

Area moms dust off cheerleading gear for retro game

Four Georgetown moms will be picking up their pom-poms for a Toronto Argonauts game Friday.

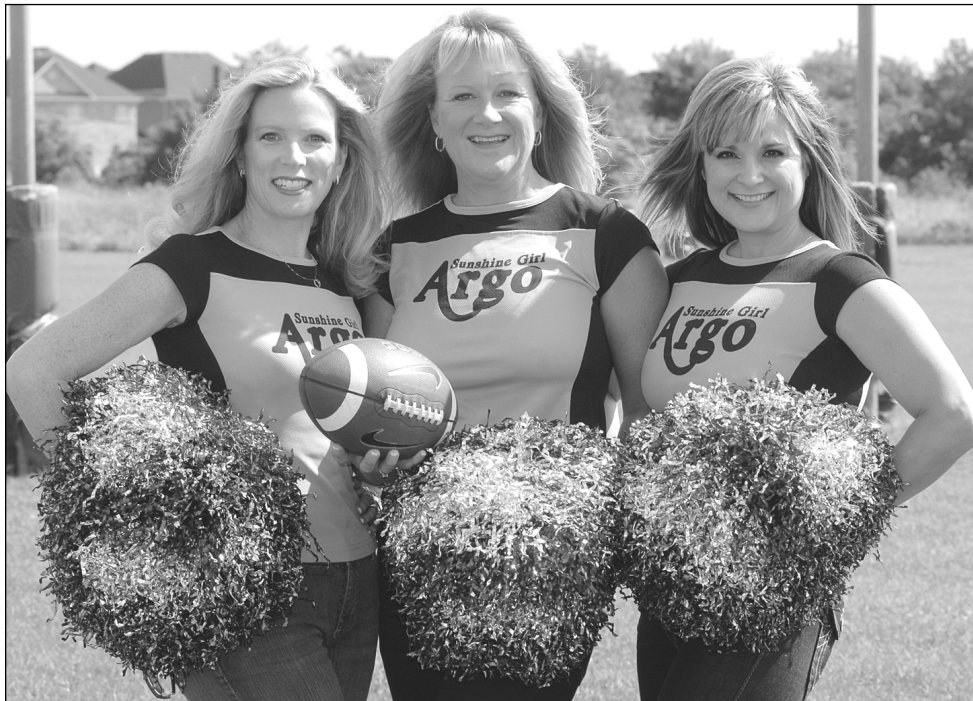
Michelle Armstrong, Kim Auty, Loretta Cordick and Diane Shipley-Kardash, all longtime Georgetown residents, will be part of the halftime show at the Argos-Winnipeg Blue Bombers game at 7 p.m.

The alumni cheerleaders are performing to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Argo Sunshine Girls.

All four ladies are former Toronto Argo cheerleaders. Shipley-Kardash was on the team from 1987-1991, Armstrong 1989-1992, Cordick 1990-1992 and Auty spent one year on the team in 1989 before cheering for the Ottawa Roughriders in 1990.

Fifty former Argo cheerleaders will be dancing to *These Boots are Made For Walking*, choreographed by Linda Googh.

Argo cheerleaders representing all 15 years they were a team (1978 to 1993) will be taking part in the celebration. The team started weekly rehearsals in late June to be ready for the game. Girls from as far away as Singapore, Los Angeles and Vancouver have flown in for rehearsals in Toronto.



Diane Shipley-Kardash, Kim Auty and Loretta Cordick are three of four local former Toronto Argonaut cheerleaders taking part in a 30th anniversary celebration Friday. In total, 50 former cheerleaders will be taking to the field during the half-time show at the Argos-Winnipeg Blue Bombers CFL game. Not pictured is Michelle Armstrong. Photo by Ted Brown

The Canadian Football League game has a "retro" theme. There will be former Argo players at the game as well, wearing their old jerseys and the "All Time Argo" will be named to the Football Hall of Fame.

Shipley-Kardash, who was on the team the longest, says she still considers several of her former teammates her closest lifelong friends and has travelled to Florida, Las Vegas and Los Angeles many times to reunite with former teammates.

The ladies are all married moms in their early forties who moved to Georgetown in the '90s from other parts of the GTA. Combined they have nine children, all students in Georgetown ranging in age from 7-15. Auty and Shipley-Kardash have sons who play football in Georgetown. All four have daughters dancing at local dance studios.

Auty and her husband Paul own Georgetown Chrysler while Shipley-Kardash, an actress, has performed with Georgetown Little Theatre and Georgetown Globe Productions.

Cordick recently returned to work part time at a local law firm and Armstrong is a teacher at Georgetown District High School.

