

GRAPE VINE

Acton Travel sold

Our friends at Acton Travel have advised us of a change in ownership at the Mill Street travel agency effective this week.

The new owner is former NHL referee Bruce Hood, who also owns Bruce Hood Milton Travel along with an Oakville agency.

"We would like to thank all our clients for their past patronage," said former co-owner Robert Warrington on Friday.

"Since owning Acton Travel, my mother Sophie and I have greatly enjoyed working with everyone in Acton and vicinity."

Robert has now gone into a different area of the travel industry and Sophie will remain as branch manager of the new Bruce Hood Acton Travel office.

Back to (high) school ...

Cue the haircuts and hair spray, because student card photos at Acton High will be taken during pre-registration next week.

That's just one of the twists for the school's new pre-registration days this year. Students will also pick up their timetables (they were mailed in past years) and choose their own locker locations.

Grade 9 students must pre-register from 3 to 5 pm on Wednesday, Aug. 30 before their orientation kicks off with a barbecue, followed by an informal meeting with teachers.

Grades 10 to OAC students can register either from 10 am to 2 pm on Wednesday or from 10 am to 3 pm the following day.

Hillier gets award

Acton volunteer firefighter Ed Hillier recently was honoured at the Fire Fighters Association of Ontario annual convention at the Elora Community Centre.

The award, for "meritorious services above and beyond the call of duty," was in recognition of Hillier's dramatic rescue of Peter Papillon, who was trapped inside the kitchen of his Elmore Drive home in February 1994.

Hillier, 48, said Monday that "it was a great honour to receive the award. It was a unanimous selection, and that made it special."

Scouters are coming

About 1,800 Scout leaders will descend on Blue Springs Scout Camp on Sept. 9 for the annual two-day Gilwell Reunion, named after a camp once attended by Scout founder Lord Baden-Powell.

There will be a guest speaker, elections, lots of games and between 60 and 100 other Scouting districts from Ontario jamming the park with tents.

"Sometimes you get new ideas and handouts from the other districts that you can take back to your own," says Acton leader George Henderson, who reminds downtown restaurants to expect a busy weekend.

Don't miss the boat!

This weekend is your last chance to rent a paddleboat or canoe for a summer cruise around Fairy Lake.

Rent your vessel between 1:30 and 4 pm at the boathouse.



PLAYOFF PRACTICE! Acton Theatre Camp cast members, from left, Shannon Tunney, Stephanie McDonnell and Thomas Somerville run through a scene of *The Playoff* in the Acton High cafeteria on Thursday. The Rec and Parks production was staged later that night. (Doug Harrison photo)

Just a doggone minute, J.J.

Readers will know that ever since my colleague on the page opposite (the ravishing and jovial Joanne - J.J. for short) declared a truce in the "Column Wars," I have refrained from commenting on her unique views on life.

Last week, though, she stepped over the line again. J.J., a self-admitted neophyte golfer (she's played three times) called golf a human version of "Go Fetch." The nerve of the woman.

As a professional courtesy, I was able to head off the golfing mob before a lynch mob was able to organize. You can criticize a lot of things, but golf, like hockey, is a sacred icon.

Non-players will never understand its siren's call, and therefore should tread lightly when expressing negative opinions - especially in print.

True golfers know that the game is both humbling and exhilarating. Golf is the only way I survived the NDP years. Just before hitting the ball, I would imagine Bob Rae's face on it. Since Harris got elected, my drives have shortened by 10 or 20 yards. (The sacrifice one has to make for good government!)

J.J. even trotted out the "old saw" that golfers' attire leaves much to be desired. My observation is that it is usually the golfing-impaired who dress like peacocks in a blender. They probably think an outrageous fashion statement will draw attention from their lack of golfing talent.

The fact that J.J. is not a member of the golfing sorority is evident by her disregard of golfing etiquette. Golfers are, by act of God, Ladies and Gentlemen.

One never makes disparaging remarks about the play of others. Au contraire, one is expected to be supportive of one's playing partners. "Good shot" and "nice drive" are heard often, even when you're losing money. Like cricketers, true golfers are a classy group.

I hope this gentle rebuke will set J.J. on the right course. Golf should only be commented on by those who have "the bug." As for her playing three times - we usu-

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



ally don't count miniature golf or Par 3 courses, J.J.

I hope to play for years to come, until old age and senility force me from the links.

You can always tell when you get to that point - you have a rusty zipper and yellow golf shoes.

Go Fetch ... indeed!

As long as I'm crossing pencils with other columnists, I have to say I disagree with the contention that the provincial Tories should restore out-of-country coverage to former levels.

Isn't it about time that we stop equating out-of-country health care with the so-called "Snowbirds?" There are many others who are also affected.

Schools plan trips to the States and the kids have to obtain extra coverage. So do those with friends and relatives across the line.

The government is, on the one hand, encouraging us to sell more to the States, and on the other hand is penalizing us for doing so. The list goes on and on.

Granted, the Snowbirds made the most of the issue. I think this was less a case of the insurance itself and more our seniors becoming sick of being the target. For the last several years, seniors have seen their benefits cut and cut, while other are shrieking for more and more.

Finally, seniors, many of whom lived through depression and war and prided themselves on self-sufficiency, are saying "enough." They have paid their way and will not accept any more cuts to their programs.

