

GRAPE VINE

Fond goodbyes

Former students and friends of retiring Acton teacher Ena Gibson are invited to a picnic in her honour at 5:30 today (Wednesday) at McKenzie-Smith Middle School.

Gibson, who began her classroom career 27 years ago in Acton, taught at Robert Little School and for the past 12 years has been at McKenzie-Smith, most recently doing counselling and guidance work.

The party for Gibson, known as a caring disciplinarian and the school's matriarch, will include the school band and a drama presentation.

Bring your own picnic, and the school will supply drinks and dessert.

Setter sensation

Kudos to former Acton High volleyball ace Susan Craig — one of 12 women picked for the Canadian Women's Volleyball Team.

Craig, 22, is now training with the National squad in Winnipeg for a European tour this summer, and the World Student Games in Buffalo, New York next month.

The squad will be reevaluated this fall and those that make the cut will aim for the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

After dominating local high school volleyball, Craig finessed her way through five all-star years as a setter at York University.

Craig shone on the Provincial All-Star team and the All-Canadian squad.

Craig, who double-majored in Economics and Physical Education, says future plans may include getting a Masters degree, or coaching volleyball.

Parkette expansion?

Talks are continuing in the Acton Business Improvement Area's (BIA) plan to expand the four-corners parkette by purchasing an L-shaped piece of property beside it.

The family of the late Acton jeweller Ben Rachlin has responded favourably to BIA initiatives to buy the property that has frontage on both Main and Mill Streets.

BIA officials say the property has "lots of possibilities" and would be a welcome addition to the downtown parkette.

Environmental ace

Kudos to Acton's Tonny Johannsen, one of seven Halton Hills residents named to the Town's new Environmental Advisory Committee.

This committee, whose first job will be to draft its terms of reference, will comment on all planning projects to ensure the environment has been taken into consideration.

This committee will review all Town plans to ensure that the environment has been taken into consideration.



THANK-YOU KEITH: Twenty-one of Keith Black's long standing colleagues dating back to his first year of teaching 36 years ago to the present, turned out to say thanks last Wednesday at Acton High during his retirement dinner. Black, front centre, an Acton High teacher of 22 years, has plans to travel, write, involve himself in art and become part of the community. Over his teaching years, Black, 57, organized 63 trips outside North America with students and gave them a learning experience outside the walls of the school. (Doug Harrison photo)

Facing the truth is painful!

When I was a boy we were at war and the world's common enemy, as I understood things, was Hitler. Our job was clear and I knew that even we little Englishmen were fully-committed; we would not rest until we rid the world of the Nazi scourge and that little dictator who filled the news screens at the local cinema.

I was 12 years of age when WW2 ended and I was proud of our victory. I was also annoyed that I had not been old enough to be a soldier and play my part. I am still proud of the thousands of decent, everyday men and women who stood up to be counted and most of my generation either knew or were related to someone who never came home again. Today, those lost folk are like shadows who marched on ahead and somehow faded out of our lives.

But passing years have disquieted me because I have learned more and more about the self-serving ways of governments everywhere

and the horrendous effects of that duplicity on the ordinary people who end up being caught in the crossfire.

Canadians are beginning to recognise the price of paying lipservice to those who seek either to hide the truth or to peddle their own distorted views of it. We are a multi-cultural society and nowadays, everywhere you look, some group is either claiming they were wronged, evading responsibility for what happened or worse still, denying that anything happened at all.

The obvious example (although it is surely only one of many) is the horror now taking place in what

was once Yugoslavia, where Croats, Serbs and Muslims are tearing each other limb from limb. That conflict is now taking its inevitable toll on us as our own concerned, ethnic minorities take each other angrily to task.

What can we possibly do to offset such bad feelings and enable the wonderful mosaic of peoples who are Canada to live together in genuine harmony?

The answer, I submit, lies in education, and that will mean that just about all of us would have to face the bogymen of our various nationalistic pasts. You can bet your bippy that many folk will fight that notion "tooth and nail."

