

GRAPEVINE



Swim, ride, run

Congrats to Acton's Chris Newby, 44, who completed the gruelling Ironman Canada triathlon in Penticton, B.C., two weeks ago, finishing in a respectable 12 hours and 20 minutes.

That put the former self-described "couch potato" in the middle of the pack of 253 participants in the 40-to-44-year-old category in the event that included a 3.8-km swim, a 180-km. bicycle ride and then a 42.2-km run.

Newby said he felt confident throughout the event and was just a little stiff and sore for the first couple of days after competing.

Coffee & church

Want to learn what the Bible has to say about issues important to women, including family, friends, work, money, spirituality and priorities? Check out CoffeeBreak, resuming after a summer break, on Wednesday (Sept. 11) at Bethel Christian Reformed Church.

The non-denominational Bible study group runs from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. (new times) and coincides with a StoryHour, a program for 3-to-5-year-olds that introduces children to the Bible through stories, crafts and songs.

Also on Wednesday mornings, the church is beginning a new Bible-based Mom-to-Mom parenting program that will run for 12 weeks.

Nursery care is available for all children under 3. Call Jeanne for details about CoffeeBreak at 853-3962.

Thanks, volunteers

The volunteers who helped the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce have a successful year will be thanked at a volunteer recognition reception next Thursday (Sept. 12) at Blue Springs Golf Course.

The thanks to the volunteers will follow the Chamber's annual general meeting, which will include presentation of the 2002 Civic Pride Award to the olde Hide House for its Leathertown Centre development.

Principal ill

Staff, and students at Acton District High send best wishes to principal Greg MacPherson who is on a medical leave following cancer surgery earlier this summer.

In a letter handed out during registration last week to students and their parents an upbeat MacPherson said he looks forward to a positive and full recovery.

Leaders wanted

Are you patient, fun-loving, kid-friendly with some time to spare? The Acton Scouting movement is (again) short of leaders and is looking for volun-

teers to help run the Beaver program this year. There is a ratio of one leader for every five Beavers and so far, there is only one leader.

Volunteers must complete a mandatory police check.

Vendors galore

Those who haven't been able to visit the weekly Trunk Sales at the corner of Young and Queen Sts. yet this summer, had better get on their horses. There's only five more of the Saturday events left before the vendors and the Four Amigos fold up their tents for the winter and start planning for next year. Crowds at the Trunk Sale have continued to be large often in spite of inclement weather and there are lots of different vendors plying their wares.

Crop Circles again

While the rest of the field on the Fourth Line recently featured in this family journal is harvest gold, the crop circle there stands out in vivid green, adding to the mystery of the phenomenon. Crop circles were first reported in modern times in 1972 when two men near Warminster, England, said they saw an imprint take shape within 20 seconds. They have since been reported in the Netherlands, the United States and Australia as well as Canada, but never in China or South Africa.

Alive and kicking

Although you may have seen Jack Carpenter's death notice in Saturday's Toronto Star, the Acton one claims he's still alive and kicking. In fact he was in The New Tanner office on Tuesday wielding a copy of the death notice and assuring the editor he would continue to create Rural Roots 2 on a weekly basis for the editorial page. "The rumours of my death are greatly exaggerated," Carpenter claims, paraphrasing Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain).

Ostrichfest support

Halton Women's Place (HWP), a shelter and crisis centre in Halton for abused women and dependent children, is asking the public to support Ostrichfest at White Rock Farm on September 14-15 since a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Women's Place. The farm is located on the Fourth Line, just north of 25 Sideroad (Regional Road 12) in Milton, former Nassagaweya Twp. HWP works with other non-profit organizations as well as health care, religious, education, social services and employment groups as well as counselling children in the shelter. The festival includes wagon tours, feed yearlings, BBQ and chef-prepared specialities.

