

# GRAPE VINE

## Rotary Club steer takes off to Burlington

Burlington's Charles Stewart was the lucky winner of a 1,000-pound steer in the Acton Rotary Club's annual Fall Fair draw on Sunday.

Frank Alma of Smithville was the second-place winner in the popular contest, taking home a 200-pound pork.

The three third place turkey winners were Michelle Perry of Acton, Doug Scott of Kitchener and Hillsburgh's Heather Dodd.

According to Rotary member Jake Kuiken, the club raised some \$3,500 through this year's draw, down a bit from previous Fall Fairs.

Rotary will be using the funds to sponsor community programs such as Meals on Wheels.

## Ag Society 'optimistic'

Now that the Fair is over, the Acton Agricultural Society will be looking closely at the possibility of taking over the full-time management of the Community Centre — once the new arena is built.

Fair board members held preliminary discussions with Town Rec and Parks boss Tom Shepard in the spring, but Fair president Janis Fread says that municipal council will ultimately decide the fate of the Prospect Park facility.

Fread says the "potential is certainly promising," hinting that the Society could use the building for events throughout the year.

"A recently-struck committee is looking into different ways to use the arena.

"We're cautiously optimistic that we could make it work."

## Trivia Challenge winner

Sharon Steckley is the winner of our Fair Trivia Challenge. Sharon correctly answered last week's question, calling to say that **George Henderson** was the Agricultural Society president in 1992-93.

Sharon, whose name was drawn from among eight correct callers, will receive a great prize from Tim Horton donuts.

Other Fair-wise callers this week: Christy Allen, Elma Braida, Olive Ellerby, Jamie Harding, Sherry McNabb, Ean Newell and Joel Petkoff.

## Breast Health Month

October is Breast Health Month, and the Canadian Cancer Society is using the occasion to urge all women to do monthly self-examinations and have yearly exams done by a health professional.

The Cancer Society offers a wide variety of breast health promotion and breast cancer support programs. There will be a mammography display on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Market Place mall in Georgetown to kick off the month.

For more info call the Cancer Society at 877-1124.

## Correction

In last week's Sports section, we incorrectly reported that Joel Petkoff assisted on Andrew Martin's big goal in Acton Cleaners' final win at Acton Minor Soccer's recent Cup Day.

In fact, it was D.J. King who assisted on the goal. Sorry, D.J.!



## CLOWNING AROUND!

Clown Chuck LaRose of the Credit Valley Shriners greeted Acton's Shawn Morin, 4, at the 1994 Acton Fall Fair parade on Mill Street Saturday afternoon. Looking on are 5-year-old Marcel VanHelgen, middle, and Logan Geggie, 5. (Doug Harrison photo)

# Too many snouts drain trough

I was really surprised at the loud and hostile reaction to the news that the Region had paid a \$28,000 legal bill on behalf of Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy. With all the money politicians and bureaucrats pour down the drain every day, I thought we had all grown accustomed to this attitude of "droit du signeur" on the part of elected officials. Perhaps, just perhaps, our population is prepared to start speaking out about the lack of controls on our money.

I think the fact that this reversal of policy happened at the Regional level proves that local government gives us the most bang for our buck. Acton's Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette, along with Georgetown Councillors Robson and Johnson, seem determined to plug this loophole.

In fairness, I don't think Council ever intended to have this by-law cover charges of the type Pomeroy is facing. It was refreshing to read that Councillor Bird of Oakville said that Council misunderstood the magnitude of the by-law. When was the last time you heard a politician admit to a mistake? Especially in an election year.

I hope that saner heads prevail and this by-law is repaired or repealed. I also hope this will convince you of the need to become involved in the November Municipal elections.

It's only fair that if we expect our councillors to be prudent with our money that we take the time to participate in the electoral process. Every three years we have the opportunity to grade our municipal politicians, consider their actions, and if we don't like what we see, throw the rascals out. By the same token, hard-working conscientious politicians deserve and need our support. Every three years we have the final say — let's not miss it!

While you're feeling so militant perhaps you should give our MPP a blast on the phone. The money the cabinet spends trying to justify their actions makes the Pomeroy payment look like a drop in the trough. The Ontario cabinet, better known as "Bob's bumbling boobs" has had so many resignations it's impossible to keep track

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



of them.

Recently, Housing Minister Gigantes resigned, but before she did, \$200,000 was spent on hearings trying to save her butt.

Last Thursday it was reported that yet another commission found Mines Minister Shelley Martel guilty of breaking privacy laws and conflict-of-interest guidelines.

We don't know how much this exercise will cost us but we do know that this is Martel's third transgression of Rae's own ministerial guidelines. The 1991 inquiry cost us \$400,000. You remember — that's when she took a lie detector test to prove she was lying.

Martel says that regardless of the latest commissions' report, she won't resign. How much money will be spent trying to save her career before public pressure insists on her resignation too? I guess it just depends on how much the NDP can borrow.

