

# Cold weather means it's time to Lighten Up

By JANET BAINE  
Staff writer

It's almost red nose time again. No, not the nose you wear when you have a cold, but the squishy foam made nose for Lighten Up Canada day, coming up on Monday, Feb. 7.

There are new records to be set in this, the third year of the annual event and unless we're careful, Acton may lose the record of 1,353 people wearing red noses, set last year.

That record was won when stu-

dents from Acton's five schools lined up along with other local residents. The police closed off the area, while the media captured the event for all of Canada to see.

So far, interest has come from Simcoe, Palmerston and Vancouver, not to mention Guelph, where business people met to discuss plans for the special day Tuesday.

During the first Lighten Up Canada Day in 1992, 12,000 red noses were sold, and last year that increased tenfold, to 125,000 red noses, Jack Carpenter said.

The Acton resident is the man

behind the red nose, and the special event.

"I spearheaded the thing, because somebody has to do it. But it's not a fundraiser, so there's no guilt attached," he said.

He has no problem with retailers making a couple of cents on the sale of red noses, to cover their costs. While they usually sell for 99 cents, some stores encourage their sale by charging only 75 cents, he said.

Carpenter hosted a television program on CKCO when he came up with the idea of Lighten Up

Canada Day, a way of combating the February blahs. He read an item about some people in Britain who put on red noses, went out into the street and "laughed themselves silly" on his show. He then mentioned that Canadians should do the same, and the very next day he had people calling in, asking where they could get red noses.

The event has become an annual affair since then, he said.

"We need a few smiles this time of year, the news is pretty deadly," Carpenter said.

He plans to solicit the support of

the town, and have Mayor Russ Miller raise the flag on Lighten Up Canada day, as he did last year. He said he will try to make the request at the next council meeting.

A competition among newspapers for the best color and black and white photograph, with a prize of \$250 will also bring the event more attention, he said.

"We'll also find out who is participating," he added. A display of the photographs can then be sent to other towns and cities, so they can get some ideas of what is happening in other Canadian communities.

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NOTICE

# WEEKEND

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 1994 - VOL 8 - ISSUE 41 - 32 PAGES - 50¢ + G.S.T.

News

Digest

### New homes hit

A jacuzzi, some fireplaces and doors worth \$10,000 were taken from houses under construction in Georgetown south overnight Wednesday, Jan. 12. There are no suspects, and police don't know if the thefts are related, although it may be possible, said Det. Sgt. Don Walsh of the Halton Regional Police Service.

The jacuzzi was taken from a house being built by Buchland Homes on Argyle Rd. and Hamilton Rd. and is worth \$2,000.

Five Fernbrook homes under construction on Hepburn Cres. had gas fireplaces stolen, each worth \$1,000. Two sets of double front entry doors and a set of steel doors worth \$1,200 were taken from homes on Harop Ave. Two more gas fireplaces were taken from a house under construction on Samuel Cres.

### Closing roads

At the committee meeting January 17, council members supported a recommendation authorizing staff to present council with a bylaw that would temporarily stop-up and close St. Helena Rd. to vehicular traffic.

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Brrrrrrr.....



With the sub-zero temperatures of the past week, local students have spent lots of time indoors during recess, for fear of frostbite. Park School students Christine Zavitz, 9, (left) and Devon MacLean, 8, found just how

far the old mercury had dropped earlier this week when wind chill readings dipped below minus-30 Celsius. Forecasts predict temperatures will return to normal this weekend. TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

## No Miracle for striking food store employees

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

Miracle Food Mart employees across the province continue their two-month old strike after a split vote on a new offer from the company Wednesday evening.

Gary Berry, a strike captain at the Georgetown store, said the company's full time employees (about 1,800 of them) accepted the offer from A&P while the part-timers (about 4,700) rejected it.

Berry said the outcome of the vote put the full-time employees in an awkward position because recent labor legislation requires the local that accepted the offer to go back to work regardless of how other locals voted. The striking employees are members of Locals 175 and 633 of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

"So we (full-timers) would have had to cross the picket line and report to work today (Thursday)," said Berry. Berry added the union and A&P has come to an agreement allowing the full-timers to remain on strike with their part-time counterparts.

On Thursday a spokesperson for A&P said the company had no comment. No comment was available from the union's head office either.

Berry said the company's new offer included hourly wage reductions of \$1.75 for full and part-time employees.

JANUARY CLEARANCE

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