

GRAPE VINE

Tons of food collected

Acton Scouts, Guides and Calvinist Cadets gathered more than seven tons of food for Acton Foodshare on Saturday.

Co-ordinator Gerry Rivers says more than 100 volunteers attempted to get to every house in the community to collect for the food drive. When the day was over, donated food filled 375 boxes and was taken to the food bank.

"Thanks to the generous support of our community, we were able to collect over 15,000 pounds of food for the Acton Food Bank," Rivers says. "I would like to thank everyone who welcomed us so warmly and gave so generously."

Those who would still like to help out can drop off donations at Acton Foodshare or can call 853-0457 to have them picked up.

New podium for AHS

Acton High's new podium on their cafeteria stage carries with it a little of Acton's history.

Carpenter Peter Schmuki, on behalf of the Acton Agricultural Society, donated both his time and a walnut tree from the backyard of his former home on Agnes Street for the project.

The Society's interest in donating a new podium came after their last meeting at the school, when they had to use the old platform.

"The high school supports us on Education Day during the Fall

Fair. They're great," praises Agricultural Society president Janis Fread. "The crest on the podium will give more exposure to the Society and hopefully encourage youth to join our organization."

Bring letters to Santa

Santa's helpers, in the form of Canada Post letter carriers, will again be collecting letters to Santa during the parade on Nov. 18.

The six letter carriers will walk the parade route with their letter bags to make sure Santa gets his mail. More than 300 letters were collected at last year's parade, says letter carrier George Henderson.

"I guess it took Santa quite a while to answer them."

And although Santa may know when you're sleeping and when you're awake, he may not know where to send his reply to your letter. Henderson wants to remind parents to make sure each letter to Santa has a full return address printed on it.

Rotary donates to school

In a time of board cutbacks, the Acton Rotary Club has come to McKenzie-Smith-Bennett's aid in putting up \$14,000 to upgrade the school's computer system.

Although not able to cover the full tab of \$25,000, the Rotary Club will commit to \$7,000 now and join the school's parent committee in a major fundraiser next spring that hopefully will cover the remaining \$7,000.

"We decided to go ahead with this project because it covers a vast area of the community. The school's 575 students and 40 to 50 staff members will be able to access this equipment," explains Rotarian Rob Charette.



SENIORS' BAZAAR NEXT WEEK!

Acton seniors Theresa Matheson, left, and Christine Robertson show off items that will be available at next Wednesday's bazaar at the Seniors' Centre. The bazaar, which runs from 10 am to 4 pm, will include home baking, Christmas cookies, refreshments and craft items. (Doug Harrison photo)

A Referendum retrospective

Like most Canadians, I had a few more thoughts about the Quebec Referendum. I think it made us all stop and think about what a great country we have. Our national pride shines a little brighter today. I see more flags flying. The test will be to maintain this "pride in country" feeling.

Last week our editor (Paul Scisorhands) cut out the references to MP Julian Reed in my daughter Catharine's article about her trip to Montreal for the big rally. I would like to thank Julian and staff, who did all the work. Julian saw the group off at 4:45 am and then had to rush back to Ottawa.

The effort put out by MPs in Ontario to get those buses organized was a first in our history. I think the rally turned the tide. My friends and customers in Quebec are still talking about it.

You may have heard that the bus from Georgetown broke down at the edge of town. My kid, and 20 or so determined rally-goers, trudged back to the Georgetown Marketplace and piled into cars. Actually, Catharine only got as far as a Tim Horton's on her pre-dawn march. She hadn't had her morning coffee. It was either stop for caffeine or punch out the next tractor-trailer that happened by.

Local resident Jim Bowne drove her to Montreal. Speaking from experience, I can tell Mr. Bowne he's one lucky puppy, since Tim Horton's was open. Had Catharine arrived in Montreal without morning coffee, well, I don't want to be an alarmist, but it could have gotten pretty ugly. When the history books are written, it could be said that Tim Horton's saved Canada.

