

GRAPE VINE

Gibson may run for mayor's post

Another candidate may be preparing to throw his hat into the ring for this fall's mayoral race in the municipal election.

Colin Gibson, a Georgetown resident who's held editorial posts with the Halton Hills Herald and Halton Hills This Week newspapers, told us Monday night that he's seriously considering a run at the top job.

Gibson admits that he has been contacted by "a number of Acton and Georgetown residents — but no special-interest groups" urging him to launch a campaign.

The outspoken Gibson has not yet formally registered as a candidate. He did say, however, that he has an interest in seeing that local development proceeds in such a way that does not disrupt "the history and the unique character of our community."

"I would be a mayor for all the people, not just the special-interest groups, and I'd like to open up government to the whole community," he explained.

Just 'wade' a minute!

Did you know that Prospect Park has a heated wading pool for youngsters?

Only two feet deep at the deepest end, the pool is a great way for tots to cool off on hot summer days and become comfortable in

the water.

The wading pool is open Monday to Friday afternoons, from 1:30 til 4 pm, and weekends from noon to 4. The pool opened Monday and will be operating until Aug. 28.

Death of a dump

All local POWER members and supporters are invited to a "victory celebration" tonight from 7 to 10 at Andrews' Scenic Acres.

Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources will be celebrating the recent passage of Bill 62 in the Ontario Legislature, which bans landfills on the Niagara Escarpment and effectively means the death of Acton's proposed quarry dump.

There will be refreshments at the open house, along with live entertainment.

Sheila opens new mall

Deputy PM Shelia Copps was in the area yesterday (Tuesday) to open Ontario's first factory outlet mall in St. Jacobs.

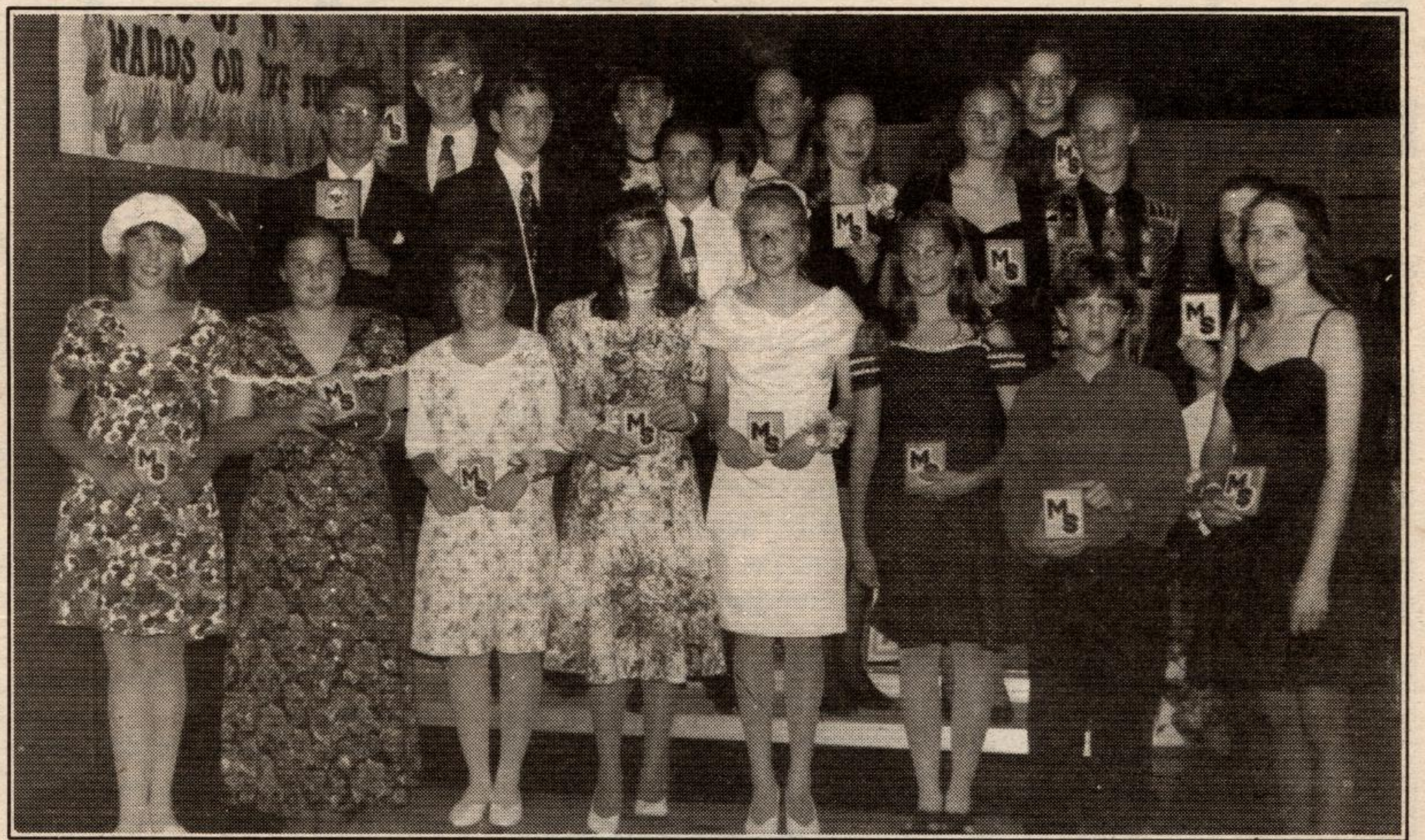
The St. Jacobs Factory Outlet Mall is the first of its kind in Ontario, featuring some 30 stores and services with savings up to 50 per cent off retail prices.

