

GRAPE VINE

Last-minute invite

Acton's five D-Day vets got a last-minute invitation to Monday's 50th Anniversary celebrations at Queen's Park, but by the time their invitations arrived it was too late to make plans to attend.

The five men — George (Ben) Bayliss, Herb Cook, Art Ford, Norm Price and John Turkosz — received invitations Thursday and Friday of last week asking them to visit the legislative assembly on Monday at 4 pm.

While Branch 197's Joyce Buchanan tried to round up the vets and Ted Tyler volunteered to drive them to Toronto, it was a case of too little, too late.

We urge MP Noel Duignan to offer an explanation for this embarrassing oversight.

Best Trunk Sale yet

Saturday's *Action for Acton* Trunk Sale was the best yet. The sale is now three weeks old and the crowds keep growing.

We caught up with organizer Jack Carpenter halfway through the 9-to-1 event, and the Elizabeth Drive resident was in high spirits. "Just look at the crowd here — this is really becoming a Saturday morning event. Acton people are meeting here, getting some great bargains and even catching up on the local gossip.

"The new catch-phrase is 'See you at the Trunk Sale!'"

One new vendor we spoke with said she had raised over \$70, and that was just two hours into the giant community garage sale. "I just loaded up our car trunk with things we weren't using — old books and stuff — and brought it here; now look at this money!"

Again the sale, held at the parking lot across from the Hide House, was blessed with sunny skies.

The event will run again this Saturday and Carpenter is calling on all local clubs and sports teams to show up with a car trunk full of things to sell.

"It can be a great fundraiser for any group."

First annual car rally

Alec Kitson and the gang at Acton Precision Millwrights are staging their first annual car rally and treasure hunt this Saturday.

Some 30 to 35 cars are expected to participate in the event, which will raise funds for the Children's and Youth Foundation of Halton. This local charity offers support to abused and neglected children.

The route will focus on the Niagara Escarpment, mostly in the car, sometimes on foot.

Save a life, destroy a gun

The Ontario government recently announced a Provincial Firearms Amnesty Program, to run from June to September, and Halton Police are helping out.

People who wish to surrender explosives, corroded ammunition, military ordinance or any weapons they feel may be a safety risk are asked to call the police and arrangements will be made for an officer to remove the item.

You can contact the police by calling 878-5511.



FLYING UP! These young ladies have spent three years in Acton Guides and flew up to Pathfinders at a ceremony last Monday at Robert Little. Back row, from left, are leader Pam Linton, Jill Rudy, Eileen Banks, Amy Lusty and leader Leanne Taylor. Front row: Debbie Lindsay, Melissa Williams, Kim Lindsay, Tara Kirk and leader Susan Freeland. (Doug Harrison photo)

No time for hometown heroes

The 50th Anniversary celebrations filled the papers and airwaves last weekend and Monday. Heads of State including the Queen, President Clinton, PM's Chretien, Major and most European Heads of State gathered in London and later in France to commemorate the event and honour those who fell.

Locally, the Remembrance didn't seem to garner much attention. The Legion told publisher Nolan that no official events were taking place. I'm sure there were a few glasses raised and more than a few stories told.

I was somewhat surprised by the lack of interest shown by our education system. I contacted both the Public and Catholic Board Offices and neither had any planned programs. Both officials seemed surprised that I would expect their respective board to have planned some special study course for this anniversary. One anonymous gentleman went on for about 10 minutes about how busy he was, how many projects he was working on, how short of funds they were, Rae days, etc. etc. etc.

Surely, I thought, some of our local schools would be planning events to commemorate D-Day. I called the four local grade schools and both high schools. Only one school, Bishop Reding, had any concrete plans. VP Poliziani has arranged for a Milton veteran to speak to all of the Grade 10 classes.

I'm sure the Grade 10s at Bishop Reding will come away from their meeting with a clearer understanding of the cost of the freedoms we enjoy today. That's a lesson I think our whole population, and especially our kids, could stand to learn.

If, through some miracle of science, one of Hannibals' elephant handlers could come back to talk about crossing the Alps, school boards would line up to book him. The same would be true of a gunner from the Spanish Armada or a Cavalryman from Lincoln's Army at Bull Run. These are all significant historical events.

