

GRAPEVINE



Local football winner

More than a few local sports fans raked up their cars on Friday night during the CFL's televised outstanding player awards ceremony in Vancouver when the name "Acton" popped up.

Former Acton native Jamie Taras, 33-year-old offensive guard with the BC Lions, was named as the Tommie Memorial Award winner. Taras, 2" and 260-pounds, lost the most outstanding Canadian player award to Toronto Argonaut Mike O'Shea in voting by the Football Reporters of Canada.

Taras, an Acton High school grad, played for the University of Western Ontario before being acquired in the first round (25th overall) by the B.C. Lions in the 1987 CFL college draft. Jamie's mother still lives in rural Acton.

RIDE treats

Motorists stopped at Halton police RIDE spot checks this holiday season - those that haven't been drinking - will receive Bell Calling Cards, coupon books and MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) snow scrapers, along with tip sheets and trash bags.

The Halton Health Department, Halton Police and MADD have joined in a partnership to deliver information about alcohol and alcohol liability and safety through the RIDE program that kicks off December 3. The beefed up RIDE program in Halton this year will include 19 separate RIDE locations throughout the Region from December 3 to 31.

Say what?

No public comment so far from Halton public school board trustees

who were called "irresponsible" recently by Halton M.P.P. Ted Chudleigh for refusing to close under-used schools in the south of Halton so the Board would be eligible for provincial money for new schools in high growth areas, including Georgetown.

Trustees recently "unfroze" an interim school closing policy, but because of timelines in that policy, the earliest a school could be closed would be 2001, including Fairfield public school in Burlington which has a rated capacity of 287 students and an enrollment of just 70 students.

Vote for ?

With the municipal election just less than a year away, one Mill Street property owner - who wishes to remain nameless for now - plans to run for Town council for one of two local Acton seats.

"I want to shake things up a bit," the potential politico said recently, adding it was too soon to publicly declare.

No word if the incumbent Ward 1 councillors - veteran Norm Elliott and rookie Clark Somerville - plan to run again.

Never too young

Eileen Dix of the Acton Food Share had a pleasant experience last weekend with a couple of young donors. Casey Bourgeois, 9, and his sister Jaslynn, 5, have been saving their pennies all year with the intent of donating to the needy at Christmas, their mother told Dix. When she brought them to the Perth Street location Saturday, the two youngsters had \$25.50 to contribute towards items Food Share buys for its hampers.



WHITE MONDAY: Monday morning risers were greeted by a fluffy snowfall which turned trees and bushes into a cascade of cotton. Tall evergreens and weeping willows bowed before the first signs of winter's approach at this scene taken from the span which crosses the School creek. - H. Coles photo

Input would be a good thing!

An opinion columnist, by definition, should comment on the issues of the day and advance a strong theory to resolve same. I, however, find myself bamboozled on so many topics that, with the theory that 3,000 heads are better than one, I turn to you dear readers, for the solutions to the following earth shattering questions of the day. I look forward to your replies.

I'm fed-up with Y2K. I've had it U2H (Up to here!) If all the computers are going to go wacky because of the change to 2000 why don't we just go with the flow and call next year 1900? Who's hung up on the 2000 thing?

The City of Vaughan has a point in their ad campaign. Why don't sheep shrink in the rain?

The average doctor clears around \$80,000 per year, after expenses. Not bad. But hold on a minute: The average provincial and federal MP makes over \$100,000 per year plus all expenses. Politicians claim they need high salaries to attract and keep good people. Don't the same hold true of doctors? Every week we hear there is a shortage of doctors. There is no shortage of politicians so obviously their salary strategy is working. If we paid the doctors \$100,000 and the politicians \$80,000 would that solve the doctor shortage? Just wondering.

The Canada Food Guide claims our health would improve if we eat the five basic food groups. Why isn't pizza considered health food?

Why do the Feds have money to send child killer prisoners to university while our soldiers have to go to food banks to feed their families?

The Prime Minister wants to set the rules for the next referendum in Quebec. Why don't we just tell Benedict Bouchard "Hey Benny - it was two out of three and we won. Throw in the Plains of Abraham and we're three for four. We're tired of the game. It's over - deal with it." Howcum this approach is never considered?

Speaking of the Prime Minister,

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



will he ever retire? Other than Paul Martin, does anyone care?

How does this compute? If you are very cruel to an animal the Feds plan to put you away for five years and ding you with a huge fine. If a "Young Offender" murders someone they'll get three years in a fine residence with all the amenities including a free education. This is called - justice?

