

**Thought Of The Week**  
By Ted Ecclestone

You will be damned if you do -  
And you will be damned if you  
don't (definition of Calvinism).



Lorenzo Dow  
Reflections on the Love of God

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## Charles Linton - how the hawks fly

By Constance Scrafield-Danby  
Freelance Contributor

A hawk floats in the air above our heads, calling and whistling to us on the earth below. He tilts his wings with the air currents playing on the wind. Charles Linton calls him back with a whistle and the bird dives down, eager to grab at the meat Mr. Linton holds ready for him.

This is a working bird, one of several that travel on a regular basis with Mr. Linton to places where he is employed to chase off other birds in airports and food manufacturers' properties.

It is a non-chemical, non-invasive way of pest control, where safety and hygiene are factors.

Having said that, the birds the peregrines and other hawks chase are not killed - they are frightened into leaving areas where they present a dangerous nuisance. The hunting takes place in the fields where the hawks catch prey that is natural to them and Mr. Linton makes short

work of tearing it apart for them.

This assists their eating and establishes his standing in their thinking as a mate.

"The birds look on me as a partner," Mr. Linton explained: "there is no servant-master relationship here. I am their hunting partner."

All this is the workday existence between the Hockley Valley resident and the birds he admires and loves so much. They have holidays, too.

I met Mr. Linton and his birds at the Medieval Faire in Waterloo in September three years ago. He had a group of youngsters gathered around him as he told them about the life and habits of the birds. One young person reached a hand in the direction of a rather sharp beak and, with a firm but gentle hand, Mr. Linton restrained the child's approach.

"He doesn't react well to people he doesn't know," he told the child reasonably. In the field around them, there was a general celebration of

life in the middle ages. People walked about in costumes, ladies in long skirts, gentlemen in elegant jackets, veiled head gear on the ladies. There was a charming air of frivolity to the festival: vendors sold chain mail, the elegant clothing, princess crowns, mock swords and axes, jewellery.

All was fake and fun except for the birds that were real and fascinating as the crowd around Mr. Linton was noting. He held the birds perched in turn on his gloved hand and explained their natures and moods. He released them to fly above the crowd, to their delight and amazement - especially when the birds returned in response to his whistle. The smallest children held on to their parents and squealed with excitement as one of the hawks landed with a thud to accept its reward of meat.

Mr. Linton and his birds visit many of the shows that are themed to the Middle Ages - Renaissance Festivals - when hunting with hawks was the norm. Sometimes, they go to schools and other events

specifically to demonstrate the power and beauty of these tremendous birds.

Mr. Linton spent his childhood in Caledon East where, at an impressionable age, he rescued a homing pigeon and began to develop an early passion for birds. In 1990, he rescued a kestrel which he turned over to a sanctuary that handled birds of prey.

In between, he studied at the University of Guelph and Rousseau Lake College, always with an interest in subjects related to the out of doors.

In the late 1980s, he travelled to Czechoslovakia where he saw the training and use of birds of prey to a much greater degree than he had and his interest in birds grew as his knowledge increased.

Finally, he met Mat Lieberknecht who worked within the Wye Marsh, breeding birds and Mr. Linton apprenticed with him. He learned about the artificial insemination of birds and began to work with them as a profession.

All in all, the attraction to Mr. Linton of taking the birds to the Renaissance Festivals is to bring an element of nature to young people. He worries that as people become more and more urban, lose their contact with nature and, hence become less in touch with their own humanity.

"I want to give them a glimpse of what they're missing in the cities," he told me, "to kindle their interest in nature and maybe come to the country to see nature for themselves."

He said: "You have to physically stop and look around - smell the roses. Everybody's so busy."

Nowadays, his teenaged stepdaughter Felicia joins him with the birds, handling them before the public, at the festivals. She assists him when it is time to exercise them at home but, of course, does not go with him to the job sites where he and the birds work.

Felicia commented, "I have learned a lot about the birds. It's very interesting - not something you do every day."



