

GRAPE VINE

Ron is 'much better'

Ron McKnight was to be released from Georgetown Hospital yesterday (Tuesday) following a 10-day stay for a heart problem.

The well-known Acton resident was to undergo a procedure, similar to an ultrasound, on Monday evening to determine the extent of the heart ailment. There will then be a recuperative period at home and likely a special diet to follow.

He was taken out of the intensive care unit last Wednesday after five days. Ron felt some discomfort about 1:45 pm on June 10 before a Georgetown wedding.

"All the calls and inquiries about my condition have been phenomenal and makes the ordeal a little easier to get through," Ron said from his hospital bed.

Visitor wins \$50,000

Brian Rodger, a resident of Sife, Scotland, who is visiting his mother and sister in Acton, had his trip paid for on Thursday with one scratch of a Keno scratch-and-win card at Royal Jug City.

The 28-year-old oil rig worker purchased the \$3 winning ticket from employee Nasreen Rafi. Nasreen, who sells between 50 and 75 Keno tickets a day, said on Monday that this is the biggest payoff of the game so far in Acton.

Brian says he plans to pay some bills, take his family on a trip and buy a new watch.

Sisters win treasure hunt

Acton sisters Erin and Sarah Lewis were the big winners of Heritage Halton Hills's treasure hunt at Pioneer Day in downtown Georgetown on Saturday.

In order to win the two \$50 gift certificates from Oxbow Books in Georgetown, Erin, 11, and Sarah, 9, were asked to find eight historical properties in and around Georgetown's Main Street.

"My husband, who is a history buff, took the girls around to all the properties," explained mom Debbi. "They certainly were keen about doing it - and somehow they survived the heat wave!"

Between 12 and 24 people participated in the hunt.

Wray takes bronze

Acton High student Dave Wray captured a bronze medal in the Computer Aided Drafting architectural event at the recent Ontario Technical Skills Olympics at Hamilton's Copps Coliseum.

The 19-year-old was attempting to win a second trip to Kansas City, where the U.S. Skills Olympics are held annually.

Wray, 19, has been accepted into Mohawk College in Hamilton, where he will study architectural drafting this fall.

Musicland opens soon

Debbie Feenstra, owner of Rockwood Musicland, which soon moves to downtown Acton, has officially registered the name change to Acton Musicland.

Debbie says the store will open in the building that formerly housed Leathertown Fashions on July 29. The Grand Opening also falls on that day.



C.W.L. EXEC: Last Tuesday's potluck dinner was the last of the summer for the Catholic Women's League, so the 1995 executive took time out for a photo. Front row, from left: Helen Rowe, treasurer; Helen Fowler, president, Father Angelico Valeriotte; Veronica Lampkin, secretary. Back row: Peggy DeBruyn, community life; Julie Conroy, organization; Arline Coultrup, past-president; Edna LeBlanc, hospitality; Iole Luisetto, spiritual; Loretta Sammit, communications. (Paul Nolan photo)

C'mon Mike, give us a break!

I swear, politicians were invented by God to ensure that columnists never run short of material. Consider just a few of the machinations our elected "leaders" went through last week.

Premier Mike appointed, for the first time, a woman to the top civil service job. No one is suggesting she got the job for any reason other than merit. This appointment will, however, deflect some of the fury coming from the Liberal camp. They're trying to float the excuse that they lost the election because they had a female leader.

Mike's pick got off to a bit of a rocky start. She is trying to make us believe that she is apolitical and that she didn't get the job because of her political connections.

Sure! You get a hundred-and-something-thousand-dollar-a-year job without having the right political friends. Give me a break!

Aren't you tired of these people treating us like we have the IQ of a salamander? Honest to God, didn't the last two elections teach them anything? Aarraaagh!

The most outrageous part of this charade was that our most senior provincial bureaucrat claims her political neutrality went so far that she didn't even vote. For weeks, every paper, radio and TV program was exhorting the population to get out and vote.

Voting is an obligation we all have to democracy and good government. I find it incredible that the Tories' first high-profile appointment would admit that she didn't have enough interest in the organization she now leads, to even bother to vote.

The rumour mill is churning out speculation that McLeod and Rae might retire. Seems they don't want to play second and third fiddle in Mike's band.

We just went through a pretty expensive election process. Quite frankly, I don't think we should have to pay any more because Lyn and Bobbie don't want to play in Ontario's reconstructed sandbox.

Perhaps if they quit, the cost of by-elections should come out of their quite-generous pension plans. After all, if they intended to quit

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



when their parties lost the election, shouldn't the people in their ridings have known that? Then the voters could have thrown the rascals out at election time and saved the province some big bucks.

If they want to quit — fine! Maybe it's time they started paying for their own actions.

What's going on in Ottawa? The latest word still has PM Chretien threatening to not sign the nomination papers of any Liberal MP who refuses to vote according to party dictums. Unless I missed something, the PM is only the elected member from Shawinigan. The Liberal party, composed of a couple of thousand souls, voted him leader — not the Canadian people as a whole.

Perhaps these same Liberals should try and drag this guy into the '90s. We expect more from our elected representatives than blind obedience to the Cabinet.

After all, if MPs aren't supposed to take direction from the people who hired them, why should this same MP take direction from a guy who took the leadership with a few hundred votes?

Instead of "punishing" our MPs, the Cabinet should be listening to them. The PM is going down the same dead-end road Mulroney did. Hopefully someone will point out to Chretien that there is no provision for a dictator in the Constitution, of which he is so proud.