I don't understand why we insist on punishing those who are successful. Most of those going south worked hard, raised a family and planned for retirement. They aren't looking for the rest of us to subsidize their vacations. They do expect to get the services and coverage they were promised when taxes were escalating.

The NDP said this benefit would cost \$20 million. By my reckoning, at \$300 per day, that would be almost 67,000 hospital nights. I'd like to see some hard proof that this number is valid. It wouldn't be the first unbelievable NDP number we ever saw.

I can't see any justification for putting extra taxes on citizens who so south for a few months. They've worked hard to get there. They've done their share and deserve the fruits of their labour.

The "Ancient Kid" called me the other day with an interesting observation. Recently, two dogs attacked and killed a man in Toronto. The dogs were to be taken to the pound, examined and then put down.

There is no costly trial or appeals to the sentence. The proof is irrefutable that the dogs crossed the line, so they have to go.

Perhaps, she suggested, justice would be better served if Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka were just hustled off to the pound.

Just an afterthought.

HEY!

How is Mike Harris doing so far?

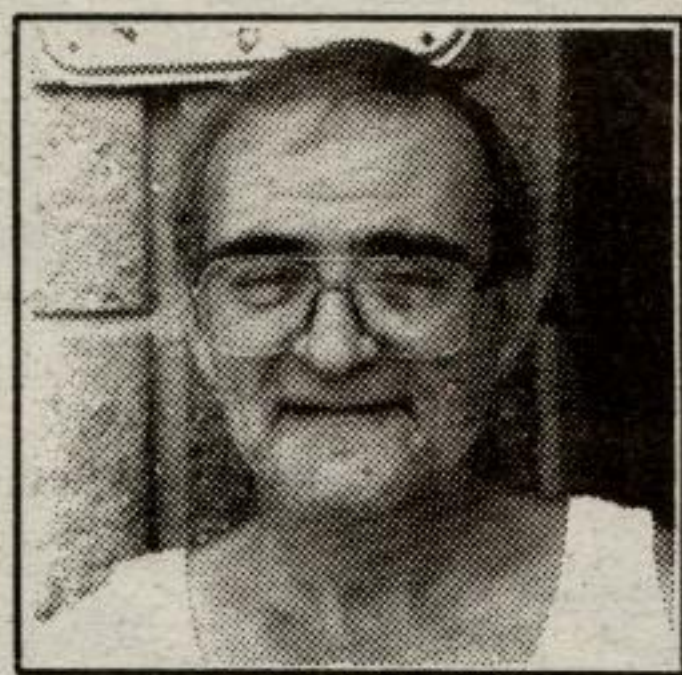


"I like what he's done so far. He seems to have the courage of his convictions. I don't think he's trying to win a popularity contest, but rather doing what he said he would do."

Betty Gaskill, Limehouse

"So far he's holding up on his commitments. I like him. We needed the change. I like the cuts he's made and feel he's a down-to-earth, no-nonsense Premier. He'll make up the \$60 million from chopping photo radar."

James Millen, Main Street

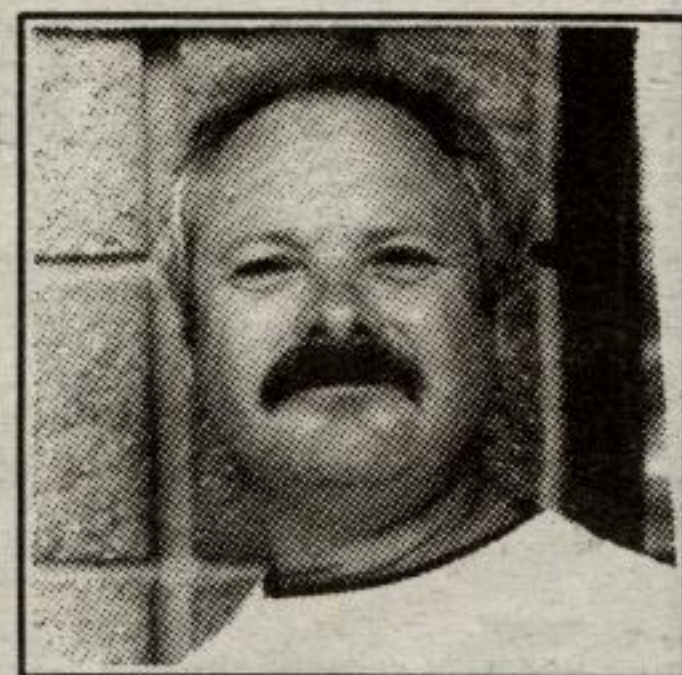


"I'm not affected by the welfare cuts or unemployment, but that doesn't mean they're fair. I have friends who are affected. Isn't there any way to cut from the high wage-earners?"

Renate Nap, Crewson's Corners

"I know he's going to affect me in ways I don't like, but I like his stand on employment equity and welfare. I think he buckled on photo radar. I thought it was good. Where's he going to get \$60 million?"

Alan Lobb, Guelph



Same time last year ...

The labour-sponsored Working Ventures investment fund invested \$2 million in the **olde Hide House**, allowing the Acton company to retire its bank debt ... Thirteen months after closing, **Jack Tanner's Table** reopened at the Hide House. The restaurant has since closed ... Acton's **Tyke Rams lacrosse team** took the zone championship with a thrilling 6-5 win over Guelph.