

# GRAPE VINE

Life with 2,273, *The Acton Tanner* with 1,952 and CMHC II with 1,875.

## Fire up that chili!

Yes, there will be a second annual "Great Chili Contest" sponsored by Acton IGA and *The Tanner*.

IGA employee John Baker, last year's organizer, says a date has not been set, but people should gear for the end of February.

Advertisements promoting this year's contest will be displayed at IGA and in this paper shortly.

## Acton adds 4 pay phones

Both Sue Kim and Ron Kahn, owners of Acton Discount Variety and Jug City, hope new Bell phone booths outside their businesses will attract customers.

The booths, installed by Bell three weeks ago, were requested by the local merchants. Another booth has been set up between Acton IGA and KFC.

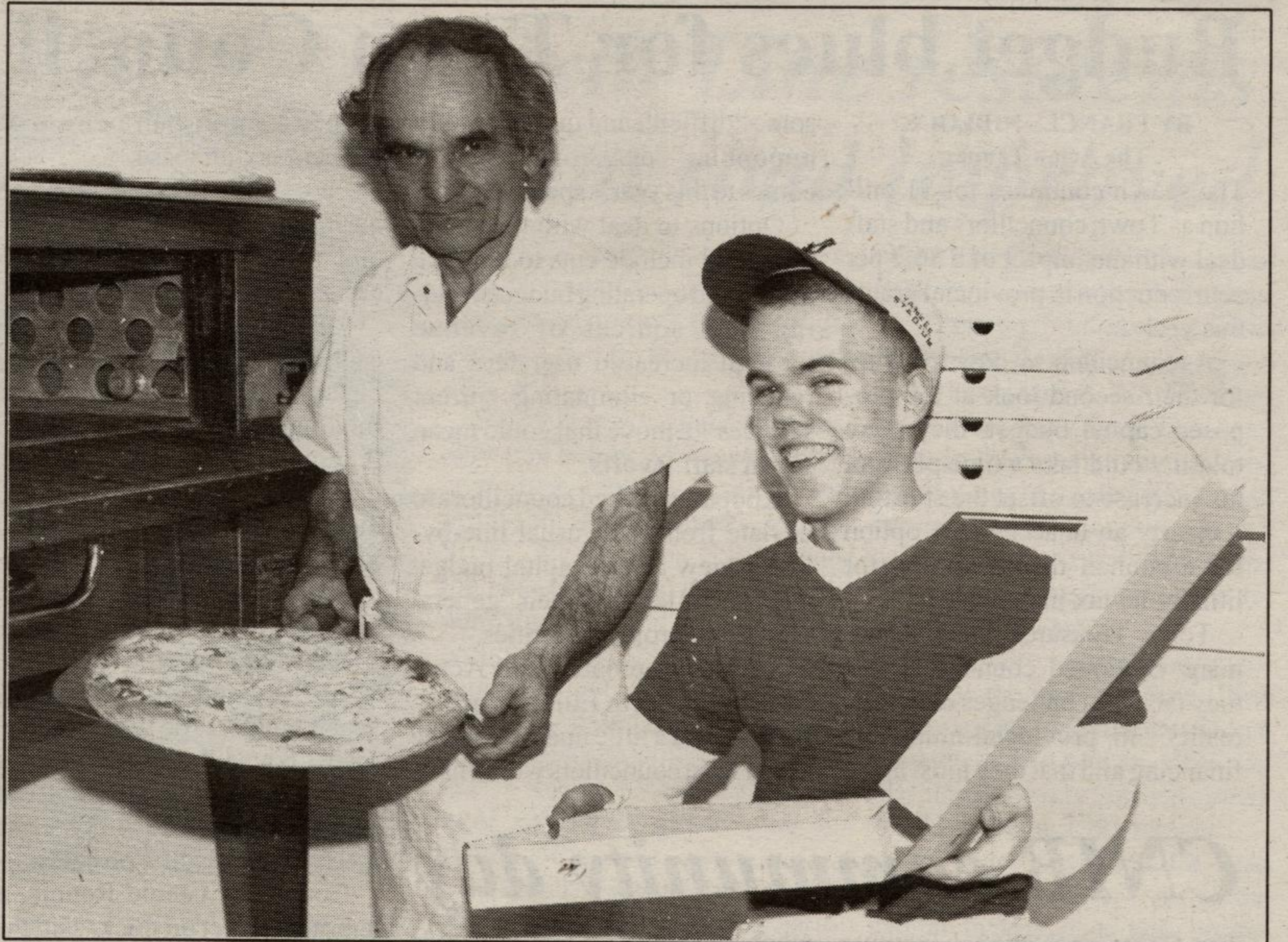
"People hopefully will come in for change and maybe buy some gum," Sue says.

Adds Ron: "A lot of people used to ask where the pay phone was. It helps business."

