

# GRAPE VINE

## Royal draw winner

While a number of area residents competed in the recent Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, Limehouse's Robert Adams came home with the biggest prize. And he didn't even have to get his hands dirty.

Adams, who visited the event as a spectator, won second prize in the Royal Winter Fair Lottery. Now he and his wife are off to Great Britain, courtesy of British Airways. The expenses-paid one-week trip includes first-class airfare, deluxe accommodations, theatre tickets and meals. Total value: \$7,800.

Adams, who has never been to Britain, says he's looking forward to the trip. But he didn't enter the draw because he was feeling lucky. "I hadn't been to the Royal for years, so when friends invited my wife and I to the horse show, I jumped at the chance. Well, I enjoyed the show very much, and as we were leaving I told my wife that we should buy a ticket to show support for the fair."

The self-employed Sixth Line resident will be travelling to Britain with his wife sometime between Dec. 1 and March 30.

## Pharmacy changes

Acton Pharmacy and Glenlea Drug Mart have joined a new merchandising group — and the switch should mean for savings for local shoppers.

"The faces are the same, the mode of operation is the same, but there will be more monthly specials now, offering lower prices to Acton residents," explained Acton Pharmacy's Bill Yundt on Friday. The new group is "Rx Central."

Yundt, who came to Acton 28 years ago "for a four-year stay and never left," was one of the first area Guardian Drugs stores, but he says that now "we'll be more competitive because of the move."

## Calling Miss Actons!

Organizers of the Acton Ambassador Pageant are asking for help from readers as they attempt to complete their records of all past "Miss Acton" winners.

"Whether they are former Miss Actons themselves or if they can help us with information about the whereabouts of former winners, we want to hear from people," explained pageant organizer Linda Robson on Monday.

Call Linda at 853-1591 if you can assist.

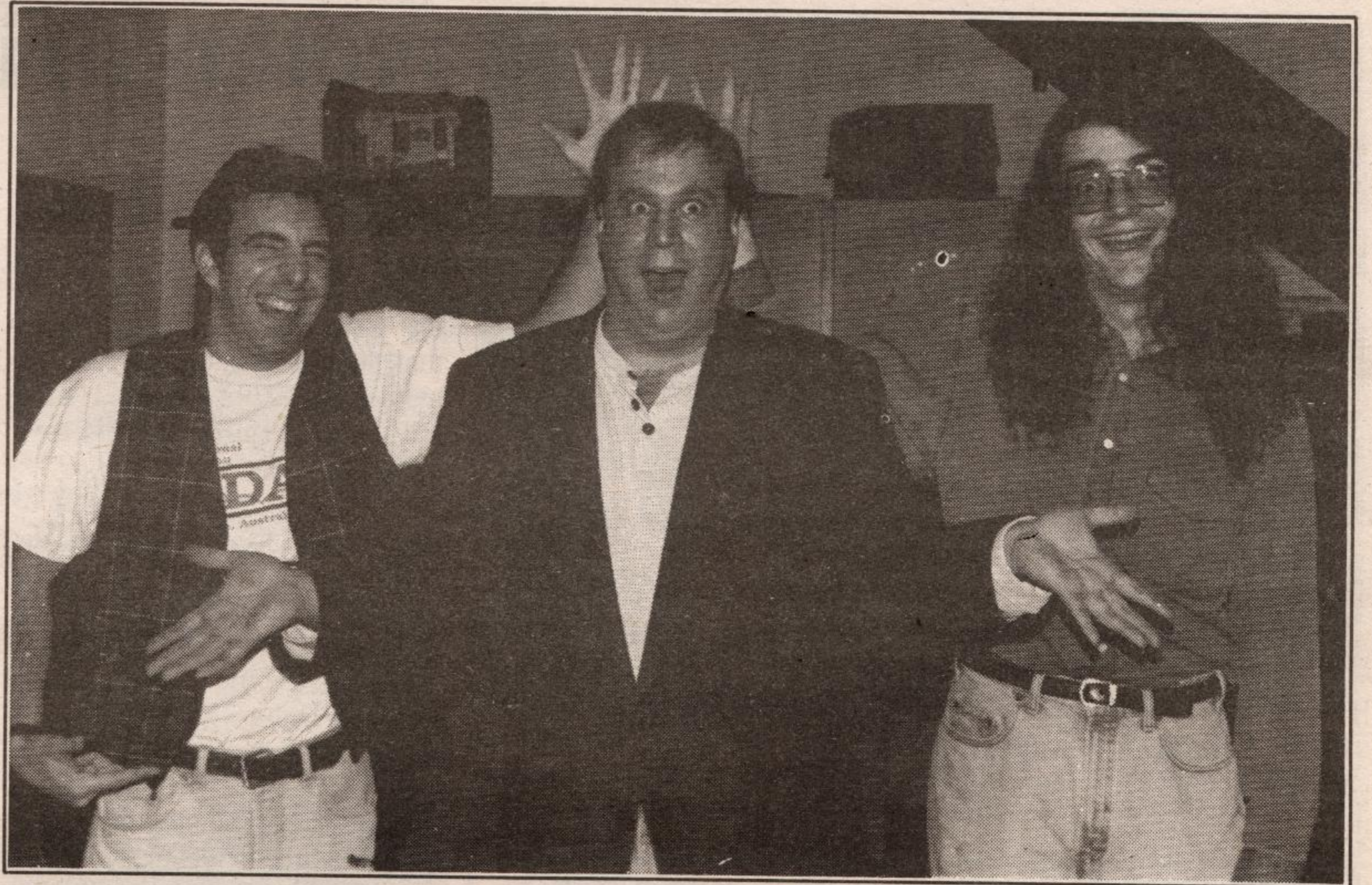
Linda also admitted that the name switch to the "Acton Ambassador" pageant was largely unpopular. Bad reviews won't mean an immediate return to the "Miss Acton" title, but organizers will assess reaction in '95.

