

GRAPE VINE

Back-and-forth business moves along Mill Street

The face of downtown Acton — at least on the south side of Mill Street — is changing a bit.

As we reported a few weeks back, Sandra Deforest has moved her Driver and Vehicle Licensing Office up the street, to 18 Mill St. E. Now we hear that Bea Dubil's 3-B Bookkeeping is moving down the street to the old Driver office.

The small 16 Mill St. E. office occupied by 3-B won't be vacant long, though: longtime Acton business owner Roberta Holmes (formerly of Robin's Nest) soon will be starting up a clothing alteration and repair shop there.

Santa's on his way

Organizer Bill Spielvogel dropped by the *Tanner* offices last week to remind us that the Santa Claus Parade is just over a month away!

Once again the Acton Fire Fighters will run the parade, slated for 1 pm on Saturday, Nov. 19.

"To make this event a success, we need the help of all citizens," urges Bill. "We need groups to participate by entering a float."

The top float wins \$100, and \$50 each goes to the best school, service club and "open" floats.

Smile does Slap!

Toronto's Smile Theatre troupe, a huge hit when they came to town last year, will be back this month.

In the first of three upcoming Acton productions, the group will stage the Elizabeth Arden make-up musical *Slap!* on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at the Acton High cafeterium. Show time is 7:30 pm.

Tickets are only \$6 (or \$15 for a three-show package) and are available by calling Acton Support Services at 853-3310.

Election update

It's a small field in both the Regional and Area Councillor election races here in Acton.

Only incumbent Rick Bonnette and lone challenger Jean Hilborn have registered to run for the Regional seat in the Nov. 14 municipal election. In the Ward 1 Area Councillor contest, current reps Norm Elliott and Gerald Rennie are being challenged by just one candidate — Rebecca Drotos.

If things don't change before the registration deadline of 5 pm next Friday, Dobbie Frizzell (Hydro) and Dave Whiting (public school board) will both be acclaimed. Same goes for Separate School rep Irene McCauley.

So if you've ever thought about running for local government, call the Town offices at 873-2600 and tell them you want to kick off your political career!

Acton Fair helps out

The Erin Fair is coming up this weekend and the Acton Fall Fair is helping out in a big way.

Early this year a fire destroyed the main storage building, and all its contents, at the Erin fairgrounds. However, the Acton Agricultural Society came through with a tractor trailer-load of display cases and quilt racks, to be used to house homecrafts at the Erin exhibition.

We can't give their heads a shake

... because their brains might fall out!

Recent events leave us wondering if Monty Python is really in charge here. Consider this ...

Last week the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that extreme drunkenness can be a defense against rape.

How can the highest court in this land be so warped, so out of touch with reality? Violence against women and children is the scourge of our society. We don't need the highest court in the land providing any latitude for these despicable assaults.

You can't drive a car drunk, but you can go out and rape someone. Talk about having your priorities screwed up.

Parliament had better enact legislation quickly to overturn this obscene decision. Every person in this country should be outraged and I'll bet most are.

Politically correct newspeak has struck the Halton Police. They're closing the Georgetown station at midnight, except on weekends when it is open until 2 am. Is this a police station or a pizza joint?

We're supposed to be satisfied with a telephone hook-up to Oakville. So what happens? Do we call 967-eleven-eleven and a friendly operator will promise to have an officer there in 30 minutes or you get your crime back?

The police say the station isn't closed but only has *new hours*. Hope someone remembers to tell the crooks.

On the home front the news is even worse. The police office in Acton is due to close down at the end of this month. Police brass, you see, want one of our landlords to donate space for an office. The rationale is that since Burlington, Oakville and Georgetown have donated space, they can't afford to pay for Acton either.

It seems that none of the "space-cadets" from headquarters can see that the situation here is different: We have no large real estate corporations in town who can write off such a donation.

We need a continued police presence on our streets. Are we supposed to go back to the situation of 10 years ago, when it was uncomfortable to walk downtown? Local businesses, through the BIA, should be howling.

This is supposed to be a cost saving measure. The office rents for a little over \$4,000 per year. The phone and incidental expenses probably run the total up to \$5,500 or \$6,000 per year.

Now, how long will it take to spend that much if every time an officer wants to talk someone he/she has to transport them to Georgetown?

What about people who drop into the office to discuss concerns. Are they supposed to flag down the police like a cab? It costs less than a buck a head for our police station. In this election year, I'll be looking forward to asking the candidates their opinions. Anyone who doesn't figure that a high profile police presence is worth one dollar per person will have a hard time attracting my support.

The decision to close the Acton

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



police office will *not* be cost effective, is a step backwards, and should be reversed.

Last week, MP Julian Reed wrote that he's encouraged by Sergio Marchi's handling of the immigration department. Pardon? Perhaps Julian was out of Ottawa while other Liberal MPs were expressing somewhat different opinions about the Minister.

