in the IGA plaza. Owner Ken Avery, who also operated Mega and Maken pizza franchises at that same location, said Pizzaville has a great product, a great reputation and reasonable prices.

In response to a smoking ban at another Acton coffee shop, the new Family Coffee Shops will be open around the clock beginning next month and Avery said they will also will upgrade a new smoke filter system to be even more efficient. Owner/operators Pat and Ken Avery (second and third from left) and staff Lesa Rhynold (left) and Karen Lockwood (right) and Pizzaville district manager Monty Altintutar like the new sign.



Comments could hurt

To the Editor,

In the Tuesday, Dec. 22 issue of the *Tanner*, you published an old school picture on Page 5. It was a picture of Kay Alger's Grade 4 and 5 class from the old Public School.

It stated, "she found one of the boys was 16 and couldn't count to 10". Well this makes for sensational reading and I know sensations sell more papers than reality.

If the boy in question is the one standing beside Kay Alger and I have good reason to believe it is, there was a time when that boy could count to 10 and more.

I happen to know this because he is my brother. You can see by the pictures, as a 16 year old he is very little larger than the other children who would be considerably younger. At the age of ten, Richard was left with brain damage from head/neck injury.

At that time, there was neither the medical technology for treatment or the educational resources for retaining/educating. People such as Richard were shoved into the public school system where they were often tormented, teased and ridiculed by "normal" children. Do I believe in special schools for special children? You can bet I do. The world is cruel if you're different.

Richard may be mentally challenged but he has feelings. He knows when he's happy, he cried when our mother died. He loves cats, dogs, horses and the Montreal Canadiens. He knows nothing of greed and selfishness. He wouldn't know how to be cruel. He probably still can't count to 10 but he would never call anyone "Stupid." Every time I see him I realize what a special person he is.

Mrs. Alger's statement was no doubt true. I just wonder if it could have been phrased in a kinder, more diplomatic manner.

Betty (Williamson) Cole



WINTER FREEZE: It's hard to remember the laughter-filled picnics, fishing and boating of last summer on Fairy Lake when looking at this desolate, wind-swept view from Mill street West. - Frances Niblock photo

Olympic rings are tarnished

The major news story last weekend was the IOC scandal. All day Sunday the TV screens were full of images of IOC vice-president Dick Pound telling the world that up to 12 delegates had crossed the line and accepted inappropriate gifts. Pound, a Canadian and odds-on favourite to be the next IOC president in 2002, seemed justifiably chagrined. What a charade.

For Dick Pound, and anyone else for whom the corruption in the IOC comes as a surprise, I offer the following equally surprising facts as a public service: 1) It's darker at night. 2) Water is wet. 3) The sky is up. C'mon Mr. Pound. It's been 20 years or so that the Olympic movement was run by a bunch of pseudo-aristocrats who travelled the world with their paws out. The move to professionals in the games and the corresponding billions involved in putting on the games only invites more graft and corruption. The only similarity between the original Olympic ideas and today's extravaganza is the name.

One need not search for proof of rot in the IOC and further than the games in Nagano. The sporting world knew the ice dancing competition was fixed. The TV commentators even gave chapter and verse before the competition got under way. But it wasn't until Canadians Bourne and Kraatz were blatantly screwed by the judges that public opinion forced IOC president Samaranch to react. Even then it was just a lukewarm direction to the skating federation to clean up their act. Nothing really changed. Why would it? IOC members were omnipotent and above letting something as mundane as fairness disturb their deliberations at the trough.

Obviously, the people at the top of the organization should resign, especially since they flitter around the world looking down on plain folks because they're wrapped in the Olympic mantle. Don't hold

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



your breath. It, IOC, is as political an organization as any federal government. Remember the airbus affair? Did Alan Rock's head roll for maligning ex-P.M. Mulroney and costing the taxpayers millions? Of course not. They blamed it on some mid-level lawyer and swept the rest of the sordid mess under the carpet.

The same thing is happening with the IOC. Sure, a dozen or so minor players will be thrown to the wolves. But the leaders will escape censure. President Samaranch said last week that those members under investigation should "do the right thing and resign." How he uttered those words without choking on his own duplicity is beyond me. The man could give Bill Clinton lessons in chutzpah.

Nothing will change in the Olympic movement until the secrecy is expunged from the organization. This is especially true of the vote to award the games to a "host city." There is just too much money involved these days. The process needs to be transparent.

President Samaranch has admitted there are calls for his resignation. He is determined to finish his term in 2001. He has agreed to put his leadership on the agenda when the whole IOC membership meets and will seek a vote of confidence. Since he appointed most of the IOC member this vote will be as honest as the ice dancing contest. The results are as equally predictable. Honest, good sportsmanship and the Olympic ideals will be sacrificed to save the sullied reputations of the IOC executive. Sad - but true.

I couldn't believe the story in last week's *New Tanner*. Seems her wor-

ship, the mayor, threw a snit when she received less than enthusiastic support for her pet project. That being a leisure palace in the centre of the universe also known as Georgetown South.

Now I know I'm skating on thin ice here criticizing Georgetown and all. When a number of Acton citizens went to council to see if we could save the old arena we were told in so many words that we should be grateful for what we had. That was after being kept waiting for two hours, but that's another story.

The mayor appear to hope she can bulldoze the council to her way of thinking by making an oblique threat to slow down development. As a businessman in this town I really appreciate asinine comments like that from a petulant politician. Our store owners would obviously want a leisure centre before more home and people. If the BIA hasn't written to object to this fiscal blackmail, they should.

In the same paper is a story on how our Acton councillors are trying to get the developers to move in Acton East. Then builders read that until we erect her leisure centre the mayor might slow things up. That's terrific leadership, isn't it?

Acton councillors asked, and rightly so, why we aren't spending the money on roads and other improvements dumped from last year's budget? Of course those projects aren't as sexy and hardly ever require a ribbon cutting. Besides, other towns have leisure centres. Well, that's ample justification to build a Taj-ma-sport while the roads deteriorate.

Perhaps it's time we changed the title by which the mayor is addressed. She may be taking this "Your Worship" thing a little too literally. When Russ Miller was mayor I dubbed him "Hizzonour." Russ was kind of a folksy guy. As for the incumbent - how does "Heronery" sound to you?



WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.