

GRAPE VINE

Hanging out on Mill St.

You may already have noticed, but the BIA's new hangers for the downtown flower baskets were installed on Mill Street Monday.

They were originally due last September, but a redesign by the Town and weak brackets that had to be retrofitted caused the delay.

The 2'x3' hangers are white with a black crescent at the top. Raised black letters spell out *The Town of Acton* to go with a small streetscape silhouetted underneath.

"The bottom line," explained Acton BIA board member Dan Dolliver on Friday, "is we didn't want to put up the hangers unless they were right. The hangers would have loosened and wavered in the wind had we left them in their previous condition."

Schreiber leaving town

It's both scary and exciting for John Schreiber, but he's willing to uproot his family for it.

The 34-year-old Acton Auto Tech mechanic leaves Acton in June after 23 years to help with church planting at a new church being established in Ajax.

It will be Schreiber's job to focus on the community in areas where he feels there is a need. He says the church has already held a parenting class. He will help lead several discussion groups, such as a women's and men's ministry group and bible studies.

"It's difficult because I don't have a job (in Ajax) yet," says the father of four. "But I took two courses at the Ontario Bible College this past winter and I want to further my studies in that area. Down the road it may lead to a full-time job in the ministry."

Schreiber will be reunited with his former pastor at Acton's Christian Reformed Church, Adrian Van Giessen.

Huge garage sale

Hey kids - Barney and Baby Bop are coming to town!

The pair are slated to visit the Acton Parent-Child Resource Centre's giant garage sale at the Band Hall (85 Wallace St.) on May 27.

A Polaroid camera will be there for youngsters to get their picture taken with the duo. As well, there will be face painting, food and bargains galore.

Proceeds from the event - which runs from 8 am to 2 pm - go to the Acton Parent-Child Resource Centre.

Coe to be honoured

Grade 8 St. Joe's student Andrew Coe has been chosen as the school's representative at the Catholic Board's seventh annual Sharing the Spirit awards ceremony May 17 in Milton.

Coe, 13, was nominated by principal Robert Maggio for his "leadership, family commitment, involvement in school affairs, involvement in community activities and commitment to a difficult situation or task."

Maggio describes Coe as "a well-rounded, well-liked, polite and respectful individual who shows all the characteristics of an award recipient."



HOT WHEELS! Ruth Eddolls shows off her vehicle during the North Halton Scouts' fifth annual Soapbox Derby at the United Aggregates quarry on the Fourth Line recently. The 13-year-old Nelson Court resident took first place in the Venturer division. Halton Police volunteers clocked some of the homemade autos travelling as fast as 45 kilometres per hour. (Eve Martin photo)

Blooms, boneheads and bygones

Finally, a few days in a row of warm weather. Gosh, it felt nice to get out of coats and sweaters to enjoy the sunshine. Even the birds sang a little louder. Seems the older I get, the worse the winters are.

Joining the first blooms of spring, election signs were springing up all over. The leaders were off and promising everything but hair growth for the follicularly challenged. (The first to promise that gets my vote).

We'll look at a few local issues next week, but I thought an election primer might be helpful to cut through the campaign bafflelegab.

"We'll cut your taxes." Always popular, it really means "We've found a better way to pick your pockets." See photo *raedar*, parking tickets and \$90 licence plates for details.

"There will be no two-tiered health system in this province." They really mean, "We have no plans to put bunk beds in the hospitals." (All else is up for grabs.)

"We can't afford any more free rides." That is, "unless 50 people march, call us nasty names and we get some bad press." See the federal Liberals' about-face on Harbourfront for details.

"We have to get tough on crime." This is a common theme among politicians today. They mean that they're going to really clamp down on the underground economy and scoop those unpaid tax bills. People who rob and maim will continue to receive free room and board (inside and outside prison), unlimited legal and medical support, and the sympathy and understanding of parole officials.

"We're going to get Ontario working again." This is the old promise to create jobs, jobs, jobs. Unsaid is that these jobs go to friends, campaign staff and supporters. The public's role in this program is to pay, pay, pay!

"We're listening to the people of Ontario." That is, until June 9. After that, "Thanks, but we don't need your input."

"We know exactly how much this will cost." ("And we have no intention of telling you that fig-

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



ure.") If you take their estimate, multiply that amount by today's date and divide by the number of vowels in your first name, you'll be fairly close.

The trick is to not listen to what they say. You have to decode what they mean.

The 'Ol One skipped the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce breakfast last week. "It's not open to the public," he reasoned.

Geez, if our MPP thinks you can get the ears of politicians for 20 bucks (and get brekkie thrown in to boot), he has an even lower opinion of the process than I do.

