

# GRAPE VINE

## Big Fall Fair parade

Acton Fall Fair parade chair Jim Warrington is confident this year's event will again feature 60 to 65 entries of walkers, floats and dignitaries in cars.

As of Monday night, 45 entries had been confirmed with an additional "15 to 20 regular participants who have yet to contact me" expected to enter.

"Our numbers look very good," reported Jim, who is grooming assistant Mike Arnott to chair the parade next fall.

Saturday's parade, which will start at noon, begins on Acton Boulevard and winds its along Mill Street to Main, up to Knox and then to Prospect Park.

Anyone wishing to enter a float should notify Jim by Friday evening. Call him at 853-3707 to sign up or for more details.

## Bowling boom in Acton

It appears bowling fever has hit Acton youngsters, considering 75 per cent of the 76 pre-registered in the Youth Bowling Council league are first-year participants.

New YBC program director John Wagg is confident the league can hit its goal of 120 kids, despite numbers being down 33 from this point last year.

Spaces are still open in the Saturday Peewee (4 to 5 year-olds), Bantam (6 to 10) and Junior (12 to 14) Divisions, along with the Sun-

day 1 to 3 pm Peewee-Bantam (15 to 19) loop.

"I don't know if its because bowling is Sundays, part-time jobs, boyfriends or girlfriends, but the older league has always been low in numbers," reveals John.

Anyone wishing to join the league can call Wagg at 853-4550 or Acton Bowl at 853-0470.

## Ambassador rehearsal

If you haven't signed up, but you want to be a contestant in the Acton Ambassador pageant at the Fair Friday night, there's still time.

Linda Robson, the pageant's coordinator for the past six years, said Monday that there were four contestants already confirmed. That number was exactly the same last year at this time, with eight young ladies finally competing.

Linda, who was crowned Miss Acton in 1984, said that "a lot of contestants don't sign up until the night of the rehearsal."

The rehearsal is tomorrow (Thursday) night at 7 pm at the arena. Contestants can also phone Linda at 853-1591 to register.

## Time to pay up!

Acton badminton players will kick off a new season next Monday night in the Acton High gym.

Rosemary Bodi, first-year organizer of the popular recreational league, says she hopes to see some new faces come out this year.

Registration fee is \$40 per player or \$75 for a couple. The club meets every Monday and Wednesday between 7 and 10 pm.

Rosemary asks that early-birds drop off cheques, made payable to The Acton Badminton Club, to her home at 133 Poplar Ave. by Friday.



**OUR TOWN!** Halton Hills' Chamber of Commerce, along with the Community Credit Union, is gearing up for the "Our Town" Christmas cheque campaign. Kicking off the campaign last week were, from left: Harold Postma, Halton Credit Union (Acton) manager; Chamber President Dave Manes; Marlene Bayko, Credit Union; Campaign Chair Jake Kuiken; Chamber General Manager Anne Sidebottom and Credit Union (Acton) loan officer Gail Charette. (Doug Harrison photo)

# Time for the fair – already?

OK – so who stole summer? It seems like three weeks ago I was ecstatic about the first buds coming on the trees. The memories of last winter are still fresh in my mind. Summer can't be over already – can it?

The 82nd annual Acton Fall Fair starts this Friday. If you don't go, you'll miss a great time. The fair board has been working hard since last year's fair closed, to organize three activity-packed days for this year.

The popular Education Day will again be held Friday, from 10 am to 3 pm. There will be educational displays, wagon rides and many demonstrations. Seniors and parents with pre-schoolers are welcome during this no-charge event.

After 4 pm the midway will start up, followed that evening with the heavy horse pull and the Miss Acton Fall Fair contest. It's a great evening's entertainment.

I know, I know, the Miss Acton contest was renamed last year to the more politically-correct "Ambassador of the Fair" contest. Claptrap! Most everyone calls it the Miss Acton contest; the kids still call it the Miss Acton contest; it is the Miss Acton Fall Fair contest. I think the "Ambassador" name should be shoved down the nearest personhole cover.

Saturday and Sunday will be chock-full of horse and cattle shows, petting zoos, tractor and other pulls, plus much more.

