

GRAPE VINE

Collision shop to close

After 22 years in the auto body business, Dan Kociuk will be looking for a job at month's end.

The Acton native said on Thursday that his Halton Hills Collision shop at Crewson's Corners is losing money and coupled with his admission that he's too old to relocate, he's decided to close shop.

"I'm upset but what can I do? The worst thing is my location, but I'm the longest-running single auto body shop in the area. I did good work, so it hurts," he explained.

Dan, who ran Halton Hills Collision with his wife Liz, said he'll try and find a job outside the auto body business.

Flower basket stolen

BIA Secretary Gerald Rennie is asking for help in getting a hanging flower basket returned. The basket was stolen 10 days ago from its holder in front of the old YMCA building.

A basket that was hanging at the corner of Mill and Main streets is now in its place. Gerald figures the basket was taken by two or three people who used cutters or pliers to undo the brackets.

"It's a sad commentary when we can't put flowers out without someone tampering with them," Gerald said on Monday. "We spent a lot of money getting the baskets and maintaining them.

"We would like it returned. They're there to beautify the downtown, not someone's backyard."

If you have any information about the basket, please call Gerald at 853-0646.

Tastes university life

Acton High student Sarah Austin is one of 400 high school students currently enjoying the East Coast after being selected to spend a month at Acadia University in Nova Scotia for a math-science program.

In an application that weighed heavily on marks, Sarah, 17, also had to include two references from the school, list various school awards in these subjects and extra-curricular activities.

Sarah's days are covered with lectures, hands-on experience and guest speakers. Her mother, Mary Ann, says Sarah and a group of 54 have already toured a technological facility in Halifax.

"It's quite an honour to be chosen. She's quite enjoying herself," reports Mary Ann. "It's a great learning experience for her and an excellent opportunity to get a taste of university life."

Garden tour Sunday

The Acton Agricultural Society's annual garden contest will be replaced this year by a garden tour slated for this Sunday from noon to 5 pm.

The self-guided tour will visit seven private Acton gardens, many of them past garden contest winners. Admission is \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members.

A map can be picked up in advance at the Big Scoop or at 160 or 164 Elmore Drive. Phone 853-0001 for more details.



THE WINNER IS ... Linda Moorhead of R.R. 4, Acton was the lucky winner of a roasting pan from the Holland Shop recently. The Tanner's Elaine Petkoff, centre, draws the winning ticket with help from store owner Carolin Tolkamp. Joanne Feenstra shows off the roasting pan. (Paul Nolan photo)

Bosnian danger increases

Our troops remain trapped in the quagmire of three-way politics in Bosnia. Although the siege of the Canadian base has been lifted, our people are not being allowed to perform their duties. It seems that none of the warring factions want the U.N. troops out observing anything — except when one of the other sides has stepped out of line.

It's hard to see how the good that our people can do will outweigh the danger they face daily. How much of a sacrifice are we prepared to make?

The city of Sarajevo is once again a free fire zone. U.N. troops try to create safe corridors for civilians, who only venture out for food and fuel. Last week, the 67th U.N. soldier was killed. One wonders what these 67 young men died for.

You have to question if Western powers have any idea of the witch's brew they are stirring up. Recently, the German government announced that they were sending troops off German soil for the first time since the Second World War. Of all places, they're sending them to the former Yugoslavia.

This will cause the Serbs to react with outrage. Memories and old hatreds, the root cause of this conflict, will be called up to exhort the troops to shed even more blood. During the Second World War, the occupying German army was perceived to be aligned with the Croats. Yugoslavia, like all occupied countries, suffered terribly during the war.

Tito, who governed Yugoslavia until his death, was one of the most feared partisans during the war, and was seen to be a Western ally. Many people in this ravaged land will fear a repeat of W.W. II when German troops deploy. Why choose Bosnia to send German troops to? It makes as much sense as sending Japanese troops to help put down communist guerrillas in the Philippines.

The memories of W.W. II are much sharper in Europe than they are here. We saw that in the eyes of the Dutch children during this spring's celebrations.

The enemy of the last war is now our friend. This undoubtedly

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



is as it should be. Germany has risen from the ashes to become an economic superpower. It makes sense that England, France and other European nations are tired of their troops bearing the full weight of U.N. duties.

But we in North America did not live through two world wars in this century. We have our own war-dead, but nothing like the horrendous loss of life and property suffered in Europe.

Economically, we can all be friends, but military matters are another consideration. Quite frankly, Canadians are out of their depth when trying to understand the tribal hatreds in Bosnia.

I really think it's time we get our troops out of this hell-on-earth. We tried to help, but there comes a time when you have to cut your losses and withdraw. That time is now, before our troops start coming home in body bags.

Robbie Alomar lost more than a few fans after some woman threatened his life last week. I'm sure this situation was unnerving, and I don't blame Alomar for being concerned. Unfortunately, being a public figure these days means not only wealth and luxury, but you are also a target for the assorted flakes wandering around.

Sports figures, entertainment personalities, politicians and captains of commerce all have security concerns. If an incident like this comes as a surprise to Alomar,

then he's not as smart as many say — or maybe he is.

Alomar's contract is up this year. His agent says he deserves to be the highest-paid player in baseball. You can't help but be suspicious of Alomar's contention that Torontonians should be ashamed and that it might be time for him to move on.

