

GRAPE VINE

build a 35,000 square foot facility on Main Street North.

Gillian's Loft to open

A new up-scale consignment shop, Gillian's Loft, will open March 1 in the old Elizabeth's Fashions store on Mill Street.

Work on the refurbished store is complete and the owner, who does not want to be named yet, hopes to begin receiving used clothing next week.

The store will feature teen wear, baby and women's clothing and crafts, all on consignment.

Cookie canvass

There're here!

Acton Girl Guides, Sparks, Brownies and Pathfinders are knocking on doors in town this month, taking orders for the annual Girl Guide cookie drive.

More than three million boxes of the cookies were sold in last year's fund-raising drive, and the Whiteoaks area, which includes Acton, had the highest country-wide sales.

Orders will be taken this month and the cookies, priced at \$2.50 a box, will be delivered between March 31 and April 2.

Civic awards night

Members of two Acton hockey teams are among the 160 groups and individuals being honoured at tonight's (Wednesday) annual municipal awards night.

All recipients are being thanked for special achievements in cultural, creative or performing arts, sports and academics.

The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 7 pm in the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown. Congratulations winners!

Auto Tech moving

It's goodbye Agnes Street for Acton Auto Tech.

Floyd and the boys have bought the vacant Capital Ford property at the corner of Main Street and St. Alban's Drive, and will move this spring.

The deal closes the end of the month, but Floyd says the new property will need a major spruce-up, and both locations will be open for a while as they shift equipment and customers to the new garage.

The move includes an expanded parts department and that may mean one more employee will be hired.

Moves contemplated

The hoists aren't even cold at Auto Tech's Agnes Street location and already people are checking it out.

Jeff Herrington, owner of Herrington Printing, says he considered a move to property but the building is too small for his needs.

Herrington says he started scouting new locations when his landlord, Maple Leaf Foods, threatened to close the Beardmore complex if the Town didn't play nice and ante up precious water allocations for its proposed housing development on the old Beardmore land.

Herrington says tenancy in the Beardmore complex is "not real secure" and he is negotiating with a local developer who plans to



BUT ARE THEY AS FUNNY AS THEY LOOK?

They were shoulder to shoulder along Mill Street Friday, as Acton students joined together to create a record-breaking chain of goodwill and mirth. Daily newspapers, television and radio reporters flocked to our happy little town to record Lighten Up, Canada! festivities. (Elizabeth Kessler photo)

LETTERS

Smokers not the problem

The following letter was sent last Wednesday by Acton resident Betty Dunn to MPP Noel Duignan and Frances Lankin, former Ontario Minister of Health.

To the Editor,

I am writing in reply to the recently-announced strategies your party has laid out to reduce tobacco sales.

As to raising the age to purchase cigarettes or outlawing the advertising of them, it's peer pressure that makes most kids try smoking, not magazine ads or billboards, contrary to what your party believes. Kids have tried smoking since way back when they rolled up leaves to have a puff.

Most smoke shops in Ontario today do have warnings posted and already have signs up about selling to the under-aged. No changes necessary there.

Most smokers are courteous. My husband and I are not smokers, but have never had a problem in a restaurant in our life from second-hand smoke.

If you people would care as much about the real culprits and not use tobacco as a scapegoat for everything we might get somewhere. Air-tight buildings are a real problem. Only last year in Toronto, kids were getting sick and parents noticed learning problems and dizziness, not from the teacher smoking for sure, but because of insulation in the buildings. Government buildings have been smoke-free for some time, but only last week on television, it showed one of the new government buildings, where one whole department are complaining of illness — not from a cigarette, that's for sure.

The only new writing I would recommend on tobacco products is regarding the actual price, and the tax added on by the government. People need to know what they are being charged by you.

It takes no qualification to be a fanatic. All you need is one person, unemployed of course, preferably with a big mouth, a soapbox, a corner and if he or she shouts loud enough, a few more fanatics will gather and jump on the bandwagon. This is what is happening in Canada. One fanatic is shouting about tobacco and the bandwagon grows.

Acid rain is falling on our crops, our fish are dying in our lakes and they don't smoke. Our kids are getting sick in buildings with poor ventilation, yet all you people can find to blame the whole problem on is the cigarette. Bull!

Tell the people the truth: we are in a mess and you have no cures, so you need a scapegoat. Tell them the facts of the billions you take in on tobacco each year. What taxes will be added to what to compensate the loss of that revenue?

