

GRAPE VINE

Patterson retires

After 15-plus years as a library assistant at the Acton branch, Pat Patterson has decided she's worked enough and wants to spend more time with her grandson.

"I'll be looking after my 3-year-old grandson, so I'm not really retiring," jokes the 26-year Acton resident. "I will take him to nursery school, drop-ins and the library - as a visitor."

Added the former lab technician at the University of Guelph, "I'll miss the people I work with the most. Part of the reason I like working is the chance to talk to people."

Rotary makes donation

Last Tuesday, the Acton Rotary Club made a \$500 donation to Halton Women's Place.

"It's a very important organization in North Halton and the Rotary is a proud sponsor of the Halton Women's Place," Rotarian Rob Charette says.

Halton Women's Place is an emergency shelter for physically, sexually and emotionally abused women and their dependent children. Two shelters in Milton and Burlington serve Halton Region.

Wetherby's celebrates Coronation St. years

In celebration of Coronation Street's 39 years on the airwaves, Wetherby's will be holding a Coro-

nation Street open house on Dec. 9 from 1 to 5 pm.

Videos of the popular English show will be shown, along with a special tea to be held at TimBri teahouse. Reservations must be made for the tea by calling TimBri at 853-5231.

"It will be busy and fun. There are so many Coronation Street fans across the country it's quite unbelievable," says Wetherby's owner Jo Lister, adding people can also browse in the store for Coronation Street musical mugs, tea towels and aprons, to name a few.

Home and business expo

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce is organizing a home and business show for the area, to run May 3 through 5 at the Gordon Alcott Arena in Georgetown.

The expo, free to all consumers, will run from 4 to 9 pm on May 3, 10 am to 5 pm on May 4 and noon to 5 pm on the last day.

The cost of a booth is \$300 and includes hydro and a large area to work in. To reserve a space, call the Chamber office at 877-7119.

New office at M-S-B

McKenzie-Smith Bennett moved into its new office, kitty-corner to the McKenzie-Smith gym, last week.

The office features an entire wall of windows, making office staff more visible and accessible to students at all grade levels.

The old office in the McKenzie-Smith wing will be home to student services; the school store will move across the hall to the former student services location, and Mrs. Cook will finally be able to organize the family studies office when the school store moves out.



NOT A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE ...!

Yes, the white stuff has returned. Though it wasn't much, last week's dusting of snow brought out the youngsters to Greenore Park for a pre-winter fight. From left: Victoria Duffield, 5; Jordan Dunn, 5; Steven Duffield, 10; and Keri Dudas, 6. (Doug Harrison photo)

G.T.A. = ghastly taxes ahead!

Our local "ship of state" is headed into very dangerous waters. Actually, we're being dragged along by "big brother" Metro.

The task force recommendations on the future of the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) are due soon. One proposal being touted around is that a "super region" should be created, stretching from Oshawa to Burlington.

City and town councils would be reduced in number. Metro and regional governments would be replaced by "a GTA authority," of appointed local councillors.

Most Ontarians would agree that we have too many laws and too much government. On the surface, this proposal would seem logical. Why have a recreation department, for instance, for every town and city in the GTA?

But is such an amalgamation the answer? My answer is a definite No! Non! Nyet! Not a chance! Forget it!

If you dislike the current system of regional government, you'll hate being a pip-squeak partner in a super-region GTA. I moved to Acton to get away from Toronto and the nut-bars who run it.

If we are to retain any semblance of community, we'd better start kicking and scratching right now. Don't forget, it was the Tories who imposed regional government on us in the first place and look who's in power these days.

The problem is that Metro Toronto is drowning in a sea of red ink. The City has instituted so many programs in the last 25 years that its taxes are among the highest on the continent. Since most businesses are profit-driven, rather than altruistic, they are voting with their feet and moving out to less expensive locations in the 'burbs.

It's pretty difficult to justify laying off people when you see millions of dollars in tax money used to move a huge rock from Haliburton to Bay and Bloor.

The list of squandered taxes is almost endless. And this is the nightmare that the Board of Trade of Metro Toronto proposes we join

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



I received my notice of assessment last week. I couldn't help but wonder why we in Halton Hills are paying the highest mill rate for both residential and business taxes in the region? Does it strike you as odd that if my house was in Milton, I'd pay \$167 less in taxes?

In Oakville, which for years had the highest per capita income in the country, I'd pay \$62 less on a house with the same assessed value. This is what regional government has done for us. Just think of how badly we'll get screwed if this GTA proposal goes through.

I get the feeling our Town Council is waiting until the final report is tabled before getting too vocal. I think that tactic is a mistake. I'd like to see a big "Hell no - we won't go" banner draped across the Town Hall.

