

GRAPE VINE

\$8,300 for curbs to stop people who use a convenient parking spot in front of the building.

Winter's weather

Since last Wednesday's dumping, snow is probably the last thing you'd want to hear about.

But it might interest you to know that according to the Ontario Climate Centre (Environment Canada), which has a site in Georgetown, our area received 126.9 cm (65.5 inches) of snow from November to the end of February.

And though you might want to just forget about it, our coldest day this winter was Saturday, Jan. 6. The mercury dipped to a bitter minus 27.5 degrees Celsius, which came close, but not close enough to beat out the coldest temperature on record — an unthinkable minus 33 degrees!

One lump or two?

A jilted Tim Horton's patron added injury to insult last week when he punched and broke a plexi-glass sign outside the coffee shop after being dumped by his girlfriend.

After getting the brush off, over coffee and a crueller, the unidentified man ran outside and smashed the sign, cutting his hand.

He was grabbed and straightened out by an off-duty police officer and won't be charged if he pays \$150 to replace the "Thank you" sign.

Canvassers needed

The Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society is in urgent need of canvassers in the Storey Drive and Cobblehill Road area.

If you can spare a few hours of your time to help out a very worthy cause, please call Liz Bailey at 853-0585.

Bunny flag stolen

Someone out there obviously has too much time on their hands. Some-time overnight on March 15, the flag hanging outside Country Reflections on Mill Street was removed by vandals.

"It's a large 6-foot by 3-foot picture of a big white bunny eating an orange carrot," said store owner Judy MacDonald. "I can't imagine what anyone would do with it."

Whoever took the Easter flag took care not to damage the flagpole and, "obviously had to go to some lengths," to get it down from its 6-foot high perch over the store.

Judy says she's ordered a new flag to hang outside for Mother's Day, but she'll be taking it inside each night.

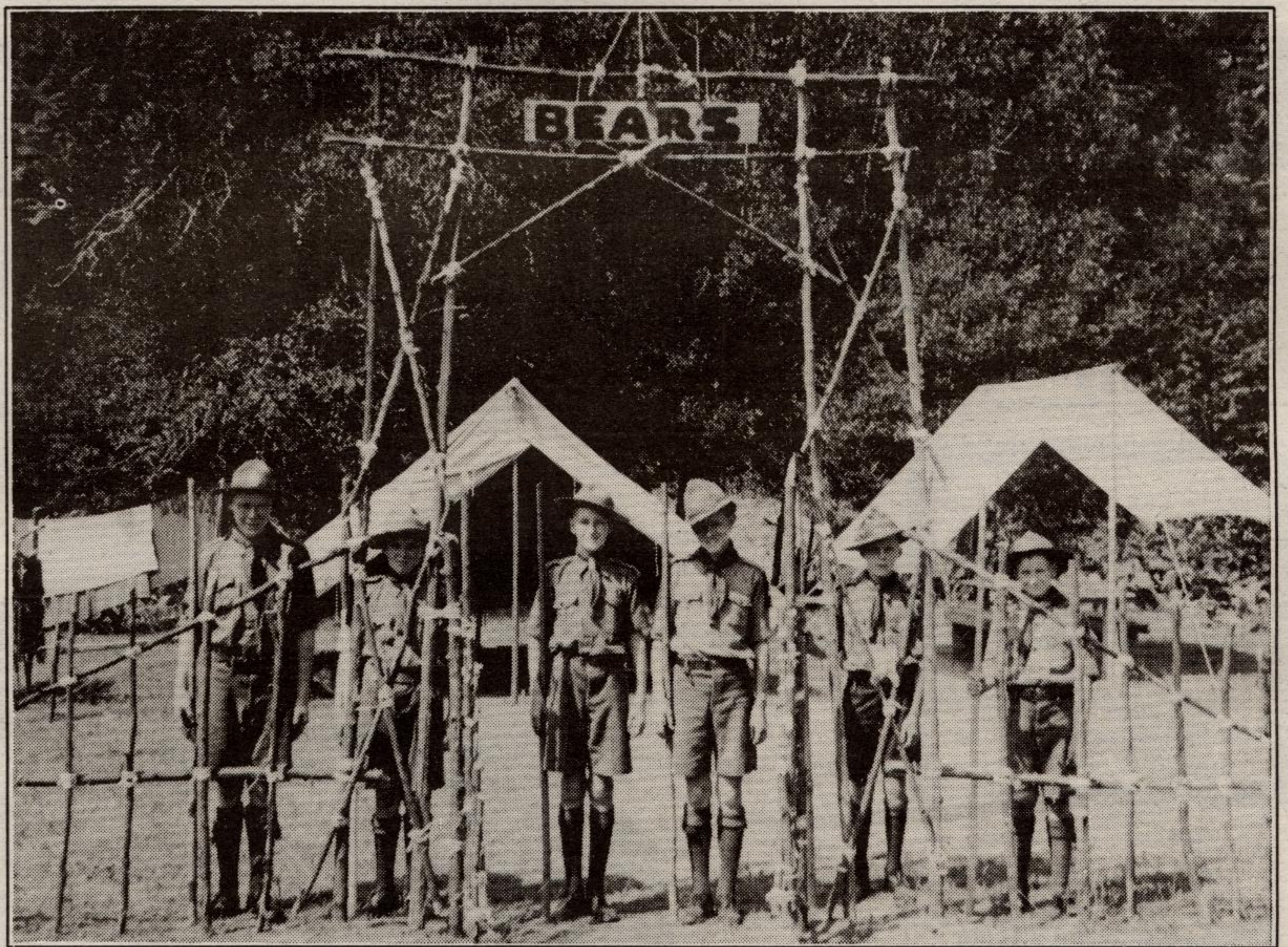
If you have any information on the theft, call Judy at 853-1996.

