

GRAPE VINE

Robert Little ran their own Lighten Up activities, including a line in the hallways. They even got a visit from Toronto's multi-cultural network CFMT-TV and reporter Lucy Zilio.

"The schools were wonderful. They were ready for us," Fread said of accompanying CFMT, amid the controlled chaos. "The only unfortunate part was the line in each school kind of excludes the rest of the community. We'll have to work more next year on involving the whole community."

Duignan's new services

Former North Halton MPP Noel Duignan and Norma Peterson of Double M Enterprises Inc. announced last Wednesday the official launch of paralegal services in the Wellington-Halton area.

The services offered will include alternative dispute resolution, which provides ways to resolve disputes other than through litigation.

Through its commercial division, Double M Enterprises Inc. also offers assistance in domestic and international trade, co-op housing management, government relations and events management.

Guest speaker at Knox

Got the winter blahs?

Well, think spring and come out to the next meeting of the Acton Horticultural Society on Feb. 20 at 7:30 pm at Knox Presbyterian Church.

The guest speaker is Trevor Ashbee. He will be delivering hints on getting ready for spring, starting seeds and preparing a greenhouse.

Call Max at 853-0001 after 6 pm for more information.

Leathertown Festival on!

There will be a fifth Leathertown Festival in August.

Following a discouraging 'last ditch' meeting called by Festival organizer Janis Fread two weeks ago, advertising and promotions chair Elly Tuitman urged Fread to call another meeting.

During this meeting at Andy's Restaurant, a few people signed up to be committee chairs. "We have some new zest, new blood," said a relieved Elly on Friday. "This (fate of the Festival) was touch-and-go all the way. We would like even more people involved because the Festival is getting bigger every year."

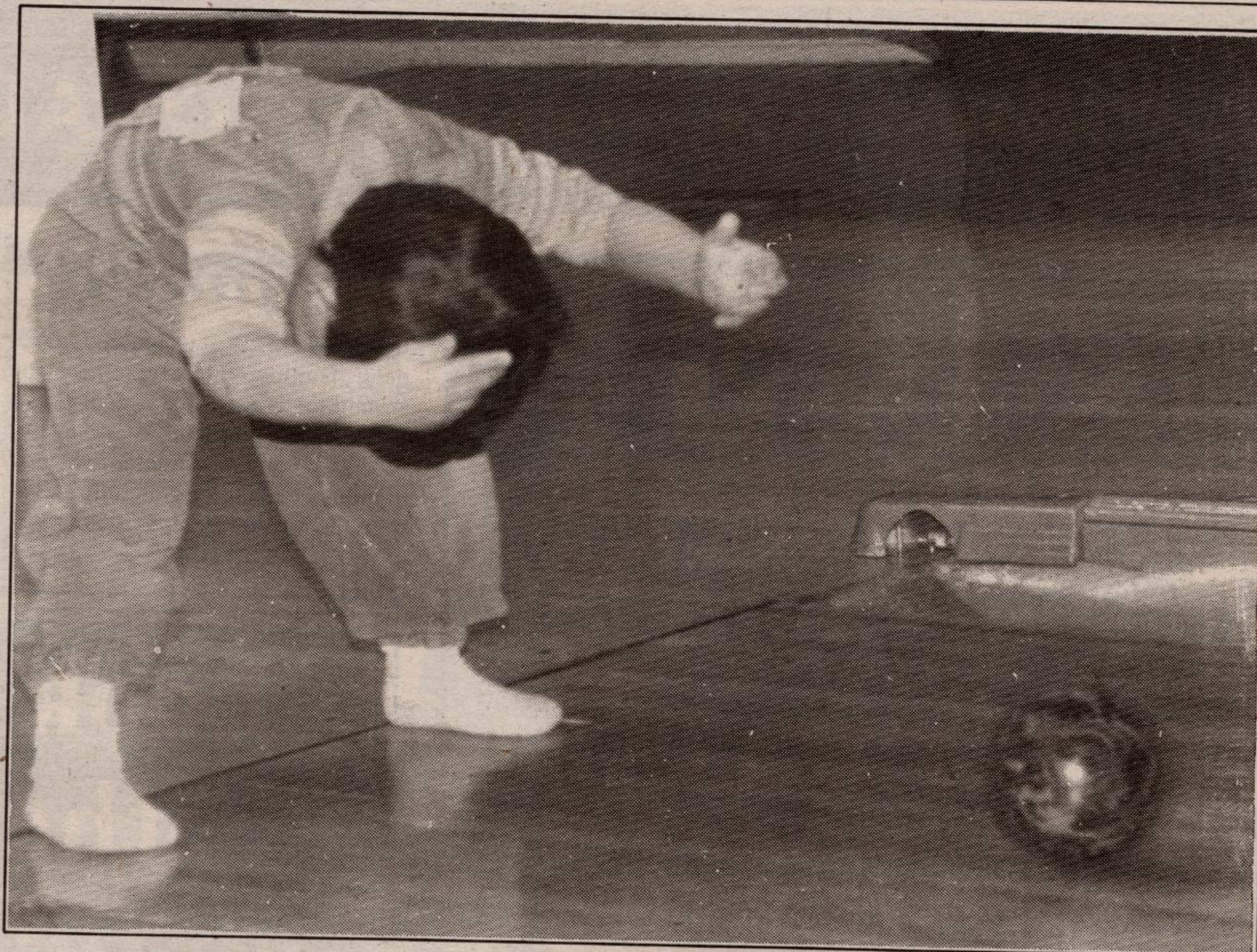
Elly made an extra effort to salvage the Leathertown Festival that she said "would have been lost" if it was postponed a year.