Sadly, many Anglo-Quebeckers told me last week they have had enough. Many are planning to leave the province. Last week's announcement that Quebec took in only 16,000 of a planned 40,000 immigrants this year appears to confirm the theory that some Quebec nationalists are racists.

Immigration Minister Marchi said he wasn't "going to suggest that forces in Quebec are discouraging immigration." Of course not; Parizeau's speech would make any new Canadian feel welcome.

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



We must resolve this constitutional issue before Quebec becomes our Yugoslavia. We can't allow ethnic cleansing.

Did you think Preston Manning did himself proud during the Referendum? I had a hard time deciding which side he was on. He was much too partisan for me. My idea of a united front is not to lob hand-grenades at our own troops.

His defenders say he was only trying to "define" the question for Quebeckers. With allies like him, who needs the Parti Quebecois?

Unless Reformers promote Preston to the executive and get a new leader, they're toast! The man is underwhelming. In these days of leader-dominated campaigns, he just can't cut it. He's not alone - Joe Clark, Bob Stanfield, Frank Miller were equally charismatically-challenged.

The big winner over the Referendum issue was Jean Charest. If he ever sheds the Mulroneys, he'll be a force to deal with. If Reform keeps Preston, Charest will probably do well in Ontario in the next election. If he's smart, he'll dump all the old "red Tories" and get some new blood. He'll have to give the people who voted for Harris a reason to support him.

Isn't it time the feds cleaned house at Radio-Canada (the French CBC)? The misinformation campaign waged by the Separatists on

Radio-Canada was worthy of Joseph Goebbels. When police estimated the crowd at the Montreal rally at 150,000 to 200,000, Radio-Canada told Quebeckers there were only 30,000 there.

At the very least, they could get someone at the station to count - and to tell the truth! We may be forced to pay for the Separatists in Ottawa, but why should we pay for the ones in Montreal?

I guess Bouchard expects us to wait on pins and needles until he makes the decision on his political future at the end of this month. His wife is reported to be unhappy in her role as wife of the Quebec Messiah. She "married an ambassador, not a politician."

Bouchard was, you will remember, Canadian Ambassador to France. His old buddy Mulroneys gave him that little plum. Bouchard repaid him by forming the "Bloc."

The PM should make a preemptive strike. Let's re-appoint Bouchard as Canadian Ambassador to France, at a salary of \$1 million per year, plus perks! In the long run it would be cheaper.

Give the man a 20-year, no-cut contract and ship him off to Paris. The only catch should be that he never darken our door again. Good riddance to bad rubbish.

Jean Chretien paid tribute to Parizeau in the Commons last week. He did not speak for this Canadian. I owe Parizeau nothing but contempt.

To me he's a disgusting little demagogue and the only thing that would make me happier than his resignation, is hearing that he's leaving my country.

And my country includes Quebec!

HEY!

What type of business do we need in Acton?



"Not a shopping mall. I like the way the town is. Maybe an industrial business to bring in more jobs. Acton, basically, has what a small town needs. A bookstore or a children's store would be nice, too."

Karen Atkin, Danville Avenue



"No more pizza places and variety stores. I would like to see a clothing store, but with everyday items. I remember when it was a challenge to find a spool of thread in town."

Noreen Alton, Maria Street



"More department stores, like a Zellers or Bi-Way. There are a lot of young people here with children, but the store would have to have reasonable prices."

Alberta Bowman, Campbellville



"A shoe store. It would have to be reasonably priced, though. There used to be a shoe store here, but it's never been replaced. Everyone needs shoes."

Julie Curry, Elizabeth Drive

Same time last year ...

Eight candidates for mayor all agreed residential and business growth were essential at a three-hour debate in Acton ... Babysitter Heather Holmgren surprised everyone by changing her plea to guilty in her manslaughter trial ... Valedictorian Matt Bailey addressed 101 other Acton High grads at Commencement.