

# GRAPE VINE

## Fair pageant changes

As we mentioned in *Grapevine* a few weeks back, the winner of this year's Friday night Fall Fair pageant will be known as "the Acton Ambassador." But this switch from "Miss Acton" is not the only change to the 30-year-old contest. In the past, the pageant consisted of an interview with the judges, then two appearances in which the contestant walked across the stage. Organizers thought that these two walks added to the "negative image of a beauty contest." As a result, the contestants will appear in only one on-stage walk. In place of a second walk the contestants will deliver a speech on "Small Town Life" or "The Acton Fall Fair."

## First day of school

Sorry, kids, we know this is a delicate subject: Tuesday, Sept. 6 is the first day of school for all Halton Board elementary and secondary schools.

Opening Day comes one day earlier than past years.

In the past, schools have been open for two weeks prior to opening day, but in '94 (due to "budget restraint") offices will open just one week prior, Monday the 29th.

## Sabres need players

Hockey players wanted! The Acton Sabres Minor Hockey club is still short of Novice, Bantam

and Juvenile players for the upcoming season.

Juveniles (born in 1975 or '76), Bants ('79 or '80) and Novices ('85 or '86) should call club rep Wendy Weatherall at 853-4944 right away, as tryouts begin Sept. 10 at Alcott arena in Georgetown.

Novice fees are \$275, while the older players must pay \$300. This shouldn't cause a cash flow crunch, as just \$50 payable up-front, with the balance due by post-dated cheques.

## Tanner Trivia

Lacrosse season is wrapping up, which reminds us that it was 23 years ago that the Acton Junior C Rams won the Ontario Junior Lacrosse Championship.

This week's Tanner Trivia question: *Who did the Rams defeat in that final overtime game to claim '71 provincial honours?*

Phone in your answer to 853-5100 by Friday at 4:30. We'll draw one correct caller to win a terrific cotton library bag from the Acton Public Library and a dozen donuts from Tim Horton's.

Oh, and here's a hint: When the losing team left the Community Centre that warm August night, they travelled east on Hwy. 401 to get home.

## Helping hands

Talk about role models! The 62 Acton youngsters attending the Baptist Church's Vacation Bible School last week raised \$115 in daily offerings Monday through Friday.

What did the kids do with the money? Throw a pizza party? No, the youths sent the money straight to relief aid for Rwandan refugees. Well done!



**CHARITY TOURNEY:** Regional chair Pete Pomeroy hosted the annual Halton Charity Classic golf tournament on Thursday at Blue Springs. Joining Pomeroy (middle) on the first green are, from left, area business owner Peter Walker, TV star Gordie Tapp, Laidlaw boss Jim Bullock and Blue Springs club champ Paul Campbell. (Doug Harrison photo)

# Smile, you're on candid camera

Good morning comrades — or perhaps it would be more accurate to say *comrade suckers*, if anyone still thought we were living in a democracy after the imposition of the GST. That illusion must have been shattered last week when the NDP started photo-radar.

Some trusting types are buying the argument that photo-radar has only been introduced as a safety measure. These are probably the same folks who believe that higher prices discourage alcoholics, that wives of war-lords have a "right" to welfare and that if the government pulls out our teeth, the tooth fairy will pay off the deficit.

Photo-radar is about one thing and one thing only; more tax revenue for the Provincial government. Your safety, and mine, have absolutely no part in the equation.

The NDP is bankrupt you see, but they need huge amounts of money to throw around in the next year to try and get re-elected. They are making millions off the Windsor casino, but that's not going to be enough. For the first time in their reign, they can't raise taxes. Even "pink Floyd" realizes that if they push through another income tax grab they would probably have an insurrection on their hands. Socialist governments around the world have lots of experience with armed revolt by their people. Sadly, we in Ontario now understand why these things happen.

Photo-radar will give the government an immediate extra \$200 to 300 million to spend. The money won't go to roads or hospitals or paying down the deficit. We're going to be treated to the biggest, most expensive P.R. exercise in the history of the world. All we have to do is waive some of our legal protections, some of which have their origin in the Magna Carta, and cough up even more cash for Bob, Floyd and 'ol Noel.

Now, before you start writing to ask why I'm for protecting speeders and against highway safety ... hold on! I probably have a greater interest than most in highway safety. I travel a lot, mostly by car. Believe me, safer roads are

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



real big in my perception of important issues. Photo-radar isn't about safety, however, it's about more taxes. That's what it is, you know, just a disguised tax.

Over the years I have driven well over a million miles. During that time I've had a handful of speeding tickets, most on city streets. In fact, I can only recall four highway tickets in 30 years. I've had three minor accidents, one on a city street and two in parking lots. I think I know a thing or three about highway driving.

