

# GRAPE VINE

businesses that have donated goods and services to the local St. John Ambulance Brigade. Haltet Communications Inc. donated and installed a cellular phone in the mobile first aid unit and the Acton Canadian Tire donated a much-needed tune-up.

## Food drive planned

Preparations are underway for the second annual Scout and Guide food drives in Halton Hills, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7. Last year Acton residents donated more than 5,600 pounds of food to Acton's FoodShare food bank and over 18,000 pounds was donated in Georgetown to the Love In Christ Food Bank. Organizers hope people will be just as generous this year.

## Massive reunion

Did you ever live in the wartime housing on McDonald or Mason Boulevards in the Warren Grove area of Acton? If you did, the Warren Grove reunion committee is looking for you. The committee is planning a massive reunion in May and is trying to trace all of the owners of all of the homes. If you are a former resident, or know someone who is, call Keith Andrews at 853-1607.

## Leathertown Fashions opening

A big sale and a ribbon-cutting ceremony will mark the grand opening of Mill Street's newest clothing store tomorrow (Thursday). Mayor Russ Miller will be on hand to do the honours as Leathertown Fashions holds its official opening.

## Donations for St. John unit

Kudos to a couple of Halton Hills

## Commerical smoking ban?

The Town is investigating plans to ban smoking in all commerical establishments in Acton and Georgetown and wants to know what residents and business operators have to say. You can bring your comments and concerns to a public meeting tomorrow (Thursday) at 7 pm at the Acton arena.

## Reform Party candidate

The Reform Party of Halton Peel is holding its nomination meeting tonight (Wednesday) in Georgetown. Five candidates are in the running. The Reform Party has 900-plus card-carrying members in the riding, about 85 of them in Acton. The meeting begins at 7:30 at the Georgetown High School.

## Thanks Debbie

Due to increasing family and business pressures Tanner contributor Debbie Tilson cannot continue bringing us the news from Rockwood and Eden Mills. We all enjoyed Debbie's keen eye and sharp prose and will miss her. We still want to serve our Rockwood readers; anyone interested in keeping us informed on what's happening in Eramosa Township?

**Do you have any news for Grapevine? Please call and let us know!**



**EARRINGS ANYONE?** Members of the Acton Library Young Adult Club (YAC) try their hand working with "friendly plastic" to make their own earrings last week. Shown here, left to right, are Danica Albano of Acton, Tanya Tonkovich of Rockwood and Nicole Lee of Acton. Other YAC projects include making hair barrettes, stenciling T-shirts and a make-up demonstration. (Frances Niblock photo)

# The glories and the perils of life in our small town

Dear Margaret:

You asked if I watch Profiles of Nature. Indeed I do; it's one of my favorite TV programs, better even than Lorne Greene's New Wilderness. I thought of you last week when I saw Profiles showing the coot and bittern on Prairie Ponds. It was an excellent production, with first-rate cinematography, the class of lens work that makes me green with envy for the visual and audio impact of this program. If I were years and years younger with most of my life ahead of me I would choose to be a nature photographer. Too late, alas, but I can admire the efforts of others and feel gratitude that television brings their work into our homes.

While on the subject of nature shooting, this has been an autumn tailor-made for camera enthusiasts. Glorious colour everywhere, in the park, around the library and Robert Little School. Woe to those slow off the mark with their lenses and colour film, because the rain came, sluiced off the leaves and burnished those remaining on boughs. What a difference a down-pour makes to the pageantry of fall.

I think of you each day when visiting the park and Fairy Lake. Often there are as many as 300 Canada geese on the leaf-strewn water. A wonderful sight. They take off just at sunset in V formation which becomes more perfect with every flight. How lucky we Actonites are to have such scenes on our doorstep.

An endearing little stranger made his appearance among the ducks about two weeks ago. He is smaller than a mallard, swims in spurts and is very tame. I suspect someone had him for a pet, and for some reason or another, decanted him into the lake. I call him Squeaky for want of a more evocative name. Thus far, I have not succeeded in identifying Squeaky, who is a special favourite of a couple of regular park-goers. The husband talks the newcomer out

of the water to follow him in and eat from his hand.

You asked if my tomato saga ended happily. It went as predicted, a total disaster. However, my summer was not totally wasted, as I produced a crop of the fattest, best-fed slugs in Ontario. There's always something to be thankful for. Har dee har!

Did you notice how summer and fall got mixed up this year? This may account for silly season episodes occurring in September and October. It seems to me — and other observers agree — that there are more loonies circulating in our little town than usual.

I encountered such a pair at the park recently. They were fishing, at least they had the equipment and garb, but their conduct was Middle-Eastern. They pranced, ranted and roared in broken English as I went by and when my dogs zeroed in for a closer sniff I thought Word War III had erupted. The pooches took off, exchanging puzzled glances with their mistress. Canines are quick to detect kinkiness in humans.

One does not take dogs to the laundromat, although sometimes it might be useful to have four-legged protection now that our town is coming of age.

In our new Acton, one can expect anything to happen in a public place. For example, while reading as I waited for my wash, I had a visitor, a tall youth with a sneering countenance. Popping his head around the door he demanded: "Got a cigarette?" I replied with a firm No, and returned to my book, smoking a filthy fag, purchased

with my own money. No way am I going to finance a teenager's nicotine habit.

Seconds later, the head reappeared. In the voice of one conferring a vast favour, the sneering youth made an obscene proposal to the washerwoman old enough to be his grandmother. Shocked I was not. At my age, one is shock-proof. Stunned, yes. I could only think of my sharp shears, unfortunately at home in a drawer, and I remember wishing those shears were handy. A business-like snip would have done the job!

A week earlier, also in the laundromat, reading as usual, I had another silly season encounter with a middle-age drunk. Leaning, glassy-eyed, against the door jamb, he informed me that "I'm sho lucky" because music aroused him sexually. He used one gutter word to describe his reaction to canned music, which, intent on my book, I had not heard. Repeating his confession, like a lewd rock refrain, he teetered and leered, until I packed my washing and departed.

Shocked? No. Weirdly amused more than anything, because the man, although sloshed, was not vicious, unlike the cigarette-seeking hoodlum who belongs to a new breed. Daily one reads of their activities, directed against elderly women whose only crime is their age.

Silly season or not, we can do without an epidemic of this sickness in our fair town.

(This column originally appeared in the Acton Voice in October, 1985.)



## PETUNIA PATCH

With Esther Taylor

# HEY!

*Do you think police officers should have to write a report each and every time they draw their gun in public?*



"Police will think twice about drawing their gun if they know they'll have to file a report. While they're second guessing themselves someone could get hurt"  
**Judy Ransom, Roseford Terrace**

"I think police should have to account for it every time they pull their guns. Too many people, some of them innocent, are getting shot. If it saves lives, what's a little paper work?"

**Ruth Prickman, Eastern Avenue**



"That's a tough one. Unless someone is in danger, a cop shouldn't pull his gun, but he should be able to protect himself if he's in danger. Who decides? I don't know."  
**Frankie Fronteddu, Inkerman Street, Rockwood**



"No, police shouldn't have to write a report when they pull their gun. If they have to stop and think about whether to pull their gun or not somebody might get killed."  
**Robert Snyder, Willow Street**