

GRAPE VINE

Classroom layoffs?

Some of the 14 instructional assistants working in Acton schools may lose their jobs at the end of the school year.

A loyal reader says she heard from a reliable source that 30 per cent of Halton's 600 instructional assistants will get pink slips this June.

The assistants, both part-time and full-time, help teachers in the classroom with special needs students.

Less than half of Halton's instructional assistants have contracts.

More Power

That reusable clutter in your basement or garage could help fight plans for a massive garbage dump in the Acton Quarry.

The north Halton environmental group Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) will hold its fifth annual garage sale on Saturday, May 1 at Georgetown Memorial Arena, and is looking for donated items that are in good condition.

Most of the money raised at the massive garage sale is earmarked to help pay lawyers waging legal battles against the dump.

Easter Seal appeal

April means Easter and that

means the annual Acton Rotary Club Easter Seals fund-raising campaign is underway to raise money for children with physical disabilities.

By now, all Acton residents should have received a request for donations, along with a sheet of colourful Easter stamps, drawn by children the Easter Seal fund has helped.

Acton Easter Seal committee chairman Larry Rigney says half of the \$2,500 raised last year stayed in Acton and the rest was sent to the province-wide organization to pay for a wide range of services including support of an Easter Seal nurse, summer camp programs and respite care.

Acton Rotary member Jake Kuiken also says they were "thrilled" recently to learn that the late Marguerite Taylor of Acton left the club \$1,000 in her will, with the stipulation that the money be used to help crippled children.

Students sounds

Fifty-four students from Acton's four schools will perform during the Halton Musical Showcase at Hamilton Place on Wednesday, April 7.

The fifth annual event is staged to show off the musical talents of Halton students.

This year, Acton High student and pianist Kish Killingbeck has been chosen to entertain guests at a pre-show reception.

Students from Acton schools will perform in the massed choir, the junior jazz and wind ensembles and the senior wind ensemble.



HAPPY HELPERS

These hard-working ladies had the unenviable task of preparing and serving goodies for the 177 donors who helped out the Acton Red Cross blood donor clinic last Thursday at the Legion. Shown here, left to right, are Acton residents, Elsie Halladay, Ruth Courtney and Marion Piehl. Tea, coffee, doughnuts, orange juice, assorted fruit juices, date squares and fruit bread were just some of the treats donated by the Acton Bakery and Mr. Mugs. (Doug Harrison photo)

LETTERS

Whiting's comments

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suspect that we will see number of amendments here tonight. I want to make it clear that I believe we have already cut to the bone and I don't wish to now cut through the bone.

I feel I must also re-emphasize what I said the other night to my colleagues about the Provincial grants. Last year, the final tally came in about this point in the process and we were short a great deal of revenue. I was one trustee who argued strongly that we not revisit the expenditure side of the budget and the majority agreed. As a result, we passed along an eight per cent mill rate increase on to the public.

This year, if the final tally had left us six million short rather than five million, I would have taken the same position and the public would have been faced with another major increase. That didn't happen.

What happened was that we received, in effect if not in fact, one million dollars that we did not expect. There are those who suggest that money should have been used to lessen the burden our staff have been asked to share. But, if nothing else, we must be seen as consistent and so that "extra" one million was passed directly on to the public. Just what we did last year.

This is also a good time to express my personal thanks and my gratitude to all of the members of staff who contributed a day's pay to help offset the potential layoffs in our system. Your donations show that you do put the greater good of all before yourselves and I can't begin to tell you how much I, and I'm sure my fellow trustees, appreciate your personal effort.

Through you, Mr. Chair, to the

Director. I want to thank Bob for his work, input and innovations through this process. I don't feel it was necessary for him to consult with us at every step through this budget and I want him to know that I personally support him in all he tried to accomplish within the system. I want to remind those who think themselves "done in", that Bob did not know that the Province was going to give us more money. If anything, he and his administration felt it would be less. Bob, you have my full and unqualified support in all you did and my thanks for your efforts and those of your staff.

I would be remiss, Mr. Chair, if I didn't thank administration for their efforts, especially Jerry Jenkins and his people.

Dave Whiting
Trustee for Wards 1 and 2

HEY!

What were your reactions to MP Garth Turner's announcement that he'll seek the PC leadership?



"I don't have a reaction, really. I don't think he's well-liked for his views and I don't think he'll do well. From what I've heard, I don't think he even wanted to run for MP. Kim Campbell's probably going to win."
Steve Wagner, Willow Street

"I think he has a fair chance and I think we're do for a change. He's interested in giving us tax breaks, which we need, and getting rid of the GST. Taxes are way out of line. I don't think he'll beat out Kim Campbell, though. Maybe come second."
Debbie Greenwood, Matthew Court



"I think it's good that someone is running for it around here. I think he has a good chance. I don't think the PC's (if they get in again) will be in for any certain length of time. I've had enough of the Conservatives — eight years."
Alvey Gordon, Main St. N

"Good luck to him. I don't think he has a chance. I don't like his manner. There's also views and deeds of the party. People tend to focus on just the person, depending on who they are, as if the leader can solve policies and they can't. I think Kim (Campbell) has a good chance."
Carol Graham, RR2, Acton

