

# GRAPE VINE

**Hood heard on the FAN**  
Bruce Hood, former NHL referee and owner of Bruce Hood Acton Travel, has become a regular on sports radio station FAN 590-AM.

The 21-year official is a guest of morning host John Derringer every Monday at 7:35. He will be updating listeners on the week that was, in terms of the application of the new obstruction rules.

"My objective is to keep people talking and appreciating the new rules," says Hood, who will periodically do phone-in shows.

"The new rules are bringing the game back to what it was meant to be. The standards in the last five or six years have been disgraceful."

**Guide cookies on sale**

The District of Acton Girl Guides, which includes Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders, will be out in full force starting this week with the door-to-door Girl Guide cookie fund-raiser.

Girl Guide chocolate mint cookies will be on sale for \$3 a box through November.

Money raised this year will go toward craft supplies, field trips and badges, says Darlene Green, Acton cookie co-ordinator.

**New store downtown**

Unique Discovery Clothes and Gifts should open in a week or two at the corner of Mill and Main streets where Clocks and Curios

once operated.

The store will cater to all ages and offer clothing sizes from two months to extra-large. For infants the new business will feature night wear, sweaters, T-shirts, underwear, socks and jump suits.

Ladies' office wear will be in-store, including dress pants, shirts and blouses, while men can browse the store in search of night wear, T-shirts and dress shirts. Blue jeans are soon to line the shelves.

**Bridge is valedictorian**

Commencement at Acton High is set for this Friday at 7 pm, with 14 Province of Ontario Scholars and six Ontario Secondary School Diploma (O.S.S.D.) with honours students receiving awards.

Darrell Bridge, who is now studying mathematics at the University of Waterloo, will be the graduating class's valedictorian.

If any graduating students have not yet received an invitation, call the school at 853-2920.

**An offer you can't ...**

Acton's new Godfather Pizza franchise on Thursday outdid most of its 25 other corporate stores, in terms of first-day sales, says manager Brenda Nightingale.

Employees were asked to come in for a formal training session Thursday afternoon, but once the doors opened at 4, it was mass chaos with clientele.

"And we didn't even place an ad yet," Nightingale beamed on Monday.

**Words of wisdom**

"We French-Canadians belong to one country, Canada: Canada is for us the whole world." - *Sir Wilfrid Laurier.*



**SOME CHOICE PUMPKINS!**

Mrs. Frey's afternoon Kindergarten class travelled from Robert Little school to Acton IGA last Wednesday to choose a few pumpkins to carve for Halloween. Showing off their selections are, from left, Katie Price, Matthew Henry and Nick Couture-Gallan, all 5-years-old. (Doug Harrison photo)

## So - what did that all prove?

Most of us remember the 1980 referendum and the secure feeling we shared that the separatists would be defeated. After the vote, Rene Levesque said "Until next time." I thought "fat chance" while watching him. Oops!

The 1995 sequel has scared the pants off federalists. Out of nowhere, the separatists surged and led in the polls. The realization that our country could be split was sobering and frightful. We awaited the vote with trepidation.

Desperate situations call for desperate actions. Here in Acton, a special session of the Saturday Five O'clock Club was held to watch the returns. We were ready, beer in hand at the Station Hotel, when the polls closed. All were confident of a Non vote, except for our resident immigrant Ray, who called it 51 to 49 for Oui.

Early returns from the Gaspé showed the Non side doing better than we thought. We were confident though, that when the Montreal and Outouais votes rolled in, the federalists would carry the day. The returns were painfully slow due to the huge turnout.

I honestly thought it would be over early. I told "the Bride" I'd be home by 10 pm. I love this country and can't conceive that enough Quebecers would vote to leave. Boy, when I'm wrong, I'm wrong.

Things started to lag when the Non reached 45 per cent. Returns kept rolling in, but the percentages seemed stalled. A few concerned glances shot around our group. Where was the Montreal vote?

By 9:32 pm the vote hit 50 to 50, with 30 per cent of the polls to come. Now we'll start to roll, we said. We ordered more beer and waited for the Non side to pull into the lead. And we waited ...

Shortly after 10 pm, Al quietly said, "This is not good." The percentage vote seemed stuck at 50-50. The Montreal vote had to be in but no surge in Non support registered. Any chance of a substantial win went by the wayside. I think our little group felt disbelief and slightly depressed.

As you know, the Non side won - if you can call it that - by a hair.

**The Way I See It**

With Mike O'Leary



TV talking-heads were parroting that a win is a win.

Really? The facts are that almost 50 per cent of the people in Quebec voted to leave our country. Some will claim that they didn't understand the question or were only voting to strengthen the hand of their provincial officials in the months to come.

I don't know, but Chretien was pretty specific about the consequences of a Oui vote. And still they voted for separation. Where do we go from here?

We do live in interesting times. Canada is recognized by the U.N. as being the best country in the world in which to live. How will the federal government change our federation to satisfy those who want to rip our country asunder?

Should we even bother to change? Is there any pleasing Mr. Bouchard and his followers? Is there an answer for Quebec that the rest of us can support?

The extra powers Quebec wants can probably be accommodated. There is a movement across the country for a more decentralized federal system. All governments have financial problems, so eliminating duplication makes sense.

Why do we need two Departments of Labour, Health, etc.? In return, however, we should write into the Constitution that no region can unilaterally take itself out of our country. This is the least quid-pro-quo we should demand.

