

GRAPE VINE

Cara is 'poster girl'

Cara McGilloway, a Grade 6 student at St. Joe's, is a recent winner in the Grade 4 to 6 category of the Visions Canada poster contest.

Each year, students from Kindergarten to OAC in both public and Catholic boards are invited to submit projects on Canada to their classroom teacher or principal by mid-May.

Cara submitted a poster titled *My Flag*, which included symbols of Canada such as the beaver and the fleur-de-lis surrounded by various bright colours.

"She put a lot of work into her poster," says Grade 6 teacher Brenda Cosulich. "She researched what the particular symbols mean to our country."

Cara received a 1995 Canadian mint coin package during a ceremony Monday night at the Halton Region Museum.

Truckers warned

Floyd Foster, owner of Acton Auto Tech, is concerned that too many Acton truckers are carrying heavy loads requiring stickers, but don't realize it.

Floyd says any trucker with a load exceeding 4,500 kilograms (10,000 pounds) must have a sticker on their vehicle, or face the possibility of a \$1,000 fine.

"Most of the truckers are not aware of it, so I think it's important to make them aware," says

Floyd, who does safety inspections on trucks.

"Some people with a pick-up and a trailer may not exceed the weight with the pick-up, but do with the trailer attached."

At least ask for I.D.

Beware of brokers who are doubling as friendly gas company reps and offering Actonites super deals.

That's the warning from resident Susanne Keith, who encountered a broker on her doorstep Thursday morning. The rep was offering lower rates than Union Gas and a \$10 rebate if she desired to change her source for fuel.

The only catch was that she had to hand over a copy of her gas bill, which she refused. She offered to hand over her account number, but apparently that wasn't good enough. Becoming suspicious, Susanne kindly declined the offer.

"I have a naturally suspicious nature and thank goodness for that," laughed the Elmore Drive resident on Friday.

"Apparently, even if I gave them my account number, I would have automatically been signed up with the company."

Pigeon troubles?

Rene Short, of Rene's Flowers, has been having problems with pigeons roosting above her store and leaving a mess on the sidewalk.

The solution? She bought a plastic owl and put it under her awning. Since then, no more pigeons.

"I've had it up for three weeks and I guess they've gone somewhere else. I wish I thought of it last year," Rene said on Monday.

"I guess they're as stupid as they look and don't know the owl isn't real," she figured.



CAR WASH! The local branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association held a car wash at Acton Auto Tech on Saturday. Helping out are, from left: Rodney Harkins, Tina Marsh, Barb Marah, Jonathan Butcher, Martine Boutin, Natalie Goldson (Oasis volunteer), Stuart Chisholm and Rhonda Ellard (mental health volunteer). Kneeling is Ryan Carney (Oasis volunteer). (Eve Martin photo)

From the frying pan to the ...

Tomorrow, we all participate, at least we all should, in a privilege that has been characterized as a "democratic leap of faith."

By tomorrow night, around 9:30 pm, we'll know which party has been chosen by the people to herd us through the next few years. Here are a few thoughts on this election eve.

I can't believe the number of people who claim they're not going to bother to vote. They don't believe any politician, or can't make a choice, or haven't bothered to educate themselves on the issues, and so on.

This is the same attitude that foisted the People's Republic of Ontario on us five centuries ago. (At least it feels like it's been 500 years!) Playing ostrich solves nothing and helps no one.

I am reminded of a touching scene on TV during last year's election in South Africa. An elderly black woman had been waiting for hours in the hot sun to cast her vote. As her turn drew near, the tears started rolling down her cheeks and her hands shook. She had lived her whole life under apartheid and she was now going to vote for the first time.

The election result was a foregone conclusion, but this lady was finally going to have her say in who would govern her and her children, and her grandchildren. Try telling her that you can't be bothered to vote.

No matter who gets elected, government can't solve your problems. You can't hire or elect anyone who can or will make your life easier or more fulfilling. We must get away from the idea that government is some kind of Earth Mother. The best we can hope for is that it will create an atmosphere that will allow each and every one of us to succeed through our own efforts. Looking after you is, after all, your responsibility.

I laughed at a news show I saw last week. Mike Duffy, Ottawa reporter for CTV, was explaining that the federal bunch is dumb-founded by the rise of the Tories in Ontario. "How can this be?" they wonder. After all, a recent poll concluded that Jean Chretien is the most popular PM ever.

The answer is that there are fewer Liberals-for-life than ever

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



before. Same with Conservatives or the NDP. The message of the last federal election, and tomorrow's provincial one, is this: *If you want our vote, you have to work for it. Most of us don't vote a steady party line. If we put you into power, and you don't listen to us, we'll turf you out. Just because we vote for you tomorrow, don't take our vote for granted next time.*

So, here's my message for tomorrow's victor: "Ya dance with the one what brung ya." You work for us, the people in this riding. You work with Mike or Lyn, but you work for us. If you think this is a threat, it isn't. We do, however, promise you a performance review in four years or so.

I was disappointed in the responses from most candidates on the situation at Acton Precision Millwrights. Only Ted Chudleigh advanced a definite response (although this issue does play well with the Tories' stated labour policy.) Walt Elliot and Noel Duignan both danced around the issue and referred it to head office.

Perhaps they intended to be statesman-like, but they missed the point. This isn't about their job — it's about the 50 jobs at APM that are in jeopardy.

Traditional party-line types might consider Chudleigh's response to be that of a loose cannon. He didn't, after all, wait for directions from headquarters to speak. I say good for him! We need an MP who will put the people in his riding first. (We have no female candidates.) We need an MP who will represent us in Par-

liament, rather than the vice-versa that we're used to. Give me a loose cannon over a sheeple any day.

