



**GIRL GUIDE COOKIES!** The District of Acton Girl Guides have hit the streets for their cookie fundraiser as Lois and Jane Matton, 2, found out on Friday. Brownie Marissa Kidd, left, and Guide Hayley Green made the delivery. Cookies will be sold door-to-door through the month. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Bridge addresses AHS grads

Acton High School's annual Commencement exercises took place in the school's cafetorium on Friday night, and Darrell Bridge was chosen by fellow graduates as valedictorian.

Bridge, who is now studying math at the University of Waterloo entertained the audience with a moving address. Excerpts of his speech are printed below.

"Welcome to Graduation 1995.

"It is truly a night filled with mixed feelings of anxiety and happiness. Graduation is a milestone in life. It is an ending and a beginning. Since entering Acton High four or five years ago, we have all changed a lot. Not just physically, but our entire mind-set toward the world in general has changed.

"This is a common occurrence when people go through high school, but I believe that the graduates of Acton are different. Maybe it's because of the pastel colours of Mr. Downes's golf shirts, (who can forget the bananarama suit?!), the cafeteria food, or Mr. Shean's farm animal sweaters. Or could it even be that the school is built on

a swamp? No, what really makes

Acton High special is the people! "Acton High, being such a small school, seems in some ways to be more like a family rather than an institution.

"While high school friends have come and gone, they have influenced what we have become. Some sociologists believe that the first five years of a person's life are where they build their basic beliefs and values. This may be true, but I believe that you truly become an individual in high school.

"Sure, the first few years you just want to be part of the crowd, but as time goes on, you want to be yourself. Individuals that help us in the process that you could call 'seeing the light' are the teachers here at Acton. The teachers of Acton High are among the finest in the area and really seem to have a love for the subjects they teach and the students enrolled here.

"If it means wearing a dress or kissing a cow for fundraising, we know who to count on - Mr. Downes, a.k.a. Mrs. Downesfire.

"When we need to understand the world around us just a little bit better, we know that Roy 'Tank' McMillan can answer anything with a supply and demand curve. Then there's Mr. Andrews, who, in his own free time, spent hours building ping-pong tables, dart

boards, and horseshoe pits, which gave us something to do on our long lunch hours, instead of just staring at the ceiling fan.

"In class, Mr. Harris told camping and fishing stories that seemed to put life into a boring lesson.

"It's really strange the way our opinions toward our parents change during our high school years. At the start of Grade 9, we did not want anything to do with them, except take their money. Now we respect them and see them in a whole new light.

"Of course, we still enjoy taking their money.

"When looking back at our years at Acton High School, there are so many memories that stand out.

"The dances seem to be one of the big parts of Grade 9. Who can forget Terra Cotta and Mr. Calderelli and his mega-phone? What was that famous saying we rose early to every morning. Oh yes, 'Let's Go!'

"The performances that took place in the cafeteria were of the highest quality. Even though Acton was not a powerhouse in sports, we had a lot of fun and managed to surprise a team or two.

"I would like to thank the teachers, friends, family and everyone else who makes this school so great and wish the grads the best of luck in the future."

## Students visit vet clinic

**ROBERT LITTLE NEWS**  
BY TROY ETHIER & SAM MILLS

Ms. Brown's, Mrs. Monk's and Mlle Gaston's classes went to the Acton Veterinary Clinic. Sara Fox and Caitlyn Bowen said that the trip to the vet was interesting.

Students saw a dog's heart with heartworm. The heartworms look like spaghetti. Dogs can get heartworm from fleas and they might die.

The children were weighed on the animal scales. They also saw a horse's leg, held kittens, saw dogs'

X-rays and visited the surgery room.

Sara and Caitlyn both thought the best part was holding the kittens. The vet was very nice.

Students would like to send a big thank you to everyone who made donations to UNICEF on Halloween night. Way to go!

And Andy Burnett wrote a poem he calls *Owls*.

*Owls*

*Brown and black*

*Hunts and flies*

*Scared and exciting too*

*Birds.*

## Santa still needs help

"I'm guaranteeing great weather again this year - no problem!"

That was the confident claim made last week when Santa Claus Parade organizer Bill Spielvogel visited The Tanner to promote this year's event, slated for next Saturday (Nov. 18) at 1 pm.

"The parade should be roughly the same size as last year," said Spielvogel, a member of the Acton Volunteer Fire Fighters, who sponsor Santa's annual visit.

"I sent out about 200 envelopes asking for donations and float

entry, and I'm still looking for donations from businesses and individuals in Acton and area."

Contact Spielvogel at 853-2924 if you wish to participate.

The parade has lost money for the past two years, so Spielvogel is stepping up his search for sponsors. In 1994 the shortfall was about \$1,200.

"The parade always carried itself until the last few years," explained Spielvogel.

"Hopefully this year we can cover all our expenses."

