

# News & Views in Record time

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## COMING UP TOMORROW



**NightLife**  
The holiday season will see the debuts of many much-hyped movies. A beefed up George Clooney stars in Syria and a very buff Charlize Theron stars in Aeon Flux. For kids, there's and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

## THAT'S INTERESTING . . .

**WORTH QUOTING**  
We don't have television. It stops you from doing anything useful — you watch other people live instead of living yourself.  
*John Seymour*

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Trade unions joined forces 20 years ago today, in 1985, to form South Africa's largest black-led labour federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions. It gave President Pieter Botha six months to get rid of pass laws, a key element of apartheid or "we will burn all the passes of the black man."  
Also on this date in:  
**1872** — John McCrae, author of the famous war poem In Flanders Field, was born in Guelph; on the same date two years later, in 1874, Anne of Green Gables creator Lucy Maud Montgomery was born in Clifton, P.E.I.  
**1983** — The longest session of Parliament in Canadian history, lasting three and a half years, ended.  
**2004** — Author, reporter, historian and broadcaster Pierre Berton, whose numerous books on history and culture contributed to Canada's collective identity, died in Toronto at age 84.

## STATISTICS CANADA

Canadian residents made about 5.1 million trips abroad between April and June of this year. Nearly 1.5 million of these trips were to overseas countries, a 13.6 per cent increase from last year's record-setting second quarter.

## CORRECTION

**MARTIN WON'T ATTEND RALLY**  
Prime Minister Paul Martin will not attend a rally today for WLU's Golden Hawks football team. Incorrect information provided to The Record appeared in yesterday's paper.

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Please call 894-2231 ext. 2678 Mondays through Fridays or 894-2250 ext. 2602 on the weekend. You can e-mail us at newsroom@therecord.com or go to our website at www.therecord.com and look for News Tips.

## NEW LOTTERY NUMBERS

Encore: 5402613.  
Pick 3: 3-5-5.  
Keno: 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26, 30, 34, 46, 48, 53, 58, 60, 63, 65 and 66.

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This aerial view from earlier this year shows the Sportsworld property between Highway 8 (foreground) and King Street. The new owners plan to keep the golf dome (1), the twin-pad arena (2) and the all-season recreation facilities, including the arcade, the climbing walls, Moose Winooskis and the Outback Steakhouse (4). The water park (3) will be replaced by office and retail developments. The new owners hope to add a hotel on land near the arena.

# Park: Arena to get upgrade

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The water park was a centrepiece at Sportsworld for 20 years.

Built in 1985 for \$2 million, it drew thousands of children a year to its wave pool, twin waterpipe slides and bumper boats. It also employed about 200 summer students.

But a seasonal outdoor business is at risk from the weather and other factors, "so we want to reduce that risk by replacing it with longer-term, year-round attractions," Kindrachuk said.

"The seasonal jobs will be replaced with other jobs and, over time, by full time year-round jobs," he said.

Leslie Hutcheson, who is staying on as general manager at Sportsworld, said not having a water park is a big change. "That's what we have been known for."

But she said the 70 full- and part-time staff who work in the arena, in the golf dome and in customer service will continue to have jobs.

Staff has been generally greeting the sale with optimism, she said.

"We are glad to be out of the woods. The sale of the park was a major step to getting our financial affairs settled," Hutcheson said.

It is also potentially a good development for the 3,000 players and 1,500

coaches and support staff in Kitchener Minor Hockey.

The teams faced an ice-time crunch after the city cancelled its bookings of 2,600 ice-time hours. The previous owners, facing financial trouble, tried to raise the rates only months after the arena was built.

But yesterday, representatives of the new owners met with City of Kitchener officials in an effort to resume the negotiations to return minor hockey to that arena. Another meeting will be held next week.

"Our No. 1 goal is to get the hockey rink back on line so that it can serve the community," Chapman said.

Kindrachuk said the company also wants to put money into upgrading the arena and the golf dome, and to do a better job of marketing those attractions. The arena was opened in a big rush last year and needs finishing touches and upgrades.

"We will spend money there and really polish the jewel that it is," Kindrachuk said.

