

GRAPE VINE

Welcome sign black eye

Town residents and members of the BIA are vowing to catch the vandal who splashed black paint on the "Welcome to Acton" sign. There is talk of offering a cash reward for information leading police to those responsible.

So far cleaning efforts have been in vain, and it appears after several BIA members (Gord Chapman, Dan Dolliver, Robert Holmes and Gerald Rennie, among others) tried paint thinners, scrapers, acetone and other chemicals, that the Plexiglas covering the sign may have to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$300.

Citizens are being asked to report any knowledge of the incident to Constable Riddle at 853-2350.

Face off against hunger

Acton FoodShare has been given a neat way to raise food donations and support local hockey too. The first 30 people to donate food or cash, then correctly answer a skill-testing question will win a complimentary ticket to see the Georgetown Raiders face-off against the Burlington Cougars on Nov. 27 at Gordon Alcott Arena, in Georgetown. You can get your tickets by leaving two food items or a \$5 donation at *The Acton Tanner*, 12 Church St. E., or Entertainment Tonight, 145 Mill St. E., while quantities last.

FoodShare moves in

Acton FoodShare has a new home at 153 Perth St. At last week's council meeting local businessmen Fred Dawkins and Ron Heller were praised for contributing time and the use of their building to the food bank. The move was made over the weekend, and although there is still much to sort, the bank will be open regular hours on Tuesdays from 9 am to 2 pm and Thursdays between 1:30 pm and 4 pm.

Out of this world

Acton Baptist Church is staging a puppet show Dec. 10, 11 and 12, using a space story to explain the meaning and traditions of Christmas. The show features 13 puppeteers between the ages of 12 and 18, some of whom have worked with puppets for over four years.

The story is about kids from the future who are searching for meaning on their "Journey to the Centre of Christmas." The show features professionally made puppets, toe-tapping music and many special effects. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for kids. For more info call Tom at 853-0690, or 853-2712.

Search for nominees

The Recreation and Parks Department is seeking nominees for a municipal awards evening they will be holding in the new year.

If you know of an individual, group or team who have brought recognition to the community through their activities, why not nominate them for an award? The nominees must be involved in the activity as an amateur and not as their livelihood.

Nomination forms are available at the Acton Indoor Pool.



CONTEST WINNERS: The Grade 4, 5 and 6 winners of the Acton Legion poem, poster and essay contests were honoured on Thursday for their Remembrance Day creations. They are, back row from left, Darren Selihar (McKenzie-Smith); Lindsay Parkinson (Eramosa School); Mark Tonkovich (St. Joseph's) and Jane Robertson, Youth Education chairperson. Middle row: Joyce Buchanan, Legion president; Bronnen Jones (St. Joe's) Greg Barens (M-S); Sarah Vitale (St. Joe's); Courtney Smallwood (St. Joe's) and David Albano (St. Joe's). Front row: St. Joe's students Marc Borrelli and Jonathan LeBlanc. (Doug Harrison photo)

Tannery complex could be fire-trap

I think we have a potential problem and it's right in our backyard. I'm referring to the impending closure of the Beardmore buildings.

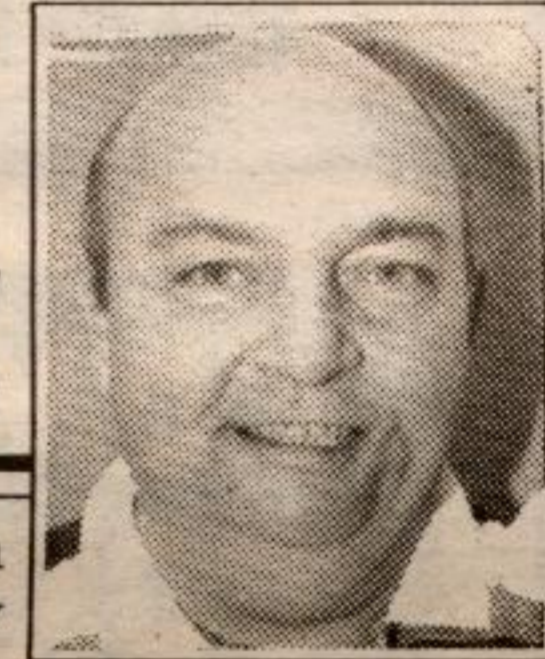
I am told that in the New Year these buildings will be secured. I suppose by boarding them up, the heat and power will be turned off and early in 1994 the contract with the security company will be terminated. These buildings will sit, virtually abandoned right in the middle of town, three short blocks from our main street.

