

# GRAPE VINE

## Crank calls

Village Constable Bill Riddle is asking Acton residents to watch out for suspicious telephone callers.

"Phone calls are being made to local residents by a man who says he represents Acton FoodShare," reports Bill. "Apparently this person is soliciting funds, but the food bank does not solicit funds in this way and the person making the calls definitely does not represent FoodShare."

If you get a call from this character, let our village constable know about it. You can reach Bill at 853-2050.

## Canvassers needed

Do you have three or four hours to donate to a good cause?

The Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society is preparing for its annual April daffodil campaign, and canvassers are needed for various areas of town.

If you could visit 10 to 15 homes to collect donations please call Liz Bailey at 853-0585.

## Hot! Hot! Hot!

There's still time to enter your chili in the first annual "Great Chili Contest," co-sponsored by The Acton IGA and *The Tanner*—but you'd better hurry!

All entrants will get a \$5 food voucher, plus trophies and prizes

will be awarded to the top finishers in both "mild" and "hot" divisions.

Call the IGA office (853-1960) today to register—and then bring in your chili this Friday night (between 6 and 8) or Saturday morning (8 to 10).

## York House sold

Acton's historic York House has been sold.

Marjorie and Bill Hughes recently purchased the house, which was being used as an office by the Hide House, through a power-of-sale transaction. The new owners take over next Tuesday and hope to open up a new boarding home by March 1.

"We'll be able to accommodate 16 residents—and we're planning an open house so that Acton residents can see what a beautiful house it is," explains Marj, who has lived in Acton with her family for 23 years.

The York Street house was originally owned by the Beardmore tannery; it was once used as a residence for executive guests to the Acton company.

## Co-workers start fund

It was one week ago that long-time Acton resident Ken Hurren lost his home to an early morning blaze—but already Ken's fellow workers at Halton Hills Hydro have set up an account at the Bank of Commerce, to accept donations on his behalf.

Ken and his two sons managed to escape the 6 am blaze, which caused \$200,000 damage to their Third Line home.

Acton residents can also leave donations at the Hydro office.



**DARE!** McKenzie-Smith students read a passage from their Drug Abuse Resistance Education booklets on Thursday under the watchful eye of DARE officer Susan Hatanaka. From left: Caroline Seads, Paul Schiller, James Howden, Ashlyn Timukas and Jeff Ingles. (Doug Harrison photo)

# Pining, timing and rhyming

Wonder how the months acquired their names in years past? Take our shortest month, for instance. Had I been assigning names, the months would go January, Yuck, March, etc. No offense meant to those with February birthdays, especially the two O'Leary girls.

How can so much misery be packed into 28 days? We've had such a good winter and then comes February. Cold? How many brass monkeys have you seen out and about these past two weeks?

Oh well, it's almost over. Isn't it nice to see daylight still around come supper-time? With the longer days, can spring be far behind?

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The Royal Commission on Learning has released its report. The provincial government has gone into a one-a-week announcement on implementation of recommendations made. They have, obviously, identified the education system as a major source of taxpayer frustration.

The weekly dribble of policy changes indicates to me that they're going to make changes to our schools a major plank in the coming election campaign. They're also marking time until the federal budget comes down, to see if there is enough outrage against the federal Liberals to chance a sudden spring election.

More on the Royal Commission on Learning next month.

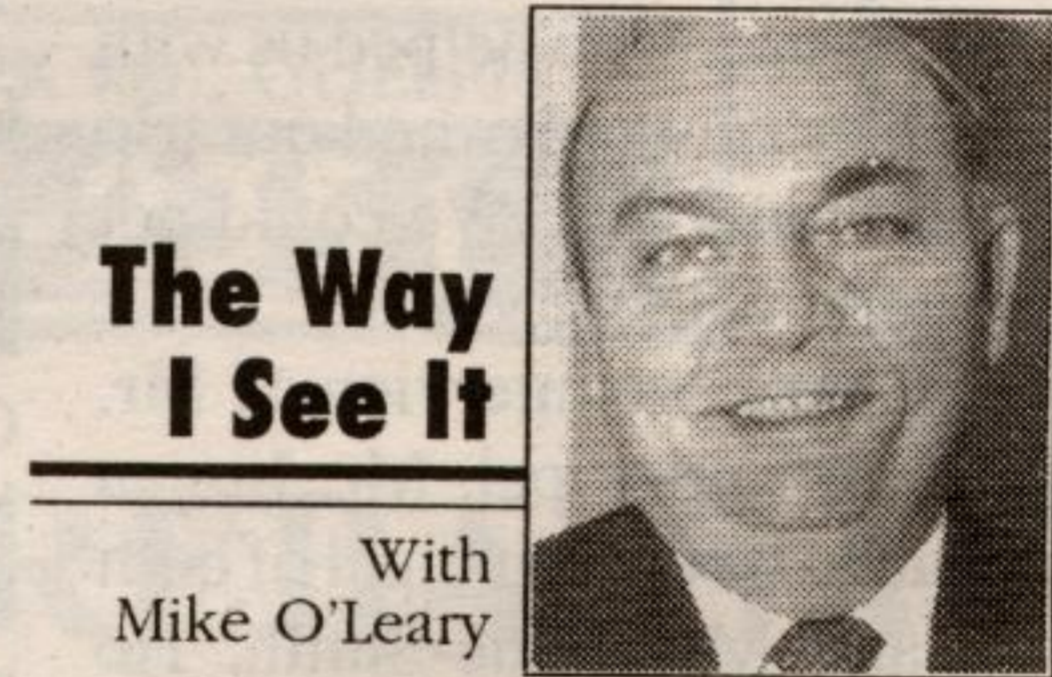
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I watched the CTV interview (*inquisition* would be a better word) with Premier Rae a few weeks ago. Anyone who thought the Premier would be out-gunned seriously underestimates the man.