Should Quebec be a "distinct society?" Of course it should! Its language, law and customs make it distinct. The good feelings demonstrated by the huge rally in Montreal last week give the federal government a window of opportunity; let's hope they move on it before the rhetoric of Bouchard, Parizeau et al sours the feeling of solidarity that exists today.

We may not like the result of the referendum, but if I lived in Quebec I'd be delighted. I'd still be in Canada but had scared the Bejessus out of the rest of the country, and pushed my agenda to the fore. For those who wanted to negotiate a new deal, they couldn't have scripted a better result.

One of our group, Steve, who is a little cynical about Quebec's real agenda, claims the only way Quebec will leave Canada is if we kick them out. The vote exposed, like never before, the fact that there are two solitudes in Quebec.

Parizeau's speech showed him to be a classless fool. It's scary to think that this jerk could have gained even more power had the Oui side won. He may have, with his racist and mean-spirited words, done what many others couldn't. He may have convinced Quebecers that the face of Canada is preferable to the ugly face of intolerance exposed Monday night.

Lucien Bouchard said that the "next time could come sooner than you think." Welcome to the era of the never-endum. We'll all be talking about this in months to come.

The federalists won - sort of. I guess I'm happy. At the end of the night though, I didn't feel like singing the national anthem.

Someone once said, "It ain't over 'til it's over." It ain't over!

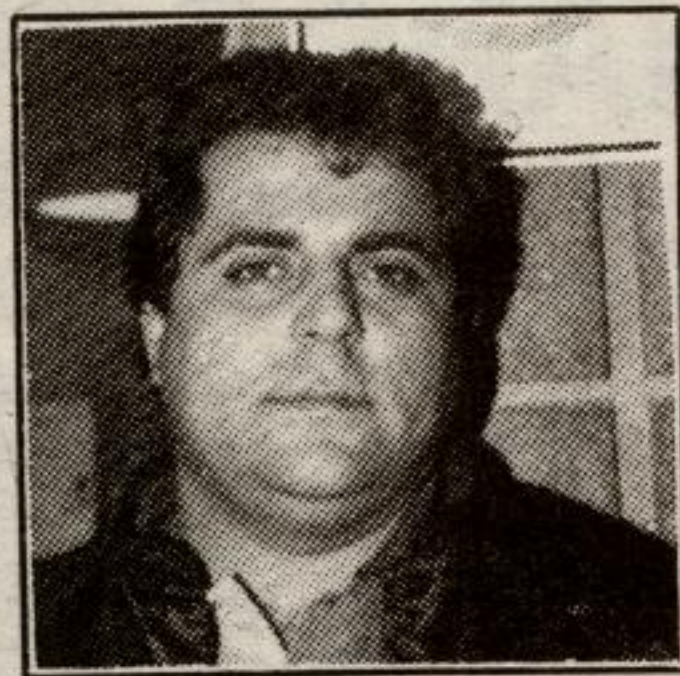
# HEY!

*Your reaction to the Quebec referendum?*



"That's great and I'm glad as long as Quebec drops the idea of separating. I think last week's rally in Montreal must have done some good. People did their part to keep the country as one."

Lannie Sousa, Danville Avenue



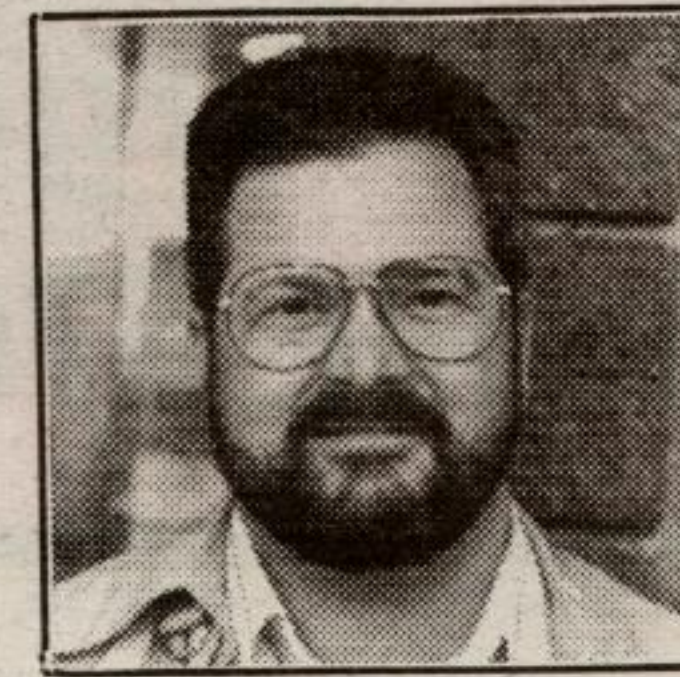
"It was the civilized, realistic answer. We're in 1995 here. 'No' was the only answer it could be. I want a referendum for no more referendums."

Steve Nickel, Erin



"I'm happy. Why should the country change now? But I think Quebec separatists will continue to push for separation."

Una Lalonde, Poplar Avenue



"Quebec's desire to separate is never going to end. The situation may have stopped now, but Quebecers won't be satisfied until there's a 'Yes.' We (rest of Canada) didn't win in this referendum either way."

Guy D'Ambrosio, Fourth Line

## Same time last year ...

Acton babysitter Heather Holmgren, 32, pleaded not guilty to charges of manslaughter in the death of a 6-month-old infant ... Const. Bill Riddle and Halton Regional Police moved into new quarters beside *The Acton Tanner* at 12 Church St. E. ... Devil's Night vandals set four fires, causing some \$1,600 damage.