The other committee chairs include Bill Pshyk, sponsorship; Jackie Higgins, craft vendors; Jake Kuiken, merchant vendors; Brenda Watson, community groups; and Gerald Rennie, secretary-emcee.

'Lighten Up' a success

Part-time Acton BIA co-ordinator Janis Fread declared last Tuesday's 'Lighten Up Canada Day' a success in Acton, despite the absence of an extended line of red foam noses along Eastern Avenue.

Instead, Acton High School, McKenzie-Smith Bennett and



AN 'A' FOR EFFORT: Three-year-old Ellis Lavallée may not have the form, but he makes up for it with his enthusiastic attempt at bowling. Ellis and the Junior Y Daycare recently visited Acton Lanes for a few games played just for the fun of it. (Karen Wetmore photo)

Talk about your long weekend

The first weekend of February '96 gave me cause to redefine the meaning of the term "long weekend." Here's what happened.

Our big trade show of the spring always starts on Super Bowl Sunday and ends on Thursday. We bring in a crew of kids and part-timers to help pack up. It's a long, exhausting job that we usually finish around 1 am Friday morning.

The night of Feb. 1 was one of the coldest we had this year. Sure enough, around 11:30 pm I went out to get the truck and the battery was dead. I called the rental company and was told help would be there in 20 minutes. Like a fool, I went outside to wait.

After an hour I was beside myself. The crew was tired and I had "The Bride" and "The Kid" with me. That's when my Good Samaritan, in the form of Quick-X driver Joe Ribeiro, arrived on the scene. By now the night was bitterly cold.

Joe went out, unhooked his trailer, drove his truck to where my dead one was, and gave me a boost. If you've never had to boost a 26-ft. truck, there's a lot more to it than boosting a car battery. It took Joe a good 20 minutes, working in the cold, to get me going.

I tried to give Joe a few bucks for his trouble. Not only did he refuse any money, all he wanted was for me to pass the favour to another stranded motorist. The guy is a real "Knight of the Road."

