

GRAPE VINE

Cops may pull out of Acton?

There are rumours, unsubstantiated, but from reliable sources, that Acton is about to lose its police station and most of the officers that patrol the area. The word is that Halton Regional Police are trying to get out of their lease on the Acton station, and they will reduce staff to one village constable during the day, one during the evening, and none after midnight.

Presently, safety procedures demand that there are at least two officers on duty for all three shifts and that these are reinforced by other police from rural patrols. The Acton police will still be reinforced by rural patrols, but our Town force will be cut by two-thirds if the proposals are implemented.

Mayor Miller, who sits on the Regional Board which recommended the ruling, was unavailable at press time, so we could not get official confirmation of the cutbacks to Acton's force.

Fax your lunch order

Mr. Mugs is planning to offer a new service starting in the new year: Fax food. It's quicker than fast food or a drive-through because there is virtually no waiting.

The full details haven't been firmed up as yet, but initially the idea is that special forms will be

provided. Just fill out the form, fax it in to Mr. Mugs, and a sandwich will be waiting for you when you walk in the door.

New owners at Jug City

After 10 years of service, Taufiq and Linda Ali have sold their Main Street convenience store. They still own the laundromat next door, but they felt it was time to move on to other ventures. Linda told us to be sure to convey their heartfelt "thanks for all your patronage over the last 10 years."

She also urged everyone to meet the new owner of Jug City, Filsul Khan. We don't know too much about Filsul yet, except that he has studied business and he is eager to make his new enterprise a success. We'd like to wish the Alis and Filsul good luck and prosperity in their new endeavors.

