

## O'Leary says...

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World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific. One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank. He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship. His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet.

As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold, a squadron of Japanese aircraft were speeding their way toward the American fleet. The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenceless. He wouldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet. Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes.

Wing-mounted 50 calibers blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent. Undaunted, he continued

the assault. He dove at the planes, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction.

Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier. Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had, in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft.

This took place on February 20, 1942 and, for that action, Butch became the Navy's first Ace of W.W.II, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Congressional Medal of Honor. A year later, Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His home town would not allow the memory of this W.W.II hero to fade, and today, O'Hare International Airport in Chicago is named in tribute to his courage of this great man.

So, the next time you find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honour. It's located between Terminals 1 and 2.

So, what do these two stories have to do with each other?

Butch O'Hare was Easy Eddie's son.

The moral of these stories is freedom is never free. Sometimes you have to fight for it.



**SPRING RHAPSODY:** Members of the Acton High School concert and jazz bands entertained parents and friends at their annual spring concert at the school last Wednesday, a tune-up for the band's road trip to New York that ended last night (Wednesday). — Frances Niblock photo

## Library circulation hits new high

Circulation continues to climb and to set new records at the Georgetown and Acton Branches of the Halton Hills Public Library. Already impressed with a 12.6% increase in 2005, Library staff is delighted to see that the first quarter of 2006 registered another surge in use of 14.6% over the same quarter last year. Long time member of the circulation staff at Georgetown Branch, Mrs. Ellis is "thrilled but not surprised that circulation is higher than ever. There are lots of displays highlighting current materials, including DVDs and audio books, and it is obvious that Library users are very pleased with the selection."

Library Director, Jane Diamanti, confirms that all categories of material are being more heavily borrowed. Diamanti notes that many people still come for the latest fiction, not just

bestsellers, but for lesser known, critically acclaimed titles too. And even when people are not quite sure of what to borrow, they can always get recommendations for a good read, or can enjoy dipping into books on the ever-changing displays. Ms. Diamanti points out the growing popularity of the non-fiction collections, particularly in fast-changing areas where reliable, up-to-date information is critical.

The collections getting the most attention are the DVDs, the music compact discs, and the Library's online databases. "Many people are discovering the high quality audio-visual material that they can freely borrow for up to three weeks, and the extensive magazine databases that they can access without charge through their home, school and office computer. All that is needed is a valid

card from Halton Hills Public Library—available at no cost to anyone who lives, works, owns property or goes to school in Halton Hills," she said.

Although borrowing activity is high, Diamanti feels that much more needs to be done to encourage longer visits in the branches. "We are looking forward to new facilities, designed to be inviting spaces for people to gather and to spend a productive or relaxing hour or two." At the moment, Diamanti says neither branch has sufficient space or suitable furnishings for people to study, read and enjoy programs in comfort. Diamanti is convinced this is why she is seeing higher than ever borrowing but not necessarily a lot of people spending time in the branches. The one exception is in the increasing number of children coming to programs.

The Children's and Youth Advocate, Douglas Davey reports that in this quarter alone, over 2200 youngsters came to the Library's free, fun-filled, literacy-building programs—obviously a hit with children and parents alike.

Diamanti stresses new library facilities for Georgetown and Acton will also bring much needed space for materials. "Currently our shelves are very tightly packed, and even with ongoing 'weeding,' our situation continues to worsen as we add new material." With comfortable gathering spaces, and a wider range of material available, Diamanti sees the new facilities as popular destination points for people of all ages.

Diamanti encourages anyone who has yet to enjoy the benefits of their public library, to come and visit the Acton or Georgetown Branches, Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-8:30, Friday-Saturday 9:30-5 and Sundays 1-5 (Georgetown only- Oct. through to May). Internet users can make a 'virtual visit' at [www.library.hhpl.on.ca](http://www.library.hhpl.on.ca), where they can browse the catalogue online, any time of the day or night.

Those having a valid Halton Hills Public Library card can also place requests on-line and Library staff will call or e-mail when the requested material arrives.

## Acton House League Hockey Assoc. Inc.

**2006/2007 Registration**

**Date: May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Time: 10a.m. till 1p.m.**

**Place: Inside Edge Sports**

**\*\$375**

**Cash or cheque only -  
no post dated cheques**

**\*Please bring a photocopy of  
your Birth Certificate  
(required for all new applicants)**

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