## Fund raising kudos

Kudos to local schools for some noteworthy fund raising efforts.

Robert Little school has come up with a \$692 tally for their work on behalf of Unicef this Halloween. Last year's total was \$500.

Also, Mrs. Bannerman's class at M.Z. Bennett recently raised \$64 for the United Way. The class held a Subway "Sub Day" to raise the cash. Way to go, guys!



## WILD 'N CRAZY!

From left, wacky Yuk Yuk's comedy troika of Johnny Gardhouse, Lawrence Morgenstern and Billy Cowen had an Acton High audience in stitches with a Friday night show. (Doug Harrison photo)

# Students should protest fees

Things got a bit crowded on Parliament Hill last week. Over 12,000 university students gathered to protest Lloyd Axworthy's plan to raise tuition fees. Axworthy tried to weasel out of the situation by saying that the kids' information was based on a false premise. He assured one and all that his "restructuring" was not a cost-cutting exercise.

In the end, he conceded that tuition fees could jump by as much as \$2,000 per year. The average tuition is currently \$2,562 per year.

His worst-case scenario would be a 78% increase and from there it would compound. Some are projecting that tuition could go to \$8,000 per year by 1999. Room and board, books, trips home and a modest entertainment budget would put the cost at over \$20,000 per year for students who go away to school. For the average Canadian family, the university experience would be unattainable.

It's probably a worthwhile exercise for kids to go through. They have to learn the prime directive of Canadian life sooner or later. That is, of course, the harder you work and the more you achieve, the less you can expect to keep.