Joe had no way of knowing that I also cover a lot of miles in a year. I have always carried booster cables, blanket, shovel, basic first aid kit and a powerful portable light. On many occasions I have been able to help fellow motorists. I now know how appreciative those folks were. It has strengthened my resolve to keep my emergency kit well stocked.

I am amazed that so many Canadians drive off into our Canadian winter without any emergency equipment. If you break down in town, it's easy to get help. At night or in the country, help

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



held until nearly 1 pm. By now it's 9:30, I've been up five hours and I'm thinking about a beer and burger. It's lunch time as far as my stomach is concerned. Did you know that the bars in Mississauga aren't open at 9:30 Sunday morning? Barbaric country!

After our first lunch, we return to the rink for the final. I'm hoping that "The Kid" will do well and am calculating how much time will be left for my nap. No one knows how dance is judged, so there is no clear winner. Just after 2 pm the marks are posted and the most surprised person in the rink is "The Kid." She won! Medal presentations are at 5 pm. Off we troop for our second lunch of the day. I make a mental note to buy shares in Harvey's.

By the time the medals were presented and we got home, it was well after 6 pm - 13½ hours after my tootsies hit the floor. Figure skaters are a tough lot.

I'm still not entirely comfortable hanging around the skating fraternity. I grew up with football, baseball, hockey and skiing. I have this image of myself as masculine - macho if you will.

It's hard to be macho when surrounded by young ladies in skating costume and make-up. It's especially hard when you have a curling iron in your coat pocket. I decide that, if discovered, I'll say, "Back off fella - I'm packing heat." So that's the tale of my "long" weekend. I thought it would never end. My friend Ray leaves for work shortly after 6 am, and he continually tells me how wonderful it is to greet the dawn. In one weekend - been there, done that.

If Ray really likes this ungodly hour, he should be committed.

may not be as close.

My faith in the generosity of the average Canadian was renewed by Joe's kindness. We can all learn from this incident. If you see someone stranded, give a hand. If you have a cell phone, call CAA or the police. Helping out gives you a good feeling. And when you do, smile at the person and say "Joe sent me." Pass along his good deed.

We finished unpacking the show booth and stock at 5 am Friday morning. A 22½ hour day started this weekend.

Friday was a blur, Saturday we worked at getting orders sorted. We were pretty tired.

Sunday, "The Kid" was skating at an interclub competition in Mississauga. She had to be on the ice at 6 am - or so we were told.

We hit the floor at 4:30 am (it's an ugly hour), were on the road by 5:15 and in Mississauga by 6 am. Too early! The first flight didn't have to register until 6:30-ish. (Mutter, mutter). "The Kid" skates solo and dance and would be finished by 8:30 or so. I'm thinking - home, nap and couch potato for the afternoon. My system was still recovering from the 5 am excursion of two days ago.

But "The Kid" won her flight in dance. The final wouldn't be

HEY!

Your reaction to Ont. government workers rejecting Harris' proposed cutbacks?



"In one way it puts us back 20 years in establishing good services and good feelings, but I think people have to take more personal responsibility. I don't think you have to pummel people to the ground to do it, though."

Sally Laing, Lake Avenue

"It was wrong. In this economy they shouldn't have walked away from the table. It's a big union that can do a lot of damage, but Harris will make the cuts. A lot of companies are making concessions these days."

Robert Mitchell, Birchway Place



"I think the majority of the offer was fair, but the aspect of the pension could be negotiated. Harris is trying to win the popularity contest and if means cutting government expenditures by cutting employees then so be it."

Shelley Kauffeldt, Birchway Place

"I'm not too pleased about it. I think Harris has made finding a job worse, but I think he'll go through with these cuts. There's already a lot of downsizing with companies."

Gloria Rowsell, Cook Street



Same time last year ...

After three years as chair, **Roberta Holmes** steps down from the Acton BIA ... **Town Council** approves draft plans for subdivisions which will increase Acton's population to 10,000 ... **50 neighbours** of Halton Flour Milling claim the business' extension plans will destroy their community.