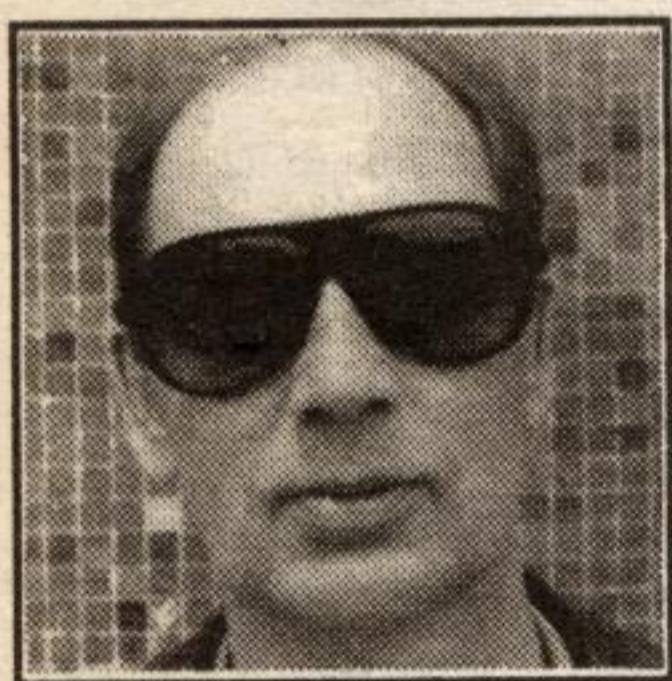
WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



HEY!

Have your fortunes improved over the last year?

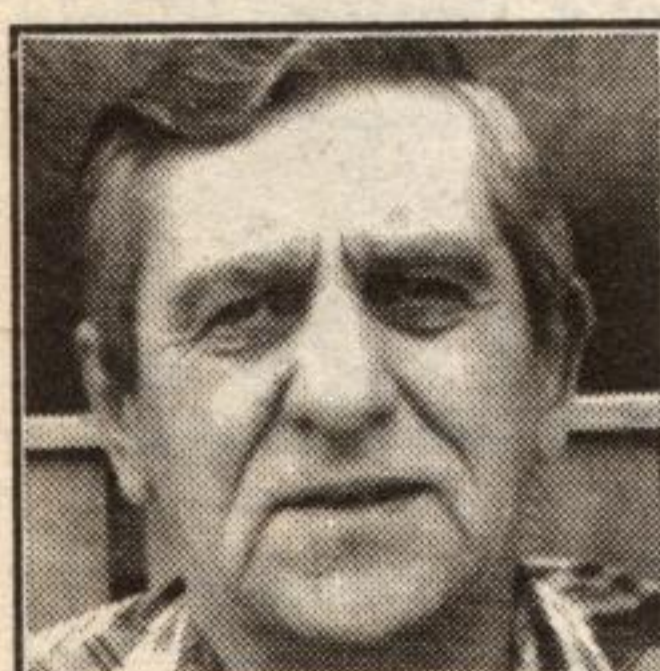


"Yes they have. 1992 was a brutal year financially. I don't know if things are on the upswing because there are still areas in the economy lagging behind. My family life has improved. I have four kids and school's going well for them."

Don Seeds, Churchill Road

"Not really. The investments that I have, the interest isn't as much as last year, therefore I'm not making as much. Kids are also more expensive now."

Linda Flesch, R.R. 2, Acton



"No, same old thing. I haven't won the lottery yet, but if I do that'll be good fortune. I'm 67 and didn't retire at 65, just kept working. I've worked the last eight years at Galvcast."

Tom Roach, Holmesway Place

"Not really. My husband and I still have a job so we're luckier than other people in that respect. Prices are high and you don't want to spend a lot. You have to save more than before and look to the future."

Mick Wood, Mason Boulevard

