

# GRAPE VINE

## Former Acton fire chief Jack Newton dies

Former Acton fire chief Jack Newton passed away last Tuesday in Mississauga. Jack, who had worked at Beardmore as an engineer, had served as an Acton firefighter from 1936 to 1961.

"Jack really contributed a lot to Acton," remembered fellow firefighter Alf Duby on Monday. "He was a councillor and he was instrumental in getting the fire hall built beside the old Town Hall.

Jack left to work at the Toronto Star, but according to Duby, "his heart and soul was in Acton; he should've never left. He took a great interest in this community and always gave Acton his best."

Jack is survived by wife Alice, daughter Diane and son Peter.

## Trunk Sale kicks off

This Saturday, from 9 'til 1, Acton's first-ever Trunk Sale opens in the parking lot beside the Hide House.

Action for Action, our business-citizens' group, is running the sale and, as Jack Carpenter urged last week, "Whatever you have to sell, just load it into the trunk of your car and drive to the sale!"

The cost is just \$4 for each car to park. And general parking for bargain-hunters is free.

Jack asks: "Why bother with a yard or garage sale; everyone will be at the Trunk Sale!"

## P.A. Day at Library

Parental relief! Registration begins on Friday for the Library's P.A. Day Craft Program, to be offered on Friday, June 3 at 2 pm.

Participants, who must be attending at least Senior Kindergarten, will design decorations to give their rooms at home a new look.

Kids can register in person at the Acton Library, or you can call 853-0301 to reserve a spot.

## Hwy. 25 improvements

The Ministry of Transportation is planning to make some improvements to Hwy. 25 north of Acton (all the way up to Hwy. 24 in Ospringe), and the Province is inviting local citizens to examine the plans and offer comments.

There are a couple of public information sessions scheduled for today (Wednesday) at Knox Presbyterian Church in Ospringe, from 2 to 4 and again from 7 to 9 pm.

## Get your ball tickets!

Ron Kuiken (853-4299) has just three tickets remaining for his second annual trip to Skydome to see the Jays, this Friday night.

The trip costs just \$30 and includes transportation.

Rockwood's No-Stars ball team is also planning a bus trip to see the Jays play, but this is a weekend event in Detroit. See Page 11.

## Our mistake

In last week's business profile on Doug Robb's Network Industrial Supply company, we incorrectly listed the hours of operation.

Network Industrial, located mid-way between Acton and Rockwood on Hwy. 7, is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm.



**TOP CITIZENS:** The Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society was recently named 1994 Citizen of the Year at an awards night at the Legion. The unit received awards from the Lions Club, P.M. Jean Chretien, Premier Bob Rae and others. Back row from left: Marg Hoare, secretary; Nadine Eaton, health promoter; June Tribe, treasurer and Pat Kentner, communications rep. Front row: Liz Bailey, Acton chair; Elma Braida, commemoration fund chair; Cathy McGillivray, educator and health promoter and Cathy Gerrow, president. (Doug Harrison photo)

# NDP plans attack on parents

There was a small item on page 3 of the May 10 *Toronto Sun* that all parents should be aware of. A committee called "The Premier's Council on Health, Well-Being and Social Justice" released a report, which could affect your preschool and school-aged children. If the Orwellian title of this group doesn't bother you then perhaps the following will give you food for thought.

Bob Rae has called the report a "wonderful document." Given his track record, if he likes it then 86 per cent of the population will be against it. The report, which maintains that we must re-think and revise Ontario's approach to child-rearing, is entitled "Yours, mine and ours."

Now perhaps I missed it, but I don't remember ever agreeing to share my responsibilities as a parent with the state. There are, of course, governmental agencies such as schools, the department of public health, and recreation departments, which I always thought were there to support parental efforts.

It seems the government is poised to institute a "pro-active approach" to the way we raise our children; to be involved from prenatal care through to graduation.

There may be some people out there who are content to let the NDP social-engineers turn their kids into a convoluted pack of "Stepford-wives." I've had one distasteful experience with one of these "progressive programs." They would, in my opinion, turn your child into someone with a pH of seven, who's favourite colour is plaid, and with the taste, colour and individuality of plain yogurt.

This is one parent who has an answer to "yours, mine and ours." No bloody way! If the state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation, it has no business in the nursery either. I'm not talking about the exceptions where neglect or child-abuse is a question. Obviously we must have police, Children Aid Societies and ultimately the courts involved in those tragedies. But Bob Rae wants to

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



have a say in the raising of every child from the beginning of life right on through adulthood.

I am angry that this government, or any government, would be so arrogant as to presume to be able to dictate to parents how they are supposed to raise their children. Last week Bob Rae told Mike Harris to stick his "common sense revolution" in his ear. In the same spirit, I think Bob Rae should stuff his "wonderful document" where the sun never shines.

