

# GRAPE VINE

it might have been a water snake, said she sure wouldn't go walking in the park with a small dog or cat.

## New 800 number

Crime Stoppers of Halton is hoping their new national 800 number announced last month will continue to enhance their performance.

The civilian volunteer-managed company reports an increase of 36 per cent in the number of anonymous crime-solving tips received for the first six months of 1996.

Crime Stoppers Chair Ted Acheson says the main reason for the surge in calls is the new after-hours call answering now offered by the company.

You can reach Crime Stoppers from Georgetown phones at 1-800-222-TIPS, 24 hours a day. Callers do not have to give their names, and any tip that leads to an arrest qualifies the caller for a cash reward of between \$50 and \$1,000.

## New owner at Dominion Seed House?

Plans to redevelop the Dominion Seed House property in Georgetown are on hold as the prime piece of Guelph Street land has been sold conditionally.

Town planner Glenn Wellings said staff has met with the new owner and that "they are going to prepare a master plan and after an initial meeting with us they know our requirements under the Official Plan."

Recent plans by ICPF (Loblaws Food Stores) to locate on the site have fallen through.

"We knew there were a lot of people interested in the site because we would get the inquiries, but we don't have details of this latest plan," Wellings said.

## Boa says Aloha?

Halton Police happily report no new sightings of the large, slithery snake that scared the you-know-what out of a maintenance worker at the Halton water well in Cedarvale Park last Tuesday.

The six foot long, six-inch diameter snake may have been a boa constrictor but so far no one has reported their reptile missing and one police spokesperson, who said

## Pinball hits town

Georgetown cable subscribers are invited to meet Toronto Argonaut football star Mike "Pinball" Clemons at Halton Cable Systems' first open house on Saturday, Aug. 10.

Pinball Clemons will help kick off the open house by signing autographs between 11 am and 12 noon.

Halton Cable was purchased by Western Co-Axial Limited in June and the new management team wants all of its subscribers to drop in and meet the staff along with reps from many featured channels.

The cable headquarters is at 21 Main St. N. in Acton.



HOME-BAKED PIE! Ellwood Payne purchases a lemon meringue pie from Fair Board Member Ruth Kelly at the bake table Saturday during the Ag Society's annual beef barbecue. (Eve Martin photo)

# Thought I'd introduce myself

For my first column in your new *Georgetown Gemini*, I'd like to take a few minutes to introduce myself. I also thought you'd like to know what type of topics you can expect to see discussed here each week.

*The Way I See It* pretty well tells you what I do here. My agreement with Publisher Nolan is that I am free to write about anything in the world that I find interesting. Obviously, I hope you will too. I enjoy putting my sometimes quirky view of things into the public eye and hopefully, promoting some debate.

If I were reading this paper for the first time, I think, right about now, I'd be saying "So, who is this guy and why should I care what he thinks?" It's a good question. I'm not sure I can fully answer it, but let's give it a try.

I'm a 39-(metric)-year-old, self-employed, harried father who has lived in Halton Hills for over 22 years. Like many of you, I moved here to escape the city and because I thought this would be a better place to raise my kids. I am not opposed to growth in our town, generally, but am opposed to anything that would decay the small town community feeling which we have. I will be, for example, the first on the ramparts to fight any move to force us to join any kind of super-G.T.A.

I have been happily married for almost 28 years (I was a child-groom). Did I say "happily?" I mean ecstatic, grateful, blissful, enchanted, halcyon years. After all this time, I know how to suck-up. My long-suffering wife is a small town (Picton) girl who had deliberately moved to Toronto to get away from a small town. When I dragged her out here to live, she thought Acton was a suburb of North Bay. She came to accept country living, but I doubt her enthusiasm is going to be long-term. I, for instance, see us retiring to some secluded lake. She reminds me you can see the lake from Yonge and Bloor and you don't have to walk down to it. "We could take the subway," she observes. Oh

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



well, you can take the girl out of the city, but you can't... etc.

I often write about my family and the trials and tribulations of living with five females. I had hair when I was single. I don't think it fair though, especially for the girls, to put their names in print. It's tough enough being a kid in a small town without your name being in the paper regularly.

As a compromise, all the ladies have a "nom de plume." Let me introduce them to you, since they have a big influence on my attitudes. Obviously, for instance, I'm a feminist. We draw the line though at most of the proposals of the radical N.A.C.-types.