He said the company also wants to add more green space to make the entire property feel less fragmented, so it is more inviting for people to walk to from nearby offices.

Kindrachuk said the company is al-

so looking at developing a hotel and an office building on parcels of land near Highway 8, which are already zoned for those uses.

Chapman said market studies for the area show a demand for more hotel, office and retail space, as well as entertainment facilities.

Kindrachuk said detailed plans still need to be developed, but "there will be a substantial investment in the property" over the next two years.

He said he met yesterday with the management for existing tenants, including Moose Winooskis, Outback Steakhouse and Higher Ground rock climbing, to begin talking about the opportunities for their businesses under the new ownership.

Together, those tenants employ an additional 300 people.

"We want to grow the businesses. We want to invest in the businesses — we have the capital to do that," Kindrachuk said.

Although big changes are in store for the Sportsworld property, "all things change and evolve," Kindrachuk said.

"The whole area is in transition and we want to raise the bar and make it a high-quality precinct."

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# Iraq: Pacifists opposed invasion

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1**

"I have instructed the minister of foreign affairs and the clerk of the Privy Council to make certain that the full resources of the government of Canada are made available to this end."

While a spokesperson for Christian Peacemaker Teams expressed relief that the four seemed in good health, he strenuously rejected the kidnappers' claim that the hostages were spies and evangelicals.

The four were absolutely not in Iraq to spread the Christian faith, Rob Holmes said.

Holmes was not able to say whether there had been any contact with the kidnappers.

"Our team in Baghdad is working on that," he said.

Canadian terrorism expert Eric Margolis said negotiating the release of the hostages is "a very delicate business" that would more likely succeed if the perpetrators were criminals rather than ideologically motivated, he said.

"The criminals would eventually approach whatever authorities they could find to ransom these people back so at least they could be brought back alive," Margolis said.

"If they've been kidnapped by one

of the militant extremist resistance groups who are ideological, then these people are in bigger trouble because the kidnappers might want to kill them to set an example."

Dan McTeague, whose position as parliamentary secretary disappeared with yesterday's election call, noted that Canadian Fadi Fadel was kidnapped in Iraq in April 2004 and accused of spying for Israel.

"Great efforts were made to prove that this was not the case and he was subsequently released."

Loney, who was the team leader in Baghdad, is a longtime advocate of the homeless.

"Just as soldiers are prepared to sacrifice their lives for the state, as a Christian who believes in non-violence, I am prepared to make the same sacrifice for my non-violent beliefs," Loney said in an interview three years ago before he first headed to Iraq.

Sooden is said to be passionate about the plight of the underprivileged around the globe.

Kember is a lifelong pacifist who taught medical students before his retirement.

Fox is a Quaker who has worked with the peacemaker organization for two years.

The video on al-Jazeera, the Arab world's best known satellite channel, showed the four men and Kember's British passport. It had a date stamp indicating it was recorded Sunday.

The corner of the video showed two crossed black swords and the name of the insurgent group in red Arabic script.

Christian Peacemaker Teams is an ecumenical pacifist group that has opposed the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Based in Toronto and Chicago, the international group sends peacemakers to various hot spots in an effort to reduce violence.

The group currently has five projects around the world, with a team in Iraq since October 2002.

"We are some of the few internationals left in Iraq who are telling the truth about what is happening to the Iraqi people," the group said.

Its peacemakers know the risks, it said. It "does not advocate the use of violent force to save our lives should we be kidnapped, held hostage, or caught in the middle of a conflict situation."

Insurgents in Iraq have seized more than 225 people over the past two years, killing at least 38.

*Canadian Press*

# Siblings: Learned it all in just one month

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1**

The parents came from India six years ago. Both kids are Canadian-born.

Maya attends junior kindergarten and gets rave reviews from her teacher, mom says.

The two kids are quickly grasping

English but still speak mostly Malayalam, their parents' first language, at home.

Maya's parents say their daughter started taking an interest in geography just one month ago, probably after listening in on their parents' travel plans.

When she wanted to know more,

mom went to the Internet for information and worked with her daughter

"When we sent to the site, at first, I didn't know how to pronounce most of those names," mom says.

As for where the kids might end up, the parents aren't saying.

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