

GRAPEVINE



Pizza Pizza says not yet

Pizza Pizza planners were "over bullish" and have boxed their announced plans for a restaurant in the Acton East plaza.

"We like the location - it's beautiful. There's a high school up the road, so that type of criteria is filled, but the population base isn't there," said Pizza Pizza vice-president Alfio Pasquarelli, adding after re-examining the numbers, they don't think a store would be economically viable until Acton has 10,000 homes.

"Acton remains on our development list - maybe we can do it in a year, two years. Acton will get a Pizza Pizza, it's just not now," he said, adding Acton is a "good market" these days with new housing, the IGA store and the plaza.

The identity of the dentist who has rented the second last vacant unit remains a secret to most and the last unit remains for lease.

Stress buster

The rigours of food sales will be kneaded out of tension-filled top Acton IGA staffers as part of a new employee incentive program.

Those employees, who deserve it, will be rewarded with an on-site massage session with certified, insured, chair massage practitioner Angela Marshall of Rockwood.

IGA owner Mike Manes checked out Marshall's ergonomically designed portable massage chair on Saturday, receiving a treatment focusing on key tension areas in the neck, back, shoulders and arms.

Marshall's brochure says massage promotes and maintains health, revitalizes you relaxed but alert, and demonstrates employer's proactive commitment to the health and well being of employees.

Marshall begins massaging IGA employees next week.

Car wash

Want a clean car and help a good cause?

Roll into Toth Motors between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday (May 18) for a community spirit car wash.

The event is being run by local Ford employees as part of their company's Community Challenge program, and some Acton High

School students who need their 40 hours of community volunteer work to graduate.

Proceeds from the suds and shine will go to the Acton Agricultural Society building fund.

Along with a draw for an Internet video camera, Ford will display some new cars at Toth's at the corner of Highways 25 and 7.

Artisan alert

This year's edition of the Leathertown Festival will include the first annual artisans' juried show and sale and artists are invited to submit their work for consideration before June 30.

The show and sale is open to all media and disciplines and prizes will be awarded. For details call Jennifer at 853-4432 or visit www.downtownacton.ca

Charity golf

Organizers of an annual golf tournament in rural Acton to benefit Sick Kids hospital are hoping to raise more than \$5,000 this year at the 8th annual event.

Acton Meadows will host the June 1 event and many businesses, Acton IGA and Galvcast, are sponsoring holes and offering prizes.

Sweet songs

Kudos to the Area Code 519 Quartet, including Acton baritone Don Lindsay, who has been selected to sing the Canadian and American national anthems at the opening ceremonies of the Memorial Cup at the Canadian major junior hockey championship in Guelph on Sunday.

Having sung O, Canada at Guelph Storms games this past season, the quartet was able to bypass the usual procedure of auditioning for the ice job.

Lindsay said it will be a "great thrill" to stand at centre ice and sing the anthems in the opening ceremonies that include a tribute to the 1952 Guelph Biltmores who won the Memorial Cup that year.

CORRECTION:

An incorrect phone number appeared in a story last week about the Acton Guiding movement's appeal for new leaders. If you can help, call Maureen at 905-702-7869. The New Tanner regrets the error.



HONOURED CITIZENS: Acton Citizen of the Year Gary Barton (back, third from left) received congratulations from former fellow awardees at the Rotary Club of Acton's awards dinner and ceremony on Friday. Helping Barton celebrate were, back from left: George Henderson, Dave Manes, Jon Hurst, Dobbie Frizzell (representing the Acton Volunteer Firefighters) and Dr. van Der Bent. Front: Joan Waldie-Jenkins, Ron McKnight and Janis Fread. - Frances Niblock photo

All Religions Have Rules

Toronto's Press had a field day with the court decision to compel the Durham Catholic School Board to allow one of their students to bring a same-sex date to his prom. The way some people are acting you would think that Catholic Schools and the Church had changed their beliefs regarding homosexual relationships. They haven't: They won't.

I suppose I should point out that I am a lifelong Catholic who attended both Catholic elementary and high schools. So did our children. I am, therefore, familiar with separate schools and most of the differences in public schools.

I have a real problem with people who say that the church is excluding this boy because of his sexuality. That's just not true. I wonder if those who make this claim understand the concept of religion.

If you practise a religion you, as an individual, choose to live your life by a set of rules as proscribed by that faith. In other words, you agree to exclude yourself from some activities that others in our world find quite acceptable. If you find the religion too restrictive, well, no-one forces you to attend. It's really just that simple no matter what faith you believe in. A religion says "This is what we preach - join us." Individuals who say, "This is who I am - take me," are destined to disappointment. That's not how things work.

If you claim to belong to a religion you can't pick and choose which precepts of that faith you will or will not follow. Belonging to a church is not like going to a smorgasbord. You don't take a little of this and a pinch of that. You can, but then aren't you being a hypocrite when you claim to be a follower of that religion?