I figure that with inflation and everything, it must cost at least a grand to buy influence from any decent politician.

During the election, as a public service, I'll identify what I think is the *Bonehead Move of the Week*. For 20 bucks, you get what you pay for. Caveat Emptor! Duignan is our first week's winner. Congratulations(?).

Monday was the 50th anniversary of V.E. Day. It passed quietly here. Why?

Whistles and bells rang out at the end of the war 50 years ago. Acton's cadets happened to be in formation for a routine inspection at the park. They marched downtown, were joined by the band, and a parade broke out. The streets

filled and everyone celebrated the end of the nightmare.

The celebration in Holland this year was colourful, loud and long. The Dutch have never forgotten the role Canadian troops played in liberating them. Canadian flags were everywhere. Our Prime Minister was the only national leader invited to join the celebrations. And many of our vets returned to honour fallen comrades and receive the gratitude of that nation.

I was moved by the children. Every year, Dutch children lay flowers on the graves of our dead. Every Christmas Eve they put candles on the headstones.

The Dutch teach their kids that our soldiers died for the freedoms they enjoy today. They teach the kids, in the schools and at home, that they have an obligation to remember the sacrifice those Canadians (most were kids themselves) made. Do we?

I asked a few kids about V.E. Day - there was no mention of the event in schools last week. Too bad. Had the kids watched the celebrations on TV, they would have been proud of their country.

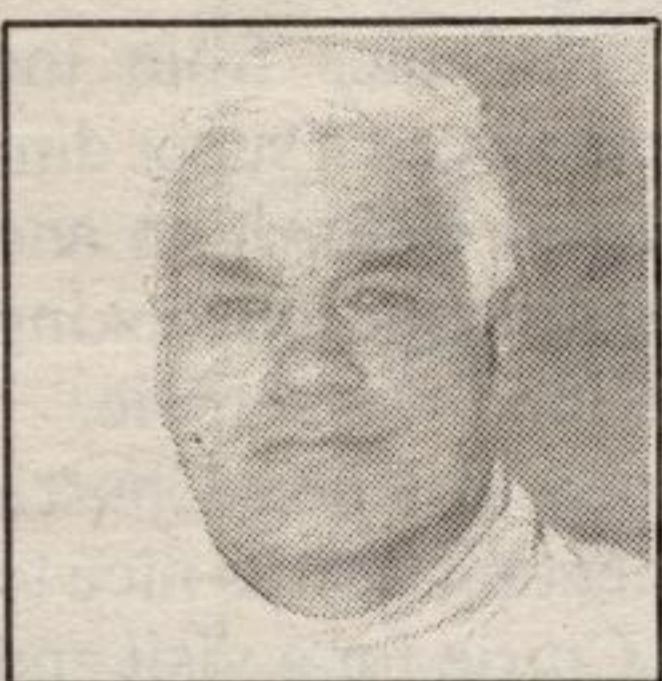
Of course educators have bigger fish to fry. After all, some kids are playing POGS for keepsies while others were copping a smoke in the washroom. There appears to be no penchant to teach about duty, honour and the obligation we have to never forget those who died and to honour those who survived.

Our vets have to go to Holland to get their celebration. Our institutions have no time for hometown heroes. It's disgraceful.

I can't just blame the schools. The governments set the tone. How come, this year, we didn't declare a national holiday? We have something to celebrate - 50 years of freedom!

HEY!

Are you concerned about PCBs being stored at the old tannery and reported vandalism there?



"I thought the PCBs were all gone. If there are any, I'm not concerned, because they would have to be in the transformers. It's such a large place you can't stop vandalism. You can just walk along the creek to get in."
John Mowat, Frederick Street

"Yes I'm concerned. It only takes two minutes for kids to get out of your sight. I don't know why security has left the site, especially if something hazardous is there. If I had a kid who got hurt in there I'd be raising hay."
Frances Morrison, Danville Avenue



"Yes. I used to work there and I've never heard of PCBs there. If that stuff ever leaked it would cause a lot of damage. Once kids find a spot to vandalize and get away with it, they'll come back. A guard should be there at all times."
Carl Cassidy, Church Street

"Yes I am. I'm surprised that with all the environmental controls, this is happening and would be allowed. My first choice is to have the PCBs removed and then a security guard on duty."
Lillian Landsborough, R.R. 2, Acton



Same Time Last Year ...

M.Z. Bennett principal **Lyn Snider** was informed he would be transferred to an Oakville school ... Actonites prepared for our first-ever community **Trunk Sale** ... **Bob and Steve Turkosz** captured the YBC's father-son zone bowling championships.