Do you remember the "Munsinger affair" in the '60s. A member of the Federal Cabinet was indulging in some hanky-panky with a lady who was, at the same time, playing footsie with a Russian military attaché. The scandal rocked the government and the joke across the country was that Mike Pearson forgot the first rule of carpentry. That is: One loose screw causes the whole cabinet to fall apart.

Too bad Premier Rae didn't learn from history. With so many Ministers having a screw loose it's no wonder his Cabinet is in a shambles.

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One of my pet peeves, when it comes to wasting money, is having our MPP supplied with an apartment in Toronto. Hundreds of thousands of us commute, and I don't see any reason why our MPP shouldn't either. 'Ol Noel's apartment rent for one year would pay half of Pomeroy's legal bill.

Many candidates justify an apartment as a reasonable expense. MPPs often work from 7 am to midnight and have evening obligations, they say. Sorry, but I'm not convinced and this will be an election issue for me.

Firstly, if these guys are consistently putting in a 17-hour day, they're doing something wrong. Senior executives of major corporations can go to work, actually get something done, and still get home at night. I don't for one minute think that being an MPP is an easy, nine to five job, but anyone running for office should know what the obligations of that office are. No one is forcing these people to run.

We promote our town as being an easy commute to Toronto. Our own Halton Hills Tourist Brochure says in bold letters, "We are less than 45 minutes from Toronto." Many of us spend twice that amount of time getting to work. The trough is almost empty candidates, so if you want an apartment in Toronto, I suggest you pay for it out of the tax-free portion of your salary. After all, that was the rationale behind the tax-free expense allowance for MPPs in the first place.

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Doesn't it seem ironic that in the same week the NDP gives the bankrupt legal aid plan an additional \$60 million, Paul Bernardo is allowed to fire his lawyer? That not only delays his trial but also greatly increases the cost.

It could be another eight months before Bernardo comes to trial. Am I alone in being fed-up with this situation? Paul Bernardo has a right to competent counsel, no one denies that. Why does he get one of the highest profile (read expensive) lawyers around? People like you and I couldn't afford this guy, so how come Bernardo gets him?

If Pete Pomeroy has to pay back the money the Region gave him, shouldn't Bernardo's ex-lawyer Ken Murray have to pay back what he's already received? Does it seem right to you that we appear to be treating someone accused of the most heinous crimes better than a man who has served our community for 18 years? Me neither!

# HEY!

Your reaction to the PQ election win in Quebec?

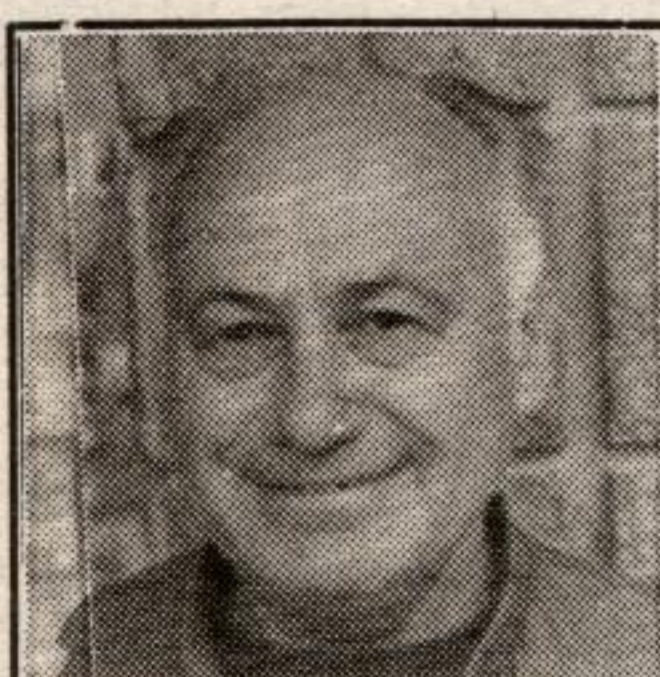


"I'm not surprised they won. I hope Canada goes one way — stays together. It's only a few hot-heads who think separation is best for Canada."

Willa Hewitt, Mill Street

"I don't think Parizeau's victory will make a big difference. I don't understand why Quebecers want to separate. It's frustrating. I think if they did separate, it would hurt them more than the rest of the country."

Shelley Chalmers, Main Street



"I think the ordinary people are happy with Canada. It's just a couple of hot-heads. I lived in Quebec for 40 years and they've always wanted their own identity. But the PQ win doesn't mean they want to separate, just change their government."

S. Zeissig, Longfield Road

"I wasn't pleased at all. Quebec is part of us. I don't know if it's going to be as easy to separate as Parizeau thinks it is. I just hope the people realize who they voted for."

Katrine Ceccotti, Poplar Avenue

