

# GRAPE VINE

## High bacteria count

Caution should be taken this summer by swimmers who choose to cool off at the new beach (behind the boathouse) at Prospect Park, says a Halton Region health department official.

Dave Stronack, senior advisor of environmental health, says the E.coli (bacteria) count of 240 almost two weeks ago far exceeds the standard of 100 E.coli per 100ml sample of water. The old beach location (in the Cameron Street area) had a count of 57.

"The new beach has a number of problems. There are a lot of birds and geese in that area, so that could be a problem," says Stronack, who suggests swimmers call the beach hotline (853-0501, 24 hours a day, seven days a week) before they travel to the park.

"If the hotline says you should not swim there, you shouldn't," Stronack says, adding hot, dry weather, along with rainstorms pushing garbage and waste into the beach area are other reasons for high bacteria counts.

## Good news for drivers

Though there isn't any money at the Town for resurfacing or reconstruction of local roads, a "band-aid" layer of asphalt now covers a number of deep potholes on Willow and John Streets.

The downtown roadways were fixed up last week.

"The maintenance to tie those areas up is not extensive by any means," says Ted Drewlo, manager of public works, "but those two streets normally get complaints from people."

## New location, new games

Besides offering a bevy of sports cards, Centre Ice Sports Cards will soon be offering video systems, Sega, 3DO, Saturn and Super Nintendo for rent and sale.

"We feel we have to do it to survive," he says of the decision to bring video games in-store. "In these times you have to offer more than one product. We're still trying to recover from the NHL lock-out and baseball strike."

Clarke says his new location beside Leathertown Pet and Feed Supply should be in full swing by mid to late-September.

## Red Dog patio a hit!

Business is heating up this summer at Red Dog Cafe, thanks to an 11-table patio on the east side of the Mill Street restaurant.

Co-owner Carol Brunelle says the patio was always in the plans when the Red Dog Cafe opened last September.

"People like to sit outside in the summer," Brunelle states, adding Thursday Wing Night has been especially popular.

"As Canadians we don't get enough sun and summer's too short not to enjoy it."

## Tanner takes a break

Tanner staff will take our one-week summer break next week.

The next edition of The Tanner hits the streets Aug. 9, and our office will be closed all of next week (July 31 through Aug. 4).



**SUMMER FUN!** These canoeists were accompanied on their Sunday trip around Fairy Lake by some Prospect Park waterfowl. From left, Juan Vielma and son Michael (2-years-old), along with Mitchell Haennel (also 2) and father Todd. The boys fed the ducks while their dads paddled. (Eve Martin photo)

# Pass the puck, not the buck

Why is it that building a new arena in our town seems to be such a big problem? Now the provincial funding seems to be in question. Perhaps local resident Don Dagenais is right when he proposed that the money should come from a private fund-raising effort. Trouble is, at this stage of the game, that would mean a delay of several more years. The old arena would never hold out.

One of the problems is that for some reason, you can't just build an arena any more. Now you have to provide everything from a day care centre to meeting rooms to a community centre-hall.

Agreed, our town could use these facilities, but can we afford them? What we really need is an arena — a place for hockey and skating. Why can't we just build what we need? The days of Cadillac projects are behind us.

We've heard many civil servant types (mostly educators) justifying their arguably large salaries by comparing their jobs to those in industry. If public affairs is being run using private industry as a model, why isn't the money for an arena in the bank? Any business I've worked for planned for facility replacement long before current premises became out-moded.

Financing of public facilities is a dog's breakfast of grants and loans from here and there. Then, suddenly your MPP, and every spear-carrier they can muster, shows up in the paper, making a big deal about handing over a cheque. You'd think they earned the money themselves and were donating it to us.

The role of government, as seen by the public, is changing. It's time a portion of our provincial tax went back to the town, dedicated to facilities replacement.

There have been lots of arenas built in the last 25 years. Government better start thinking *now* about how we're going to replace them, not when we're faced with a crisis as we are in Acton. Crisis management decisions are usually poor.

I have a couple of questions regarding the new arena. At the planning stage, has any consideration been given to tinning the ice surface down the road? This would

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



entail design consideration as to layout of the building — where the power plant and machine room are located, that type of thing. We'd also have to carefully situate the building on the lot, to facilitate a future double rink.

As the town grows, the demand for ice time will increase. Women's hockey will be in the next Olympics. Canada should have a pretty good team. If they medal, the publicity will encourage more and more girls to take up the sport. Where will the ice time come from?

Don't we have a problem with the Lions' Pool? Has any thought been given to a multi-use facility — perhaps five or 10 years from now?

I believe that these are options that should be considered. Perhaps they have been, but I don't recall hearing them mentioned.

