

GRAPE VINE

with great ideas and we plan to bring back some of the favourite events from last year."

Tough trivia question

A self-confessed non-hockey fan is the lucky winner of last week's *Tanner Trivia Challenge*.

Pat Lane correctly identified Randy Cunneyworth as captain of the NHL's Ottawa Senators. Randy is a cousin of Al Cunneyworth who operates Al and Al's Meats on Mill Street.

Pat knew the answer because she was in Al and Al's about a year ago with the teenage son of a friend who spotted a photo of Randy and Al on the wall.

"My kids refer to me as a 'fund of U.B.I.' - that's useless bits of information. Well, this time that bit of information did me some good," Pat chortled.

Pat wins a six-month subscription to *The Tanner* and a dozen donuts from Tim Hortons. Pat, who happens to work at Tim Hortons, said she would probably share the donuts with *Tanner* staff. (Future winners take note!)

Pat was one of seven loyal readers who submitted the correct answer. The other sports smarties are: Joel Petkoff, Chris Rogers, Chris Scully, Ryan Seads, Marie Vickery and Pearl Wilson.

But we read it in a book!

Two weeks ago in *Did You Know* we reported that an owl can rotate its head in a complete circle. Not so, reader Liz Lausproer says.

The Acton woman phoned us last week to contend that an owl only turns its head 270°.

Are there any readers out there who really give a hoot? Please call us and settle this debate!

Arena's future debated

Actonites can have their say about the future of the Prospect Park arena at a series of focus group meetings slated for later this month.

The Agricultural Society, along with a University of Guelph professor, four university students and federal agriculture officials, will use the information from the focus groups to determine what the arena might be used for, once the new arena is built in Acton East.

Local sports groups and service clubs will be asked what, if anything, they would like to see done with the old arena.

If you have any suggestions, comments or concerns, please call Janis Fread at 853-0239.

Leathertown Festival

Mark Sunday, Aug. 13 on your calendar. That's the date for this year's Leathertown Festival.

Organizers hope to build on last year's success by closing off Mill Street for the community festival.

A recent appeal for volunteers drew a number of talented people and now organizers are looking for more helpers, more vendors and groups interested in celebrating Acton's heritage.

Festival spokesperson Janis Fread said she is optimistic that this year's event will be a success.

"For a while it looked like the festival might not happen, but now we have a group of volunteers



PROUD NEW OWNERS!

Marjorie and Bill Hughes stand in front of Acton's historic York House, which they purchased in February through a power-of-sale transaction. The husband and wife, who have lived in town for 23 years, plan to open a boarding home in the York Street house. The structure originally was owned by the Beardmore tannery and was used as a residence for executive guests. (Doug Harrison photo)

A democracy or dictatorship?

Funny, I thought we had gotten rid of Brian Mulroney.

Jean Chretien's actions last week were certainly more of the old style politics that Canadians rejected when they dumped the Tories in the last federal election.

Three back-bencher MPs were unceremoniously dumped from their committee posts. Their unforgivable sin was to vote against the government's controversial gun control legislation.

The three MPs, all from rural Ontario, were voting according to their constituents' wishes. Mr. Chretien couldn't have that, so the three were quickly punished.

Other MPs had better take notice that the dictates of the party executive take precedence over the wishes of the people. No wonder the Canadian government has consistently supported Cuba - we both have a dictator in charge, although ours is still a wanna-be.

Our tradition of enforced parliamentary support by back-benchers is a huge weakness when compared to the republican system. The PM and ministers don't have to work for support for legislative agendas. They just order the MPs to hold their noses and vote as directed. How does the caucus chorus go? Baa, baa, baa!

I feel sorry for MP Julian Reed. So far, he has impressed me as a thoughtful MP who is working hard to represent the people in this riding, and give voice to their opinions on the national scene.

He has a few reservations about this legislation and is counting on the committee to amend it. In the end, though, he'll be told to support it.

The gun legislation isn't a money bill whose defeat would cause the government to fall. I could understand such Draconian measures if it was.

No, these members were chastised so Alan Rock wouldn't lose face. I think that's pretty cheesy.

Mulroney did it to some Tories who voted against the GST. Now, Chretien demonstrates the same contempt for the citizens in the

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



ridings represented by those three MPs.

In a speech in Dallas, the PM once blasted Mulroney for, among other things, practicing the politics of sleaze, which undermined confidence in government. He boasted that the Liberals have "worked very hard to restore political integrity in the political process." Really?

