

GRAPE VINE

Best-ever Fair parade winners announced

Acton FoodShare's fine float won first prize for their entry in the Fall Fair parade last Saturday. FoodShare gets top prize money of \$75, while \$50 goes to second place winners C.A.T. (Canadian All-Terrain Vehicle Club). Acton's Star Thru Squares square dancing club took third and \$25.

Fair V.P. and parade marshal Jim Warrington commented Monday that "the Agricultural Society wants to thank everyone who joined in and helped make the '94 parade by far the biggest and best ever.

Jim reported that the 62 entries in this year's parade (there were 48 last year) meant the parade actually entered the fairgrounds before the final floats could begin marching.

"The parade this year was over two miles long, and it's no wonder Acton is known to have the best little country fair in the province!"

Ice almost ready

Don't worry about that NHL lock-out — the ice is in at the arena and hockey season is almost here!

Acton arena supervisor Al Hay reported Monday that the ice started going in the day after the Fall Fair, and the 10-day process will see the rink ready for this weekend's annual Puck and Ball tournament.

The tourney, run by Scott Withers, will officially end the fastball season and kick off hockey season. And as of press time, there wasn't even a *hint* of a strike.

Big winners in '95?

Halton-Peel MP Julian Reed is back on Parliament Hill, where he witnessed a "reasonably large" rally by gun owners who fear they're going to be restricted by new legislation, which should be introduced in November.

Reed reports that he responded to about 1,000 concerned citizens over the summer. The MP assures us that "the legislation will be right for Canada, will be recognised by all as fair and will help to make our country a safer place to live."

The Norval resident also reports that "on a positive note, we are getting some assistance from a greatly improved economy, substantially increased exports, a stronger dollar and gradually declining interest rates.

"If we can maintain international confidence in the Canadian monetary system, Canada will be a big winner through all of 1995, regardless of a Quebec on-again, off-again, maybe, never, sometime referendum."

Learn to skate!

The Town's Rec and Parks department is offering a "Learn to Skate" program for preschoolers on Friday mornings, beginning on Oct. 14 at the Acton arena.

The one-hours sessions will begin with a 15-minute lesson, then parents can join in to do some free skating with their youngsters.

There still are a few spots left open for this program; call 873-2600 (ext. 275) to register.



OUCH? Ed Hillier cracks a smile as a nurse readies his arm at the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic Thursday at the Legion. Some 103 units of blood were collected at the clinic. (Doug Harrison photo)

Hell no! Bill shouldn't go!

Chief Bill McCormack is soon due to tell Toronto Police Services the date of his retirement. We should all be concerned that his replacement may not be as dedicated to officers under their command as McCormack has been.

This would be especially true if Ms. Eng and the other provincial appointees on the Metro Board have their way. Already, the message is that the new chief must be politically correct and "sensitive" (whatever that means).

The police forces in this country are at a crossroads. We have had, over the years, excellent policing; I have travelled all over Canada and have never found myself in a position where I was nervous when an officer approached me.

I cannot say the same about some southern U.S. cops I saw in the '70s, or police in Mexico and some Caribbean countries. For some incomprehensible reason our politicians have, for the last 20 years or so, seemed determined to hamstring the police at every opportunity.

Somewhere along the way our police have been categorized as part of the problem causing society's woes. This was about the same time our country took a dramatic lurch to the left and started down the road to socialism and our current bankrupt state.

If we, the public, don't start enthusiastically supporting the Bill McCormacks in this country, then the superior level of our policing is going to deteriorate.

I am fortunate to have several friends who are in various police forces across the country. Without exception, they are all frustrated with their working conditions and are often afraid.

I don't mean that they don't have the courage or conviction to perform the most dangerous portions of their jobs.

They do fear for their lives and careers because, in dangerous situations, police are forced to consider not only if their actions are right or wrong, but also if they will be perceived by the Ivory Tower bureaucrats as being socially proper (whatever that means).

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



Situations escalate quickly in the streets and alleys where criminals ply their trade. Thorough training can help an officer react properly, but let's remember that police are *people*, not automatons.

Each and every situation they face presents a new set of problems, which they are expected to react to in an instant. The strongest human emotion is self-preservation. We expect police to stifle this most basic instinct and maintain control no matter what the personal danger. Cops accept this as part of the job.

Let's be realistic though. It's one thing to expect the police to serve and protect; it's something else to expect them to become targets and martyrs to some bubble-brained trendy policy.

Some may say I'm advocating a police state and would give police unfettered powers. Well, the first person to say that our police need rules and regulations would be Bill McCormack; there are few people police despise more than one of their own, who would abuse their authority and bring disgrace to the force.

None of the officers I know want or need to be running around kicking in doors and harassing the average citizen. There are lots of crooks to keep cops busy.

They would like to see some consistent application of justice. Time and time again however, they see the criminal being treated with more compassion and concern than the victim by our "justice system."

They arrest some pimp or pusher and "the court" acts as if the police had interrupted this fine individual on their way to choir practice.

Wasn't the original intent of a "justice system" to protect the innocent and punish the guilty? I always thought that judges were expected to interpret the laws, to provide the human equation to

impersonal legislation. Now it seems as if the courts have been transformed into a perverted game of semantics, where the words are more important than the intent of the law.