The D-Day Invasion was the largest amphibious assault in history and Canadians played a big part in it. The world saw fit to mark this 50th Anniversary Celebration and the media was full of grateful Europeans thanking our veterans. Someone should ask the

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



Provincial Department of Education why they blew this opportunity to spotlight a significant Canadian achievement.

Our country seems to be eroding daily. We have a separatist as leader of the opposition, turmoil in native communities, violence in our cities and countless special interest groups determined to make us hyphenated-Canadians.

I was in Ottawa at midnight on Jan. 1, 1967. The official celebrations were long over. Hundreds of us joined hands and sang Oh Canada and extended New Year's greetings. It was a great feeling. Centennial Year brought this country together and we were all proud to be Canadians. In some ways the 50th Anniversary of D-Day could have given our kids this same feeling. I hope they all saw it on TV.

One education administrator told me that he hoped individual teachers would talk to the students about the importance of D-Day. My deadline is Sunday night, so I can't tell you if that happened. The official also said that this was not the best time of the year since the academic term is coming to a close and the curriculum is full.

We often hear these days, that our young need good role models. We don't have to look too far for them — more educators should have made time for our hometown heroes. Duty, honour and country are worthwhile lessons that should have been taught by the brave men and women who were there.

Recently I wrote about a program being developed in Toronto for expelled students. I was concerned because a school superintendent said it was going to be expensive. Last week it was reported that the initial budget will be \$250,000. Personal experience tells me that is only the tip of the iceberg.

Departments of Education usually don't include the salaries of staff who take part in these feel

good, smell-the-flowers exercises. The real cost will probably be in the \$400,000 to \$600,000 range. Add to this the costs already incurred with police, lawyers for all parties, court time, teacher and administration salaries, etc. and we're well up into the million dollar plus range. This is only for one board, mind.

No wonder this province is broke. Wouldn't you think the time has come when our schools tell the parents of kids who come to school to commit violence and mayhem "Listen, this little trouble-maker is your responsibility. You educate him/her, here's the mail order course and society will hold you personally and financially responsible for their actions."

The long-awaited changes to the Young Offenders Act were announced last week. Sentences for murder and violent crime will be doubled and these cases may be tried in adult court. I have an ominous feeling though, that it's all a smoke screen.

The changes depend on the judiciary taking a tougher line and I don't see that happening. One Justice has already said that he wouldn't send a 16-year-old to an adult institution. The Judge was convinced that such a child would become a victim of homosexual inmates. Fair enough. But what should be done with child-murderers and other violent kids?

The rise of violent crimes in our youth indicates the current slap-on-the-wrist philosophy is not working. I think parents have to be brought back into the equation and they have to be held responsible for the actions of their children. We must also have reasonable deterrents and make them stick.

The definition of a camel is a horse designed by committee. There are too many people involved in the process of changing this law and it's bogged down. Eisenhower launched the D-Day invasion with the order "Okay — let's go." Alan Rock needs to make a decision and make it stick. Maybe he should start by teaching these kids the concepts of duty, honour and country. These are values that built this country — maybe they can save it!

HEY!

Are proposed amendments to the Young Offenders Act tough enough?



"They should be tougher, but it's definitely a step in the right direction. When kids are 14 and 15 they know right from wrong. I've got a 4-year-old who knows. Having a murder sentence at 10 years of age will change most kids' minds."

Dave Uiterwyk, Churchill Road

"I think it (Y.O.A.) needs to be changed drastically. Kids get off too much. A criminal has more rights than a victim. Some come from broken homes and haven't had a chance, but I'm not saying that compensates for murder."

Ruth Soder, Storey Drive



"Being an ex-police sergeant, I think it's a joke. It's a start, but as far as doing the job that's needed, it's a joke. Laws don't stop people if you don't have a deterrent. A murderer is a murderer."

Al McQueen, Rockwood

"Five years (for committing murder) wasn't enough. Ten will make the kids think a little more. The changes are worth a try to see what happens. A life for a life. It doesn't matter if they're a child or not."

Pat Ivory, Main Street

