

GRAPEVINE



Big time Tykes

What a thrill for the Halton Hills Tyke Bulldog lacrosse team – including Acton's Riley McGilloway, Jessie Kuenzig and Gordie McKeon – that will play at Maple Leaf Gardens next Friday in a pre-game match with rival St. Catharines before the Toronto Rock game. On Monday the Bulldogs, who lost the provincial final to St. Kitts, received municipal awards from the Town of Halton Hills for their Ontario Lacrosse Association second place finish.

Vision help

You can check out the latest technical aids for those with vision problems at CNIB service day on April 4 at the Acton Seniors Centre. CNIB staff and volunteers will be on hand with information for seniors and the general public. There will be a talking book exchange and referrals for services. A vision rehab worker will also be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wine winners

The Scotch Block Country Winery – located at Andrew's Scenic Acres off Highway 25 – is enjoying the fruits of its labour after winning two medals at the first National Fruit Wine competition that featured 36 wineries from eight provinces. Scotch Block's Regal Black Currant and Cassis, a semi-sweet blackcurrant desert wine both won bronze medals. The cottage winery at Andrews has come a long way in the year since it began making wine from fruit and berries grown at the pick-your-own farm.

Much music

Members of the Acton High school jazz band and other local students in various ensembles and massed choirs are among 1,000 Halton elementary and secondary school students who will perform at the annual Halton Music Showcase. Proud parents, friends and teachers are expected to jam the Great Hall at Hamilton Place for the April 27 event that sold out last year.

Natural muscles

Andrea Apulinario is the best advertisement for Personal Fitness by Tomas, her husband's Mill Street fitness studio. Just months after giving birth, Andrea captured first place in body building, 2nd in Miss Figure and 3rd in fitness model at a natural body building competition in Oshawa on the weekend. Andrea and Tomas took first place in the mixed pair body building category and Tomas also won first place in body building, first place in men's fitness, first place in fitness modeling and 3rd in body building. Andrea said she had to take Tomas away to

Mexico last week for some serious training. Nice that it paid off.

"Our goal is to set people straight that there's health at any age and any condition and naturally, because this is a natural competition and they are very strict on natural," Andrea said.

Gone fishin'

For some, opening a new business might mean less time for favourite hobbies, like fishing. But for Acton's Herb Dodds and partner Steve McLeod, opening a fishing tackle shop in Dodds's Royal Jug City, the extra work won't be unbearable.

"We'll have to test the equipment," Dodds, and avid fisherman, laughed when asked if their new venture – Royal Fishing Tackle – which opens on Saturday, will mean more time behind the counter and less time on Lake Ontario looking for salmon and rainbow trout.

Smoke Shoppe sold

An as-yet unnamed Limehouse man has made an offer to buy the Smoke Shoppe from Acton's Helen Jocque, who is retiring after 33 years of owning and operating variety stores at four downtown locations.

Helen can't wait to start her retirement and sleep in. "I was aiming for the end of March, but he doesn't think he can have all the paperwork done by then, so I said 'Okay, I'll get up for two more weeks,'" Jocque said, adding the deal closes mid-April. With the glut of variety stores in Acton, Jocque said she was able to maintain a steady clientele because she's an old Actonian.

Down Under wonders

Congrats to the gusty Canadian life saving team – including Acton's John Eddolls – that captured six medals at Rescue 2000, the International Life Saving Federation's World competition that wrapped up in Sydney, Australia on Sunday.

In their first international outing, Canada won silver and three bronzes in pool events. Adam Nicholson of Guelph, grandson of Elmer Smith of McKenzie-Smith Bennett, finished third in a manikin carry race. The Canadian team placed fourth in the emergency response event and seventh overall in the ocean events. The top 10 finish qualifies the Canadian squad for the Olympics – as a demonstration sport – in Australia in September. The team also will compete in surf lifesaving competitions at the Goodwill Games in Brisbane next year and the world championships in Japan in 2002.

John was one of two Canadian team members invited to compete in an inter-club event this weekend. He returns home April 20.



SMILES & HARDHATS: Members of the Montemarano family – developers of Lasby Lane and the new 60-home Acto Valley subdivision – and Town officials officially opened Bayfield Home's sales pavilion on Queen Street on Saturday. At the ribbon cutting ceremony were, front, left to right, Rob Montemarano, Jerry Montemarano, Mayor Mariyln Serjeantson, Peter Hrkac and Allan Chabassol, both with Blue Springs Realty. Back: Angelo Montemarano, Rosario M., Emilo M., Tony M., Frank Sgro and Rud Whiting. – Frances Niblock photo

Can't they lay off our pope?

