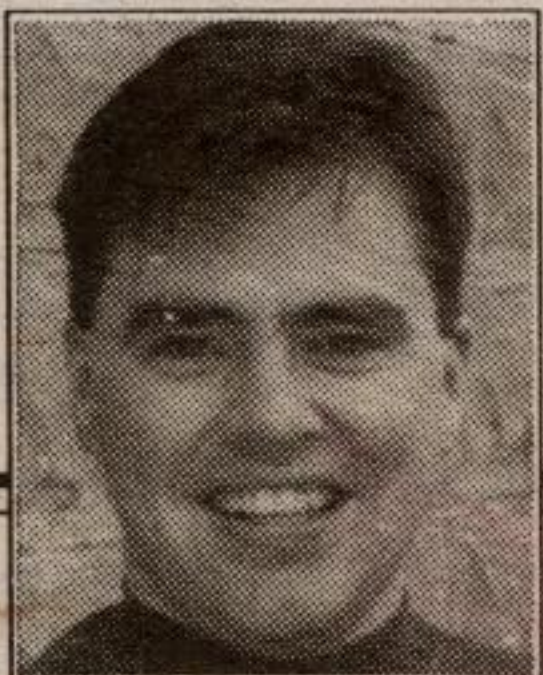


## EDITORIAL

With Paul Nolan



### SampleFest sizzles!

It appears that we have another A-1 annual event to add to the social calendar in this community. Indeed, after the success of Saturday's first-ever SampleFest, most participants were saying "Same time next year!"

Don't include me in that group, though; I'm still lobbying for organizers to make it a weekly event.

Now, I'm kidding about that suggestion, but it was a fantastic day. The reviews coming from my well-fed (with food and hometown history) SampleFest group ranged from "What a great idea!" to "Is that ever interesting!" to "Pass the chicken wings, please!"

Just one week ago we reported that tickets were selling rather slowly for this BIA-sponsored walking tour, but when we all queued up in the "Trunk Sale" parking lot on Saturday afternoon it was apparent that there had been a mad rush for tickets at week's end.

I lined up behind tour leader Mac Sprowl (Jessie Coles, Doug Fread and organizer Janis Fread were the other guides), and Mac led our 18-member pack down Church Street to Main, then over to Mill, up John, along Bower, down Elgin, back onto Mill and finally down Eastern Avenue. Whew!

Along the way Mac (and unofficial "assistants" Frances Marcoux and Shirley McKeown) shared many interesting historical facts about the homes and businesses we passed. We learned about the oilman who once owned Andy's Restaurant, about the ghost of Bower Avenue and about the old tennis courts and lawn bowling green across from the Station Hotel.

The personal anecdotes and humorous tales which flavoured the presentation of historical fact were really the icing on the cake for me. (Sorry for all these food metaphors, but I can't help myself.)

Speaking of which, the five participating restaurants deserve much praise; their offerings were excellent and portions often were more meals than samples.

Harvey at the Towne Friar served up lots of tasty fish 'n' chips, while Andy and Foula Katsilieris prepared a full buffet with souvlaki, gyros, Greek salad, baklava, deluxe pizza ... the list goes on. Heather at the Big Scoop fed us sausages and ice cream; homemade bread and the Red Dog's amazing wings were waiting at our next stop. By the time we reached Tim-Bri we were full - or so we thought! Who could resist the array of salads, sandwiches, quiche and bread pudding set before us? Not me. Our last stop was a "bonus," with Jo at Wetherby's welcoming us with ginger beer and sweet snacks.

If you didn't make it to SampleFest last weekend, don't dare miss it next time around. Kudos to the organizers - you've come up with a winner.

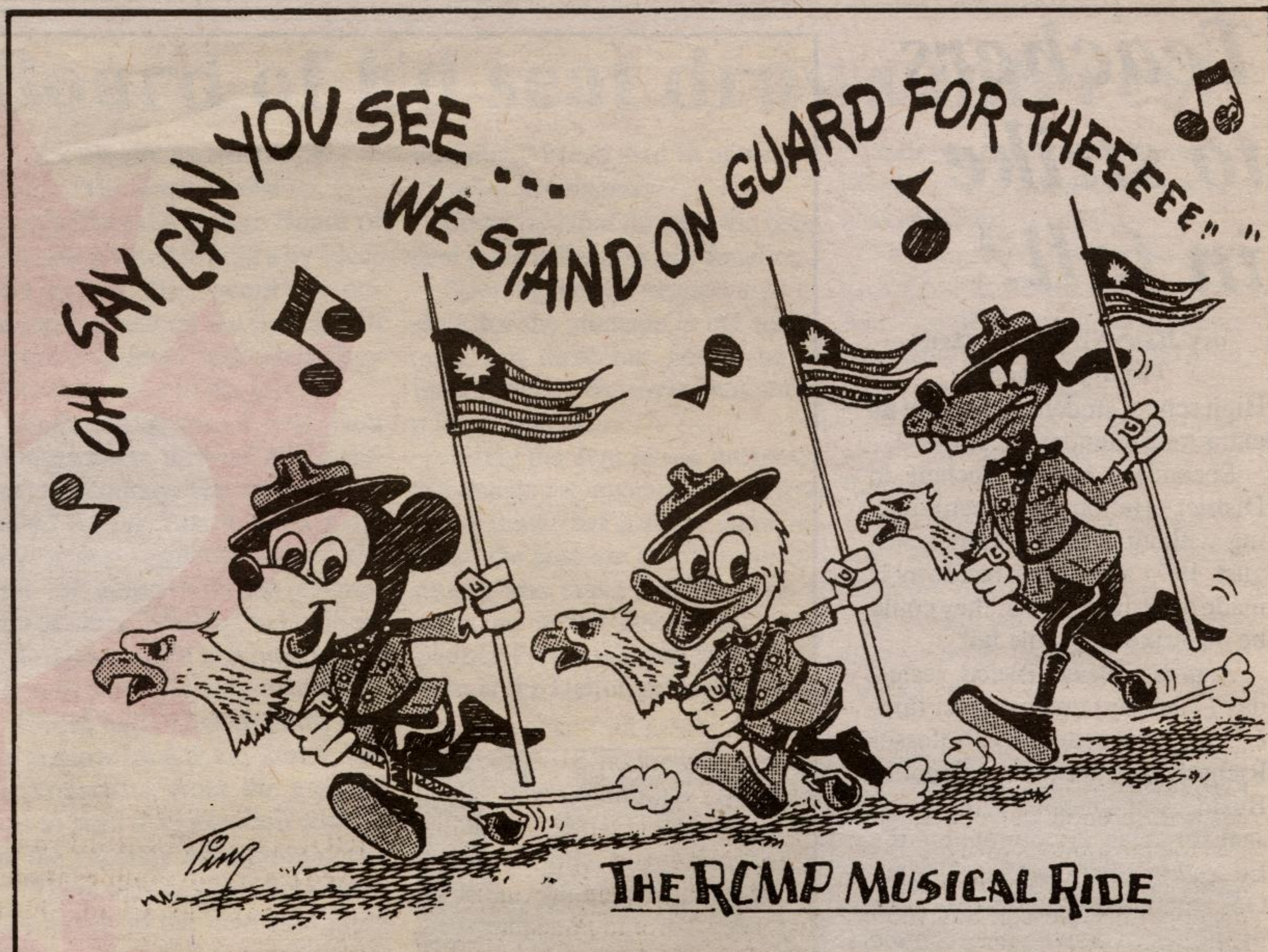
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The BIA's new "Downtown Acton" promotional brochure was distributed at SampleFest. The pamphlet is an attractive guide to shops and services, along with a self-guided historical walking tour and a summary of annual events of interest to Actonites and visitors.