## Christian Unity Sunday

A joint children's choir has been added this year to the Christian Unity Sunday service that will be held at 10:30 am on Jan. 28 at Trinity United Church.

Children's choir director Lenore Vickery says six Acton choirs will be in attendance. George Elliott will lead the instrumental group, while St. Alban's Church's Andrew Dewhurst and Marie Anderson of Churchill Community Church will direct numbers.



**CHANGING PLACES!** Two For You Pizza owner Nick Chris, left, recently moved his business to beside Acton Laundromat on Willow Street from Mill Street (beside Scotiabank). That's employee Scott McDonald, 18, ready to deliver an order. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Last-ditch effort

There will be one more meeting - Jan. 31 at 8 pm at Andy's Restaurant - in an attempt to attract more volunteers for the up-in-the-air Leathertown Festival.

"This is it. If there's no response, this is the end," Festival organizer Janis Fread said on Friday. She called the meeting after being notified a couple of people would be interested in helping out.

The Festival is advertised in the Craft Council publication, which has already missed one publication date because of its uncertainty.

## Flour Mill top bowlers

Totalling 1,024 pins in their third game, the six-man Halton Flour Milling team of Paul Coull, Tom Mai, Hilton Fendley, Mark Kri, Dave Lauzan and Brad Thomsen took the first Acton company bowling challenge at Acton Lanes on Friday.

The Mill's strong last game helped them pull off a 252 pinfall win over the runner-up Jordan family, which counted 2,378 pins.

The event was set up in a 3-6-9 format, meaning each of the six bowlers on a team were given strikes in those frames. As well, the top and bottom scores of each team were dropped in each game.

Following the Jordans were Community Mental Health Clinic I (Guelph) with 2,319 pins, Purity

# False idols were Golden, too

The much-anticipated Golden Report was finally released last week. It was somewhat anti-climatic since many of its recommendations had already been leaked to the press. Public debate in newspapers and on radio talk shows has been raging.

The most contentious issue is the plan to scrap regional government and replace it with a Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Council, overseeing an area from Port Hope to Burlington and north to Lake Simcoe. I think it's a bad idea resulting in higher taxes and fewer services for small towns like ours.

Some 20 years ago, regional government was stuffed down our throats. We were promised this level of government would be more efficient and save us money in the long run. It's a familiar government theme - we're spending more money but it will cost less. Right!

There are some areas - policing, public works, etc. - where there should have been some economies of scale. These were more than eaten away by over-ambitious politicians and bureaucrats who embarked on a 20-year frenzy of empire building.

In Toronto, Metro Council had to have their own building, even though office vacancies levels were at record highs. Here, we have the "mistake near the lake," which started out as a "green blob" and deteriorated. The first thing any level of government will do is spend as much public money as it can to justify its existence. Why would anyone think a super GTA council will be any different?

We are already paying more because somehow we got sucked into the GTA. Our car license charges are higher than folks in Rockwood, for example. And this is only the tip of the GTA iceberg.

Many of us moved to Acton, not to escape higher taxes, but because we could see the quality of life in the city begin to deteriorate. Toronto City Council, in the '70s, began to cater to any old squeaky wheel. Somewhere along

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



the way, aldermen (as they were called in those days), decided delivering local services was not a high enough calling. They started to dictate how you should live. Etobicoke, where I lived, passed a by-law regulating the temperature of your bathtub water. Honest!

The City of Toronto has continued down this merry path to fiscal oblivion. How many hundreds of millions were spent on the Atari public housing complex? Remember the infamous rock moved from Muskoka to Bay and Bloor? Lately, \$300,000 was sent to plant trees in the rain forest.

It seems if there was a cause diametrically opposed to mainstream thinking and morality, T.O. would finance it. Now Toronto is on the edge of bankruptcy and looking for help to bail them out. Business, no longer tolerant of usurious taxes and overbearing regulations, has voted with their feet. T.O. politicians like to say that we in the "burbs" should pay for the services we use.

Seems to me the traffic is just as heavy westbound on the 401 as it is eastbound. Maybe T.O. owes money to Mississauga for wear and tear on its systems. Don't we already finance Toronto through provincial transfer payments?

If Halton Hills Council doesn't reject this GTA proposal, our taxes will skyrocket. If Mike Harris goes

along with this proposition, I predict he'll be a one-term wonder. The regions surrounding Toronto voted Tory; not for the schemes of an NDP-dominated Toronto city council. If we wanted that, we'd have kept Rae.

I am concerned our mayor is unable or unwilling to lead a forceful attack against the super-GTA concept. Last weekend she was reported to have some "definite" concerns about the Golden Report, but to be totally negative at this point wouldn't be fair.

Excuse me - fair to whom? Fair to the taxpayers of Acton or fair to some political process designed to make us pay for the ineptitude of Toronto politicians?

