



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Royalty meets ReMax

Miss World Canada Leanne Caputo graced the official opening of the new Campbellville office of ReMax Miltowne Realty Corp. Gary Thomas, owner of the local real estate company (right) gives Milton mayor Gord Krantz a hand holding onto the ribbon for the beauty queen. The new office is located on Main Street in the village.



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Joint account

Mayor Gord Krantz and operations manager Gwen Brown joined together for the ribbon cutting ceremony which officially opened the Campbellville branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia recently. Other officials at the event included Connie Vardy (right) of the bank's south central provincial office.

Fourth of July is a troubling account of war's aftermath

I know I've said that I don't go to movies because they're too expensive, but sometimes I can't wait for the video release, so I drive to the local cinema and hand over my money.

This latest time was to see *Born on the Fourth of July*, and in particular Tom Cruise. I had not heard of this actor until a year ago when I rented *The Color of Money*, starring Paul Newman whom I have admired since I was a teenager.

Co-starring with Newman was a young fellow named Tom Cruise. Since then I've seen Cruise in *Risky Business*, *All the Right Moves*, *Top Gun*, and most recently, *Cocktail* and *Rainman*.

Cocktail had a great musical score and I have listened to my tape many times, but I found the movie disappointing.

Weak plot

The glorification of drinking and making big money put me off. The plot was weak too. Why on earth would a rich, cultivated young woman fall for a guy who's going nowhere except behind the counter in this bar?

Cruise redeemed himself in my eyes in *Rainman* where he held his own opposite Dustin Hoffman, a seasoned actor. How would he fare in *Born on the Fourth of July*, I wondered?

Troubled thoughts are still turning around in my head, even days after seeing *Born on the Fourth of July*.

I feel an enormous sadness for the young men who died during the war in Vietnam but even more for those who were permanently scarred — mentally and physically.

Ron Kovic, the principal character in *Born on the Fourth of July*, epitomized the youth of the '60s who were driven by patriotic zeal and lured by the political rhetoric of the day. They thought they were heading off to serve their country in Vietnam, just as their fathers had done during the Second World War.

Instead, these young men landed in the middle of a bloody struggle where they had no business being. They murdered women and children, even unintentionally killed their own men. And Ron Kovic came back to the United States a paraplegic.

After months of rehabilitation in a run down, ill-equipped veterans' hospital, Kovic returned to his family home. Slowly the realization came to him that he had fought in a senseless war.

He was overcome with disillusionment, anger, powerlessness and a loss of faith. For a time, Kovic sped along a course of self-destruction through drugs and alcohol.

Review

with ESTHER CALDWELL

Better recognized as a glamour boy, Tom Cruise skillfully shed that clean-shaven, debonair image for an unshaven, long-haired, disabled veteran who opposed the Vietnam War. For most of the film, I forgot that he was Tom Cruise, the movie star. He became Ron Kovic.

Two hours give so little time to really delve into Kovic's inner anguish and I felt that the film frequently moved too quickly through significant episodes in his life.

The chaotic war and protest scenes flashed erratically across the screen producing the disturbing effect of a breakdown of civilization where violence, misunderstanding and hatred ruled the day.

If Cruise had failed to achieve that credibility, the movie would have been doomed since the many supporting actors in the film appeared so briefly that they made few lasting impressions.

Don't expect a light, entertaining film when you go to see *Born on the Fourth of July*. The subject matter is much too serious to be trivialized.

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