

GRAPE VINE

Acton High students have a great 'Life'

Last week's Acton High School presentation of *That's Life* was a smashing success, with close to 1,000 people packing themselves into the school's cafetorium Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

"We had some great feedback from three very good crowds," reported producer Nancy Mistruzzi, who already is looking forward to next year. "We have lots of senior students graduating this year, but there is a terrific group of talented Grade 9s who will be carrying on the tradition."

Stage manager Debbie Thompson is one grad, but Mistruzzi is hoping the senior will be able to return to help out.

Saturday night wrapped up with a traditional cast party for everyone involved in the original play.

Dust off your clubs!

It's golf season again, and it's time to dust off your nine-iron. After all, if you get out in the next few weeks you won't have to share the course with mosquitoes.

Blue Springs opened its gates on Friday, and associate pro Vince Cianfegna tells us the course is in fine shape. "The colour is excel-

lent, and greenskeeper Ted Ellis says it's the best the course has wintered."

Both the nine-hole Trillium layout and the 18-hole Turtle Lake course are ready for play, and you can call 853-0904 to book your tee-off time.

Acton Meadows' Grant Puncheon reports that the nine-hole track also wintered well.

"We opened two weekends ago, and the crowds were pretty good this past weekend," he says.

You can book a tee-off at the Meadows by calling 853-0631.

Rotarians are ready

One of the big events of the year is just a couple weeks away, as the Acton Rotary Club prepares for its fourth annual Gala Auction and Dinner, Friday, May 13 at the Legion.

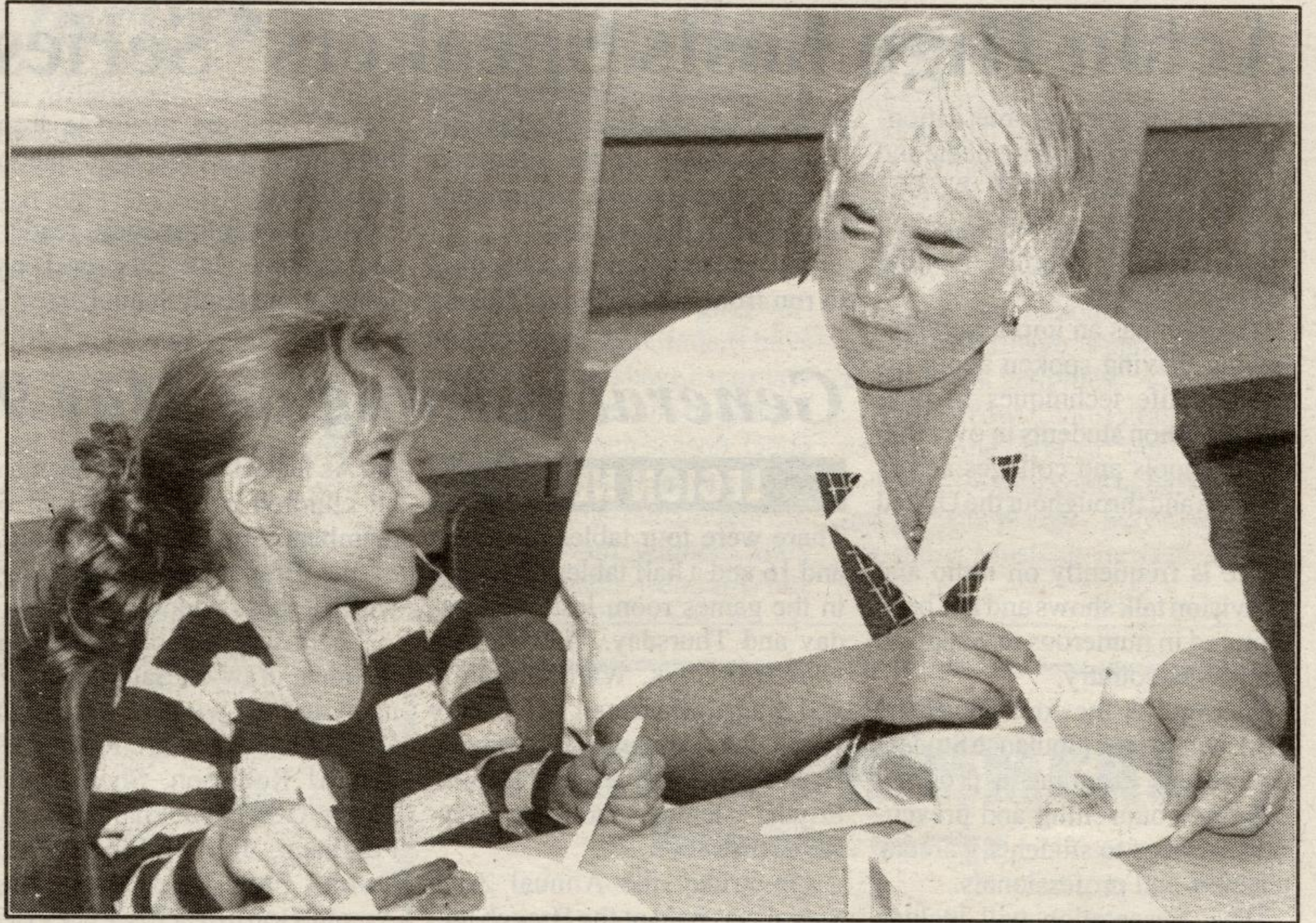
The major fundraiser generates money for Meals-on-Wheels, free public skating at the arena on school holidays and scholarships for Acton High grads.