Our mistake!

In last week's report that five Acton men were arrested in connection with a local heroin ring, we incorrectly reported that Irma Port was wanted by police in connection with heroin trafficking charges.

In fact, Port was sought for charges related to trafficking a narcotic (two counts) and "possession for purpose" (one count).

We apologize for any confusion caused by the error.



CONGRATS! These McKenzie-Smith grads counted 350 points over three years and last week received their small letters for academic, athletic, intramural and extra-curricular involvement. Back row from left: Matt Schiller, Shannon Inglis, Kelly Flesch and Glenn Kilmer. Middle row: Greg McMillan, Andre Savard, Steve Protopapas, Tara Service, Stefanie Adams, Ben Muggridge and Shawn Brown. Front row: Kristy Allen, Katie Tuitman, Suzie Neary, Rachelle Taylor, Tina Peterson, Jennifer Roberts, Philip Eddolls and Sandra Wray. (Doug Harrison photo)

No more pencils, no more books!

To the great relief of hundreds of kids and several dozen teachers, the long awaited summer holidays are finally here. Local schools capped off their year with graduation exercises last week.

My spy, actually it was Trisha Edwards, reports that the McKenzie-Smith graduation ceremony was very nice. Both the graduation exercise and the all-important dance were held at the Legion.

Valedictorian Mary-Beth Robertson delivered an inspiring speech, punctuated with humour and personal experiences. Her classmates were very pleased and proud of her efforts. The graduates, teachers and guests rewarded her with a spirited round of applause and a silver pin as a memento.

Everyone appreciated the slide show, which starred the graduates from this year and former years. Trisha said the dance was great, but would give few details. After having the first dance with Mom or Dad, the parents and guests were banished. All I could find out was that the food, organized by the parents group, was very tasty and the music was great.

Over at St. Joseph's school, graduation ceremonies were also taking place. A Mass at the Church, preceded the diploma and awards presentation. I didn't need a spy at St. Joe's since the whole family was there to see "the little kid" graduate.

As regular readers know, objectivity is the hallmark of this column. I can assure you that my observations regarding the St. Joe's graduation are written as seen through the cool, dispassionate eyes of this veteran journalist.

St. Joe's graduates looked wonderful — everyone dressed "to the nines." The M.C. — Susan Lehman, welcomed everyone to the school and called the 1994 class valedictorian, Erin O'Leary to the podium. Yep, the little kid hit the big time. What can I tell you? Her speech was brilliant, insightful, hilarious and thought-provoking. Really, it was very good.

When she finished the applause was deafening, and there wasn't a

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



dry eye in the house. At least that's how I saw it as I fumbled for a kleenex.

The Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association established a new award and Erin's name is the first one on the plaque. Twenty years from now she'll probably realize how important that night was to her.

There were many other award winners whose pictures should be (better be!) elsewhere in this paper. Congratulations to all, and especially to top male/female students Corey Rivers and Susan Lehman.

St. Joseph's also had a slide show starring the kids. Teachers Harking and Malette ran a twin slide presentation showing current picture with baby pictures beside.

St. Joe's also had a dance and, as a Dad, I can tell you that the first dance was a pretty special moment. Immediately after, the parents were sent home so the party could get into full swing. Judging from how the kids were "wired" when we picked them up, they all had a good time.