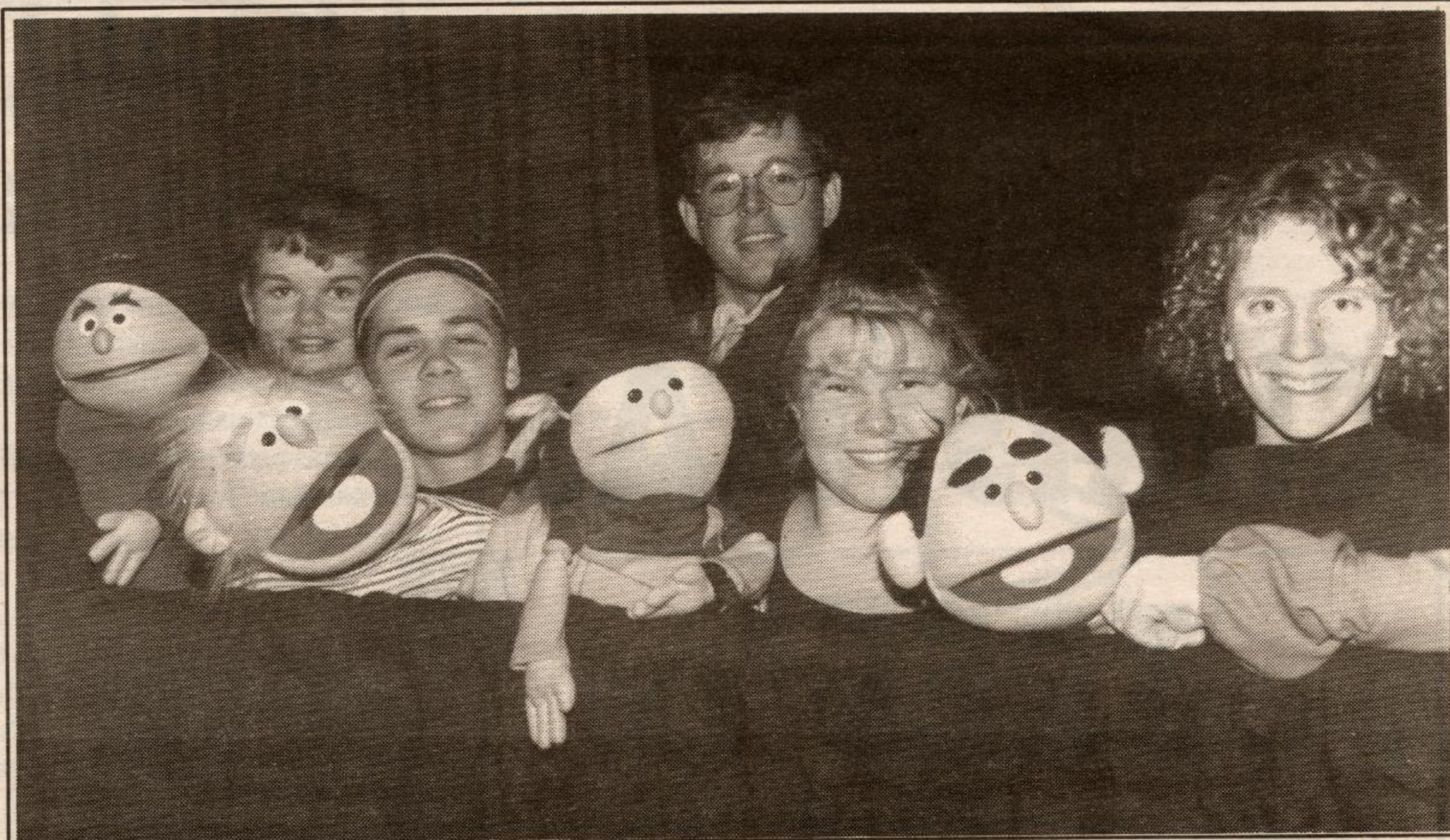
Blood donor clinic at the Legion

On Dec. 16, the Legion is hosting a blood donor clinic from 5 pm to 8:30 pm. There will be 18 beds — lots of room for those who couldn't make it last time the clinic was held!

The sponsor of this clinic is the Walker Masonic Lodge, and Tim Horton's will be providing some refreshments.

There is an unsubstantiated rumour that Santa may make an appearance, but even if he can't he will be watching. Right now the blood supply in Canada is critically low, so if you can spare a pint the Red Cross will make sure it gets to a needy person, and Santa will mark down that you were especially nice this year.

Remember—Blood donors give the best gift, themselves!



TALENTED TEENS: Some of the cast of the Acton Baptist Puppeteers pose before their presentation of "A Journey to the Centre of Christmas" at the Baptist Church on the weekend. Shown here with their puppets are, from left, Amanda Liddell, Ryan Bell, Pastor Tom Cullen, Sara Murphy and Rebecca Austin. (Brad Hammond photo)

Bear with me — will 'ya?

This column is entirely self-indulgent. You've been warned, so read further at your own risk.

Yesterday (the 14th) "the bride" and I celebrated our Silver Wedding Anniversary. I know, I know, you're looking at my picture and can't believe I've been married that long. At last, my secret is out. I got hitched when I was 14. I'm 39 and I'm staying there. "The Bride" is, ahem, slightly more mature, shall we say.

Seriously though, I can't believe its been 25 years since we started our life together. Time does fly when you're having fun. I'm amazed, and grateful, that my good wife has found the patience and perseverance to put up with me for the last 9,131 or so, days. (Who's counting?)

Our marriage almost didn't happen. I woke late on our wedding day. I confess, I had been making "rather merry" the night before. (Actually, her dad woke us up or the entire O'Leary side might have slept through the whole thing.) We were married in Picton, a small town much like ours. I raced around doing last minute jobs and finally headed for the church. Halfway there, I was stopped by a parade. I couldn't get across the

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



street to the church. This time of year and some damn fool decides to run a Santa Claus parade — go figure!

A kindly cop let me through only to find "the bride", her folks and family had all arrived early. They knew there was a parade but never thought to tell us about it since "everyone knew there was a parade today." Right! We're ready to go except now my dad, brother and the rest of my tribe were missing. Frantically, I called the hotel, several restaurants and still couldn't find them. Ten or so minutes (lifetimes?) later, they arrived. They had really enjoyed the parade. Words were exchanged!

We've had a wonderful 25 years together and been blessed with four terrific daughters. One of our best moves, almost 19 years ago, was to make Acton our home. In addition to supportive families, we've had great friends and neigh-

bours to ease us over the rough spots. To all who helped us reach this milestone, thank you.

Our kids went together and surprised us with a suite at the Royal York Hotel and tickets to *Miss Saigon*. The renovated Royal York is magnificent and *Miss Saigon* is worthwhile, if you get a chance to go. We spent a lot of time talking about our years together, all of the good times, and how proud we are of our girls. "The bride's" only complaint is that she thinks I'm always looking for ulterior motives in the kids. Rubbish!, I say. By the way, if anyone happened to notice a wild party at our house last weekend, I'd like to hear about it.

Finally, I have to tell you how fortunate I am to have found such a kind, supportive, delightful woman to share my life with. She is the glue that binds our family together, my best friend, and an inspiration to her daughters.

Thank you Mary, for the last 25 years. I love you and I'm looking forward to the next 25.

Let's make a date for December 14th, 2018. Same hotel, just you and me and a five gallon jug of Geritol. Who says romance is dead?

HEY! What is your Christmas wish for this year?



"That there are fewer poor people and more employment. It's a tough Christmas for people this year. There are too many families suffering, more than ever."

Anne Campbell, Elizabeth Drive



"My friend's health. She has cancer and I hope the treatment she's getting does some good."

Martha Kelly, Holmesway Place



"For a lot more peace and understanding. There are a lot of unhappy people in this world. People have to understand the world is changing. They can't have everything they did 10 years ago. People have to change their attitude."

Mary Grandy, Rockwood



"That my husband goes back to work. He's been laid-off for a month. It affects us, our whole lives."

Susan Townsend, R.R.1, Acton