We should all be in touch with MPP Chudleigh (878-1729) to let him know how we feel. Already it costs more to licence a car in Acton than it does in Rockwood. That's a thought - if we have to join something, let's join Guelph!

I'm not sure the Tories would create a super-GTA with 4 million people and most provincial industries in it. Its power would rival Queen's Park. The tail would wag the dog. Still, no one ever claimed that government was smart.

If it does go through, I think we should hold a vote to separate from

Ontario. We'd be a monarchy, with "Hurricane Hazel" as Queen and Mel Lastman as Prince Consort. Consider that scenario, Mr. Harris!

The near-disaster at the Prime Minister's residence is oh-so-Canadian. The incident is no laughing matter. I doubt Bouchard or Parizeau will accept any responsibility for their incendiary rhetoric. Our public figures should learn something from the tragic murder of Prime Minister Rabin in Israel. It was Parizeau, you will remember, who spoke of "revenge" over the referendum defeat.

The typically Canadian reaction by our senior ministers was too predictable. The Mounties on duty were suspended. Just like in the Somalia inquiry, the lowest ranks get nailed. Their supervisors were "re-assigned."

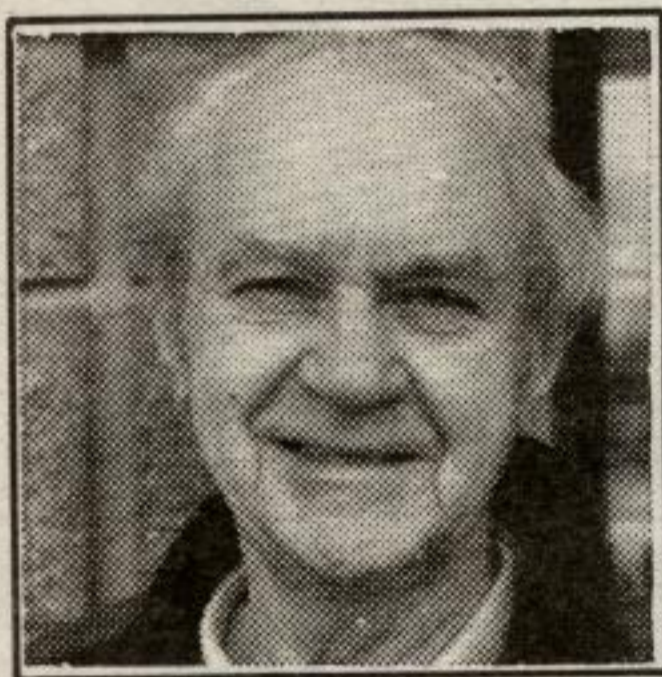
I couldn't help but wonder if the Mounties are as apprehensive as regular police are to use their weapons. These days, if cops use their guns, they're damned if they do and damned if they don't. After getting the call from Madam Chretien, the Mounties even had to try and contact three supervisors by cell phone. It's the Prime Minister, for Pete's sake. Shouldn't someone on-site be in charge?

And lastly, much attention has been given to the PM's defensive weapon of choice. He grabbed an Inuit sculpture of a loon. Allan Rock is rumoured to be considering a licensing scheme for offensive art. After all, people don't kill people - loons do!

I can just hear Const. Bill Riddle now. "O.K. buddy - drop that beaver or I'll shoot."

HEY!

What are Bob Rae's chances of resurfacing as Premier?



"I think they're good, maybe in 10 years. I liked the guy. I met him and he was all right. He's a good speaker and although I don't think he did a lot of good for the country, I think he's popular. He's got a chance."

Robert Kovarik, R.R. 3, Acton

"I don't know. If he is re-elected I'll like him. He's a no-nonsense guy and followed through with what he planned. I liked what he did for the little guy in some aspects and didn't in others."

Maria Berry, McDonald Boulevard



"I hope he hasn't got a hope in hell. What worries me a bit is his objective to become leader of the federal NDP. That would be worse for the country. He's very well educated and well-spoken, but I don't like his beliefs."

Jim Smith, Coles Court

"I like what he did. We're still suffering from Rae's decisions, some of which are good, because Premier Mike Harris is slapping our hand. I feel Rae has the people's best interests at heart, but not the province's."

Andrea Lavalley, Mill Street



Same time last year ...

After 17 years on town council, Marilyn Serjeantson is elected Halton Hills mayor, defeating seven other challengers ... Ontario Municipal Board agreed future development in Acton would likely be approved ... Acton Aqua Ducks shatter six club records at a swim meet in Richmond Hill.