

# GRAPEVINE

## Home gold

Kudos to Acton Home Hardware where superior efficiency, customer service, appearance and merchandizing have earned the owners and staff an Outstanding Store Award for 2001.

"We were surprised, pleasantly surprised, when we got a courier letter from head office saying we were the recipient of this year's award," co-owner Val Manes (with husband Bill) said on Tuesday, adding the letter said Acton "strongly follows and represents the best practices in home retailing."

During a December store-graduating visit, the Acton location received Gold rating for the second year in a row, and that rating was the highest of 45 stores in this area, earning Acton top honours for Southern Ontario.

Along with other Outstanding Store Awardees from across Canada, Val and Bill Manes are invited to Home's annual spring market and shareholders' meeting next month in St. Jacob's, when Home's National retailing prize, named after Home founder Walter Hachborn, will be awarded.

## Mill Street muscle

Looks like Tomas is back in charge at his Mill Street gym.

Despite the new Body Dynamic sign over the door, Tomas said his short-lived partnership with landlord Mike Manes, who renamed the business four months ago, "didn't work out," and their informal partnership in the business is over.

Tomas said he's gone back to renting the building and is using the original Personal Training with Tomas name, but is unsure if he'll change the new \$4,500 sign. He said a manager hired by Manes "up and quit," but he's able to serve all of his clients.

Manes, a martial arts buff who has plans for an employee gym in his new IGA store, said only that he's "still there" at the Mill Street gym, but some changes had been made.

## Play ball!

Kudos to *Another Around*, the mixed slo-pitch baseball team from Acton that won the competitive division championship at a recent Slo-pitch Ontario tournament at SkyDome.

It was a repeat win for *Another Round*, a team organized by Acton's Josh Petch, that also won the tourney eight years ago.

# Power nonsense.....

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debt. It's just blind faith in markets as a well-known fan of market reform recently said.

Mark Jaccard, an economist at British Columbia's Simon Fraser University, recently wrote a paper for the CD Howe Institute, suggesting any provinces engaging in deregulation should assume market reforms will lead to power shortages. Governments should also assume that under so-called competition, generating companies will be able to rig prices and gouge consumers.

Power costs have already risen for those household consumers who have signed contracts with rates from 5.69 to 5.95 a kilowatt hour (kwh) when the Ontario Energy Board has predicted the cost of providing electricity to households will be 4.3 cents per kwh. But there are problems there, too. Some consumers have signed two contracts with door-to-door sales people obviously attempting to get the best price. Which one will be honoured.

In any event neighbours living side by side may be paying vastly different rates by signing contracts or going with the local utility. It's all one great big mess and getting worse as time goes by.

"We played well this time - we only gave up 13 runs in our six games and in a couple of games scored just enough to win," Petch said, adding the off-season tournament left many players, including himself, sore and limping for a few days.

Three other Acton teams also played in the tournament including *Prideless*, a team that has Acton hair salon owner Monica Moore on the roster.

"There were three diamonds set up in SkyDome and our team got to use the Blue Jays' dugout and it was amazing to be on the field and look up and see the dome - it's like "Wow," Moore said, adding *Prideless* had fun in recreation division play at the tournament.

## Great gymnast

Kudos to Limehouse gymnast Marc de Lestard, 9, who earned a berth at a provincial competition in April with two top sixth finishes in qualifying meets.

Marc, a Grade 4 student at Robert Little School, competed in the Sparx-A division and placed fourth over-all at a meet last weekend in Burlington.

He placed second on the high bar, third on the parallel, fourth on the pommel horse, fifth on rings, sixth on floor and 11th on vault.

That fourth all-around finish and a sixth place finish at an earlier meet in Ottawa, allows Marc to advance to the provincials.

Marc's Halton Hills Gymnastics Club hosted an inter-club meet on the weekend, and he earned seven medals and a badge to finish second over-all.

## Drivers wanted

Do you like to drive and have some free time on your hands? The Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society is looking for drivers willing to take cancer patients to Toronto, Hamilton and London for treatments and appointments.

"I have about a dozen drivers right now, but I also have two patients who need daily rides for treatments for the next six weeks, and I try not to give a driver more than two trips a week," Marg McKinnon, the Acton branch transportation coordinator said recently.

Drivers need to have a reliable car and a valid license and insurance. They are paid .29 cents per kilometre.

If you can help, call Marge at 853-8972.



CUTTING A MEAN RUG at the opening of the new Alexanian Carpet and Flooring franchise on Mill St. are, left to right, Councillor Dobbie Frizzell, BIA Coordinator Josey Bonnette, Councillor Rick Bonnette, Vice President of Marketing and Sales John Brittan, owner Rob Charette, BIA director John McNabb, Mayor Kathy Gastle, Albert Alexanian, Kaz Baginski, and Andrew Alexanian. - Angela Tyler photo

# Catching up

You couldn't be blamed for thinking that I've been somewhat pre-occupied with the (Go-Canada-Go) Olympics the past two weeks. I suppose we should catch-up on current events. Never let it be said that your Tanner turns you out into this cruel world uninformed.