The parade, led by the Citizens' Band, will come through town (down Mill Street and along Main to the fairgrounds) starting at 12 noon. Access to the fairgrounds will be limited from 12:45 to 1:15 pm or so, to allow the parade into the grounds. Plan to arrive early.

A good deal is the weekend pass for \$10. You get three days' admission for the price of two. Passes are available at the banks, Credit Union, Acton Pharmacy and Wetherby's.

Parking is at a premium during the fair. Limited on-site parking is available on Friday and Saturday. Disabled parking will be available for \$3 – check with the front gate. Police will be ticketing cars on Lake, Knox and Park streets. We

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



need to keep these streets clear for emergency vehicles.

I'm going to offer my thanks and congratulations in advance to Agricultural Society President Janis Fread and her hard-working officers, directors and volunteers. I know this year's fair will be the best ever. All we need is a little luck in the weather department.

Bring your appetite to the fair. The Lions, Firefighters, Frenchie's Fries, Acton High School and others will be there to tempt your palate. Somehow a burger or dog with fries just tastes better at the fair. And for the "older youngsters," the beer tent will be open to wash down those burgers.

I've been to every fair for the past 20 years. I've been a volunteer for over 15 years. I'm a member of the Knights of Columbus who, as Frances Niblock reported last week, handle fair security. My post is the front gate and I'm there most of the time during the fair.

For 15 years I've watched a generation of kids go through those gates. The little ones give me the biggest charge. They arrive, look through the gates and their eyes light up. The batteries are on full charge and off they go, dragging rather bemused parents. Several hours later, these same parents, by now exhausted, exit with equally exhausted but satisfied children.

I always ask if they enjoyed themselves. In over 15 years, I've never had anyone say they had less than a great time.

Many of us moved to Acton to

experience the good things about small-town living. The fair is a treasure that combines the best in town and country living into affordable family entertainment. Take your kids, your grand-kids, your friends and family from the city. Discover the treasure in your own backyard.

See you at the fair.

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I had hoped that after the murders of Kristen French, Leslie Mahaffey and Tammy Homolka were convicted, they would drop into ignominious anonymity. I mean, who cares what happens to them? In keeping with my policy of not wasting one drop of ink on their names, you'll never see their names in this column again.

On the weekend I was disgusted to see, in the Toronto papers, stories about where the latest convicted murderer would be imprisoned. Who cares what his view will be? It should be downwind of the septic tank as far as I'm concerned.

Why do we, as a society, continue to allow these perverts, these child-killers, to achieve celebrity status? For the life of me, I don't understand it one bit. For the victims, monuments should be built; schools named after them, highways and roads. We should never forget them. As for the murderers, let them rot and be forgotten.

I don't subscribe to this concept of aggrandizing celebrities. Take the latest goings-on between Michael Jackson and Lisa-Marie Presley. Will they split? Won't they? On his latest album he appears mostly naked, with his bride also mostly *au naturel*. He spent \$5 million airbrushing his little dingle-dangle off the album cover.

I tell ya' – if Elvis was dead, he'd be spinning in his grave.

# HEY!

What does the Fall Fair mean to you?



"Well, my sister asked me to come to her cottage, but I can't because it's the Fall Fair. It's fun for the whole family. I have a 10-year-old son who enjoys it, and I like the crafts and baking competition. I also like the animals and the baby contest."

Loireann Mastro, Kingham Road



"I like seeing the people I went to school with, sitting in the beer tent and getting the wife mad at me. I also like taking my son to the parade and fair. It's good for the community."

Lorner McGinn, Peel Street



"I like the rides, ferris wheel and Dragon coaster. And I like the animals and eating candy floss."

Tracy Deforest, Kingham Road



"It's a way of bringing the community together. It's a very close-knit feeling and you run into people you haven't seen for a while. I like the crafts and the truck pulls, while the kids enjoy the rides. It's one of the best fairs around."

Debi Price, Kingham Road

## Same time last year ...

The Rotary Club of Acton donated \$1,000 to help purchase a bus for the town's Activan transit program ... Acton's Carol Murphy placed third in the Ontario Hog Judging Challenge ... Local Terry Fox Run Committee members Wally Ella and Jon Hurst travelled to Toronto to meet with Terry's brother Darrell Fox.