

GRAPE VINE

to mean simply that fewer kids are failing here than in other regions.

Dessert Party and Dance

You can have your dessert then dance off the extra calories at the Rockmosa Community Centre this Friday.

The dessert party is being held to raise money for the Eramosa library 'piano fund' and the Eramosa Optimists for other community projects. The desserts are being prepared by local Eramosa business people.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, and \$2 for seniors and kids and there will be many great door prizes available to be won.

The fun starts at 8 pm with a "tantalizing array of delicious desserts" and a Christmas tree trimming. Then at 9 pm the dance begins with a cash bar and music courtesy of E-Lite.

Organizers are also asking people to bring a non-perishable food item and a child's hat, scarf or mittens to donate to the Wellington County Food Bank and Shelter.

Pete Humeniuk released from hospital

Pete Humeniuk was released from hospital yesterday.

The word is that Pete, the Mill Street barber, is still pretty sore, and he has a hard time walking, but he is very glad to be home. His family is beginning to rest a little easier too, now that Pete is out of the danger zone.

We're very glad to report this good news and we'll try to keep you updated as Pete continues towards a full recovery.

Seniors take care

The Acton Social Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) is reminding seniors on medication to be especially careful during the holiday season. Alcohol consumption while on many kinds of medication can potentially be very harmful.

Similarly, certain types of laxatives and antacids can be dangerous for some, particularly when they are overused. Remember to avoid drinking and driving. And finally, ASSIC says to take care, stay healthy, and have a very, merry, Christmas!

Halton kids better than average

Much has been made of the provincial review of reading and writing skills for grade 12 students. While one-third of the students failed to achieve a passing grade, the kids in Halton did slightly better in every category except one.

Halton grade 12's did exceptionally well in the advanced category, slightly above average in the general category, and average in the basic learning program. According to the press release from the Halton Board of Education, our students "can perform well above average in writing skills." But they warn, there is still a need to improve.

Above average could be taken



MAD SCIENTIST: Science students at Acton High held their semi-annual Science Exposition last Wednesday. Dolf DeJong, left, is shown here explaining his exhibit on Do-It-Yourself Forests to judge Dan Dolliver. (Brad Hammond photo)

The Beardmore issue continues

Usually, I would not rebut a reaction to one of my columns. The response, however, to my item on the Beardmore closure causes me to reply.

Peter Goddard, a V.P. of Maple Leaf Foods, says all will be well. He claims that "Once the tenants are off the property, the property can be made more secure than it ever has been in the past 10 years." That's interesting, since leather production has only been closed seven years and three months.

This new security attitude will surely revolutionize the protection industry. To protect your property against vandalism and break-ins — abandon it!

Mr. Goddard says the doors and windows will be boarded up. I wonder if he knows how many points of entrance there are? I stopped counting at 158 and that's just the main building. There are four other buildings, some connected by tunnels. I didn't count skylights, ventilation openings, large pipes or other access points where the adventurous might venture. This plan sounds like the Conservatives' last budget. It looks good on paper, but it won't work.

Maple Leaf Foods have the authority to store PCB's on the site.

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



Why this was approved three blocks from downtown is a question only the politicians and the Ministry of the Environment can answer. I found Mr. Goddard's statement "PCB'S are, in fact, a fire retardant. That's why they were put in transformers in the first place" very curious. Perhaps our Fire Chief could comment as to why fire fighters aren't spraying PCB's on all fires to contain them.

Mr. Goddard can't imagine how a fire would affect anyone since "It's not like the building is right next door to any other building." Since he's not a resident, he probably doesn't realize there is a school, thousands of people and the new Legion development down-wind from the Beardmore site.

Having Dave Glenn stay on, part-time, is a step in the right direction. The fact remains that, if fire starts overnight, all Dave or anyone else could do is call the firemen, stand

back and perhaps roast a few marshmallows.

I'm very concerned for our volunteer firefighters. There are false walls, tunnels, broken skylights, dead end halls and other dangers for them. How long would that old chimney stand if its base was damaged by fire? This building is sound. Some of the walls are two feet thick. The roof supports and interior walls are nice dry wood however. If someone gets in there, starts a fire for warmth or misadventure and it spreads — the results are obvious.

In a letter last week, Fred Dawkins made some good concrete suggestions on how this building could be utilized. The Dawkins' family has always had a vision of our town as a major retailing centre, promoting leather goods. Perhaps council could use their good offices to promote these ideas.

Until this building is certified safe or demolished, I think Maple Leaf Foods should maintain full security and sprinklers. Is this unreasonable?

In last week's article Maple Leaf Foods assures us we have little to fear. I don't think we should be satisfied until we have nothing to fear.

HEY! Have you seen any good movies at the theatre lately?



"No, but I rented *Under Siege* recently. I liked it because Steven Segal was in it and there was also good acting and storyline. At the beginning of this film Segal was a cook and later in the movie played his usual part. I like action movies."

Crystal Begin, Mill Street

"*Look Who's Talking Now*. I liked the dogs in it. They talked to each other and then the boy dog got into a fight with a wolf. The girl dogs liked him because of that. I also like John Travolta and Kirstie Alley. It was pretty good. I would see it again."

Ryan Schmidt, Scene Street



"*Cool Runnings*. It's about the Jamaican bobsled team and is really funny. At first, the whole team tries to get in the sled and it takes off. Then, the team's coach, pushed the guys in the sled and it went down this hill. I would see it again."

Leah Bidwell, Cook Street

"No, but I rented *Cliffhanger* with Jean Claude VanDamme. It was about these guys who go up on a mountain, steal money and then their plane explodes. They lost their money, but found the guy who stole it from them, fought him and lost."

Jason Waterworth, Georgetown