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**TEAM EFFORT.** The Orangeville Tyke Select Flyers put a total team effort on the ice but could not overcome an early goal deficit, falling 4-1 to Oakville in action at the Tony Rose on Saturday evening. Photo/MIKE MALONEY

## Crushers take two of weekend three

By MIKE MALONEY  
Sports Editor

The song says that "two out of three ain't bad" and one could guess that was a sentiment shared around the Crushers' dressing room Monday morning after the team took two of three games this past weekend.

Starting the weekend off was a visit from the Hamilton Red Wings. Still smarting from a 4-3 overtime loss to the Red Wings back in September, Orangeville was looking to extend their unbeaten streak at home as well as solidify their place in the CCHL West division standings.

Scott Collins would open the scoring for Orangeville with an unassisted power-play goal at 3:31 of the first, only to have Hamilton tie it back up at 1-1 less than a minute later.

Playing even for the balance of the first, it

wasn't until midway through two that the Crushers began to find their stride.

Again it was the power play leading things off with Tyson Fawcett scoring his first of two at 12:25, with Cody Britton adding another at 16:09.

In the third, though, it was all Orangeville as an offence, that had struggled as of late, seemed to find the range time and time again.

Leading off the scoring parade in the third for the home team was Fawcett, who snapped home a heads up pass from Collins with a wrist shot to the wide side on the power-play at 2:08.

Breaking in on a two-on-one with Daniel Percuklijevic, Krystian Yorke opted to take the shot and threaded one between the post and Wings goalie Rob Behling four minutes later.

Ryan Marcuz made it 6-1 before Jarrod Connolly and Mike Arnold entered the fray with a goal by Arnold at 15:58.

The two then assisted on a Beni Berisha beauty, each getting off a

shot before Berisha picked up a loose puck just off the top of the crease, weaving a shot through the crowd to make it 8-1.

Again Nick Gigone was more than up to whatever challenges

were sent his way, turning back 24 of 25 shots sent his way to record another win in net for Orangeville.

Saturday again saw the lights of Alder shining down on the

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**CRUSHER ROOKIE** Beni Berisha managed to get in on the scoring parade against the Red Wings, tossing a loose puck past Hamilton's goalie in CCHL action on Friday night at the Alder Street Arena. Photo/MIKE MALONEY

## Thunder edge Royals

It is fast shaping up as another battle of Dufferin in District 4 Senior Girls basketball.

Last Wednesday, CDDHS and Westside put their unbeaten records on the line as the two met for the first time this season. In traditional fashion, the two squads went at it tooth and nail and, at the final buzzer, it was Westside coming out on top of a 43-40 decision. Leading the scoring parade in this contest was Rachel Krushnisky for CDDHS who posted a 31-point game, followed closely by the Thunder's Katie

Rankin with 30 points. In the junior pairing of the two teams, it was not even close as Westside rolled past the Royals 52-24.

District 10 play finds both the ODSS Junior and Senior teams struggling again this season. After five games, both teams are still in search of their first win as they cross the midway point of their regular season schedules.

Outdoors, ODSS Girls continue to have mixed results on the field hockey pitch. After shutting out Wellington Heights 4-0

last Monday, they were handed a reality check two days later, going down 8-1 at the hands of Centre Wellington.

Up in Shelburne, the defence continues to keep them in games but the offense still struggles as the CDDHS girls found themselves blanked for the third time in as many games, going down 1-0 in their last outing against GCVI.

In soccer action, ODSS Senior Boys made the most of home field advantage on Tuesday afternoon.

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## Muskie Opener

Shelburne Muskies will open their 2009-10 campaign this weekend when they host Ripley at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday night.

Both teams will be hitting the ice with something to prove.

With their next six games scheduled on the road, Shelburne will be looking to start things off at home on a winning note, while Ripley is expected to be looking for some revenge after having their season ended last year by the Fish in the opening round of the playoffs.

There will be only a few new faces on the ice among the 26-man

Muskie roster this season.

Standing behind the bench with coach Joe Bakes, Dave McCormack has signed on as assistant coach this season, replacing Phil Hartley who has laced up the skates once again to take his place back on the Shelburne blueline.

The game starts at 8 p.m. and the first 100 people through the door will receive a five lb bags of potatoes courtesy of Downey Farms - limit one bag per family.

Upstairs, the Wharf will also be open with live entertainment both during and after Saturday night's game.

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