

GRAPE VINE

more info.

Remembrance Days

Acton Branch 197 of the Royal Canadian Legion is hosting a number of events around Remembrance Day.

Town council has already proclaimed Oct. 29 to Nov. 11 "Poppy Week" in support of their activities, which will include a door-to-door poppy blitz on Nov. 5, a parade followed by a dinner on Nov. 7, a wreath-laying ceremony and a second parade culminating in a student awards ceremony on Nov. 11.

George O'Donnell is in charge of organizing the festivities; for more information contact George through the Legion at 853-0910.

Voter registration

If you aren't on the voters list you can register today from 10am to 6pm at the Acton Legion. If you can't make it today you can still register at the Georgetown office, but you must do so before the election on Oct. 25. (Make sure you bring proper ID.)

Elections Canada is using the same list they used for last year's referendum, so if you haven't moved in the last year you should be okay to vote. If you need more information call 873-2446.

Tim Horton's now open

Tim Horton's, located on Queen Street, had its unofficial opening yesterday (Tuesday).

The new store is owned by John and Sarah Malinosky, who owned and operated the Tim Horton's franchise in Georgetown until two weeks ago. They said Acton is a location they have been looking at for some time because it is ripe for development.

Although they plan to have a formal opening on Oct. 30, they are offering full service until then, including a drive-through coffee window.

Check upcoming issues of *The Tanner* for details on the grand opening, or phone 853-5945 for

Drainage for soccer field

If you were walking past the Acton Rotary Park soccer pitch last week, you probably saw the huge furrows running across the field and wondered what was being planted! The Parks Dept. had ordered drain tiles installed across the field to improve water run-off.

The project ended up costing less than the \$8,000 they had budgeted and should help reduce turf damage caused by water-logged soil.

According to the Parks Dept. the only drainage problem they have left is one they can't do anything about: Dealing with the enormous volume of bird droppings.

Too bad those birds can't be trained to flush!



HALLOWEEN FUN: The Canadian Mental Health Association's OASIS program held a Halloween dance recently. Showing their spirit from left to right: Suzette Kennedy, Mental Health worker; Linda Osborne, member and Kim Peters, Mental Health worker. (Lori Frechette photo)

Time for election or reformation?

I want to clear up any confusion which may have resulted from last week's column. Garth Turner does not want you to support the Reform Party. I think you should, but Garth doesn't.

I am, like many of you, pretty well fed up with the way we have been governed. I've tried to keep an open mind during the campaign. I read everything I could, went to candidates' meetings, watched the debates and followed the newscasts. These are my perceptions:

With all respect to Mr. Cox, the only national leader running in our riding, I didn't give much consideration to the fringe parties. I do, however, admire their "Don Quixote" attitude toward status-quo politics.

I think my biggest disappointment was the evident misinterpretation, on the part of the old line parties, to the mood of the electorate. I don't think we're "cranky" — we're angry, we're concerned, some of us are downright scared and despairing of the future. We are looking for new directions.

We were given, for the most part, a slightly re-packaged version of the same old political B.S.

The "negative advertising" campaigns, which bombed, demonstrate that those in power don't or won't recognize that politics have changed in this country.

Do we want to continue to be told, by a self-proclaimed political elite, that they know best and we should follow like sheep? I think not! That is the message in the "trust me — I'll solve your problems" style of campaigning we've seen.

The NDP appears headed for a disaster — good! If you think things are tough in the "people's Republic of Ontario," just imagine what would happen if they got their hands on Ottawa's overdraft.

I think Mr. Turner is well-intentioned but has been co-opted by the system.

I sell to retail and our industry has been decimated by the GST. At the all-candidates night, Garth trotted out the old "cars and appliances are cheaper" defense. Maybe so, but clothing, newspapers, some foods and most other everyday items are more expensive.

As a small businessman I can tell you the paperwork is onerous. After more than two years, over 66 per cent of our people still hate your tax. And it is your tax Garth

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



— you adopted it!

To me, the airport debacle, the unacceptable attack on Chretien and the unbelievable spectacle of back-stabbing this past weekend are indications of how out-of-sync these people are. More of the same? No thanks!

Like the Conservatives, I think the Liberals elected the wrong leader. I'm looking for someone with their eye on the future, not with feet mired in the mud of the past.

Mr. Chretien's promise of government just like the good old days scares the hell out of me. I'm old enough to remember that the Liberals started this whirlpool of deficits we find ourselves in. God knows we need hope that things will get better — sooner — but not with a tax-and-spend mentality.

I happen to think that some social programs need re-definition, to deliver the service to those in need and cut-off those who would take advantage of our programs. I have no confidence that the Liberals, who were the inventors of many of these blank-cheque programs, have the political will to put the brakes on.