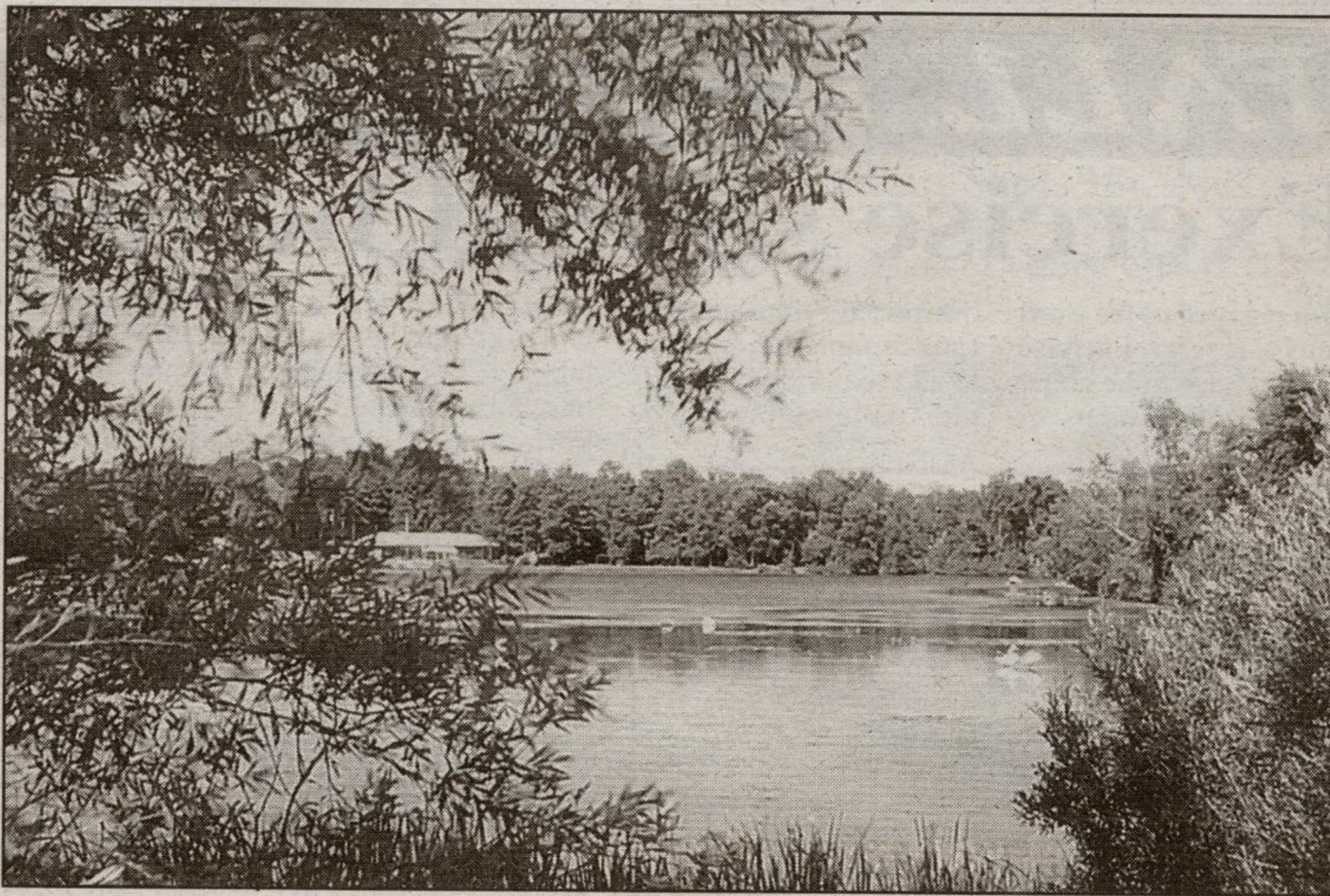
Going to the dogs...

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words, I spent half the viewing time trying to understand him.

Now I can't say that I won't further check out The Osbournes, but I see it like the show Judge Judy.

Sometimes you may think you have a wacky family or your life is maybe not the best. However, if you check out some of the silly people on Judge Judy or how the Osbournes live, you have to feel pretty lucky for your own normality.



Swan Lake

An echo of hate

Baby Boomers will remember the 60's anti-war song "Where have all the flowers gone; Long time passing; Where have all the flowers gone; Long long ago." Try to hold that melody close as you read this column.

Do these names sound familiar? DAVID BERGER, ZE'EV FRIEDMAN, JOSEPH GOTTFREUND, ELIZER HALFIN, JOSEPH ROMANO, ANDREI SCHPITZER, AMITSUR SHAPIRA, KHAT SHOR, MARK SLAVIN, YAAKOV SPRINGER, MOSHE WEINBERG.

The names may be lost in the "mists of time" but you know how they died. Thirty years ago today, during the Olympic Games in Munich, these Israeli athletes and coaches were abducted and slaughtered by terrorists supporting the Palestinian cause. Five of the dead were athletes, six were coaches or referees protecting the other young men with their lives. None wanted to die; all were heroic. If not for their calm and defiant actions that day the madmen may well have killed scores more.

While the Israeli deaths were a tragedy, (I shed no tears for the terrorists who were killed) a larger calamity was forthcoming because we learned so little from this murderous action.