But above all, enough already. American magazines can adver-

tise their products, but not a legal Canadian product. Not right! Spend the money to clean up our waterways, not year after year on the same song. Tobacco industries have a legal right to produce and to advertise in Canada. It is a legal product and they certainly pay their taxes. Soon drugs will be more readily available to our kids and I myself would rather mine have a cigarette than be shooting up in some dark alley.

This is what I think of proposals put forward by former Health Minister Frances Lankin: with AIDS spreading all over the world, I think we have a much larger problem than tobacco will ever be. Most smokers are courteous, hard-working people and sick of the unjust harassment because they enjoy having a cigarette. Let's find a new soapbox now — it's about time.

Betty Dunn
Ransom Street

HEY!

Are you a romantic?
Will you celebrate
Valentine's Day?



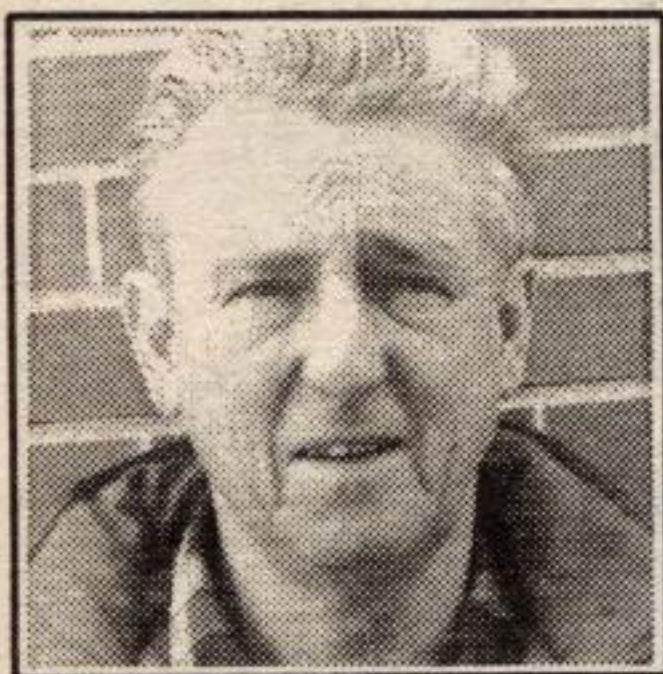
"I like to think I'm romantic. I will probably buy some flowers and a card and try to make Sunday as nice a day as possible for my love ... maybe breakfast in bed."

Arthur Bishop, R.R.2 Acton

"Yes I am a romantic. I love my family and friends and I want them to know how I feel.

I always send happy cards to my children and love getting their Valentine's cards and phone calls."

Shirley McKeown, Park Avenue



"I'm not really a romantic person. I will send a card to my daughter and my grandson. Valentine's meant more when my wife was around, but not now."

Ron Donnelly, R.R. 3 Acton

"Yes I am romantic and I like the idea of Valentine's Day. I've already got a card for the guy I'm seeing and we will be together that day."

Rachel Nagel, Kingham Road



Alzheimer support program

At Acton Social Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) we coordinate the Alzheimer's Support Program for the Acton area. Our volunteers provide telephone support to those having Alzheimer's Disease and their caregivers by supplying information and lending a listening ear to those in need.

Patients and caregivers can be put in touch with others coping with the disease. Caregivers can be referred to books and tapes that may be of assistance.

We also maintain the Wandering Patients Registry. Co-sponsored by the Alzheimer's Society of Halton-Wentworth and Halton Regional Police, an ASSIC volunteer assists with registering clients. Information about family or others to contact, appearance and behaviour characteristics of the person with Alzheimer's Disease is registered on computer with the Halton Regional Police Force. This information is available to officers throughout the region to assist wandering patients and their care providers.

These ASSIC programs, like



most, are free of charge. Those wishing to join the Support Program of the Wandering Patients Registry can call ASSIC at 853-3310 or drop in to our office at 19 Willow St. N., Acton.

An Alzheimer's Support Group runs every third Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9 pm at the Georgetown District Hospital in the Television Lounge of the Bennett Health Care Centre. Group members provide support to one another and assist each other in coping with the disease. Others who do not require a great deal of support still benefit from the information sharing that takes place within the group. For more information regarding this group, call the hospital at 873-0111, extension 191, and ask for Kelly Herbert.