I refer to my wife as "the Bride" since I still see her that way. Our youngest is 16 and is in high school. Which school is unimportant - I think teenage problems are system-wide. You'll come to know her as "the Kid." Our next daughter is 21 and has just finished two years at Carleton University in Ottawa. She's "the Big Kid." Daughter Number 2 is 23 and is in her fourth year at Laurentian U. in Sudbury. She's "the Old Kid." Our oldest would kill me if I put her age in here, but suffice it to say the actors on *Friends* can soon start calling her "n'am." She's left the nest and is an economist working and living in Guelph. She's "the Ancient Kid."

That's my crew on life's voyage and I write about them for two reasons. First, I dearly love them all and am proud of their accomplishments. Second, I think we adults have to stick together and share information. The kids, you see, are meeting in the schoolyards every day and are plotting against us.

If you're looking for a politi-

cally-correct, mushy, feel-good commentator, you are definitely on the wrong page. Not that you'll find any superficial reporting anywhere in our paper, mind you. I think this whole P.C. attitude has damn near ruined our country. I don't think there should be any issue we can't discuss in an open, honest and constructive way. Particularly if some level of government expect us to pay for it.

I invite Letters to the Editor, especially when you disagree with me. That's what opinion columns are for - to promote dialogue. I should advise you that if all you're going to do is write and call me names, you may as well save your crayons. I've been called better names by the people I live with, and who love me.

I write a lot about current events and politics. I'm an equal opportunity political basher. I've written both for and against all the major parties. (To be honest, I'm hardly ever for the N.D.P.). I'm not a member of any political party. I'm mostly Liberal on social issues but fiscally, I'm pretty Conservative. I think deficit spending is stupid. We have to live within our means. I refuse to be pigeon-holed in any party, but think of myself as a Liberal who can count.

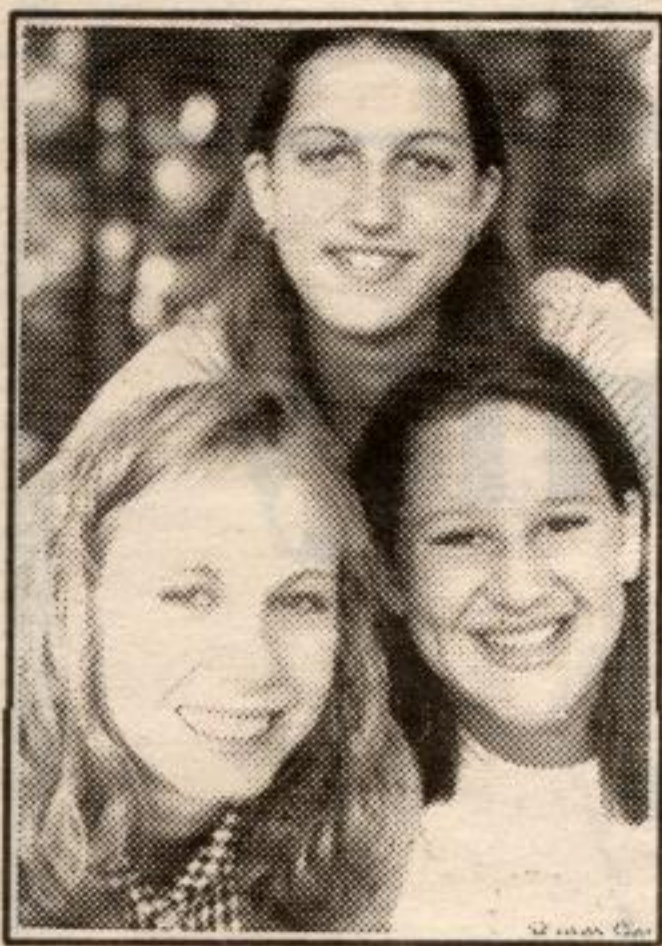
I'm a law and order type guy but although I usually support the officers on the street, I have reservations about the direction the department is going in. I'm not impressed with the cop-as-social worker program. I favour life terms for murderers with no chance of parole.

I'm fiercely Canadian, but I must admit to enjoying my Irish heritage; usually on St. Patrick's Day with a pint in my hand. I don't like state sanctioned multi-culturalism and the attendant idea of hyphenated Canadians. I think old hatreds have no place here. We're a young country. Let's go forward together to the future instead of re-fighting long past battles.

Thank you for having us into your home. We hope to hear from you from time to time.

# HEY!

Have you seen any summer movies? (Asked at the Fairgrounds Park.)



"We all saw Independence Day. It was good, but the President bugged us."  
Aimee Burns, Leah Cosgrove, Kristen Clow



"I went to see Independence Day last week and I enjoyed it very much"

Marilyn Scuralli



"I saw Independence Day. I also went to see Phenomenon, but I thought it was boring."

Brad Whitteker



"Independence Day was great. I liked it a lot."

Jordan Scuralli