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**Tips for buying a used vehicle**

Don't let this scenario happen to you:  
*Q. Just last week I saw an ad in the paper (or a For Sale sign stuck on the windshield). I called the guy and he met me at my house. I took a test drive and decided to buy the car. It was a good deal, he wanted only \$12,000. He said he needed the cash right away because another buyer was interested in the car. I gave him the cash. Next thing I know the Police are at my door and my new car is being towed away. Why?*  
*A. You bought a stolen car, Your \$12,000 is gone and you probably won't get it back.*

To protect yourself against con men and fly by night car salesmen, get the facts, **BEFORE** you buy a vehicle from a private seller, ask to see the Used Vehicle information Package (seller are required by law to provided it) to verify:

1. Approximate retail value
2. Registrant history (to determine if the vehicle is registered in the name of the seller and to see how much experience the seller has with the vehicle)
3. That the date of the first registration is close to the year of vehicle manufacture (vehicle may have previous history in another jurisdiction)
4. If there are liens registered against the vehicle

Avoid any seller who:

1. Pressures you to make a hurried decision.
2. Discourages you from checking facts
3. Avoids having you view the vehicle at their home or if they a dealer, has no offices lot and sign
4. Suggests that you can avoid paying taxes. He/she wants to ensure that you won't go to the authorities if there's a problem.

If you have questions or want information, stop by the Acton Village Constable's offices.

**Acton Community Consultation Committee**


This committee is a group of concerned citizens from your community. They meet, for a couple of hours, on a bi-monthly basis with members of the Halton Regional Police Service to discuss issues of mutual concern. Some types of issues the Committee has dealt with have been acts of vandalism, loitering and traffic related concerns.

If you have a concern that you would like addressed or are interested in participating in this dynamic and proactive Committee, please contact your local Village Constable.

*Working Together to Prevent Crime.*  
Constable Garry George  
Acton Village Constable  
519-853-2050

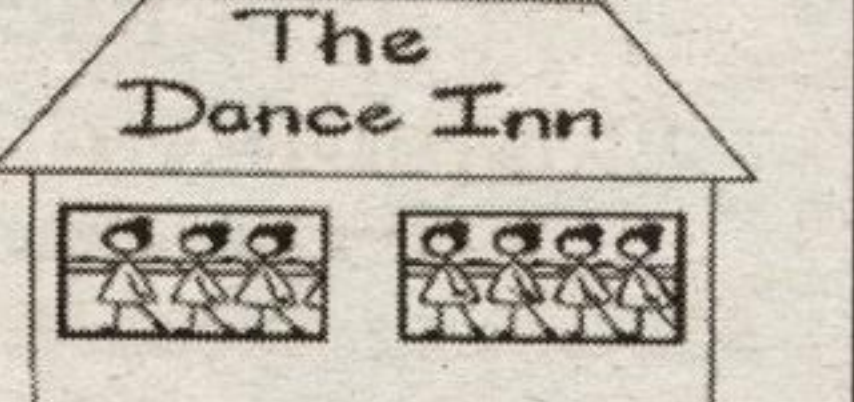
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**Acton volleyball player named All-Canadian**

Like a man on a mission, former Acton resident Jeff Birrell is checking off the goals he has ambitiously set for himself, including being named an all-Canadian volleyball team member.

That honour came last month at the Canadian College Athlete Association Men's Volleyball Championships in Fredericton. Birrell, 23, was named as one of 10 CCAA all-stars at the March 9 ceremony.

Although his team did not make it to the playoffs, Birrell was invited to the all-Canadian banquet and was given a VIP pass for the week.

Birrell is in his final semester studying recreation and leisure at Loyalist College in Belleville, where he plays right side for the Loyalist Lancers in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association.

The rangy 6' 6" 23-year-old had a team-high 4.6 points per game this past season, leading his team to a 10-3 record.

A shoulder injury, suffered while attending the University of Toronto in 2001, is 75 per cent better. He is waiting for results of an MRI to determine exactly what is wrong. The shoulder hurts and limits his play, leaving many to wonder what kind of season Birrell would have had at 100 per cent.

As it was, he was the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association top point scorer in the East Division, and was named to the first all-star team and was second over-all in the League.

Birrell said he really didn't see the all-Canadian honour coming, but it was a goal he had set for himself.

"Coming into this year, I knew it was probably one of my last years playing in competitive school ball, so I wanted to prove a lot to myself," he said recently.

"I wanted to make it to the all-star game and I did that. I was the top points scorer in that game and I won the hitting contest.

"I was in the top five players for most of the season and I stepped up my game to be among the top three and then the top two, and being an all-Canadian was another goal I had at the beginning of the year," Birrell said.

After graduation Birrell plans to attend either Lakehead or Brockville University, and then teachers' college with a goal of teaching physical education to middle school students.

It was at middle school - Grade five at Acton's M.Z. Bennett School, that Birrell's passion and talent for volleyball became evident. He credits his first coach, Dave Walker, with setting him off on the right path, and is grateful to all of the coaches that helped him through high school and then in the Club system with the Bronte Beach Volleyball Club.