Curb yourself

Realstar Management is on its own when it comes to cleaning up the front of its Maria Street apartment building, which is being gouged and rutted into a muddy mess by parked cars.

Local politicians refused Realstar's request to ban parking along Maria to stop the parkers and also refused a staff suggestion to split the cost of curbs and a sidewalk on Maria with Realstar.

Although Town staff admitted that "half the mess" is on Town property and half on Realstar's, councillors said no to spending



LINING UP CAMP: A group of boy scouts pose for a picture at the Blue Springs Scouts Reserve, sometime during the 1930s. From left are Gord Bilton, Tom Watson, Gordon Gibbons, W. Gordon, Bruce Pargeter and Ken Hassard. If you have any old or treasured pictures you feel *Tanner* readers would also like to see, you can drop them off during business hours at 12 Church St.

Are inquiries a waste of time?

Spring has sprung (sort of) and public inquiries are popping up faster than the crocus. Inquiries are supposed to examine an event or situation and expose the original process to public scrutiny. More often than not, the terms of reference are so limiting that we seldom get much more than a white-wash for our money.

Case in point: the honourable Patrick T. Galligan recently released his report into the odious deal that will allow one of the murderers of Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffy to go free next year.

The people are outraged over the slap on the wrist given this killer. Over 350,000 people signed a petition demanding that the sentence be appealed. Sadly, the people's cry for justice will be ignored. Was anyone really surprised?

Anyone with an I.Q. over six knows that the so-called "deal with the devil" is a travesty of justice. But that's the problem with the law today. There is no provision for justice. The entire process is consumed with the letters of the law. If a killer goes free because the correct procedures weren't followed, well, today that passes for justice.

The French-Mahaffy investigation seemed riddled with errors. How could the cops have missed the videos in the first search? Justice Galligan wasn't allowed to consider that. That's for another inquiry.

Why did Ken Murray, a defense lawyer, hold the tapes so long? Galligan couldn't examine that issue either. It's being investigated by yet another inquiry.

In other words, Galligan could only consider the form of the deal. The question of right or wrong never came into play. As long as the 'i's were dotted and the 't's crossed, the deal was righteous. Thank you for your concern, we were told, but the system is working fine.

When this deal was in the making, rumour had it that then Attorney-General and NDP MPP Marion Boyd had pressured the Crown to accept the "battered wife syndrome." The killer tried to make it fly.

I had no problem seeing Boyd involved in this way. She was re-

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



sponsible for those deplorable family violence commercials, which so many men (and women) found objectionable. Her stolid ramblings about school-age boys and war with cartoonist Donato (of the *Toronto Sun*) gave some credence to the proposition that Boyd was involved. I haven't seen or read anything which would indicate that this scenario was investigated.

Boyd's reaction to the report: "Really, there's a great deal to celebrate in this case in terms of the way in which this person is brought to justice. She (Homolka) started out asking for total immunity." Some would say she got the next best thing. I never thought I would hear any public figure use the word "celebrate" to refer to any aspect of this case. Frankly, it disgusts me.