One thing that drives me nuts is the trend for governmental agencies to declare themselves our "partners." I've noticed the government referring to "our business partners" regarding different programs of late. Well, we're not partners, we're the employer and government is the employee. We hire them, we pay them and we have the option of firing them. It's called democracy and I think we employers need to clean house next election.

Ultimately, we the parents will win this and any other attack on our families. Our big advantage is the lifetime commitment we have to our children. Our self-appointed partners are conspicuously absent when kids are sick or in trouble or need a hug during the tough times.

I think I speak for a majority of parents when saying I have one partner who shares the responsibility for raising our children and it sure isn't Bob Rae or any other governmental agency or employee. Anyone who tries to intervene in our family, directly or indirectly, has to go through Mary and me first. May God have mercy on the souls of those foolish enough to try.

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Much has been written about "zero-tolerance" policies in some

school boards. If you thought these kids were going to be out of the system, take two valium now. On March 5, Education Minister Cooke announced that financing for a model program for expelled students would be provided.

There will be a team of educators, psychiatrists and social workers on call to deal with an expelled student's needs. The classes will be held in non-traditional areas like Community Centres, malls or homes. The team will meet the family one-on-one and design the program. The cost will be expensive, according to Scarborough Board Superintendent Bob Heath.

Now, I think we should all take a moment to get this straight. If some kid stabs your kid, that kid is expelled. As punishment, he/she is not allowed to eat in the cafeteria but gets one-on-one attention by a team of professionals in the location of his/her choice, with a program not developed, and which may or may not work. On top of this, it's going to cost a bundle of money. Well, that should teach the little buggers not to misbehave.

I'm a tad concerned that this program is going to be "expensive." According to published figures, the Halton Separate School board will spend approximately \$61,000 on each student this year. So how much do you think we're going to spend on these kids who are expelled for violent acts?

I don't know, but when a school superintendent says it's going to be "expensive," it's enough to make me nervous. Maybe 'ol Noel could find out how many public dollars are going to be flushed down the toilet in this exercise. Don't hold your breath for an answer though — we don't seem to get much response from his office. Maybe he doesn't care what we think here in Acton, or maybe the questions are just too hard!

Mike O'Leary is an Acton resident and small business owner. Mike invites your comments; send letters to us at 12 Church St. E.

# HEY! What are your plans for the holiday weekend?

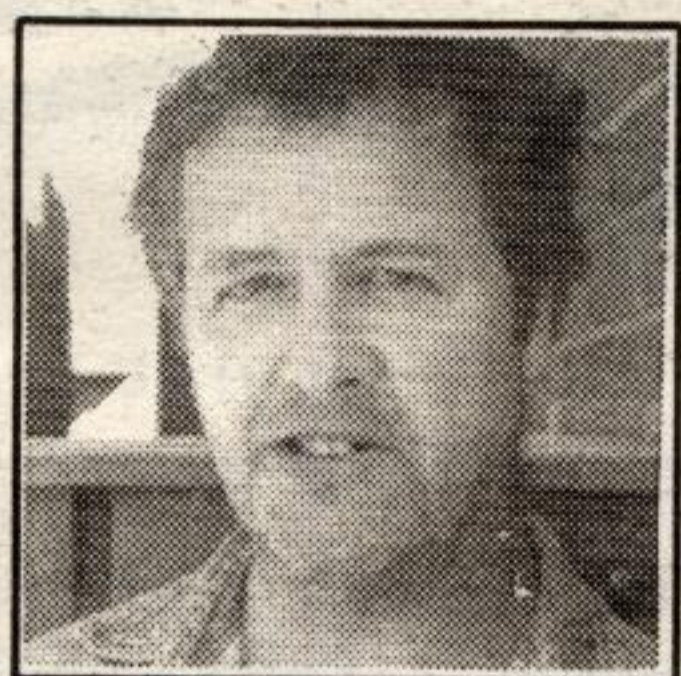


"My sister-in-law, Lisa McMillan, is getting married to Jeff Black in Acton. They've been together for 10 years, so it's about time. I'm excited and hope the weather is good. If it's 90 degrees, I'll sit in the sun."

Tammy McMillan, Eden Mills

"I'll be working the Saturday. I will also baby-sit my 5-week-old daughter, cut the grass, work in the garden and maybe go for a drive and visit friends."

John Reid, Arthur Street



"I'm going to my parents' house in Huntsville. My dad always takes us out in his boat. Friends of ours also have a cottage at Burk's Falls, so we'll do the visiting scene on the weekend."

Wendy Spurrell, Mill Street

"I'll work around the house and catch up on gardening. I don't have any money, so I can't go anywhere. If I could, I'd go to Australia. My parents are in Nova Scotia, so I'll hear all about their trip on Monday."

Steve Smith, Hill Street