The hand-wringing by the left-wing media-types has been nauseating. "How has our society turned so mean?" they ask. "How can so many people want to punish the poor, the infirm, the helpless?"

I have never seen such a pathetic display of condescending arrogance in my life. So, who died and made these people God?

It's not enough that they have nearly driven us to bankruptcy and choked the business community with an ocean of red tape. Now, when a majority wants to pull back from the brink, we're labelled as modern day Simon Legrees.

Don't believe the fear mongering about losing health care. This is an old sales strategy called "overstating the objection." To change a buyer's (voter's) mind, you blow the objection all out of proportion to get them to agree with you. It isn't especially effective in sales — or in politics!

We'll keep health care. We need to lose half-million dollar human rights cases about *Playboy* magazine. Why do we have to spend \$12 million and counting on Bernardo? Maybe we should save the \$14,000-plus per year on a Toronto pad for our MP. The list goes on and on, and on.

There's lots of money. And no one is suggesting we throw the sick-infirm-orphaned-single-moms out in the snow. Just spend the money judiciously, dammit!

Lastly, let me finish where I started. Get out and vote your choice and encourage others to do likewise. Diogenes didn't give up, and neither should you.

P.S. — To paraphrase ex-President Nixon, after tomorrow the press won't have 'ol Noel to kick around anymore. Good-bye 'ol one, and farewell. I'll miss you!

As much as you'll miss me.

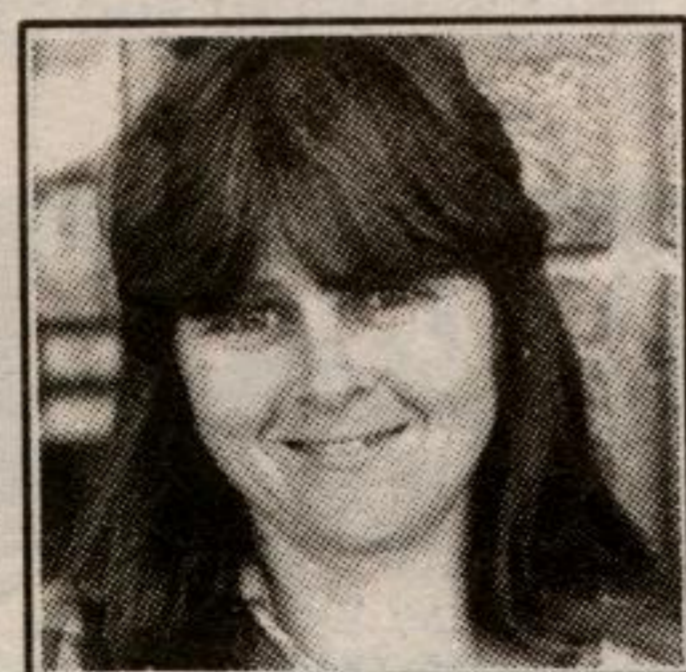
HEY!

The Tanner is now 3-years-old. How are we doing?



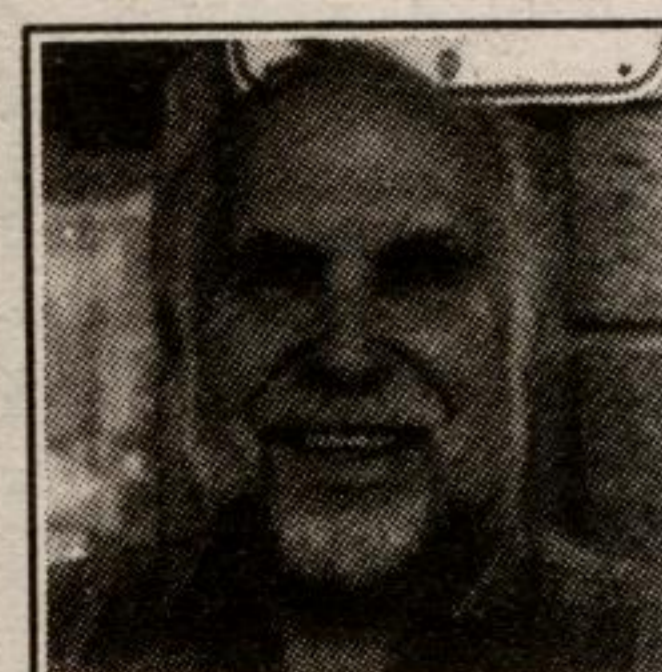
"It's the only newspaper I read. Otherwise I wouldn't know what was going on in town. I'm not interested in the Toronto dailies. I like *Grapevine*, *NewsShorts* and the school stuff, because you're always looking for your child's name."

Linda Dutton, Cobblehill Road



"I think it's great. Usually everything going on in town is in *The Tanner*. It keeps me informed of the events in town. I think that it's perfect just the way it is."

Susan Fox, Main Street



"Pretty well. It's informative and easy to read. I like the Sports section and I think having a Rockwood section is nice."

Leo Duess, Elmore Drive



"I love the paper. It keeps me updated on local issues. The paper is supportive of what goes on here and that's important. I love to read *Grapevine*. I'm also impressed with *The Tanner* winning an OCNA award."

Rachel Hendry, Elmore Drive

Same time last year ...

Acton's five D-Day vets (Ben Bayliss, Herb Cook, Art Ford, Norm Price and John Turkosz) got a last-minute invite to 50th Anniversary celebrations at Queen's Park, but it came too late to make plans to attend ... Acton Social Services altered its name to **Acton Support Services** ... A 28-year-old Brampton man was arrested in connection with the theft of a car from Mill Street.