We could use another soccer field in town, too. Can the new arena be positioned so a soccer field can be adjacent? Until the arena is twinned of course.

Lastly, I hope this issue will reinforce, in MPP Ted Chudleigh's mind, the need to streamline the development process. The Heavens and the Earth were created in seven days. It's laughable that it takes more than seven years to build one arena. And the delay is damned expensive to boot.

Not only can't we build a new arena without controversy, now there's somewhat of a commotion over the old one. Seems Rec. and Parks Director Tom Shepard and Acton's Agricultural Society are having a "misunderstanding" as to potential uses for the old arena

building. The Ag. Society is looking at taking over the Prospect Park building after the new facility is built. If the old one doesn't fall down first, of course.

The Ag. Society is doing a feasibility study on future uses. The final report is due in October. I was at one of the focus group meetings and many uses were being kicked about.

I think we could use a decent-sized all-purpose room, but have some reservations about financial viability. One thing is for sure, the Ag. Society needs a new home.

I'm puzzled by Shepard's statement that he assured the Region "there weren't going to be two ice arenas in Acton." If the study shows two arenas would pay, why would the Region object? I'm not claiming we can support two, but why limit the scope and possibilities of the study — Shepard's potential headaches notwithstanding.

Shepard said the building needed \$200,000 worth of repairs and he envisioned the arena space used for storage or other functions that don't require heat. Don't unheated buildings deteriorate faster?

Shepard may have challenged the Ag. Society when discussing the repairs needed to the old arena. "If we can't do it with 40,000 taxpayers," he said, "I don't believe you and all your good intentions could do it either."

Seems to me that Mike Harris did pretty well last month by realizing that private or volunteer enterprise *can* deliver goods and services more efficiently than government. If I was Tom Shepard, I'd watch what I was saying. If the Ag. Society pulls this off, Harris might see volunteer boards running rec facilities as a cost saver.

Time will tell if Tom Shepard will be a modern day Ozymandias. Throughout history, though, one fact is consistent: All empires crumble!

# HEY!

*You choose this week's topic: What's your beef?*



"Violence everywhere. That's all you hear about today. You can't watch the news without it being on. I wish I was rich, because I would buy an island and stay there."

**Sue Bidwell, Cook Street**

"Kids hanging around town with nothing to do. It makes them look bad to other people and the town gets a bad reputation. There should be an outdoor public pool where they could stay all day or a movie theatre."

**Shirley Kibyuk, R.R. 1, Acton**

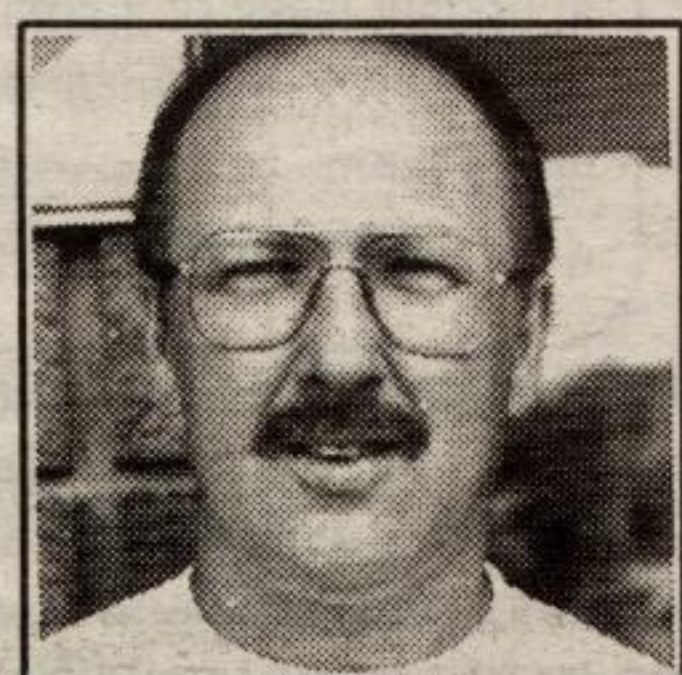


"Junior Kindergarten. I think it's just glorified day care. It doesn't hurt for kids to stay at home another year, because they spend enough time at school. Some people use it as a year to get out of baby-sitting."

**Becky Moore, Limehouse**

"The condition of a rural delivery mailbox outside my house. Somebody has done a Mickey Mouse job of propping it up and then it falls in the ditch. I'm afraid it's going to fall on someone."

**Hugh Hunter, Crewson's Corners**



## Same time last year ...

Nancy Labelle moved her Red Rose Country Crafts consignment shop to downtown Acton ... Leathertown Feed's Under-13 soccer squad won an international tournament in Sarnia ... A wave of mysterious cat disappearances hit the Cobblehill-Greenore-Kingham area, as four cats went missing in one week.