

GRAPE VINE

Cobblehill update

A Town employee said Friday that extensive repairs to Cobblehill Road, including sidewalk and grass work, should be complete by the end of September.

Ron Goddard, supervisor of capital works, said the \$521,000 project on the mainline water main, waste water main and storm sewer is back on target after combating some existing soil conditions.

"It's disruptive for people in the area, but it's short-term pain, long-term gain," Ron offered. "It's going to be a good-looking piece of road when it's done."

Gymnasts visit Skydome

Acton's Charla Banks, 13, and 11 other Halton Hills Gymnastics Club members were some of the 350 athletes who performed alongside the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders at halftime in front of 55,000 fans at Saturday's American Bowl at Skydome.

USA Productions recently contacted the Ontario Gymnastics Federation and said they needed over 350 dancers from provincial clubs to perform at halftime.

On Thursday and Friday, the local crew of 12 rehearsed with the Cowboy Cheerleaders and the Buffalo Bills.

Cribbage season nears

The Acton Men's Industrial Cribbage League, which has been run-

ning since 1961, is looking to build on its membership of 70 for the 1995-96 season, which kicks off on Oct. 12.

"We're trying to get younger people interested in the Legion," remarks President Dobbie Frizzell, who adds you don't have to be a Legion member to join.

Every Thursday for 22 weeks, from 8 to 10 pm, members play seven games at two points a match. The \$30 entrance fee covers a luncheon at both Christmas and the end of the year, along with a year-end banquet and dance.

Dobbie's number: 853-2021.

Final hockey sign-ups

Blue lines and backhands may be far from your mind in this summer heat, but hockey players (and parents) take note: Final registration for Acton Sabres Minor Hockey goes tonight (Wednesday) and next Tuesday from 7 to 9 pm at the arena.

Second-year registrar Wendy Weatherall says players are needed in all divisions, since only 50 people have signed up so far.

Fees are \$275 for Peewee and under and \$300 for Bantam and up. Call Wendy at 853-4944 for details.

Badminton returns

Tighten those strings on your racquets, folks, because the Acton Badminton Club starts its 1995-96 season on Sept. 18 at Acton High.

The season, which ends in May, runs Monday and Thursday nights from 7 to 10. The cost is \$40 a person and \$75 a couple.

Cheques, made payable to The Acton Badminton Club, can be dropped off at 133 Poplar Ave.



FESTIVAL MARKET! Though daughters Lauren and Maja are happy enough with their popcorn, mom Lynda Vermeulen picks up some broccoli at Acton IGA's farmers' market stand Sunday at the Leathertown Festival. IGA employees from left: Connie Bath, John Manes, Tom Robertson and Kelly McArthur, store manager. (Eve Martin photo)

In future, get out'a my face

I don't know about you but I'm fed up with all those special interest groups whose sole tactic seems to be right-in-your-face every time you turn on the TV or radio. You'd think that we, the great unwashed majority, had nothing else to think about than the particular agendas of the self-professed aggrieved.

The last few years, since 1990 actually, have been tough on all of us. Our disposable income has declined steadily. If you own your own business, chances are your income has fallen by 30 or 40 per cent, or even more.

I sell to retail stores. The GST, combined with massive lay-offs in manufacturing, has decimated this sector of the economy. There is little or no sympathy for the working poor.

Our property and business taxes continue to rise with no consideration for our ability to pay. I know of one local businessman, who has been paying taxes for over 25 years, who had the bailiff set on him for overdue taxes. No compassion here - just pay up or we'll ruin you.

Since Mike Harris was elected, and before that in fact, the organized Anti-Poverty Coalition has been in our face almost every day.

Now, I think I'm a compassionate individual. I don't see myself as having a "usually coarse exterior." Haven't you noticed that the majority of volunteers in charitable or community service organizations are the same people who the poverty industry defines as heartless and selfish curmudgeons.

I say the opposite is true. Canadians are a caring and generous people. Our own hometown consistently donates more per capita than other Ontario towns. And still, even here, you hear carping and bitching about out-of-control social programs. Why? Let me give you a few of my pet peeves.

I've never been on social assistance. I'm sure it's a difficult situation and hope those on benefits will some day become self-sufficient. I support a social safety net.

At the same time, I'm sick of hearing from the coalition-for-this-and-that. How do these people find

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



the time for organizing and attending all these rallies? Who's paying them?

I'm fed up with the spectacle of some self-appointed "saviour" talking to a few hundred protesters at Queen's Park, promising to bring down the government.

Do they believe their own rhetoric? Where were they when thousands were laid-off in industry? Do they really care about hardship and poverty or only the poverty that funds them? Why do we continue to give them space in the media?

On the news last week, I heard some woman proposing tax credits for unpaid work in the home. This would include stay-at-home moms and dads doing weekend work such as grass cutting. The interviewer asked "Can we afford it?" The activist replied "Can we afford not to do it?" What crap.

Our system is basically bankrupt. We can no longer fund radical social schemes because "it seems like a good idea." Ask any working woman if she thinks her taxes should go up.

Under the previous government, almost every Caucasian was assumed to be a racist. (Party members were excluded of course.) Now we hear that Toronto will institute a special school for black students and another for gays. Sure am glad that some white guy didn't propose this. If they did, papers

would be so full of indignation there would be no room for Blue Jay scores, let alone other news.

Racism, it seems, is a one-way street. Isn't it odd that the racism industry didn't really take off until five years ago next month?

The majority of us are supposed to feel guilty. Guilty about slavery in the American South, even though Canada was the first country to outlaw slavery.