The promo describes "Leathertown" as "the last small town near Toronto." Good angle. Our small-town atmosphere and lifestyle will become increasingly valuable in the years ahead, as the Greater Toronto Area continues to expand and swallow up other centres.

Let us never allow our town to lose its vital downtown, its rural character, its sense of place and community. Leave the strip plazas to the Bramptons and Georgetowns of the world - in promoting this town, and in making Acton a better (and bigger) place to live and work, our goal should be to create another Mayberry.

Which begs the question: Does Constable Bill Riddle remind you more of Andy Taylor or Barney Fife?



## LETTERS

### Money well is dry

To the Editor,

Town Director of Recreation and Parks Tom Shepard says don't worry, the province has the money allocated for a new arena in Acton. What money, Tom?

The province of Ontario is \$90 billion in debt. That is enough to build 20,000 arenas, Tom. The annual carrying charges on the provincial debt alone cost the equivalent of 2,000 arenas.

The new arena committee,

rather than standing with their mouths open for the past three years, waiting for the mother province to feed them funds, should have been out there fund-raising.

Other communities in Ontario have built new arenas or refurbished old ones with little or no help from the Province. Why can't Acton?

We all must face the fact that the money well is dry. With the wonder of compound interest, provincial money spent now will come out of the pockets of our children and our children's children.

This generation has absolutely no right to decide how to spend the next generation's wealth (if there will be any).

Don Dagenais  
R.R. 2, Acton

### Inconsiderate!

To the Editor,

I wish to address the following message to one of my neighbours.

Dear Neighbour: You live somewhere on the Acton block comprised of Arthur, Young and Peel streets.

Incredibly, you decided to mow your lawn at approximately 7:20 am on Monday, July 3 (the long-weekend holiday Monday for most people).

I will not presume to speak for the entire neighbourhood, but I would be surprised to learn that I

am the only resident stunned by your complete and utter lack of consideration for your fellow neighbours.

I would have come and thanked you personally for your absolutely thoughtless act, however I was afraid that my "expression of gratitude" would awaken the few neighbours who somehow managed to sleep through the racket you were making.

And by the way - your lawnmower could use a tune-up!

Your Young Street Neighbour  
(Name withheld on request)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### A Weekly Round-Up of Coming Events in Acton & Area

**July 5, Wednesday — 2:30 pm:** Jack Grunsky will dazzle young and old alike at the Acton Library's kick off to their summer reading program. Tickets are \$3. Call 853-0301 for details.

**July 8 and 9, Saturday and Sunday — 9 am to 4 pm (Sat.) and 9 am to 2 pm (Sun.):** St. John Ambulance is offering a certified CPR course at their new location in Norval. "Don't forget, we can help." Call Yvon at 853-4889 for more info.

**July 15, Saturday — 8:30 am to 1 pm:** The Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Region Branch, is having another car wash this month. Come to Acton Auto Tech, 46 Main St. N. and go home with a clean car! Cost is \$3; hot dogs and drinks just \$1 each.

**July 22 and 23, Saturday and Sunday — 9 am to 4 pm:** Take a standard first aid course, offered by the St. John Ambulance. Call Yvon at 853-4889 to get the details.

**Nov. 11, Saturday — 1 to 3 pm:** You'll have no excuse not to be there! The Lakeside Chapter of IODE is holding their annual Bazaar and Tea, at the Presbyterian Church. Nothing like advertising early! Call 853-0735 for more details.

## THE ACTON Tanner

**Publisher & Editor**  
Paul Nolan

**Office Manager**  
Georgena Petty

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Doug Harrison

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PHONE:  
**519-853-5100**  
FAX:  
**519-853-5040**