Tickets are just \$25 per person and include a roast beef dinner. In last week's *Tanner* we incorrectly reported that cocktails were included in the ticket price. Drinks will be available, of course, but you'll have to pay for them!

Coffee Day today

Don't forget that today (Wednesday) is Camp Day at Tim Horton Donuts. The proceeds from the sale of each and every cup of coffee sold today will help send two Acton children to camp this summer.

Hamilton Tiger Cat head coach John Gregory will even show up to help out behind the counter.



GOOD FOOD, GOOD COMPANY!

Kasia Sitarz, 7, shares a laugh with Grade 2 teacher Sheila Curry at St. Joseph's First Communion Breakfast in the school library last Monday morning. (Doug Harrison photo)

It's the criminals — stupid!

Seems like 'ol Noel, our soon to be former MPP, is trying to pick the pockets of Halton Regional Council. Recently, 'ol Noel asked Municipal Affairs Minister Ed Phillip to investigate how the Region is spending, or intends to spend, the Region's Waste Diversion Reserve Fund (W.D.R.F.) The fund has over \$10 million in it and our boy Noel figures he and his government should give some spending lessons to the Region.

The councillors seem, to put it mildly, somewhat upset. Apoplectic would probably be a closer definition. Lucky for us the Regional councillors realize that taking fiscal responsibility lessons from the NDP makes as much sense as taking chastity lessons from Madonna. One has to wonder though, what the hidden agenda is behind 'ol Noel's foray into snatch and grab financing.

It seems that the original name for the W.D.R.F. was the Energy From Waste (E.F.W.) Reserve Fund. Our councillors, wisely, are keeping all the options open when examining future garbage disposal solutions. This is not to say they favour any form of incineration, just that they are not closed to new technologies. The NDP have decreed that the only acceptable way to dispose of those products that can't be recycled is to destroy arable farmland, uproot citizens and century farms and bury the stuff.

"E.F.W. is outlawed and banned in Ontario," 'ol Noel puffed. "From our point of view, that's not going to change. Many states are banning incineration." (Question: Are we now a state and I missed it?)

'Ol Noel also said that many constituents had called him. I'm wondering who that could be — who's pulling the strings to get access to the Regional funding? How many calls did our Noel have from concerned citizens and where did they get the information on the W.D.R.F.?

I talk to a lot of people around town and around the Province. Not once can I recall anyone asking me, "Say, did you catch the latest report on reserve funds by Finance Commissioner Rinaldo?" So who's trying to pry the cash out of the Region's sock and how come they just don't speak out, en masse.

'Ol Noel is now suggesting that the \$10 mil be returned to us as tax savings OR used to prop up programs which are being curtailed due to funding restraints. Now no sane person would ever believe that the NDP would

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



give us back tax money. Therefore, it must be the other option he's after.

So tell us Noel, which projects do you want saved? If they're so needy, why not cancel your lease on your downtown Toronto pad and contribute those savings to the cause. Come on Noel, come clean — someone, somewhere, has a plan for that cash.