People closer to the mayor than I, say one of the mayor's attributes is that she's a conciliator. She prefers negotiation to confrontation. This is a style much in vogue in the '80s, when the popular wisdom was that if we would just all love each other, everything would be fine. This thinking, that everyone is inherently good, gave us stabblings in the subways.

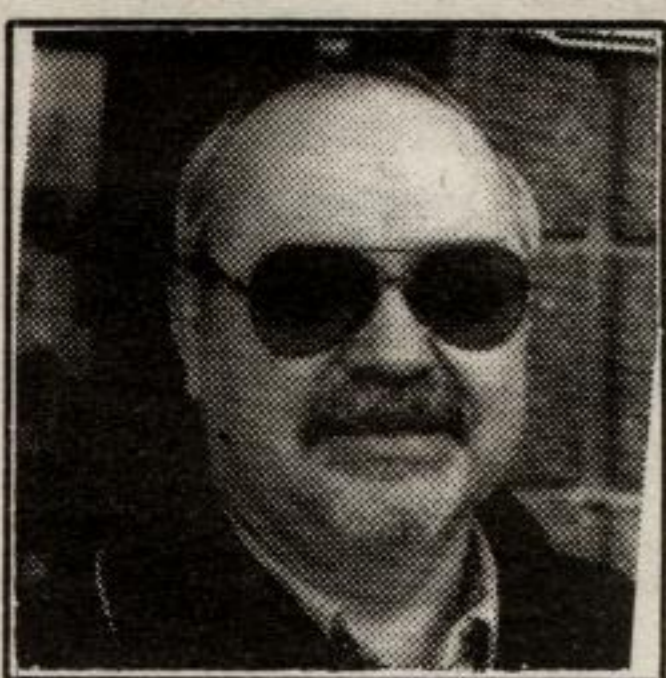
Well, the yuppie days are over. The fight over the GTA will be downright dirty, old-fashioned municipal politics. With all this political turf up for grabs, biting, kicking and scratching will be the norm. We need someone shouting, "Hell no - we won't go!"

If Council doesn't fight this, we're going to get screwed. Many think Acton is ignored by Halton region. What chances will we have in a super GTA? We need the mayor and councillors to be pit-bulls on this issue.

A "Muffy the mayor" attitude just won't cut it.

# HEY!

*If you could go away, where would you go?*



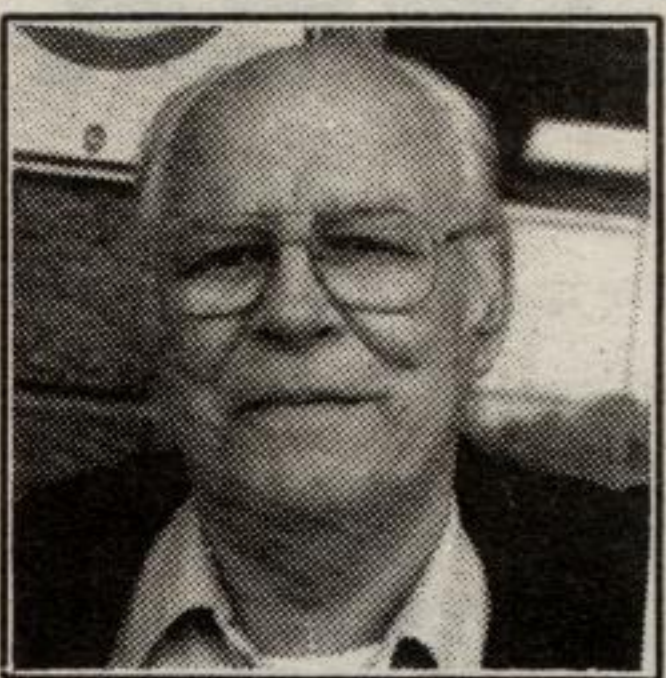
"I would probably go to Vancouver. My two daughters and grandchildren live there. I hate the snow and cold. I might retire there in a few years if I can afford it. People are still golfing there. I miss that."

*Marcel St. Pierre, Main Street*



"Hawaii. I've always dreamt of going there. The weather is beautiful. It would be interesting to go across all the islands. I love the snow until after Christmas."

*Teresa Uiterwyk, Mill Street*



"I would go see my sister in the northern part of Manitoba. I grew up there and there are a lot of good memories. My old school chums live out there in the country. I'd like to go back for a holiday, but not live there."

*Nick Yalowica, Rosemary Road*



"I won a trip in October and I'm going to Las Vegas on Feb. 4. I've been there several times. It's a different world - 24 hours a day. I love the casinos and there's lots to see. And it's not that hot this time of year."

*Bonnie Baxter, Tidey Avenue*

## Same time last year ...

Babysitter **Heather Holmgren** is sentenced seven years for causing the death of one infant and assaulting another ... Rural councillors **Kathy Gastle** and **Rob Heaton** retain their Ward 2 seats after a recount ... Cancer Society volunteer **Susan Kuechler** is honoured for her 20 years of volunteer work.