Don't expect the other inquiries into this mess to shed any more light on the system. In this matter the Harris government is being as duplicitous as its predecessor. It's a shame because Ontarians are still mourning the loss of these fine young girls. Justice has not been done and until it is, we can't deal with our grief, and move on.

This issue is not going to go away. The cry for retribution will get louder as the time for that murderer's release from prison comes near. Decent people don't care if the proper procedures were followed. We don't want a "deal with the devil." We want justice.

An inquiry is being launched into the actions of the OPP riot squad at Queen's Park. It's going to cost an estimated \$2 million. How much do you want to bet it costs closer to \$5 million?

One would hope that they will look at much more than this one incident. I think it's time we looked at the whole issue of what strikers are allowed to do.

I'd like to know why Metro cops stand by as pickets push, shove and spit at people going about their way. I'd like to know why strikers are not charged with "intimidating the Legislature," but students are.

I'd like to know why the Speaker of the House didn't act earlier to clear a path into the Legislature. I'd like to know how a senior labour official can threaten the police and not be charged with inciting to riot.

This inquiry is a good idea if it looks at the whole picketing question as well as the police response. I think anyone who confronts a riot cop, in full gear, in a charged atmosphere and pushes, punches, spits and curses at them, deserves a rap on the head. For stupidity.

I know if I had gone down to Queen's Park and tried to intimidate "Boob" Rae, I would have ended up in the slammer. I'd like to know why unionists who do the same to Harris don't. I'd like to know why strikers are continually allowed to break the law and I'm not!

At the same time the MPPs so quickly agreed to spend \$2 million or more on this inquiry, OHIP turned down a Sudbury teen's request to go to Dallas for life-saving medical treatment. At \$100,000, the treatment is considered too expensive as well as experimental.

Mind-boggling isn't it?

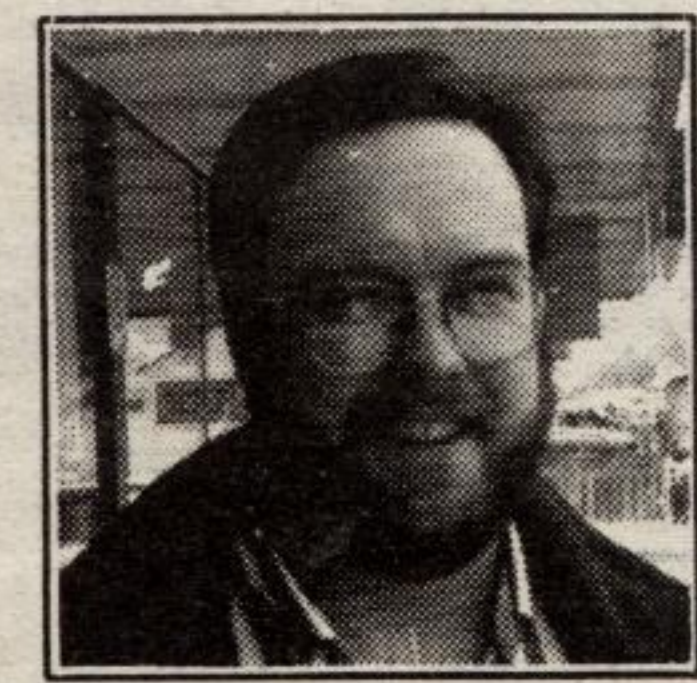
HEY!

Have you been satisfied with the Town's snow removal this year?



"My road's been nice and clean. Even the highways have been really good. I've had no problems at all this year."
Terry Kinnon, Storey Drive

"Generally it's been good, especially the sideroads which I travel quite a bit. I find there's a lot of bumps on the roads now from the cold weather — that's a bigger problem."
Anna Spiteri, R.R.#2, Acton



"Up until now, I'd have to say it was pretty good. [Last Wednesday] it was slower than I thought it would be, but there was so much snow. It probably just took longer."
Phil White, Poplar Street

"I think they've done as well as they could under the circumstances. With all the mess of snow we've had this year, it's been done well."
Pat Chapman, Division Street



Same time last year ...

McKenzie-Smith's Eat and Run breakfast club opens, offering breakfast to students for 25 cents ... Acton volunteer firefighters respond to seven grass fires over three days ... Actonite Frances Humphrey urges councillors not to spend money on items such as new chairs for the mayor's office or plants and signs for downtown.