This is not a recent development, but it is a trend that seems to be taking precedence. Dickens wrote "The law is an ass." Perhaps it's time society delivered a long-deserved enema. The continuing saga of the Bernardo case underscores the need for action.

So what could we expect Chief McCormack to do about the mess we find ourselves in? And why is his staying-on so important?

Well, how will we be able to attract excellent people to our police forces in the future if all they can look forward to is continuing suspicion and disparagement. Do we want someone like Susan Eng setting the tone for policing policy and hiring practices in the future?

What will happen to the Metro force that McCormack personifies if the new chief doesn't have confidence in the ranks? The facts are that although the Chief has every right to go, it's just not the right time.

Someone has to stop the erosion of our system and I think McCormack is the one to do it.

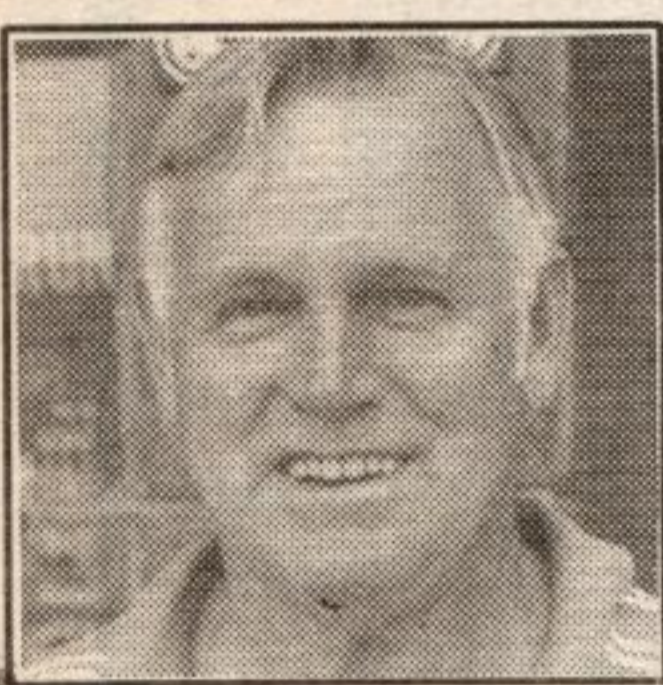
Why should we in Acton care about who is chief of police in Toronto? Because two of the first officers on the scene, when Constable Todd Baylis was murdered in June, were children of this town. We watched them grow up and we should care who is going to be ordering them into harm's way.

We need to know that their welfare, and the welfare of all our police, is uppermost in the minds of police commanders. Police chiefs must be servants of the law and the people, not merely ushers for some venture in social engineering.

Some say policing needs radical change. Franklin Roosevelt observed that "a radical is a man with both feet planted firmly in the air." We need, as police chief, a person who understands that the words "duty" and "honour" are not abstract concepts. We need Bill McCormack.

HEY!

Will you miss the World Series?



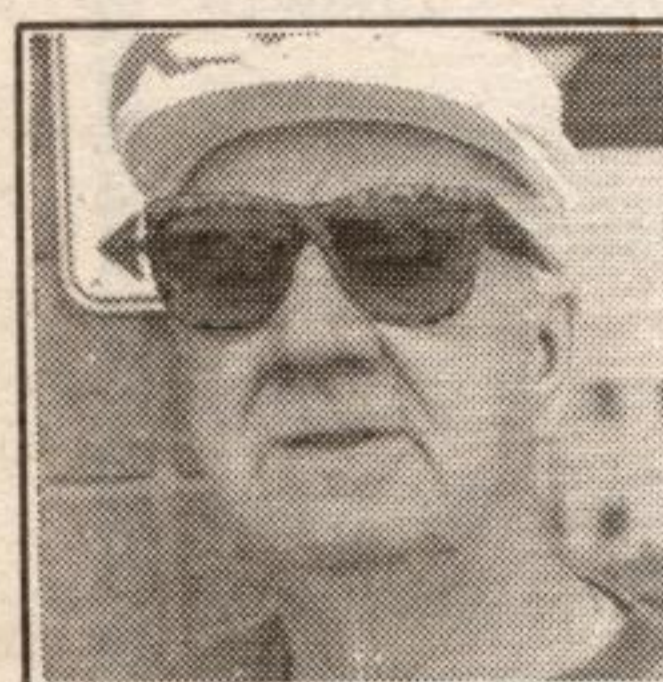
"I'll miss it. It's the first chance Montreal and Cleveland have had to win in a while and they're getting robbed. Hockey's potential lockout is also scary. I hope that doesn't happen!"

Ivor Trowbridge, Frederick Street



"I am. I enjoyed watching it. The Blue Jays might have smartened-up at the end and won it. They've done it before. Some players are getting far too much money and some for having just one good year."

Norma Titus, Victoria Avenue



"I sure will. I'm an Expos fan and we had a good chance to win it. No man is worth \$3-million. It's terrible. Now they're talking about a lockout in hockey. It's scary. I don't think they'll settle baseball before spring training."

Larry Taillefer, Crewson's Corners



"For sure. I feel sorry for Cleveland and Montreal. The strike doesn't bother me a lot, because I'm not a big fan until the playoffs.

I miss seeing the good ball, but there's not much you can do."

Diana Wilson, Cobblehill Road