The position of "God" has been filled for some time. The elector-

ate has demonstrated its contempt for these kinds of actions in the recent past. Three years is not such a long time; we waited almost five to nail the NDP.

This whole exercise is a charade. The Liberals are burying necessary changes to the criminal justice system in the snow-job over gun registration and so-called hate laws. We've been duped.

Enough with politics already! Last week some people in Newfoundland again demonstrated that quirky view of life that has endeared them to us all. A group called the "Short-Statured People of Newfoundland" wants amateur hockey to stop referring to 16- and 17-year-olds as "Midgets."

Isn't political-correctness getting just a bit silly? There's offence everywhere in the world if you look hard enough. If this goes through I'm going to demand that the United States change the name of their national symbol.

Isn't "white feather-headed eagle" much better than "bald eagle?" Well, isn't it?

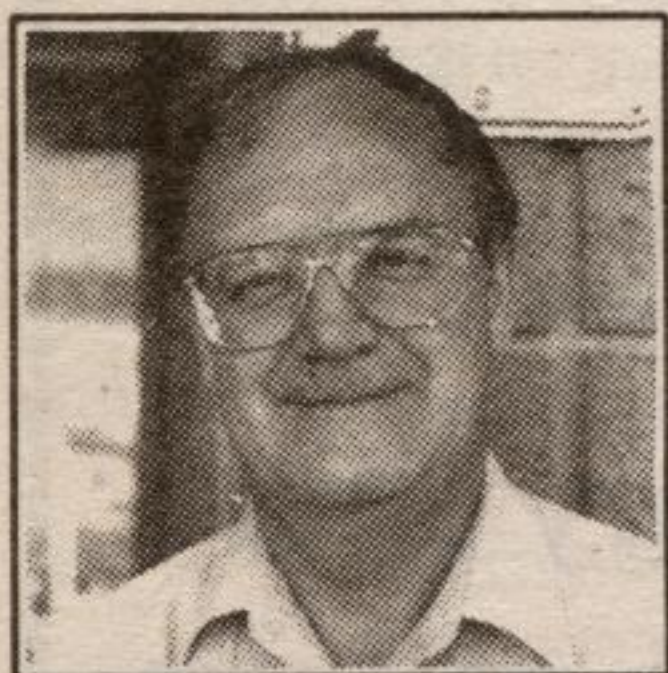
Often, I hear or see something that is interesting or funny, but not worth a column. I'm starting a new feature this week, which I refer to as *An Afterthought*. Hope you enjoy it.

A while ago, Peter Munk, chair of gold producer American Barrick, was explaining why he hired ex-PM Mulroney, and paid him big bucks. Munk said that Mulroney's contacts internationally had opened a lot of doors. He compared Muldoon's job to other resources Munk uses to build the business, referring to Mulroney as another "tool" he uses.

Couldn't have said it better myself. Just an afterthought.

HEY!

Why is attendance down at Major League Baseball parks?



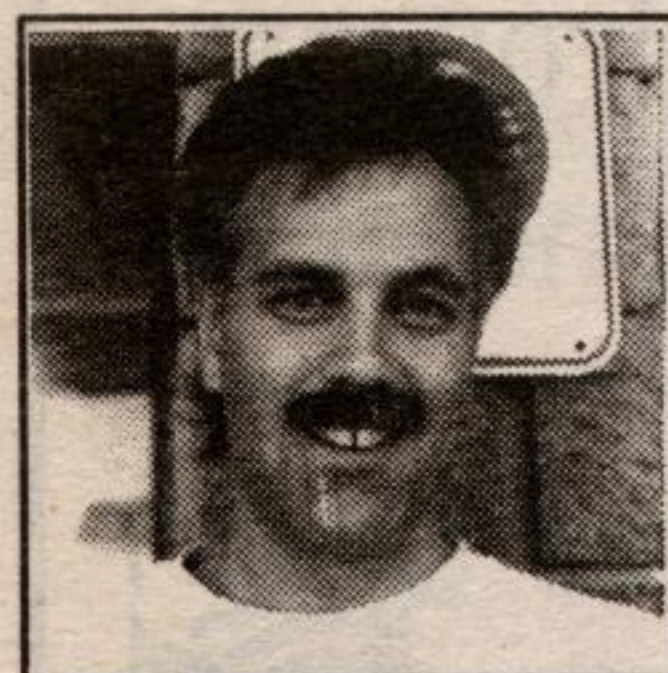
"People are still sore about the strike. I still watch the odd game on TV, but a friend of mind who used to go twice a month won't go. It will take along time before the fans come back."

Bernie Cuyr, Elizabeth Drive

"I think everyone is still upset at the players.

In a time when it's hard enough to find a job, these players are fighting over millions. If I'm given tickets I'll go watch them, but my interest definitely is lagging."

Reni Vorne, R.R.4, Acton



"Two reasons. First, I'm angry at the owners, because they hold taxpayers at ransom. And the players, specifically Roberto Alomar, who probably won't resign with the Jays for \$5.5 million, because he could get \$8 million somewhere else."

Doug Struthers, Third Line

"The teams, owners and players are too greedy and people are getting sick of it. As well, ticket prices are going up, so I won't bother going to games now."

Hugh Hughes, Rockwood



Same time last year ...

MPP Noel Duignan's Private Member's Bill to protect the Niagara Escarpment received third reading in the Ontario Legislature ... Acton High English teacher **Clare Henderson** retired after 18 years at the school ... Town staff was instructed to begin negotiations to purchase land for Acton's **new arena**.