

GRAPE VINE

BIA Open House today
Downtown business people and Acton citizens are invited to drop in to an Open House presented by the BIA today (Wednesday) in the old Flight Line building on Mill Street.

Urban designer Juris Berzins will be displaying his proposal for new "greenery nodes" proposed for construction along Mill Street. The trees and shrubs are another phase in the BIA's facade improvements to downtown.

Consultant Berzins has been working closely with the BIA to ensure the placement of these nodes will not conflict with pedestrian traffic, parking or traffic flow.

The Open House is scheduled to run from 11 am to 6 pm.

Provincial money for bus

The Town will be receiving \$68,483 in provincial funding toward the purchase of a small bus for disabled residents, announced MPP Noel Duignan on Friday.

Duignan also reported that Milton will be getting \$195,942.

"For many people in Halton public transit is their only form of transportation," explained Duignan. "We need to do more than maintain our public transit service, we need to improve it."

The province's total allocation for public transit this year is \$512 million.

Line dancers lining up

Due to popular demand, the Town's Rec and Parks Department is offering a second fall line dancing program beginning tonight (Wednesday) at Acton High. This program runs for seven weeks from 8:30 to 10 pm; cost is \$37.70.

For info call 873-2600, ext. 275.

Tree-mendous idea

Ontario is becoming noticeably greener due to IGA's ongoing Hometown Trees program. On Saturday, thousands of volunteers, local dignitaries, IGA owners, managers and staff will join together in communities across the province for the second annual Hometown Trees Day, where 20,000 trees will be planted in one single day.

The Acton IGA, along with the local Boy Scouts and at least one minor ball club, will be meeting at 11 am to plant 100 trees first at Fairview Cemetery, and then at the Blue Springs Boy Scout Camp.

It's all part of IGA's worldwide program to plant 100 million trees by the year 2000.

And in case you're wondering, they'll be planting three-foot White Ash trees.

Bookmark contest

Calling all young artists: Next Tuesday at 5 pm is the deadline for entries in the Public Library's seventh annual Bookmark Contest.

Twelve winners will be chosen from among all entries, and these bookmarks will be printed and distributed each month during 1995.

Winners will be honoured at a bookmark party slated for Nov. 8; special guest will be children's book illustrator Karen Reczuch.

For more info call the Acton Library at 853-0301.

Howdy pard, welcome to Dodge

With all the shoot-outs last week, you could be excused for thinking you had stepped into a time warp, transported back to the wild west.

Last week, three were shot in a Toronto Club, two teachers in a school and five in Port Perry. One young man is dead. The rest of the victims are recovering, although some will still require further surgery. All will probably need months, if not years, of therapy.

Keep in mind that these were only the widely reported shootings in our corner of Ontario. Throughout the rest of the Province and country, many other gun crimes undoubtedly occurred.

The experts will tell you that our streets are safe and that violent crimes have not escalated. They will show you charts and graphs that prove we live in a safe society. They will tell you that some escalation in crime is to be expected as our population increases. Their "Mug's Game" is that the number of crimes isn't important but only the number of crimes per thousand of population.

I can remember a time, not so long ago, when a shooting incident was rare. Now they're almost a daily event. Most certainly, gun calls are a daily event in Toronto. If you want the truth, don't ask one of our social scientists, ask a cop.

I have not given up hope that we can return to some sanity on our streets. We have to realize that the policies of the last 20 or 30 years, with respect to crime and criminals, has been a failure. Our politicians have to enact legislation that is a meaningful deterrent to crime.

I don't understand why our "leaders" at both Provincial and Federal levels, are having such a problem with getting tough on criminals. It seems to me the problem has been probed, studied, examined, task-forced and fricasseed to death.

The Provincial government enacted legislation that makes it more difficult to buy ammunition. Oh good, I feel better knowing that as soon as the bad guys run out of bullets, the shooting will stop.

The only people penalized by this law are retailers and those who acquire ammunition legally. It's already illegal to carry a handgun. Would someone like to explain why our legislators think that having to show I.D. for ammo would deter the lawless?

Why don't they enact legislation saying that anyone caught with an illegal weapon will be cut out of all government programs? I mean everything: Medicare, housing, unemployment, welfare — the works. Oh no!, they exclaim, that would force these people into a life of crime. Duuunh! They're already out there with illegal guns. They're already criminals.

