

# GRAPE VINE

## Leathertown Fashions up for sale

Another store on Acton's Mill Street is up for sale.

Leathertown Fashions, a ladies', children's and men's wear store, will remain open for "at least two more months," but owner Peter Vidic intends to sell.

Contacted Monday, Vidic said a lack of funds and the current economic situation led to the decision to sell the business.

## March Break activities

Even though it's already half way into the March Break, there still are a number of activities happening around town.

The Acton Indoor Pool is hosting a fun-filled week of special swims. There is still a chance to get involved starting today (March 16) to Friday from 2 pm to 4 pm daily.

Today (March 16) and tomorrow (March 17), beginning at 2 pm at the Acton Library, go back in time and visit Ancient Egypt. The program for children 5 years and up, is free of charge but spaces are limited, so telephone 853-0301 to reserve your spot.

## Suit Yourself expanding

Contrary to rumours, Suit Yourself Costumes is not closing, but moving.

"We're definitely still in business, in fact, business is probably

better than ever," says Anita Welsh, co-owner of the rural Acton business with her husband Tony.

Welsh is looking to move the business closer to town because she's unable to expand the existing quarters, a filled 25 by 30-foot room and a jammed 25 by 40-foot space.

Since Suit Yourself Costumes is open until 9 pm, Welsh said she would prefer to locate a house with an attached room to keep those hours.

The move, she feels, will also benefit potential customers passing through Acton from Guelph, Georgetown and Milton.

Welsh says she would then like to add to the business and open a second-hand furniture section.

## Canvassers needed

The Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society's kickoff to the 1994 campaign is April 7, but canvassers are needed by the end of March.

Publicity director Pat Kentner says canvassers are needed for the areas of Maria Street and south side of Churchill Road.

If you can be a canvasser or help the campaign in another capacity, contact Acton campaign chair Liz Bailey at 853-0585.

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## EASTER SEALS KICKOFF!

The Easter Seals Society and their local sponsor, the Acton Rotary Club, kicked off the 1994 campaign last Tuesday at Andy's Restaurant in hopes of raising at least \$4,000. Last year, the Rotary Club assisted nine children with physical disabilities in the Acton area, raising about \$8,200. From left are Peter Van Dam, acting Acton campaign chair, Rotary Club president Guenter Haessler and Mike Wallace, Easter Seals Society manager. (Doug Harrison photo)

# Top of the mornin' to you!

BY MICHAEL JAMES O'LEARY

... and the rest of the day as well! Finally, the only green spot in this long, long winter is here. Tomorrow is, of course, St. Patrick's day. I wouldn't be true to my roots if I didn't take this occasion to wish you all a grand St. Paddy's Day.

St. Patrick's Day really is a phenomenon. People of all cultures join together for a little fun, fellowship and the "wearin' of the green." On this day, when there are only two types of people (the Irish and those who wish they were), perhaps it's time to dispel some of the myths surrounding the Irish.

Irishmen have an undeserved reputation for over-indulging in spirits. True, we do enjoy a "pint" or a "half-one" from time to time, but not always to excess. We are a naturally gregarious people who find a "wee drop of the creature" does wonders to bring out one's inner-self. It's all very therapeutic, don't you see?

As the evening goes on, the tenor voices get better, and louder, while we sip on a pint and sing songs that tear at your heartstrings. It's all very innocent! The falling down and fighting don't come along until much later.

It's the media, you know, who have promoted the tarnished image of the drunken Irishman. Countless movies and TV shows portray us as brawling, drinking, oh-so-clever types. It's not true, except for the clever part. If the film makers don't stop I think we should launch a lawsuit through the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

We should be able to define our own level of intoxication, which is: "An Irishman is never drunk, as long as he can hold on to a blade of grass to keep from falling off the face of the earth." That's the definition and I hope this will put all those scurrilous rumours to bed,

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



once and for all.

This problem is a big concern for the Irish. In 1962, Irish officials were so concerned about the public image of St. Patrick's Day, they proposed changing the holiday to September. The rain in March did not favour parades and outdoor festivals, they said. They thought the finer weather in September would promote more good clean fun.

Right! The rain in September would be better than the rain in March. Why do they think Ireland is so green? It rains! This idea was championed by one Tadhg O'Carbhaill, assistant secretary to the Prime Minister. The plan was never pursued and Mr. O'Carbhaill has not been heard from since.

Mention the Irish and the first question is, "Seen any leprechauns lately?" Well my advice to you is, don't be fooling with the little people. Leprechauns aren't kind and cute, as portrayed on TV. They're scary and ugly and love to play practical jokes.

Sometimes, when I stop into the pub, they steal my keys and hide them so well I'm often an hour or two late getting home. They can't be trusted!

In an effort to better provide for our families, my friend Ray and I often try to trap one, to get his pot of gold. This usually occurs around two o'clock in the morning. We haven't managed to grab one yet, but we'll keep trying.

St. Patrick is known as the Patron Saint of Ireland for driving the snakes out of that fair land. (St. Joseph is the patron saint of

Canada, for those who want to know.) Patrick's reputation is constantly under attack, however, and one has to be constantly prepared to defend him.

There is, for instance, a certain Catholic priest in this town (who shall remain anonymous) who insists that Patrick was really Italian. Can you believe it, and this from a man of the cloth.

Had Patrick been Italian don't you think there would have been an O'Sullivan or Shanahan or, dare I say it, an O'Leary as Pope? Wouldn't Patrick have taken care of his own and made sure one of them got the "big job?" Had Patrick been that well connected, don't you think we'd have been having a Guinness on Friday instead of fish? Doesn't that sound reasonable?

I hope that this is the end of it - St. Patrick is Irish, the proof is incontrovertible. I hate to be harsh with the good Father but if we're not careful, a movement to change March 17 to St. Guido's Day could spring up here.

I certainly hope that I have been able to dispel many of the misconceptions you may have had about the Irish. I hope you will celebrate St. Patrick's day in the spirit I believe it was intended to have. Enjoy yourself in kindness and brotherhood and peace. My wish for you this St. Patrick's Day is the old Irish prayer:

*May the road rise up to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,*

*May the sun shine warm upon your face,*

*The rains fall soft upon your fields  
And until we meet again, may  
God hold you in the hollow of his hand.*

But when your time comes, may you be in heaven an hour before the devil knows you're dead.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

# HEY!

What are your plans for March Break?



"I'm going to the Medieval Times exhibit at the Exhibition in Toronto. I'm also going bowling, skating, shopping and swimming. It's nice to have a break."

Mallory Dayman, Division Street

"I'm going skiing at Cedar Highlands in Hockley Valley. I'm also going to the Rockwood Public Library. I don't know what else I'll do. I'm just getting over a sickness."

Christopher van Vliet, R.R.4, Rockwood



"It's my birthday, so I'm going to have a sleep-over. We're going to go swimming and watch two movies - Super Mario Bros. and Newsies. I'm also going to day-care."

Ashley Holman, Longfield Road

"A bunch of friends and I are going up north for a few days to do some skiing at Blue Mountain in Collingwood. I try to go there once or twice a month. It's good skiing.

Then I'll come home and work this weekend. I needed the break from school."

Derek Tribe, Acton Boulevard

