

GRAPE VINE

Writers round-up

Calling all new or unpublished writers.

The Eden Mills Writers' Festival is looking for submissions of short fiction, poetry and drama for its literary contest, which carries a first prize of \$500.

Entries should be typed (double-spaced) and be submitted to the Eden Mills Literary Association before Wednesday, June 30.

The winners will be announced at the fourth annual Eden Mills Writers' Festival in September.

Cancer contribution

Kudos to Acton's Heather and Richard Smith who, once again, have made a very generous matching donation to the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Smiths, who run a karaoke business, collected \$600 from patrons at several bars for the Cancer Society, and then matched the amount.

Heather Smith says they have made a matching donation for the past five years in hopes of helping researchers find a cure for cancer.

"Members of my family have had, and do have cancer and I have lost friends to cancer too. We will do anything we can to help lessen the burden."

Student success

Kudos to two Acton students who received Sharing the Spirit Awards

from the Halton Roman Catholic School Board for their outstanding achievements in Catholic values, academic achievement and school participation.

Awards are nothing new to Nicole Lee, who is a Grade 8 student at St. Joseph's. Nicole, known as a top-notch public speaker, is also involved in school sports and the performing arts.

Acton's Stephen Orticello, who attends French immersion at Holy Cross in Georgetown, was chosen for his good sportsmanship and respectful treatment of his teachers and fellow students.

Leadership lessons

Acton's Leah Linton is learning all about leadership this week.

The Grade 7 student at McKenzie-Smith Middle School is attending a course at the Ontario Educational Leadership Centre on Lake Couchiching.

Leah, an ace clarinet player, was selected to attend the course that is designed to develop self-confidence, co-operative attitudes and leadership skills among Grade 7 students in the province.

Batter up

Two tickets to a Blue Jays game and an overnight stay at the Skydome Hotel are up for grabs in the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society's latest fundraising event — the Skydome Sweepstakes. Tickets are \$5 dollars and only 350 have been printed.

The prize includes two seats at Windows Restaurant for the Sept. 11 game, complimentary buffet and wine and an overnight stay at the Skydome Hotel.

For tickets call Liz at 853-0585 or Cathy at 853-1424.



GOOD TO THE LAST BITE: Christine Lockwood and Lisa Murphy, both 9, enjoy a hearty meal at a recent Dine and Dash breakfast at St. Alban's church before rushing to Robert Little and M.Z. Bennett schools, respectively. The Dine and Dash program is for children who are unable to grab a bite to eat at home before classes. Averaging 20 to 22 kids Monday through Friday, the students are treated to an assortment of goodies from muffins and apple sauce to scrambled eggs, sausage and pancakes. (Doug Harrison photo)

LETTERS

The following text is taken from a letter recently sent to L.H. Parsons, Chairman, GO Transit with a copy also to Mr. Bob Rae, Premier of Ontario and Mr. Rick Bonnette, Regional Council

Dear Mr. Parsons,

Re: Reduction in GO-Train service: I was very disappointed to read recently that the GO Train to Acton and Guelph was to be discontinued as an economy measure.

As a GO passenger, commuting daily between Acton and Union Station, I feel it is important that GO Transit hear how commuters feel about the proposed cuts.

There are several reasons why we must keep the trains to Acton and Guelph.

1. I am registered blind (CNIB #280190), and I, and others who

are unable to drive, have to rely on public transit. One of the biggest challenges for handicapped people is getting around, and removal of any service just makes life harder.

2. The Ontario Government is committed to the principle of environmental preservation — this is not compatible with cutting train service, and putting more cars on the road.

3. We only have one train morning and evening. If reductions are necessary, why not look at services that have more daily trains? Don't cut the one train that we currently have.

4. You may recall that I wrote GO Transit congratulating them on the introduction of the train service to Acton and Guelph. I also pointed out that the time of the morning train was not convenient. Most people have to start early, and reaching Union Station at 8:45 am just isn't early enough.

You advised that there was a problem getting on the line earlier. I would suggest that two years is long enough for a solution to this

problem to have been reached.

In a recent newspaper article, I read that currently over 100 people use the train service to Acton and Guelph. I say again, that if the trains were at a time more convenient to commuters, rather than to CN Rail, there would be even more ridership.

These people are all voters, and I have no doubt that at the next election they will remember any government who took away their train service, and will act accordingly.

Finally, I would like to say that I just heard on the news this morning that GO Transit was looking at ways to achieve the necessary budget cuts, by means other than "hitting out" at the people who pay the bills.

I urge you to continue to look for ways of keeping, and even adding to, the service that we now have, out to Acton and Guelph.

Richard Hadfield
Mill Street

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

HEY!

Does the admission of marijuana use from potential Tory leaders concern you?



"No. Everybody does, except myself and hopefully my kids. If the potential leaders smoke, they should be punished like anyone else. However, I've always found them (political leaders) to be incompetent."
Joanne Withers, Lake Avenue

"Not a bit. I don't see it as a major problem. Everyone makes different choices in their youth. It's just simple poor judgement and you can't carry that into their middle age years."

Gord Williams, Acton



"It doesn't bother me. However, it doesn't look very good for them."
Stephanie McLean, Mill Street

"No. They tried it once; it doesn't bother me. What's the difference between marijuana and alcohol."

Doug Robb, Acton