The western world (excluding Israel) basically did nothing. A month later a Lufthansa jet was hijacked by terrorists demanding the Munich murderers be set free. Germany capitulated and set the five killers free.

The terrorist leaders must have been amazed and emboldened by the lack of resolve to defend our society. They were probably amazed when we began to relegate our God to legislated obscurity. They, on the other hand, considered their religion a shield, their God an ally. As the years went by the terrorist became more confident. Were the events of last September 11 a direct result of our laissez faire attitude 30 years ago? I wonder.

In Munich, the terrorists struck at 4:30am. Five killers scaled a six foot, six inch security fence and joined three fellow assassins already inside. Who were those three? Who supplied their accreditation? We were never told.

By 5:00am the Israelis were captured and coach Weinberg and Weightlifter Joseph Romano had been murdered. By 9:30am the terrorists had demanded the release of 234 German and Palestinian criminals. The world was shocked by the image of ski-masked terrorists on the residence balcony.

The Canadian team was in an adja-

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



cent building. They, and many other athletes, were quarantined in quarters while the drama played out yards away. Thankfully, all our people escaped safe and sound. A neighbour, who was there, told me that we probably knew more about what was going on than the Canadian team did. While secure in their building, they had no access to the TV reports we saw.

The negotiations went on all day. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir refused to capitulate to terrorist demands. Eventually, plans were agreed upon to transport the terrorists and hostages to a nearby airport by bus and helicopter. There, a plane would take them to Cairo where the Israelis were supposed to be released. The chopper arrived at the airport around 10:30pm. The German police launched a poorly planned rescue attempt, which went terribly wrong. When the shooting stopped, five of the eight terrorists were dead along with one German police officer and all nine hostages. ABC sportscaster Jim McKay told an unbelieving world "They're all gone."

"Where have all the young men gone? Long time passing. Where have all the young men gone; Long time ago?"

After a day of mourning IOC President Avery Brundage declared "the games must go on." The decision was very controversial. One American journalist wrote, "it was like having a dance at Dachau." In hindsight, Brundage made the right decision. We cannot/ must not allow madmen to destroy our way of life. Sadly, we had to rally again against a slaughter of innocents 29 years and six days after the Munich massacre.

While the western world tut-tutted the Munich attack, Israeli PM Golda Meir made other plans. First, a massive land and air attack was launched against Palestinian targets in Lebanon and Syria. Meir, and senior officials, also decided to assassinate all individuals involved - directly or indirectly - in the Munich attack. This response was intended to bring justice to the murderers and give pause to those who would consider such actions in the future.

Over the next six years the Mossad (Israeli Intelligence Agency) pursued the criminals relentlessly. By then only one of the Munich terrorists remained

alive. If he's not deceased by now, one only has to recall the dogged determination Israel demonstrated when tracking down WWII war criminals to know this killer lives every day in fear. The operation was known as the Wrath of God. Sounds appropriate.

In some ways, the Americans are sending the same message to terrorists by pursuing them wherever they skulk. However, I see reluctance coming into the attitudes of many western leaders. Are we going to become complacent, like we did in 1972? Will we allow the appeasers to carry the day? Or, will we join the Americans in ferreting out those who would destroy us, no matter where the hole they are hiding in is? The signals from Ottawa would indicate the former.

If, in the minds of some, that makes me a warmonger, then so be it. Name-calling won't hurt me but bombs will kill my children, my friends, my countrymen. Todd Beamer said it all on a doomed plane over Pennsylvania; "Let's roll!"

In 1999 a member of Yassar Arafat's PLO, Mr. Mohammed Auda, also known as Abu Daoud, confirmed in his autobiography that Yasser Arafat saw him off on the Munich mission. Black September was obviously a faction of the PLO. Abu Daoud claimed Arafat was briefed in advance of the Munich massacre. Mr Daoud was, until recently, a member of the Palestinian National Council. Last month it was reported, and confirmed by the Palestinians, that Mr. Daoud committed suicide. Evidently he shot himself - several times.

I wonder which side got him? But then, who cares?

There was an eerie precursor to the New York tragedy associated with the Munich massacre. A British documentary on the Olympic murders was aired on HBO in the United States. The program was on for 95 minutes. The documentary titled "One Day in September" was televised on Monday, September 11, 2000. No-one took warning.

As we approach the first anniversary of the cowardly murders of almost 3,000 people, including 24 Canadians, I think of that day 30 years ago and wonder; was last year's blast an echo from Munich?

The last words of "Flowers" haunt me.

"Where have all the young men gone? Gone to graveyards every one. When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?"

Good Question.
Shalom.