The Provincial government's commitment to law enforcement is demonstrated by the appointment of Arnold Minors to the Metro Police Services Board. Mr. Minors has been, shall we say, controversial. The events of last week astounded even me, and I'm always cynical about NDP appointees.

A young man was killed last

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



week, in an after hours club and two others seriously injured. There were many other patrons, mostly black, who were at the club. The police expressed some frustration that no witnesses had come forward.

In a Toronto Star interview, Minors is quoted as saying he believed the police's failure to find witnesses is the result of "a long, long thousand-year history of people not speaking to occupying armies." This guy is supposed to be managing the police and he sees them as an "occupying arm?"

It would be funny if it wasn't so outrageous and tragic. Minors gets \$8,800 to sit on the board, plus expenses of course.

To compound the insult to us, the NDP is paying Minors \$108,500 to conduct anti-racism seminars for crown attorneys. He is giving 16, two-day seminars. That's approximately \$3,400 per day or \$425 per hour (based on an eight hour day).

On top of his pay, the crown attorneys are obviously being paid and they have airfare, hotels, meals, etc. You also have to pay \$400-\$500 per day for replacement Crowns for the ones who are here to listen to Minors. But, what the hell, eh? Racism sure pays well.

Minors is already under investigation for reportedly telling some Crowns that, although tragic, the holocaust was not "a racist act." That ticked off Chairman Bob since his wife is Jewish. As of this writing though, Minors is still working for you and me, spreading his venom.

The Federal response to last week's

shootings is equally perplexing. P.M. Chretien and "Justice" Minister Rock are pushing through gun registration. Maybe I'm missing something, but I don't see what difference that will make.

If legal weapons are stolen, police are given the serial numbers. Will having these guns licensed scare the thieves off? It just doesn't make any sense. I don't think anyone has a "right" to own a gun, but I see this registration plan as just another tax.

Meanwhile, Rock, Almand and Grey can carry on being sympathetic to criminals. Don't forget, it was only two months ago that the head of Corrections Canada said that jail time was "a waste of a person's life."

One of the men arrested for shooting five people in Port Perry was out on "mandatory supervision." He should have been in jail until 1999. This guy has 150 criminal convictions and has broken out of jail six times. He wrote a book, in which he described his fondness for shotguns loaded with buckshot and rifled slugs for "massive destructive potential." Why was he out five years early?

Julian Reed, has already distanced himself from some of Almand's stupid policies. I hope he will tell us exactly where he stands on this gun registration business. If there are good reasons, I'd support it. If it's just another smoke screen and nothing is to be done to improve our timid justice system, we should all oppose it.

I'm sick of listening to social engineers. Let's listen to the cops and get some laws that protect the innocent and punish the guilty:

Carry an illegal gun and you get five years in jail. Carry one in a robbery, 10 years. Shoot it, 20 years. No parole. And these sentences should run consecutively. Let's get real tough on criminal gun use and leave the legal user alone.

Given the choice, I'd pay for more prisons and fewer cemeteries.

HEY!

Are you willing to withstand cutbacks and closed loopholes to control the federal deficit?



"If it's going to help — and I hope it does. I know a lot of people who abuse the system. Finance Minister Paul Martin has to hit people where it counts, because he doesn't have much choice."

Janette Hopcraft, Young Street

"Sure. Something has to do the job (cut the deficit). I think that some people abuse the system — just sit around doing nothing. It's ridiculous what they get."

Mike Dawkins, R.R. 1, Acton



"No. True, we do need to cut back on social services, but there are too many people who need it. I don't agree on taxing RRSPs, because it's unfair to people who are soon retiring."

Audrey Youmans, Churchill Road

"I'm not for it, at least not massive cutbacks. I think dual-income families should be taxed more than the unemployed, because they can afford it. The sooner we pay off the deficit, even if it hurts us, that's the way to go, but we shouldn't take from the poor."

Gary Walker, R.R. 4, Rockwood



CONGRATS, CHRIS! Acton High Grade 9 student Chris Kilmer showed off his Top Student award with principal Joyce Buchanan at the school's recent Honours Awards night. Kilmer also copped English, Phys-Ed and Science awards. (Doug Harrison photo)