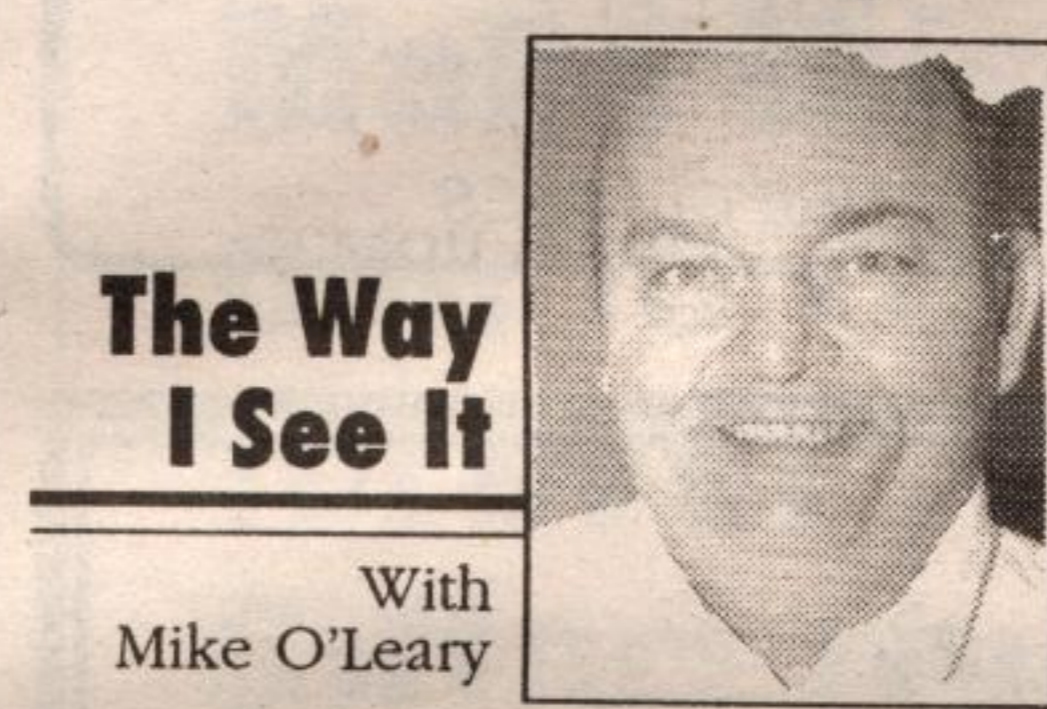
This latest attack on the middle class should come as no surprise. Across the country, taxpayers are generally fed up. Even the NDP are preaching "no new taxes" in the People's Republic of Ontario.

Instead of looking to government waste and unproductive programs for savings, Lloyd has spied the one thing the middle class still has — the future of our children.

What better way to ensure the passive acceptance of the predetermined role for the next generation of taxpayers than to load them down with debt? They'll be so busy trying to get out of the hole, they won't have the time to be critical of the government.

I couldn't believe the reaction from print and electronic journalists to the students' protest. Many took the view that students should stop whining about fees and be grateful for their opportunity.

In Ottawa, Lowell Green, a talk show host, continually played the



## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary

sounds of a baby crying while suggesting that students are lazy and should get a job after school hours to pay the increased tuition.

In *The Globe*, Jeffrey Simpson wrote "Some Facts Please" and went on to compare Canadian tuitions to those in the U.S. He claims that our kids have it a lot easier than those in the States when it comes to university fees.

I should have expected this reaction given the ultra-left, pro-socialist bent of most Canadian news organizations. They can't stand idly by and let the future taxpayers stand up for themselves. Why, if this kept up, students might actually refuse to let the government strip-mine their future paycheques to pay for more prissytwit social programs.

These are the achievers, the ambitious, that the government is going after. Any parent with a child in university knows, only too well, the amount of work and stress that these kids go through, just to get accepted by a university. The competition is stiff.

Most students, mine included, work damn hard at summer jobs. Our kids are up and out by 5:30 am every morning. They started to save for university when they were in Grade 10.

For Lowell Green or anyone else to label them as lazy or unmotivated is completely unacceptable and a bloody lie.

Mary and I discourage the girls from taking a job during the school year. We want their focus to be on schoolwork, and yes, we encourage them to fully enjoy the university experience.

I grant you that Years 1 and 2 give the kids ample opportunity to socialize and sample different beers. So what? What's wrong with enjoying the first taste of freedom from Mom and Dad? By

third year, the party animals have pretty much fallen by the wayside and the serious work takes over. From then to graduation, it is hard, hard work. Then they get to try and find a job in this economy.