The make-up of the panel offended my innate Canadian sense of fair play. Rae was questioned by what's-his-name (our ex MP-turned-broadcaster), journalist Diane Francis, and Mike Duffy from CTV, Ottawa. Holy right-wing lynch mob Batman! If CTV wanted to stack the deck, so be it, but I think it was way too blatant.

All things considered, the Premier came out looking pretty cool. The panel grew frustrated as the minutes passed. Try as they might, they just couldn't pin him down.

Bob Rae is an experienced politician. They'd have had more luck



## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary

trying to nail mercury to the floor. They should have known better.

Don't get me wrong, I'm no big fan of Bob Rae. Quel surprise! It just made me angry that a private network like CTV would resort to the stacking-the-deck mentality usually associated with the CBC.

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The provincial NDP election strategy is becoming evident. They know that the upcoming federal budget will be unpopular. Canada's AAA credit rating has been put on "credit watch." Investors are nervous that Paul Martin won't hit his deficit reduction targets. If he cuts services, the howls from special interests, unions and our mostly socialist national media will be deafening. If he raises taxes, the middle-class may revolt. Martin is in a lose-lose situation.

Bob et al, are planning to clobber Liberal leader McLeod with the federal budget. Bob is hoping that he can tar provincial Liberals with a federal brush. Once the Liberals have been tamed, he can beat Mike Harris over the head with the ghost of Muldoon and the GST. Canadians still hate the GST.

Not a bad strategy—it'll be interesting to see how it unfolds.

It says here that if Paul Martin's budget contains any tax increases, we're going to the polls in May. I figure late May, first two weeks of June at the latest. The election must be held, by law, no fewer than 37, or more than 74 days after the writ has been dropped.

One other situation leads me to believe that there will be a May election. It has nothing to do with politics. There is a good chance that the Bernardo trial will start in May. If so, the public's attention will be focused on the details of the trial. Would politics be on the front page? Not bloody likely.

Am I being overly cynical? I don't think so. Don't forget that PM Chretien is telling federal MPs that they have to support gun legislation and putting sexual orien-

tation in the Charter. He was quoted saying that he was trying "to get (his MPs) re-elected."

They still have four years to go. Politics is about getting and *keeping* power. I think that the NDP and all the others will use any event they can, if they perceive it to be a tactical advantage for their re-election plans. Don't you?

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It's fascinating how people differ in opinion on government performance. Do you think the Dr. Seuss book, *Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?* describes how most of us feel about the NDP? While I agree that we're fortunate that the dump was stopped, I'm not convinced we wouldn't have had the same result from an MP of a different persuasion.

Dr. Seuss wrote many books which could apply to this government. Those who lost wages last year through the social contract would probably pick *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* as being more appropriate.

Personally, I could see *If I Ran the Zoo* as describing the Premier's performance. With apologies to Dr. Seuss, my version would go something like this:

*If Bob ran the zoo, what animals you'd see!*

*A wondrous new world, with never a fee.*

*A tax grabbing-Floyd-oppotomus I think;*

*Would be first on the list, a big one, and pink!*

*A trashfumbling, white, sniffle-nosed Grier;*

*Chants, "No dump in the mine, but on farmland it's fine;*

*The logic is somewhere; Mars maybe—not here!*

*A coven of foto-Raedar bats, Who pretend to be friendly, but are known for atax!*

*"Fuzzy is better," cried Bob, "for my zoo;"*

*So he scoured, and he found, a Duignan-ka-loo;*

*Who embraces the creeks, and the fish in there too!*

*The people came by, to gaze at the sights;*

*The 10-footed lion—all lefts and no rights;*

*"It's different," they said, but the one thing they feared,*

*Since Bob ran the zoo, things really got weird.*

# HEY!

*How do you keep in shape?*



"I work at the quarry, and using a hand shovel—you stay in shape easily. I also do roofing, but I don't have time for jogging or other exercise. I'm 52-years-old and in top shape."

**John Beaulieu, Church Street**

"I have two kids, so that says it all. My daughter just turned 1 and she's already on the go. I just moved to town, so I'd like to join a baseball team. I will probably do a lot of walking in the summer."

**Donna Briscoe, Hwy. 25**



"I play hockey at least three times a week, baseball in the summer and walk my two dogs twice a day. You just have to eat right and do enough to compensate for what you eat."

**Raymond Parr, Church Street**

"I go to the Milton Leisure Centre at least twice a week for aerobics and weights. I've been going there for about a month and I'm happy with the exercise I get. I'll probably jog in the summer."

**Donna Matthews, Cook Street**