We have already spent our grandchildren's inheritance; I don't think we have the right to extend the indebtedness to a further unborn generation.

Obviously, I have decided to support the Reform Party. Mine is not just a protest vote, although I've been saying for five years that power is the only thing politicians care about. Switching between Liberals and Tories obviously doesn't send a strong enough message. We've tried that for the past 25 years. We need some fundamental changes to a system which, if not broken, is badly bent.

I don't agree with all of Reform policies, and I'm not sure Manning could carry them out, even if he was in power. I do think that Dick MacDuffee is the best candidate in this riding, and here's why.

Dick has the experience and background to go to Ottawa and push for the solutions to this mess. As a small businessman, he is familiar with the rationalizations in

spending necessary to survive. We need this kind of thinking right now.

I like his policies regarding free votes and the ability of the opposition to defeat a government bill without calling an election. I think minority government has served our country well in the past. I think it makes those in power be more attentive to the mood of the people. I know there is a danger that you could have a sudden election if the parties can't work through their differences. Given the mood of the electorate these days, I don't think any party will be looking for a quick election. This would be especially true if such an election was seen to be self-serving. I think they'll work hard to make this Parliament work.

I like the recall provision for sitting ... MP's; to me, the concept of ... "party discipline" determining how our member will vote serves only the party brass. I know a recall would be difficult, but Reform is the only party offering it. I wouldn't hire someone without a performance review for five years. I'm tired of being ignored between elections.

I don't fully support Reform's policy on old-age supplements and I'm nervous about changes to the Canada Health Act. I don't buy the opposition charges that they will destroy these programs. These are moot points in this election anyway since it would take a major miracle for Reform to form this government. There is a possibility of them being the official opposition. I would rather have Reformers working with the Liberals than members of the Bloc Quebecois.

Like most small business owners, I've spent the last five years trying to survive. I really resent the attitude of most politicians, spending their time and our money promoting their own agendas and, for the most part, ignoring us.

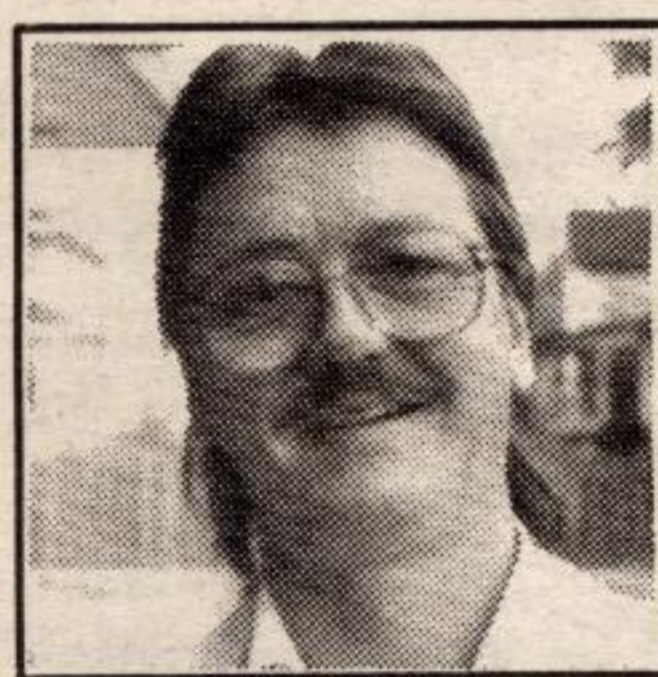
Companies and our jobs were dropping like flies and Mike Wilson, Mulroney and the rest were arguing if we were in a recession or depression.

We don't need any more self-serving navel gazing. We're in a mess. We need someone to work to fix it. I hope you'll join with me in sending a message, with Dick MacDuffee as the messenger, to Ottawa. It's time for another reformation.

Mike O'Leary is an Acton resident and small-business owner.

HEY!

How important is a strictly Acton United Way campaign?



"Call it community individualism. Acton's not Georgetown. It's a good idea if Acton maintains its identity. If the funds stay here, what's wrong with that? If the money is earmarked to stay in Acton, better still."
Bill Pshyk, Royal City employee

"So often Acton is ignored and lumped in with Georgetown. It's nice to get your own recognition. People forget about us here sometimes. The United Way will probably get more support if there is a campaign here."

Cathy Eckerich, Cobblehill Road



"We are a town, we need more community outreach and people need to know what is going on here. A campaign keeps the town together. We have to show who we are."
Wayne Cameron, Churchill Road

"Acton has its separate identity. We should look after our own town. There should be a sense of responsibility for one's own town. People give more to their own community than to other towns."
Anna Nichols, Berry Street