Once the heat is turned off, the sprinkler systems have to be shut down and drained or they will freeze. To my mind, this creates a potential for fire, which would be disastrous and put us on the map in the same category as Hagersville.

Once started, with no fire protection and no security patrols, any fire would quickly get out of hand. There are hundreds of thousands of board feet of lumber in the building, all nice and dry. A fire in this plant would be very difficult to fight because the main buildings have been broken up into smaller areas which had been

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



occupied by the many small companies located here.

The place is a veritable rabbit's warren. More often than not, people who I have had down there have commented to me that they had no idea where they were in relation to the doors. That feeling of disorientation would be multiplied by the scare of a fire.

The company will claim that they will secure the building. Sure! And how long will that last? Probably 15 minutes after someone decides to get in. With no one in attendance, anyone with a hammer and crowbar will get in anytime they want.

Even with tenants in the building and security on duty, kids are often on the roof. There are many points on the roof alone where it is

easy to break in.

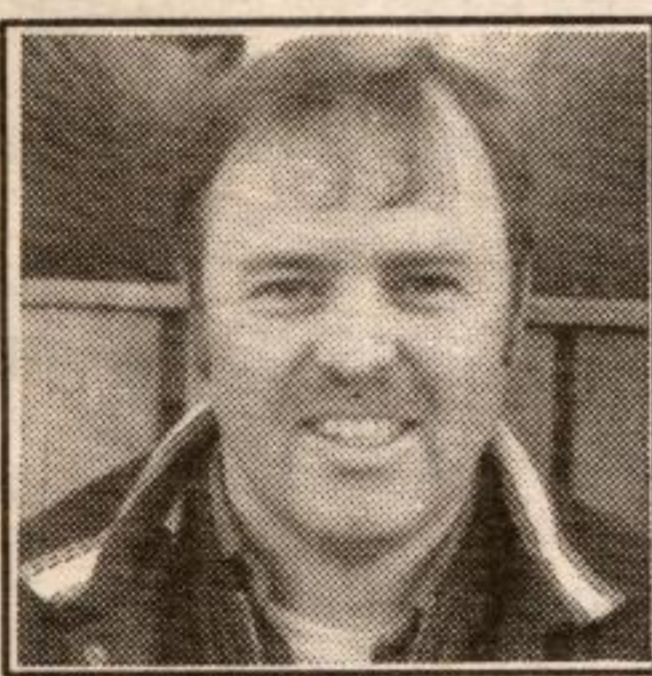
The added danger is what happens as a cause of a fire. Recently, we discovered that the ceilings in the office were insulated with scrap leather contaminated with chromium. An environmental company was brought in and determined the chromium in the air is within "permissible industrial exposure levels." But what happens if it burns? What else is in the building? What other little surprises are hidden in there? I don't know, and I'm not convinced anyone can answer that question definitely.

I have always contended that we get our biggest bang-for-a-buck from municipal government. It is to them that I am appealing for help. At the very least, as a matter of public security, I contend that council should ensure the following:

After the tenants have moved, the building should be secured. The sprinkler system should be maintained. Security, possibly with dogs, should be maintained 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The company must have a full

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HEY! How important is re-establishing the YMCA in Acton?



"It used to be quite a spot. Every Friday night it was full of people — teen dances or a hang-out spot. It would keep the kids off the street and generate a better relationship between them. It's kind of small in there, though."

Wally Ella, R.R. 2, Acton

"There is absolutely nothing for kids to do in Acton, except go the bowling alley, the arena or stand on the street corners.

Anything would be better than nothing. Most people work and shop out of town. It's a sleeper town."

Heather Weston, Longfield Road



"It would be a good outlet for the energies. We don't have a community centre per se. There is the arena, but it's not really focussed. There aren't many things to do."

Tony Geng, Superior Glove

"It beats kids standing on the corner. If it's available, maybe kids will use it. If kids want to go to the movies, they go to Guelph, Milton or Georgetown. It's a small town and it's kind of limited. There's everything available sports-wise, but nothing else."

Delores Gallagher, Norman Avenue