Guilty for the treatment of Aborigines by the first settlers. Guilty for the treatment of Chinese and Japanese. Guilty for Hiroshima, and so on.

I feel no guilt for the sins of our forefathers. By the same token, I don't expect my friends of English heritage to atone for the horrors inflicted on the Irish during the potato famine. Or the Japanese to feel guilty for atrocities inflicted on the Chinese. It serves no purpose, other than to ensure we don't make the same mistakes again.

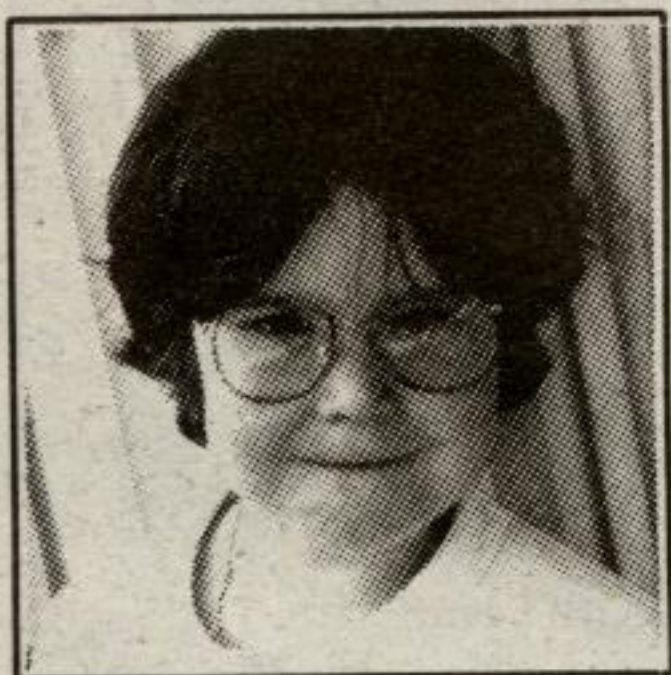
We, or our ancestors, came to this country to escape a bleaker existence in our homelands. Why bring old country hatreds with us? Shouldn't the press stop giving exposure to those espousing historical grievances?

Here are a few others I'd like out of my face: Overpaid sports "stars" - Get a job, all of you. Bicyclists - I'm driving two tons of steel and you pretend I'm not there. In Toronto, you need 12 eyes to watch for them.

Dick Assman - Isn't his 15 minutes almost up? Twinkies who see *Beauty and the Beast* as a rape fantasy. Well - you get the idea.

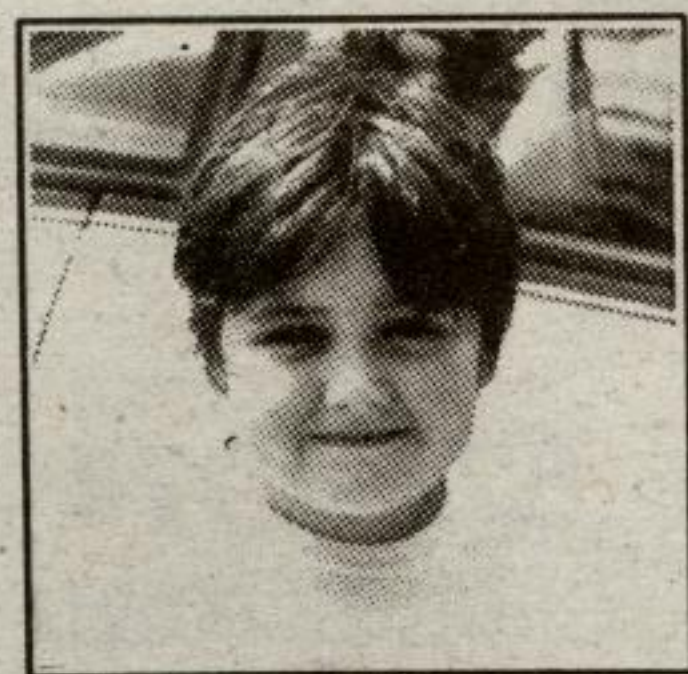
There are worthwhile causes. If the proponents' strategy is to put the cause in my face - here's my response: Up yours!

HEY! How is summer break going?



"Okay. I've gone to my condominium in Barrie, to Wasaga Beach, Bass Lake and go-karting. I've also had a lot of fun playing with my friends and swimming. I went to the Kids for Kids camp here in Acton."

Sarah Boyko, Agnes Street



"It's been good. I've been swimming twice a week, usually at Prospect Park. I've also been to Canada's Wonderland - but I want to go back to school."

Jasmine Salt, Tidey Avenue



"I'm playing soccer this summer, but our team is losing every game. I've also gone swimming at the indoor pool and fishing. I don't mind going back to school. I want to see who my Grade 5 math teacher is."

Derrick McKeown, Churchill Road



"Great! I've been to my cottage and saw one of my teachers, Mr. Hynds. I've also gone to sleepovers and gone bike riding and roller blading. I want to go back to school, though, because summer is getting boring."

Heather Laing, Lake Avenue

Same time last year ...

Acton sporting legend Grenville "Tinnie" Masales died at age 89 ... Carol Ann Whitehead-Perrott, a Georgetown municipal election candidate, claimed that Fairy Lake was "60 per cent goose sh-" and Acton was "a low-income town that has a lot of trouble with derelicts" ... Acton seniors' dream of a new recreation centre were boosted by a surprise \$30,000 Provincial grant.