

GRAPE VINE

Four Seasons banquet for FoodShare

The Four Seasons Restaurant is having a dance and buffet this Saturday to help Acton FoodShare. Owner Nick Protopapas says anyone can attend providing they bring at least \$5 worth of food or cash to donate to the food bank. The event starts at 8 pm and finishes at 1 am. Don't forget your dancin' shoes!

Swimming in good cheer

The Acton pool is also sponsoring an event to help Acton FoodShare collect Christmas donations — a Christmas swim to be held on Dec. 11 from 2 to 4 pm. Trim your waistline, while helping someone less fortunate maintain theirs, by bringing a can of food for admission to the pool.

The pool will be closed from Dec. 18 to Jan. 2, so be sure to get lots of swimming in before then so you'll have a little extra room for all that holiday turkey. The new recreation programs begin Jan. 3. Everything is first come, first served, so register early!

Underwear show at the Legion?!

The Acton Legion is having a lingerie show on Dec. 3, from 7 to 10 pm. The show is designed to give gift ideas to men who aren't sure what to get their partners for Christmas. There will be a cash bar and plenty of lingerie for sale. It's a good idea to find out what size you need before you leave home, but if you forget, buy the smallest size you can find. You can probably exchange it later if it's too small, but if it's too large you'll be in big trouble. Trust us on this.

Cops out for blood

The Halton Regional Police and employees of Halton Region held a blood donor clinic on Monday to help the Red Cross, who are experiencing critically low reserves of blood. The annual clinic was expanded to include members of the OPP and the RCMP. The clinic was dedicated to the memory of officer Carole Cullain, a Halton Regional Police Constable who died of cancer in October, at 31 years of age. Organizers hoped to have at least 150 officers attend the event, called "Operation Donation." Final figures were unavailable for deadline, but sources said they exceeded target figures.

Network has new home

The Network Group of Companies, comprised of Marzo Glove, Custom Texfab and Network Industrial Supply Ltd., has moved on to bigger and better things.

The three local firms shared resources and space at the old Beardmore facility and have found a bigger location on Hwy. 7 and the Fifth Line, between Rockwood and Acton. They have been in the process of moving since October and, although they aren't completely settled, business has continued without interruption. If you have business or good wishes to send their way you can contact them at 519-856-4505.



GREEN KIDS: Members of the Robert Little Recycling Group are eager to do their part to save the earth. They spend their recesses collecting and separating cans, paper, glossy material and any other recyclables that come their way. These earth-friendly students are, left to right, Megan McConnell (10), Amanda Nelisson (9), Chantel Cooper (8), Jennifer Whey (9), Chrystal Henry (10) and Arron Stuckey (9). See story on Page 9. (Brad Hamond photo)

Adventures in Lotusland

I spent most of last week in Vancouver. It's an annual trip I always look forward to. The weather is usually spring-like and I have two great friends I stay with. This year's trip will not be remembered as one of the best.

It started at the airport where my reservations were screwed up. After frantic calls to Vancouver I barely made the plane. Four hours and forty-five minutes on the plane, my seat-mate was dull, the movie was lousy.

For 13 years now my friend Bill has met me and we retire to a local saloon, quaff a few and catch up. This trip — no Mr. Bill — Diane picked me up and explained that he had fallen off the roof while putting up Christmas lights. He broke five or so bones in his foot and was in hospital recovering from surgery. The ladder had slipped and he dropped 10 feet to the driveway. Bill said it happened so fast he couldn't save himself. The dents in the eavestrough were testament to where he tried to break his fall. As Diane pointed out though, all things considered, he was pretty lucky. He could have ripped down the eavestrough.

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



The weather was cold and they had snow. It was warmer in Acton. Vancouverites don't know squat about driving in snow and ice. I was lucky to escape alive.

The economy is strong in B.C. You quickly notice the construction and lack of "for lease" signs in malls and industrial parks. It seems their socialists aren't as feather-brained as ours.

The news of the two boys sentenced in England was overshadowed there by tragic events on the lower mainland.

On the Monday, police found a badly beaten 8-year-old boy in an abandoned apartment in his own building. He was so traumatized he wouldn't speak to police. Five days later his older sister was taken into custody by social workers. This boy had been missing for 24 hours before his mother reported

his disappearance to police. In another case a 3-year-old girl was beaten so badly she was listed in critical condition. Charged is her stepfather, who married her mother last summer.

Last week a report was issued on the violence against women in this country. I spent a week reading about unspeakable violence committed against babies. I think we all have to raise holy hell until politicians enact legislation to punish these "heroes" who are beating women and children. Social agencies and police have to be given the right to rescue women and children without fear of counter-lawsuits. Some will say this is against their rights. I don't care a tinker's damn about their rights. Anyone who would beat a 3-year-old to within an inch of her life, has earned the right to be shot.

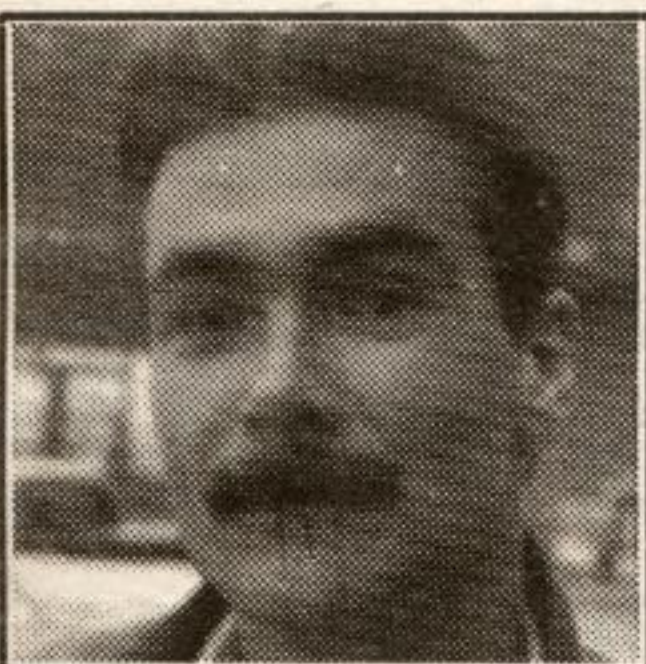
Got to Vancouver airport, it's been privatized. Had to pay a special \$10 airport fee (more on this later). They forgot to fill the water tanks so no tea or coffee and questionable toilets. It was cloudy and I couldn't see the mountains. The movie was lousy. God, it's good to be home!

HEY! What was your feeling after the first snowfall?



"I wasn't thrilled. I dread winters now. When you get old you feel the cold worse. I'm not looking forward to Santa Claus and Christmas. It's not the same when you get old and your parents are gone."
Bill Near, Mill Street

"I'm not looking forward to winter. However, I'm always impressed with the way Halton Hills maintains the conditions of the roads as opposed to Peel Region. I'm English, I'm not used to the winter weather. I want to hibernate."
Linda Dutton, Cobblehill Road



"I'm looking forward to winter. I bought skis for my three kids last year and in Eden Mills there's a fair hill for them to go down. All I need is a snowmobile. The cold doesn't bother me. For a break I go outside with a shirt and my overalls on and no coat."
Rick Culver, Eden Mills

"I was pretty sad. I got back from Colombia two weeks ago and I liked it there much better. Four years ago I broke my right leg in winter and ever since then I've been paranoid of snow. I don't mind it snowing at Christmas, but it can stay away otherwise."
Fran Burton, Crescent Street