How do you keep up with trends when there are no young children in the house? Until the other day, for instance, I thought Pokemon was a Jamaican gigilo.

The Toronto Dominion Bank made \$2.8 billion in profit and announced at the same time they're going to cut jobs. If other industries follow the same course pretty soon no one will have any money to put in their stinking bank. This is good planning?

Workers at the Molson plant in Barrie occupied it when the company announced it was moving production to Toronto. For some reason, the company decided not to offer any of these skilled workers a transfer. Who does Molson's think they are? A bank? The workers have been in the plant for two weeks or so and when contacted for an update on negotiations responded "Slurb pootah kees noor bangwuk." Obviously they are running low on food but have lots to drink. They figure they can hold out for about 12 1/2 years.

MP Ted Chudleigh is on a committee investigating gas prices. They hope to have a report by spring. It's as obvious as the nose on his face that the oil companies are acting in concert to screw the public and force the remaining independents out of business. Then they'll really be able to jack up the prices. This info should save Ted and his committee a lot of time and money. Where do I send my consultant's invoice? Now the ques-

tion is Ted; What are you going to do about big oil? Answer - Nada!

If Sheila Copps spoke in the middle of a forest and no one was around to hear her would she still sound like a fishwife?

Canada applauds the efforts of a Third World Countries who keep their birth rates down to combat the trendy concept of over population. Heck, in some countries our tax dollars even finance contraceptive and sterilization projects. Then we grant refugee status to a Chinese woman on the grounds that if we send her back to China she could only have one child. How does that add up?

We seem to have lots of money for millennium projects and free flags to promote a sense of pride in Canada. Meanwhile, our hospitalized veterans sit in stink and squalor because we have no funding for them. This is intended, I suppose, to promote a sense of national shame thus overcoming the pride mentioned above and bring us to a state of befuddled neutrality because, after all, we're Canadians. Or is it just because looking after our vets properly won't get the ministers any good photo-ops?

Lastly, why do women like Martha Stewart? It's bad enough that she made over a billion dollars in one day by taking her company public but watching her show has to give you cavities; she's so darn sweet. When I watch someone on TV doing woodworking, and they make it look so easy, I tend to resent them. I know that if I tried until the next millennium I could never make a table, or whatever, look as good as they can. Let's face it - I'm jealous. But women lap it up when Martha says "Tomorrow I'll show you how you can take a used egg container, a dead sparrow and six sheets of cardboard to make a formal turkey dinner for eight and a fully functioning 747. Don't you think women should scratch her eyes out?"

Wouldn't that be a good thing?

LETTERS

Upset with test results

Dear Editor:
I read with concern the Grade 6 test results as released by the Halton Board on Wednesday, Nov.24. On average 29 per cent of McKenzie-Smith Bennett students scored at or above the accepted level as compared to 52 per cent in the rest of the Halton District and 49 per cent in all of Ontario. What happened? Why have our

students scored so poorly? Seventy-one per cent have not reached the accepted learning level. I used to think that my children, along with all of Acton's children, would get a good education at McKenzie-Smith Bennett school. Now, in light of these test results, I am not so sure.
Yours truly,
Lois Matton.

Ice fouls up wildfowl

December 1 dawned bright and sunny Wednesday morning but the

mercury plunged to 10 degrees below Celsius Tuesday night so Fairy Lake had a sheet of ice over its still waters.

Dare to dream...

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but he had hit pay dirt. He persisted despite the taunts and snickering of the unbelievers.

Flocks of geese and ducks flying south, swooping in for a landing on the lake presented a comic picture as they hit the ice. They had their landing gear down but hastily retreated them when they discovered the ice, put on the brakes and slid along the slippery surface.

He and wife Mary, a popular couple, retired from restaurantering to their home at the corner of Mill and Young streets which had considerable farm land. That land was sold to a developer and has since been known as the Bovis subdivision.

Geese usually fly in V formation at night and land on small lakes to rest during the day. Hundreds have been coming in every morning to harbour on Fairy Lake, some of whom, of course, will stick around and feed on corn fields.

Tony Seynuck's oil company of 1932 may be a bust for risk takers but they tell only part of the story about a remarkable man who called Acton home.

The weatherman is promising warmer weather and possible rain by week's end so the flocks of fowl will have a softer landing.

Try a Tanner ad - it pays!