He is, you know. Our Pope. I mean. Yours and mine. Catholic, Protestant, Jew or Muslim; Most of the world regards John Paul II as an international/interdenominational man of goodwill and peace. His message has always been to love and respect your neighbour. Were Diogenes still wandering through the wilderness looking for an honest man, I could suggest a candidate.

Two weeks ago the pope asked God's forgiveness for the sins of Catholics throughout the ages. I had some concerns when I first heard about the Pope's plans. I suppose I was out, though, when the Vatican called for my input. So I waited for the reaction from the mainstream press. It wasn't long coming.

The same day the storey of the day of "The Pardon Mass" at St. Peter's Basilica ran, the sniping started. The apology wasn't complete enough. What about women priests? No specifics and no names were given. The list went on and on. "Mea Culpa" said the headline in the Star. And then they added "What Comes Next?" One wonders what they expect? The nay-sayers will never be happy until the Pope brings church doctrine into line with the secular. "Progressive" thinking that passes for modern morality. That is never going to happen. If that makes some people uncomfortable: so be it.

It's unbelievable that so many seem to be missing the historic magnitude of this event. The spiritual leader of one billion Catholics has laid bare the soul of his church and sought forgiveness from the God he serves and the people who have been affected. Has there ever been such a glorious declaration of faith in a loving God? John Paul II is leading by example, as he was

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



during his entire papacy. He has travelled the world preaching peace and social justice. For this he gets criticized in the press?

A perfect example of the unfair press coverage the Pope gets is his trip to Israel last week. There were veiled accusations that he was playing politics between the Israelis and Palestinians. My friends, he was not playing. His holiness, I am sure, was using his finely honed diplomatic skills and lending his considerable prestige to the efforts to bring peace to this troubled land. He gets only grudging credit and questions about his motives. You have to wonder if the secular press is so critical because they are nervous that he might succeed.

Why is there any question at all about his trip to Israel? He is the spiritual leader of the largest Christian church in the world. This is the 2,000th year celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Where would you expect him to go? I think it would be news if he didn't visit many of the significant sites in the holiday land. This is a personal pilgrimage as well as a visit by a head of state. The people of Israel seem to recognize this. Jews and Arabs alike have given him a warm reception. A fact that has only been given passing notice. But 25 radicals protesting his visit are sure to get their 30 seconds of TV fame. You can bet on that. What a crock.

The world press concocted an anticipation that the Pope would directly apologize to the Jewish people

for the Holocaust. He didn't. De did much more. A visibly emotional John Paul II personalized the Shoah. Present for his visit was a boyhood friends from Poland - a Jew. Another Jew, a woman, told the story of how the Pope, as a young man, brought her food and water and then carried her on his back for kilometers. This man needs no lessons in the suffering of the Holocaust. He lived it.

Much of the furor over the Pope's apology had to do with what wartime Pope Pious XII did or did not do to save Jews during the war. Peoples are people too and it's entirely possible that this Pope made an error in judgement. Remember, though, that after the Catholic churches in Holland denounced the Nazi oppressions of the Jews. An enraged Hitler immediately ordered the deportation of tens of thousands of Jews from the Netherlands. We know what kind of counsel Pope Pius was getting from his advisors and the Allies. Surely the Vatican was getting and giving intelligence to Churchill, Roosevelt, De Gaulle and the other leaders of the day. This is the problem with this type of revisionist history judgements. No-one will ever know. With any certainty, how much support the Vatican, through its church, gave the hundreds of thousands of heroes in occupied Europe who opposed the Nazis.

To this day there are many documents in Ottawa, London and Washington from the war which are still classified. Doesn't it follow that there are documents in Rome which have not been released? If there Vatican failed in not speaking out shouldn't Churchill, Roosevelt and the others be equally responsible? It'll be looking forward to Bill

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LETTERS

Consultation committee meets regularly with police

To the Editor, In response to the letter from E. Dunn (March 23), there is a group of concerned Acton citizens named the Acton Community Consultation Committee that meets regularly with the village constable to discuss problems in our town, like vandalism. This committee along with the village constable has tried to get more Actonians involved but to no avail. I assume that E. Dunn has not heard of the Acton Community Consultation Committee, so we are inviting you to join us to problem solve

with the police on the vandalism and other issues that affect the peacefulness of our town. The next meeting of the Acton Community Consultation Committee is May 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Acton Police Station. In addition I would like you to know that our village constable is Bill Riddle, who is available during the day at the police station; the phone number is: 853-2050. Chair, Acton Community consultation Committee. B.W. Jones

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