

GRAPE VINE

Environmental ace

Kudos to Acton's Michael Galda who recently won a Northern Telecom - Bell Northern Research award for designing recyclable packaging for electrical components.

Galda, who works for Northern in Milton, came up with a collapsible wooden packing system that is 100 per cent recyclable.

Galda was flown to Washington to pick up his award which included a plaque and tickets to the World Environmental Council Ball.

Flower power

Looking for the perfect peony? Need help filling that empty flower bed?

The Acton Horticultural Society can help.

On Saturday the Society is staging its annual plant sale in the old Hide House parking lot, facing Mill Street.

Society members and Sheridan Nurseries will donate plants and shrubs and members will be on hand to answer gardening questions.

Money raised, \$1,000 last year, pays for Society programs, including supplying flowers in the downtown hanging baskets.

Free delivery will be provided by Achilles Motors which has donated the use of a truck and driver for the day.

Beaver redevelopment

Plans for a Tim Horton Donut shop on the Beaver Fuels property on Queen Street continue to move through the planning process.

Some neighbours are still worried about noise, traffic and children's safety.

The plan calls for a doughnut shop, 24-hour convenience store and a drive-through car wash.

Construction is slated for this summer and will take two months.

Seniors safety

Acton seniors who are interested in taking part in Halton Region's seniors safety fair on Saturday, June 12, should call ASSIC to arrange free transportation.

Organized by the seniors advisory council, the fair will feature displays, seminars, workshops, clinics and videos, all aimed at seniors.

To arrange transportation, call ASSIC at 853-3310.

"Y" housing

Plans for mixed housing in the vacant YMCA building on Mill Street have been resubmitted to the Province for another attempt at getting funding for the proposed project.

Plans call for converting the building into 12 apartments for young mothers and seniors.

After being turned down for funding earlier in the year, proponents made some minor adjustments and refiled the plans.

One of the proponents, Reverend Tom Cullen of Acton Baptist Church, says "the dream hasn't died, nor has the idea or the determination and the desire to provide a service for Acton like this."



PRETTY FLOWERS: Acton TEAM (Teen Education and Motherhood) hosted free Mother's Day Crafts on Thursday afternoon at Acton Baptist Church. Site co-ordinator for the TEAM program Donna Kerton, middle, is flanked by Shawna Rivers-Brown, left, and Pat McGlynn, of Acton, who are stuffing flowers into cups to form a flower arrangement. (Doug Harrison photo)

What are the pearls of great price?

Looking back to the days when I was a child (and OK, I will admit that was some time ago) I remember that, for most of my school career, I was a pretty good student. Even so, during my high school years I did develop a real block in mathematics. If memory serves it wasn't the numbers which were at fault, I simply wasn't paying much attention in class when we started to deal with the likes of algebra and geometry; predictably enough, I never got hold of the basic way of thinking.

I reached the bottom of the barrel when, on one occasion, my final term mark was a single digit out of 100. I still have that report card and, all these years later, that percentage still hasn't improved.

One day, one of the really fine teachers in my young life said, and I am quoting because I have never forgotten his comment: "Balkind, we will find some mathematics that you can do." That teacher probably never knew how much his compassion counted in this particular boy's life. I realize to-

day that his remark reinforced a basic tenet which, despite my youth and my mathematical floundering, I already believed to be true.

Even as a very small child, I had always known that, come what may — I would be okay. Even when I was "on the spot" or in "hot water" for whatever reasons, deep inside I knew that I would survive. I never doubted that belief and to this day it serves me still.

I also didn't know "way back when" that there is no significant research which shows that success in school correlates highly with success in the work-a-day world. Many supremely successful people were so-called "duds" in the formal world of education; Einstein was a duffer, Churchill

was apparently slow and Canadian Maurice Strong (arguably the first man ever to get Ontario Hydro under control) was a highschool dropout.

What we understand today is that personal qualities such as self-esteem and self-confidence are absolutely essential to adult well-being; such inner strengths are pearls of great price. *When we possess that quiet, inner confidence that says to us that we are, despite our warts, a valuable human being the rest will come when needed.* When we lack that sense of wholeness we are almost assuredly in for trouble and success as defined by test results in reading, writing and arithmetic won't help so very much.



WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind

HEY!

Do you feel the BIA's plans to spend \$10,000 this summer to brighten the buildings on Mill Street is money well spent?



"I think it is. For people travelling through town, it gives them a better impression of the whole area. It would look a lot better and give the town continuity. The south side should be fixed; the north's not too bad."

Paul Campbell, Bower Street

"I think it's a good idea. When people come through town they want to see that the town cares for itself by keeping it cleaned and beautified."

Barbara Case, Churchill Road S.



"I think it would be. It's hard nowadays to keep businesses in town and I think if it attracts people, it would be good for Acton. If the money's there, it would be well spent."

Steve Schubert, Churchill Road

"Well, the bridge by the library needs to be fixed. The railing and benches need to be painted; it's a disgrace. If people want tourists in this town, they should fix it up."

Barbara Gagnon, Elizabeth Drive