I've got some facts for Mr. Simpson. We could pay more tuition if the top marginal tax rate in Ontario was lower than 53.19%. In fact, Jeff-baby, taxation as a percentage of the GDP is over 25% higher in Canada than in the U.S. (38% vs. 30.5%).

The U.S. doesn't have a GST, gas is \$1 a gallon. You do know, don't you Jeffrey, that most of the cost of our gas is tax. Let me write off the interest on my house, don't tax my company car and maybe it would free up more money for tuition. If we're going to discuss facts, let's look at all of them. You can't tax the hell out of me and then tell me I'm not paying my way. You can't have it both ways, and that's a fact.

Want to save some big bucks? How about looking at \$20,000 lifetime pensions for MPs who spend only six years on the job. Do you think university cafeterias have the same food as the Parliamentary restaurant, where gross sales don't cover labour costs? How much will the inquiry cost to save Sergio Marchi's butt?

Recently, the feds spent \$16 million shipping grain from Winnipeg to Thunder Bay and back to Winnipeg before sending it to the U.S. How about looking at JobsOntario, with its \$69 million (20%) administrative cost? Why did JobsOntario advance \$32 million to one broker? And how many millions have gone to saving inept Ontario cabinet ministers?

In the midst of all this waste and inefficiency, Lloyd Axworthy has the gall to take aim at students who are trying to improve themselves.

I thought the demonstration was great and I encourage the kids to keep up the pressure. Don't let these guys push you around. If Axworthy doesn't back off, bring in the big guns — call your Mom and set her on him. That ought to fix his little red wagon — and the little red book in it too.

# HEY!

Your reaction to the election of new mayor Marilyn Serjeantson?



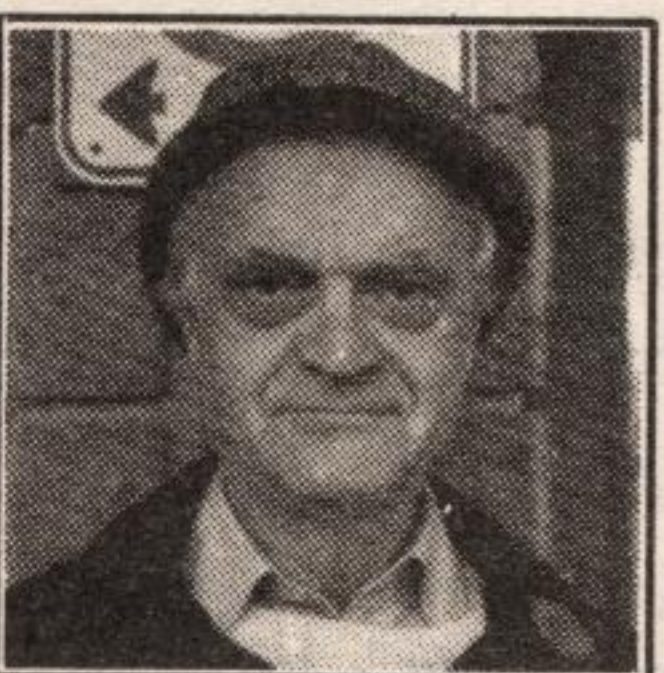
"She's the person I saw most. She came to my house once and I saw her in the park. It showed she was on the beat and interested in our community. I hope she brings us the new arena and development."

Janet Cullen, Berry Street



"She's been in the public eye for a lot of years and hopefully she'll be good for Acton. I would like to see equity with Georgetown and an arena real quick. She seems very fair and level-headed."

Mary Anne McGrath, Mill Street



"I think she'll be all right. As long as she keeps the Acton Citizens' Band going! She has 17 years experience on council and is approachable. I would like to see her get the arena and subdivisions started in Acton."

George Elliott, Bower Avenue



"I think she's a people-person, which is important because there are many politicians who don't relate to the average person. I think she should get industry to Acton rather than solely concentrating on development."

Carol Johnson, Elgin Street