The Jays, with their high-priced payroll, are playing lousy baseball. Maybe a few hungry players are what they need. The rumours are ripe that Alomar and other big names will be traded. If Alomar goes, I hope it's to a city where he can feel more secure. Perhaps New York, or Detroit, or Atlanta would be more to his liking.

I'd like to see him walk down the main streets of those cities after dark and only be annoyed by autograph hounds.

Toronto has survived the departures of many sports prima donnas, who felt their egos were bigger than the team or the town. Remember George Bell? We won two World Series after he left, and we never did kiss his purple butt.

Much has been printed about the shenanigans of movie star Hugh Grant. Why? Why should we concern ourselves about this goof, or any other of the Hollywood stars?

Admittedly, I'm not a moviegoer and I've never understood the "star" concept. I should think these people deserve to be looked upon as special because they act or sing or hit a ball? Not me, Jack!

Grant picked up a street hooker and couldn't come up with \$40 for a room. This is a star? I wouldn't trade one Mother Theresa for all the "stars" in sports or entertainment. Too many would, and that's the tragedy.

Just an afterthought.

HEY!

Any big plans for summer holidays?

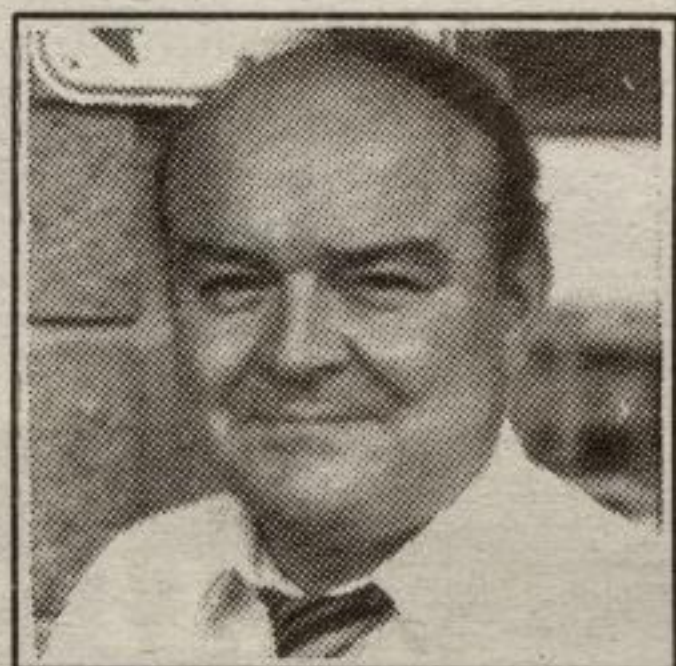


"No, I don't get one this year, because I just started a job two months ago. I would have liked to travel, but if you go away you don't feel relaxed when you come back."

Melanie Gilchrist, Mill Street

"I'll be going to my cottage on Lake Muskoka for 10 days at the beginning of August. I'll get some R-and-R and sit with a beer on the dock. I'll also be doing a lot of boating."

John Bartlett, Main Street

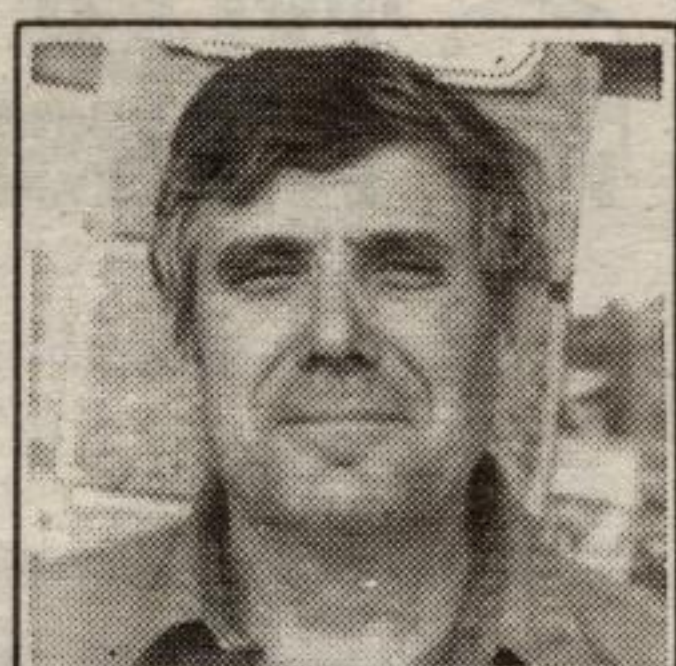


"No, I just want to take a week off and relax but I can't afford it. I would like to go to Sauble Beach, lie in the sun and read a book. The nice weather makes it tempting."

Sandy McDonald, Crewson's Corners

"No, I never take a summer vacation. When it's freezing here in the winter I'm down in Florida. If I did vacation, I would like to visit B.C. in the summer — to see the flowers and the Rockies."

John Zapparoli, Rockwood



Same time last year ...

Kingham Road resident Mark Jones, 41, won \$219,060 in Lotto 649 ... After 10 years in Acton, Rev. Craig Cribar left Knox Presbyterian Church to work in Belleville ... Larry Rigney was named president of the Acton Rotary Club.