In all fairness, Marchi can't be held responsible for the whole mess at immigration. The rot was firmly entrenched when he took the reins. The Liberals have not, however, changed the direction. If anything, they have encouraged the continuing deterioration of the immigration process.

All the changes MP Reed wrote about give the impression of tightening up the system. In the front lines though, officers are directed not to ask the tough questions and keep acceptance levels high. The department needs a complete overhaul, not a minor tune-up.

I'm getting tired of politicians reminding us we're all immigrants or descendants of immigrants. What's that got to do with the current mess?

Canadians aren't against immigration. We are fed up with people who come to this country, abuse our generosity, break our laws, and cause havoc. If appointed or elected officials can't tell the difference between these types and bona fide immigrants, then they should stand down and let someone competent take over.

Gaining admission to this country is a privilege, not a right.

While we're still waiting for the proposed changes to our social programs, Justice Minister Rock

announced that the Young Offenders Act is here to stay as long as he is Minister.

He is also determined to include "sexual orientation" in the Human Rights Act. When Liberal MP Roseanne Skoke objected, she was told to "get in line" — despite the fact that in a CFRB radio "People Poll," 88 per cent agreed with Skoke. So who's out of line?

Rock says that such changes were stated in the famous "Red Book." Give me a break. The Liberals are in power because Canadians wanted to get rid of the Conservatives, who were ignoring the people. The "Red Book" mattered little to most voters.

A few weeks ago a woman stopped me on the street and asked me to stop being so critical of 'ol Noel. I wish I could accommodate her, but the NDP keeps lurching from disaster to catastrophe.

The latest is the revelation that the anti-racism secretary was secretly funding groups opposed to the musical *Show Boat*. This was done behind Rae's back, so he says. This is but another example of NDP fiscal mis-management.

Citizenship Minister Ziemba is off to Poland, and perhaps the Ukraine, on a "trade mission." She has nothing to do with trade but will have a nice 11-day trip at our expense. Noel never comments on major screw-ups like this. He's as loyal as old Yeller to the party. By saying nothing he condones such actions.

Politics have changed. People are no longer content to have representatives preach the party line. Those who fail to recognize this are doomed to defeat. We expect politicians to *represent us* — not the other way around. Politicians will continue to be viewed with mistrust until they react to the new reality and listen to us more than once every five years.

I'm sorry madam, but this country is precious to me, so I shall continue to cry "rubbish" whenever rubbish is served!

HEY!

Some analysts say the recession is over. Have you noticed?



"No. I've been out of work for two years and I'm still looking. I've seen more jobs in the paper lately, but there are so many people applying. Fewer people are collecting unemployment insurance, but a lot can't collect anymore, because it's run out."

Debbie McIntyre, Eden Mills

"Many places — factories — seem to be busy, but some aren't. I think people are starting to spend more. In Rockwood, there are some houses being built and some here around Churchill Road."

Chris Des Roches, Rockwood

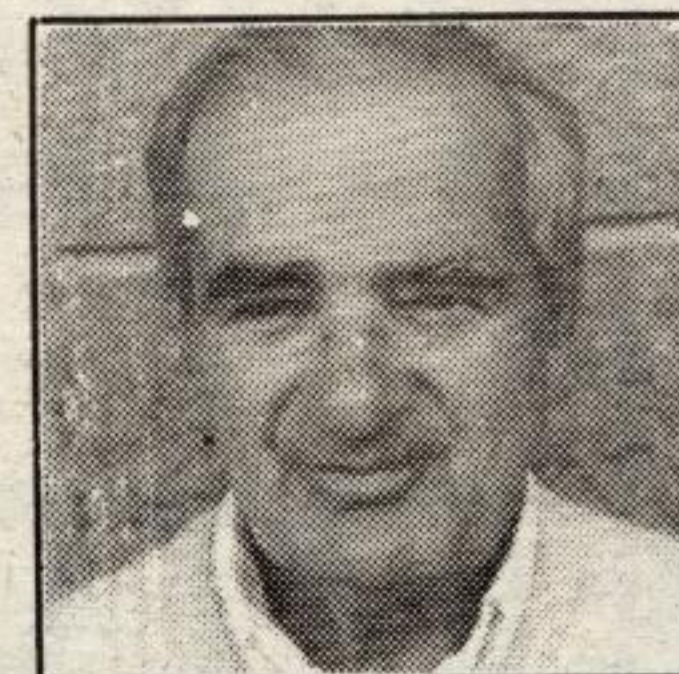


"I haven't really. It's still tough. I don't know if people are spending more, but it's a necessity to spend in order to survive. Acton needs to grow. Georgetown and Milton are growing but Acton can't keep up."

Bea Strickland, Ransom Street

"As a pensioner I haven't. I guess the recession is over — at least it is for hockey and baseball players. I think some more opportunities have opened up for people."

Jim McKeon, R.R. 2, Acton



YUMMY! Young Laura Dawkins, 4, puts the finishing touches on a hot dog during St. Joseph's school's annual back-to-school barbecue on Thursday afternoon. (Doug Harrison photo)