Speed does, of course, have a compounding effect on accidents. The higher the speed, the greater the damage, in most cases. Other things though, cause far more accidents. Lane changes cause accidents. Those jerks who zip across three lanes of traffic to gain one car length. Will photo-radar stop them? Nope! Impaired drivers cause accidents. I support spot-checks 160 per cent. Throw the book at these menaces. What does photo-radar do to drunk drivers? Lets them off with a speeding ticket, that's what!

Driving faster than road conditions permit will cause accidents. Sometimes, in the winter, 60 km/h is too fast on the 401, but some fool who thinks he's an expert, will blow past you at 90 or 100-km. Photo-radar help here? Nope, can't ticket someone for driving at or under the posted limit. They may kill someone or cause a huge accident but photo-radar says they're O.K.

I think that a police officer who sees someone driving at 167 km/h should stop that driver right now. In the first few days, the OPP were reporting that they snapped a car doing that on the 403. Does anyone think that a ticket delivered 30 days from now is appropriate? Isn't

that considered dangerous driving? Am I the only one who hopes that some dork, blasting along at 160-km, gets stopped by a cop before he nails us? No, safety has not bearing on the decision to install photo-radar on our roads.

Let's look at some numbers. The four units in operation can process 1,600 fines a day, which will go to 6,400 fines once backup systems are in place. They figure the average fine will be over \$100. The cops won't snap your picture if it isn't worthwhile. Let's use \$100 per fine to make the math easy. Instead of four cameras though, let's use the 50 which are planned to come on stream early in 1995.

So, 50 photo-radar units x 1,600 fines each, per day, equals 80,000 fines per day. Those 80,000 fines per day x \$100 per fine equals \$8 million per day. Per day! That's \$8-million a day from the rich-bitches who can afford to drive a car.

Now, multiply that by a conservative 200 days that the units could operate each year (fog, blizzards, etc. will probably shut them down some) and you get 200 days times 80,000 fines at \$100 average and that totals up to 1.6 billion dollars each year.

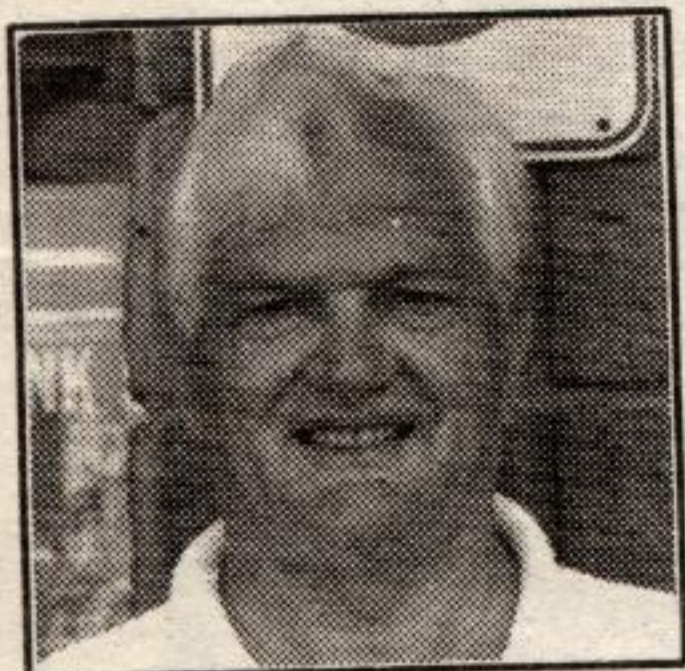
The wonderful thing is, how can anyone argue? It's for safety, remember. No self-righteous welfare groups yelling at you, no pictures of closed food banks. I tell you, it's enough to bring a tear to Karl Marx's eye.

Hold on, you think, this could be avoided if everyone just slows down. Speeding can be avoided, you think. Sure, and pigs fly. Don't you remember the old radar trap locations of years ago? You'd get nabbed in places where you had to throw the car in reverse and stand on the brakes. That was for safety too.

I saw a photo-radar van last week on the 401 near Cobourg. It was parked at the side of the road, at the bottom of a steep hill. If you weren't on the brakes you'd be over the limit. Cute, eh! And all for safety! Right? More next week.

# HEY!

What do you think about the Major League Baseball strike?



"I don't like it. I was a union member myself, so I don't want to say if the players or owners are right or wrong. I think the season should be played out and negotiations should be done in the winter. But I think the season is over."

John Toebes, Brock Street

"All I can think about is 'the rich get richer, the poor get poorer.' The more money you get, the more greedy you get and that's what is going on with this strike. Too bad — baseball was a great excuse to stay up late."

Michael Gunn, Kingham Road



"I don't like it at all. All the players are overpaid, but they don't want to give up. I think it will be a long strike — the players aren't going to budge and the owners have gone too deep by giving them all they want and realize they're in trouble."

Glenn Hillier, Churchill Road

"I think the players should continue playing and accept what they have. They're not playing for the love of the game, but the money."

Scott Gallway, Campbell Court