On the federal political scene, the Prime Minister has been encouraging all over the globe. Even though he spent over \$200,000 to charter a plane to go to Australia, having him out of the country probably saved us money. As an aside, I wonder why he didn't just take one of our Hercules Transports. They're good enough for our brave lads going to fight in Afghanistan, so shouldn't they be good enough for the PM? Just wondering. But I digress.

Unfortunately he left Sheila Coops here. Good old Tequila Sheila has \$450 million to spend building a profile so she can run for leader when/if the PM retires. She won't win, but I'm sure you agree it's worth \$450 mil for the lady from Steeltown to put on a good show. Actually, I think we should just make her PM now. I don't think we can afford her, and the rest of the ambitious gang, wagging unsuccessful campaigns.

Over on the other side of the house, Stockwell Day is fighting for his job. No one can figure out why, but there it is. Seems to me they're fighting to be captain of the Titanic but I've been called negative before. Joe (yawn) Clark is running again as leader of this party. Why they call it a 'Party' with Joe running things is beyond me. These people are obviously in dire need of high colonial.

Provincially, the race to replace Premier Mike Harris is chugging along. I know this because I saw four dorks and a dorkette nattering away on TV last week. I would have watched it but there was a commercial on another channel I really wanted to see and I had to wash my hair.

Have I mentioned that we won the Olympics? CA-NA-DA! CA-NA-DA!

Baseball spring training has begun. The Blue Jays have been mathematically eliminated from the playoffs. Now you have the whole summer free. Well, at least the part after the Leafs win the Stanley Cup, a series I'm sure you all will watch religiously.

The Canadian Troops in Afghanistan have begun regular operations. We should all be proud of them. In Ottawa, some yahoo MP's

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



are still trying to make a federal case (pun intended) out of our troops taking and turning over captured enemy fighters to the Americans. Imagine, soldiers capturing prisoners. To get to the bottom of this burning issue we need a committee of \$100,000 plus MPs? You figure it out.

Some wing-nuts tried to make an issue out of the Afghan detainees in Cuba going on a hunger strike. Most Canadians responded with a collective - So? It's not that we're heartless, but if some guys decide not to eat who are we to force them? It all started when guards removed a makeshift turban from one detainee. They deemed it a security issue, weapons could be hidden in the turban. They are dealing with treacherous, violent people here. Right away, the know-nothings started crying religious discrimination. Claptrap! I know, through business, many devout Muslims. They do not, nor are they required to wear turbans. Sikh's are required to wear turbans. You'd think the anti-everything-American lobby would at least get their religions right before crying foul.

We're having an early spring so I might as well get out on the thin ice. I was delighted that the women's hockey team won Olympic gold. The talk about a professional league for women is only that though - talk. The sad truth is that except for tennis, and to a lesser degree golf, women's professional sports are not commercially viable. Sports fans won't pay to see them but even more important, TV won't cough up big bucks for hockey-lite. The networks are having a hard enough time selling the NHL stateside.

With tongue firmly in cheek, here are some of the problems I see with 'Wimmin's Hockey.' I read that Hayley Wickenheiser, in an effort to rally her team, wrote and read a poem to them in the locker room. Excuse me - a poem? Real hockey players don't write poems! Ti Domi most definitely wouldn't read a poem to his mates, not and get out alive that is. The reason is simple. It's too hard to find words that rhyme with puck.

Women hockey players think 'a

jock' is someone you gaze dreamily at over a tasty haggis. Who ever heard of getting 'Two-minutes for bad hair.' How can you sell a game where body-checking is outlawed but hugging is encouraged. The fans will never buy into a game where the referee is employed by the home team. You can see the problems.

All is not hopeless though, I've put my 30 years of marketing experience to work and come up with a few ideas to make women's hockey commercially successful.

Penalties must be given in pairs, one to each team to be fair. Then, replace the penalty box with a Jell-O wrestling pit and let the gals go to it. You'd fill the house every night. See WWF for further ideas.

All members of the team that is scored against must remove one article of clothing for every goal tallied.

Sew sequins and lace (à la figure skaters) on player's uniforms. For the politically correct fan, change the name of penalty to time-out. In that spirit, conduct anger management seminars between periods. Let's seriously look at getting a softer puck, someone could get hurt. Don't ever let anyone with the nickname 'Sissy' play.

Lastly, and this proposal will definitely pique the interest of die-hard hockey fans; every fourth game is play-in-your-PJs night. I offer these suggestions purely for patriotic reasons. Canadian women should have a league of their own.

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Last Sunday night the history channel ran a documentary titled 'A Diary Between Friends.' If you missed it try to see it next time. It's the heart-warming story of how Canadians in the Maritimes opened their hearts and their homes to stranded travellers in the aftermath of September 11. Gordon Pinsent narrates the wonderful bond that has developed between Canadians and the diverted passengers. For example 39 planes landed in Gander and 10,000 townspeople there cared for 7,000 visitors. In economically depressed Lewisporte, a town of 4,000, they took in 773 people for almost a week.

Ordinary Canadians performed magnificently during the September tragedy. This documentary should be shown to every student in every school. (The video/DVD/Book can be ordered at 1-877-843-9341). Order it if you want another reason to be proud of this country.