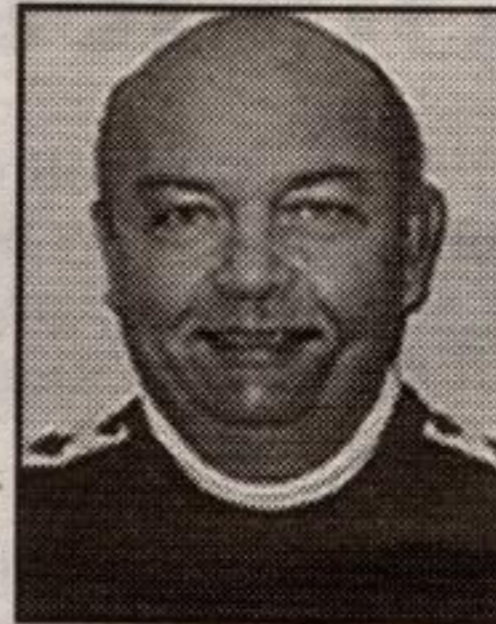
Although 'Catholic Bashing' is a great national sport, I don't think any religion wants the court to dictate their faith and/or morality doctrines. Nor do I think people of faith will change because 'contemporary standards' or '21st century morality' are said to be the accepted benchmarks.

I am a blood donor. I believe giving blood is charitable and humane. But I wouldn't ask the court to force the Jehovah's Witnesses to make their hall available for a clinic. Some religions forbid alcohol and dancing. Should they be forced to hold Oktoberfest celebrations in their facilities?

Our country believes in equality of the sexes. Should we force

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



mosques to integrate their facilities. We could go on and on. But my point, again, is that if you claim to be a follower, you agree to live by the commandments or Torah or Koran as the case may be. If you want a church to mirror your beliefs - Start you own. It's not that difficult, the methodology is well documented. First you allow strangers to crucify you. Then three days later, you rise from the dead. No problem.

I suspect this incident was a well planned event. This person has attended high school for four or five years. Isn't it odd that this confrontation came to the fore just in time for his prom? Have there been no other dances? Or is it because his not being allowed to go to a midyear dance would have little news value. But his final prom - Ah, now that's drama.

I have no particular axe to grind with this young man or his lifestyle. I do object when I'm told I must change a core belief to accommodate him. Life is full of choices. I've made my share and it appears this person has some to make. I'll gladly wish him well for his future but he can't have things both ways. The church and school have not singled him out. The rules and teachings are well known. He is free to accept or reject them. It's entirely his decision.

Many Canadians are upset that Americans don't seem to appreciate Canada's efforts in the war on terrorism. We are angry that four of our soldiers were killed by our allies in a terrible accident. Personally, I would be satisfied if our own people solidly expressed their pride and gratitude to our troops! If the government would properly fund the military I would be ecstatic.

But for all those folks who crave positive world opinion, here is an article forwarded to me by daughter Christine. It was originally published in the London Telegraph, one of Britain's largest newspapers:

LONDON - Until the deaths last week of four Canadian soldiers accidentally killed by a U.S. warplane in Afghanistan, probably almost no one outside their home country had

been aware that Canadian troops were deployed in the region. And as always, Canada will now bury its dead, just as the rest of the world, as always, I will forget its sacrifice. Just as it always forgets nearly everything Canada ever does.

It seems that Canada's historic mission is to come to the selfless aid both of its friends and of complete strangers, and then, once the crisis is over, to be well and truly ignored. Canada is the perpetual wallflower that stands on the edge of the hall, waiting for someone to come and ask her for a dance. A fire breaks out, she risks life and limb to rescue her fellow dancegoers, and suffers serious injuries. But when the hall is repaired and the dancing resumes, there is Canada, the wallflower still, while those she once helped glamorously cavort across the floor, blithely neglecting her yet again.

That is the price Canada pays for sharing the North American continent -with the United States, and for being a selfless friend of Britain in two global conflicts. For much of the 20th century, Canada was torn in two different directions: It seemed to be a part of the old world, yet had an address in the new one, and that divided identity ensured that it never fully got the gratitude it deserved.

Yet its purely voluntary contribution to the cause of freedom in two world wars was perhaps the greatest of any democracy. Almost 10% of Canada's entire population of seven million people served in the armed forces during the First World War, and nearly 60,000 died. The great Allied victories of 1918 were spearheaded by Canadian troops, perhaps the most capable soldiers in the entire British order of battle.

Canada was repaid for its enormous sacrifice by downright neglect. Its unique contribution to victory being absorbed into the popular memory as somehow or other the work of the "British." The Second World War provided a re-run. The Canadian navy began the war with a half dozen vessels, and ended up policing nearly half of the Atlantic against U-boat attack.

More than 120 Canadian warships participated in the Normandy landings, during which 15,000 Canadian soldiers went ashore on D-Day alone. Canada finished the war with the third-largest navy and the fourth largest air force in the world.

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New Park Entrance

PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY: Acton Rotary Club has "adopted" the land on Main St. N. across the highway from the library and with Town and Acton Horticultural Society help is developing a landscaped pedestrian walkway to Rotary Park on Elizabeth Drive. Society president Max MacSween shows Warren Harris of the Town and Doug Fread of Rotary how he proposes to beautify the area. - Frances Niblock photo.