I think it's objectionable that some people feel they can use regulations to impose their personal vision of Nirvana. I hope our politicians at Regional and Town level will resist these manipulative measures. Surely, we deserve open, considered and responsible decisions from elected officials.

Any money disbursement in these times should have the support of the majority. We need to rely on sound fiscal planning to chart our road in the future. We can't simply trust in the miracle of the leaves and fisheries to determine public policy. I'm looking to Regional Council to resist any efforts our "lame duck" provincial government to meddle in Regional finances. It's bad enough that we'll be paying for generations for the NDP provincial excesses! Regional Council must use every means, every legal tactic to keep the fading NDP fox out of the Regional fiscal hen house.

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On the federal scene, most people I know are shaking their heads at Allan Rock. The Justice Minister (there's a laugh!) seems determined to ignore the overwhelming mood of the country. He's not prepared to fast-track needed changes to the Young Offender's Act and the sentencing portions of the criminal justice system.

One of Rock's officials said recently that by the time legislation clears the Justice Committee (that would be Warren Allmand's Justice Committee) it will be late next year before any proposed legislation becomes law. It has to be studied.

Our MP Julian Reed, in a column dated April 11, said, "It is my belief you will see action before the end of the session this spring." Julian also said that Ontario, B.C. and Quebec

were resisting such changes.

Allan Rock isn't hanging his hat on provincial government resistance, however — he's just dawdling along hoping we'll all forget the current rage in the country. Rock has said enough to convince me that while he's in the justice job, don't look for any big changes unless it's to reduce the current sentencing protocols.

Meanwhile, the violence in our streets continues to horrify our citizens. In Chatham a 7-year-old boy is beaten to death. An 18-year-old gang member is charged. Drive-by shootings cause death in Calgary and Vancouver. Obviously, hunters gone mad. How many more have to die Julian? How many more?

The good news is that soon you'll be able to start your very own collection of serial killer trading cards and board games. What a wonderful summer of pretend child slaughter or murder of nursing students you have to look forward to. Who in our town will be the first to collect the entire set of serial killers? Don't worry about the kids, though, because no-one will be allowed to purchase those products unless they're over 18.

In a legislative schedule too jam-packed to rush legislation against criminals in our streets, Allan Rock found the time to give you serial killer cards. This is a protection of your right to freedom of expression don't ya know.

Polls show that over 90 per cent of Canadians are against serial killer trading cards and about 80 per cent want tougher criminal laws. So we get serial killer cards and have to wait another year or so for perhaps, maybe, possibly, tougher laws. Oh, so that's how it works. Beam me up Scotty, there's no intelligent life down here.

During the last U.S. election, Bill Clinton had a sign in the office saying — it's the economy — stupid! He did that so he and his team never lost sight of the issue they perceived concerned most American voters. Perhaps Julian Reed should take such a sign up to Allan Rock et al ... it should simply read — It's the criminals — stupid!

The most foolish position in this debate was definitely the Western Reform MP who said we shouldn't have more gun control because seniors need to arm themselves. Great — I don't have enough to worry about without wondering if my mother-in-law has a .357 tucked into her kneehighs. Now, that's the stuff that nightmares are made of.

HEY!

Do we need tougher gun control laws?



"Yes. I think there should be an automatic conviction and no parole term for anyone convicted of a crime. Also, the Young Offenders Act should be changed, so that we can give the younger people a message."

David Chapman, R.R. 3, Acton

"Yes. People think they're safe in Acton and then you hear about people being shot in the country. I never used to lock my door, but as soon as I get in the house now, it's locked. My daughter has four locks on her door in Toronto. Something needs to be done."

Pauline Hadfield, Mill Street



"Yes, most definitely. When someone gets caught, more should be done than just a slap on the hand. We need tougher sentences and the Young Offenders Act needs to be tougher. I'm convinced the downtown core (in Toronto) is no longer a safe place to be."

Pat O'Day, Newmarket

"Yes. I've always thought there should be tougher laws. I don't like guns and it's too far out of control, but unfortunately I don't have the answer (to gun control). People are nervous to leave their homes and afraid to say anything to anybody."

Vicki Hunter, Kingham Road