Two candidates declared so far

Three days into the federal election campaign only two candidates have officially announced their bid for the Wellington-Halton Hills seat.

Incumbent Conservative MP Michael Chong and Liberal challenger Bruce Bowser are the lone two declared candidates to date in a riding that in 2006 saw six candidates square off.

Chong was first elected to Parliament in 2004 and as cabinet minister served as President of the Queen's Privy Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister for Sport.

He resigned his cabinet post in 2006 so he could abstain from voting on a motion that defined Quebecois as a nation within a united Canada. Chong was against the largely symbolic recognition of the Quebecois nation saying he "could not support the recognition of ethnic nationalism."

Prior to his election, Chong acted as Chief Information Officer for the National Hockey League Players' Association and as a senior technology consultant to the Greater Toronto Airports Authority for the redevelopment of Pearson International Airport. He has also held information technology positions at Barclay's Bank and

Research Capital Corporation.

He co-founded the Dominion Institute, an organization committed to raising Canadians' awareness of history and civics and currently sits on its Board of Governors. He is also a former board member of the Elora Festival and the Elora Festival Singers, as well as a member of the Corporation of Trinity College, University of Toronto. Chong also attended Trinity College at the U of T where he obtained a degree in philosophy.

Born in 1971, he grew up just outside of Fergus in Wellington County where he still lives with his family. Chong is married to Carrie Davidson and they have two sons, William and Alistair.

Bowser, President and CEO of AMJ Campbell Van Lines, was nominated last Friday at a meeting at the John Elliott Theatre before an audience of 120 supporters.

Former Halton MP Julian Reed nominated Bowser.

When accepting the nomination, Bowser talked about the decision-making process and indicated that former Ontario Premier David Peterson had sold him on the virtues of public service and urged him to bring his talents and experience in banking and running a company of 2,800 employees, along with his community work, to the government arena.

Noting that running for office was a giant step for him outside of his comfort zone, Bowser brought on stage his

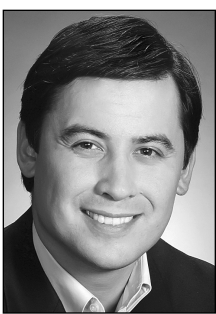
wife Julia and daughters Jenny and Robyn and sons, Patrick and Michael, adding that he is defined by his family and their support. He also supports five foster children.

Bowser was born in Quebec City into a military family and raised on military bases in Ontario and Nova Scotia. His father served a distinguished career in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Bowser stressed his nomination was not about himself but about the women and men of Wellington-

Halton Hills, their families and this country. He said it seemed to him it is time for a change and added he is amazed at the lack of accountability on the part of the Stephen Harper government. Under the Harper government, he said, the country is on the verge of a recession and pointed to John Deere's recent announcement of closing its Ontario facility and the loss of 800 jobs.

Bowser went on say Harper's government has tried to avoid dealing with the environment and the changing climate. He said he is inspired that Liberal leader Stephane Dion is making this crisis a priority of the Liberals.



MICHAEL CHONG



BRUCE BOWSER

Terry Fox runs set for Sunday

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

It's been a difficult year for organizers of the annual Terry Fox Run in Georgetown, but in the words of the man who captivated a country with his Marathon of Hope in 1981, the drive to raise funds for cancer research must go on.

"Even if I don't finish, we need others to continue. It's got to keep going without me," said Fox prior to having to give up his cross-Canada trek in Thunder Bay due to a recurrence of cancer that would later take his life. To date, more than \$400 million has been raised in his name for cancer research through worldwide runs.

The Georgetown and Acton runs will take place Sunday with Georgetown's run going at the Gellert Recreation Centre from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's event will hold special significance for many of the participants.

No fewer than nine volunteers with the local group, including former team managers Nick Kotsos and David Martin, have died from cancer in recent months.

Current team manager Tamara Diardichuk, a cancer survivor herself, said the commitment to take part hasn't wavered, although the Georgetown fund-raising totals have steadily decreased over the years from a high of \$38,350 with 490 participants in 2002, to last year's tally of \$11,164.25, which drew 420 people.

"There are so many other annual events out there now like the Relay For Life and the Walk to End Breast Cancer that raise money for cancer research that even though we've lost money for our campaign, we're confident and pleased that it's still going to causes that fight cancer," she said.

"Our members are still out there volunteering to make this happen and even though the money totals aren't what they were, the sense of community is definitely still there."

Several local businesses and organizations are on board again to support this Sunday's Terry Fox Run, including APP Alcoa Forged and Cast Products, which will stage a head-shaving and fund-raising barbecue at its Georgetown location on Friday at 12:30 p.m.

Acton will also stage its run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Acton District High School track.



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