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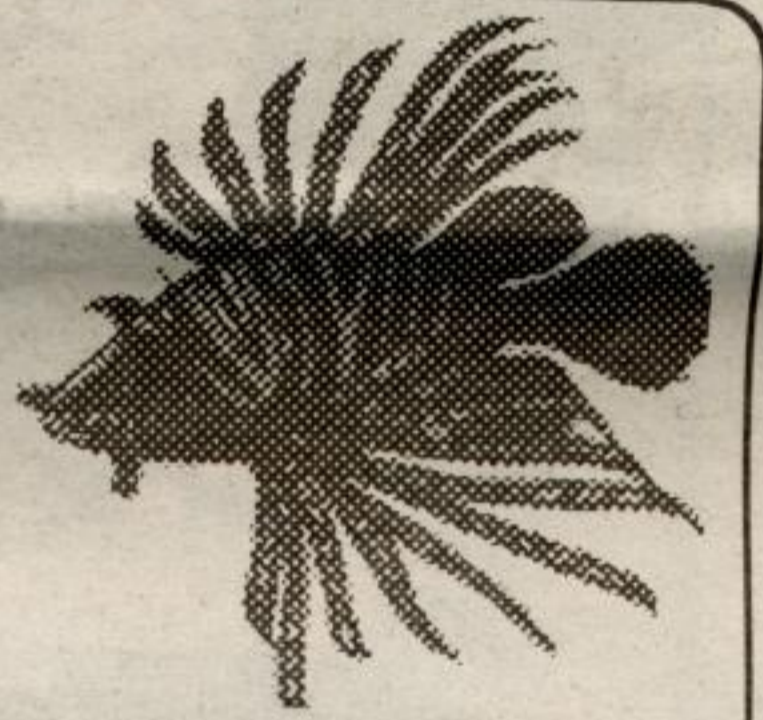
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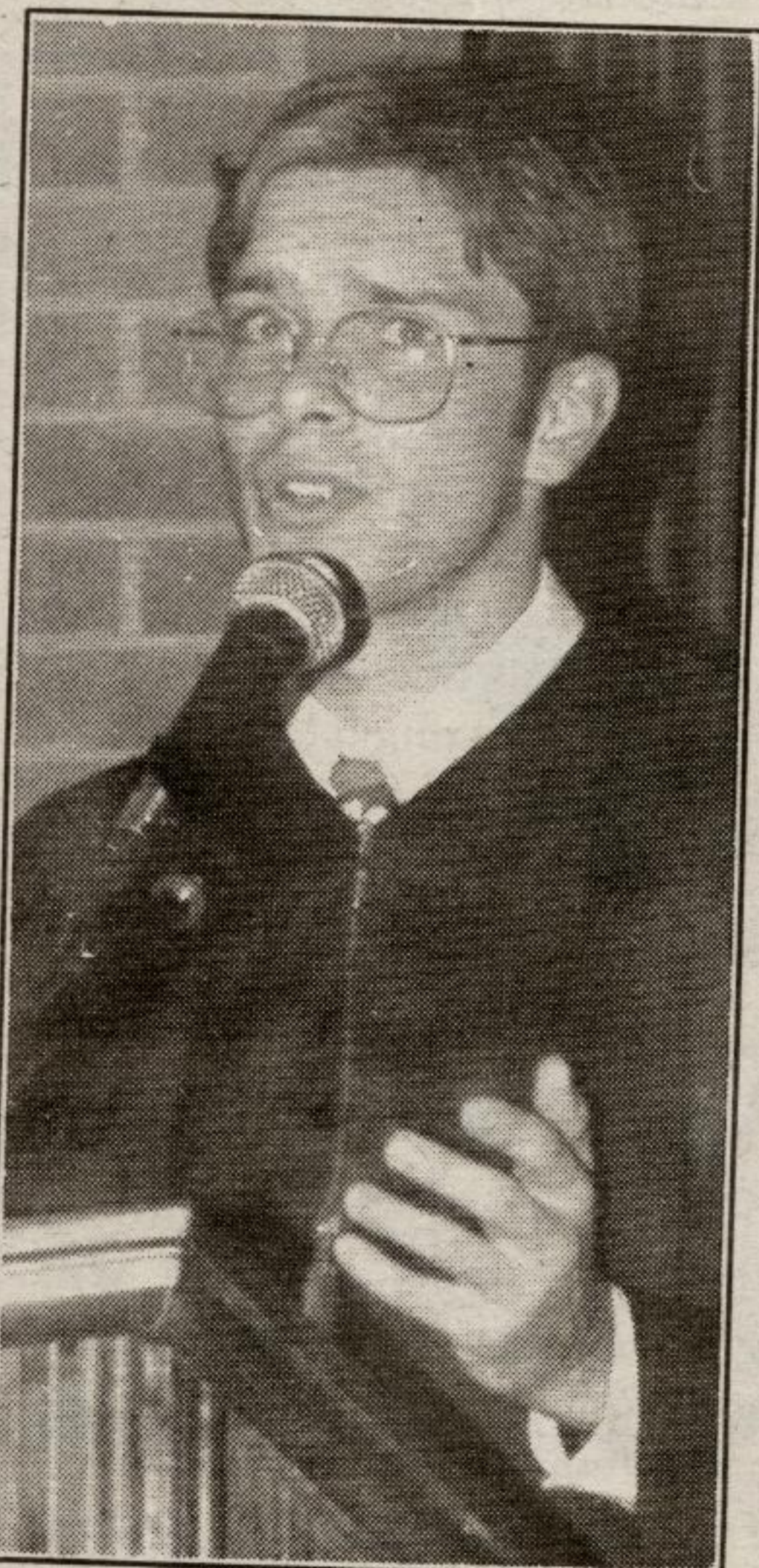
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