There were few general observations from parents and friends which seemed to apply to both events. We are all impressed with the organization and extra efforts put into this evening by the teachers. In both cases, the awards were well distributed. This is a welcome change from previous years, when a few would scoop up a majority of the hardware. The kids looked nice and both schools discouraged rental ensembles, limos and such. Let's continue to keep things in perspective: it's a Grade 8 graduation after all.

I, like many, have been quick to criticize our education system. I don't intend to stop but its equally important to give credit when credit is due. I'm sure I speak for

all the parents as I publicly thank those involved in the graduation ceremonies. I don't know the names of the McKenzie-Smith teachers but at St. Joe's, Kevin Harkin's gift of time and musical talent made the evening special. As for Mr. Malette, Erin's Grade 8 teacher, well, I've never said it before, but I tell you, Claude Malette is one hell of a teacher! I hope she'll be lucky enough to get another teacher like him in the future.

Bishop Reding also celebrated their graduates last week. Our daughter Christine received her diploma in a more formal ceremony. The graduates, garbed in traditional cap and gown, were paraded into the gym to the strains of *Pomp and Circumstance*. One-by-one they were called to the stage and the realization they were going their separate ways seemed to make the evening especially poignant. Some are off to work, to college, and others to universities around the province and country. Where the Grade 8s generally are going to troop off to high school as a group, Christine is facing the breaking up of her circle. The kids are happy and proud for sure, but somewhat sad because it is a real passage in their lives.

Christine and her friends have done well. She is off to Carleton University in Ottawa where she intends to study law. Her Mom and I are still hoping she'll choose a more honourable profession — like table-dancing or car wash attendant. She seems determined to be a lawyer however. You don't think she'll be a lawyer/politician do you? Naaaw! We couldn't have screwed up that badly.

I really admire today's kids. I've seen the work Chris had to put in to achieve her goals — she'll need to continue through her university years. When we finished high school it was, for many, the end of school. With the demands of today's technological world it is no longer the completion, but a milestone of a work-in-progress.

Congratulations to all of our Acton Graduates. You're now one step closer to hearing the immortal words — get a job!

HEY!

Have you caught World Cup fever?



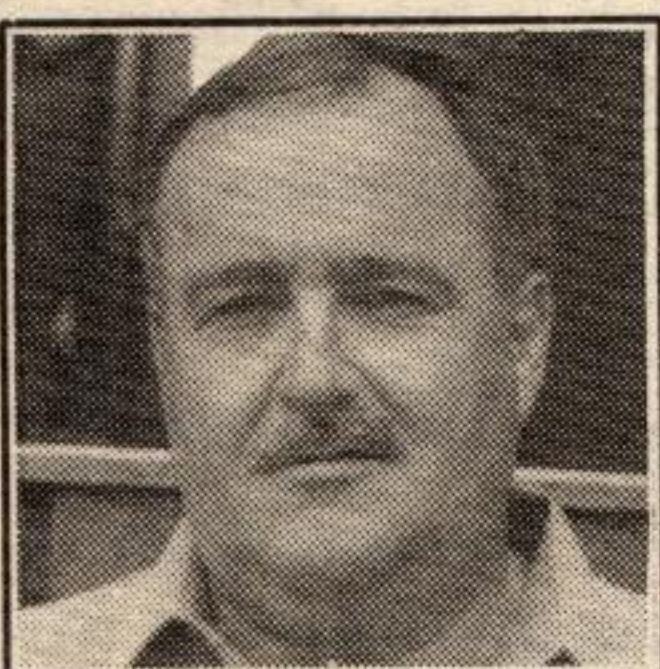
"I don't like soccer. I'm a hockey and baseball fan. Soccer is slow-moving and I don't like a lot of 0-0 and 1-0 games. I like the body contact in hockey."

Jeff Hillier, Mill Street



"I'm not interested at all. The weather's nice, I'm busy and who wants to be inside watching soccer? I have better things to do. I don't mind watching highlights, but I'm not interested in watching a game."

Michelle Mathies, R.R. 3, Acton



"I'm not really interested. I just finished watching hockey, so I'm kind of exhausted watching sports. I find soccer slower than hockey. It's a bit boring as a spectator sport, but I'll watch the highlights."

Mike McKinnon, Adams Court



"I'm not really a soccer fan. When it gets near the finals I'll watch, because that's when the teams get the best out of their players. I come from England, but soccer's never been one of my favourite sports."

Martin Dutton, Cobblehill Road