When the federal Tories were decimated, I hoped we would begin to see a change in government attitudes, but it seems like the message of the last election was lost on the Liberal hierarchy. Too bad. The people of this country deserve better than more old-style politics.

I'm opposed to the gun laws because I can't see how they are going to solve the problem. Registration by millions of Canadians isn't going to stop one punk from killing another store owner or cop. The opposite may be true.

In a speech in the House on March 27 this year, MP Reed appealed to law abiding opponents to consider that laws "are written to protect the many from the few."

Rock's bill fails this definition. It will not protect us one bit from the lawless. Mr. Reed also points out that owning a firearm is "a privilege and not a right." Fair enough, but that still doesn't justify this legislation. Here are but a few of my concerns - none of them involve rights or privilege.

Who's going to pay for this? Police departments don't have enough money for existing programs. The Town can't afford it. The Province is closing hospital beds. If the fee is high, thousands will defy the law.

That, by the way, is why Rock wants a criminal charge levied against those who don't register. Haven't you noticed that autocrats always attach outrageous penalties to bad legislation? Remember the Tories' threats of huge fines to stamp out the underground economy? That sure worked.

One source told me that the registration fee would only be \$10 or so. "The registration process isn't expensive," they said.

Get real! Government can't send a letter for 10 bucks. This exercise will cost hundreds of millions and add to our massive debt.

What happens to these lists of guns? Wouldn't criminals pay big for such a shopping list? Haven't we seen ultra-confidential health tax and other government records on the streets?

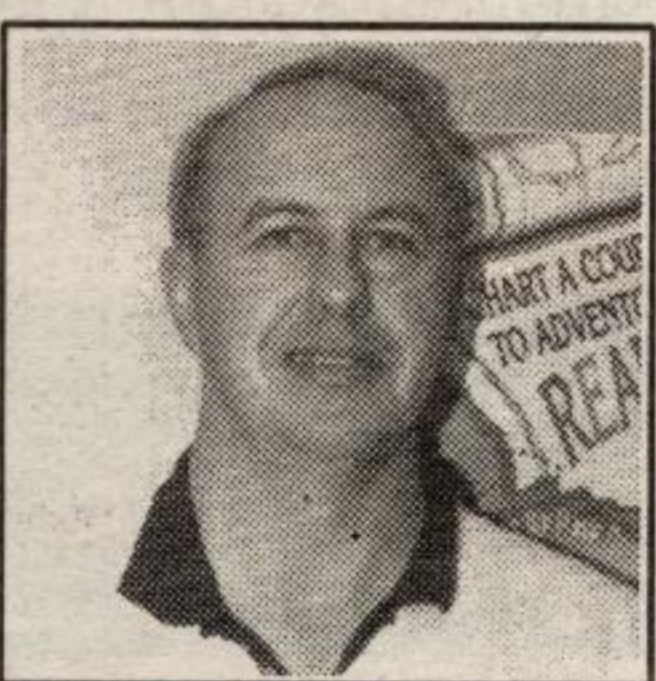
Police say they could use lists to alert their officers when responding to calls. What happens if you move? Who updates the lists and who pays for that? When you buy a house, how do you find out if your new house is listed as having an arsenal? If I have a noisy party, I don't want the cops nervous because a previous tenant had a gun.

If I thought this legislation would stop one murder, one crime, I'd support it. To me, having to notify the police when you move smacks of a police state. But then, you know who likes police states, don't you?

Dictators!

HEY!

Your reaction to MPP Noel Duignan's Halton North Gazette?



"The NDP has done some good things, but they haven't done very much for Acton. Acton is a deserving community. My initial reaction was, 'Who printed it, and how much did it cost?'"

Bob Armstrong, McKenzie-Smith teacher



"I looked at it and wished they (NDP) had spent their money elsewhere, like cutting the provincial deficit."

Deb Mills, Kingham Road



"I would say we, Actonites, are going to have to elect someone other than Noel Duignan. I have a sneaking suspicion that we (the taxpayers) paid for it."

Chris Morin, Kingham Road



"I thought it was original. When you're playing with idiots' money, you can afford to be extravagant. It's an election ploy more than anything."

Graham Blair, Kingham Road

No new taxes makes it 4 in a row

Halton Hills Town Council approved the 1995 operating and capital budgets at their Council meeting on Monday night.

For the fourth straight year, these two budgets, which include gross operating expenditures of almost \$19 million and approximately \$4.5 million in capital expenditures, reflect no tax increase for local ratepayers.