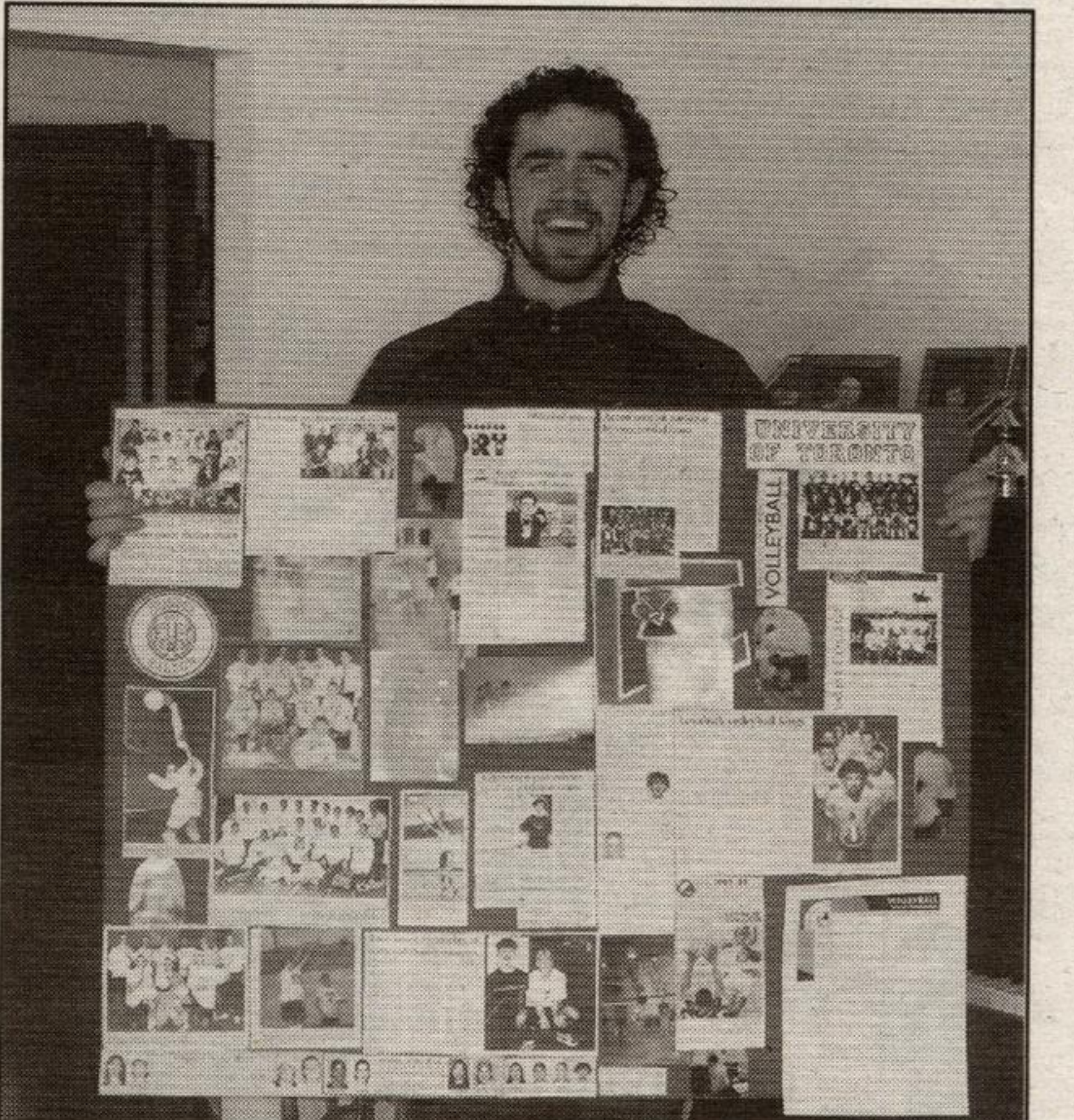
Neither of the universities that Birrell hopes to attend have varsity volleyball programs, but he's not ready to give up competitive ball, and has been invited to play with a men's league team that includes other all-Canadians.

Asked to critique his skills, Birrell said he is an offensive weapon at the net with the ability to score and hit over the block.

"I've got lots of experience with high level ball and in challenging situations I get hungry," Birrell said, adding throughout his career, playing has always been fun.

As far as coaches go, Birrell will come full circle next month.

His final five-week placement with Loyalist College has him student teaching at Centennial Middle School in Georgetown, where the boys' volleyball coach is Dave Walker. That's the same coach who saw such promise in Birrell - as a player and a leader - when he was a gangly 10-year-old in Acton.



**CAREER COLLAGE:** The stellar volleyball career of former Acton resident Jeff Birrell - including recently being named an Ontario Colleges Athletic Association All-Canadian - was captured by his proud mom in this display. - Frances Niblock photo