

# GRAPE VINE

## Time for fireworks!

For more than 20 years, Acton's volunteer firefighters have been putting on our town's annual fireworks display. For the event to continue after this year, though, Actonites are going to have to dig a little deeper when a firefighter passes his helmet around the crowd.

"Between this and the Santa Claus Parade, we're not meeting our expenses right now," explained Firefighter Herb Dodds yesterday.

"There's a good possibility that we'll have to drop one or the other."

The Canada Day celebration, which will cost the group \$5,000 to stage, takes place over Fairy Lake at dusk. Firefighters—helmet in hand—will be posted at high-traffic locations (Prospect Park, the Legion, St. Joseph's school, etc.).

"Last year I was passing the hat around and one guy asked why we needed the money—he thought we were funded by the Town of Halton Hills. I explained that we don't get any help at all from the Town."

## V.P.s leave Acton

Staff and students at Robert Little, Acton High and McKenzie-Smith Bennett will say goodbye to their vice-principals as school ends.

At R-L, VP Karen Fraser, here for just one year, will take a leave of absence and because of declining enrollment she will not be replaced.

No word yet who will replace Principal Deanna Nodwell when she leaves Robert Little at Christmas to take another principal's position.

At MSB Larry Ciglen is retiring and will not be replaced, leaving Nancy Johnston as the lone VP and Chris Logan as principal.

AHS said farewell to VP Gary Crocker, heading to T.A. Blakelock in Oakville after two years here.

Terry Duff, currently VP at E.C. Drury, will come to Acton in September as vice-principal at AHS.

## Blue Jay Draw winners

Rural Acton residents Lynda and Manny Robinson were the lucky winners of Leathertown Feed Supply's recent Blue Jay Draw.

Lynda and Manny, who own Sheryane Kennels, were the guests of Leathertown's John Reeve at the Skydome during a recent home stand. (The Jays lost the game 5-3 to the New York Yankees.)

"It was a good, well-played game," said John. "My thanks to everyone who entered the draw."

## Hoopsters take London

A team of Acton High basketball players won a three-on-three tourney in London on the weekend.

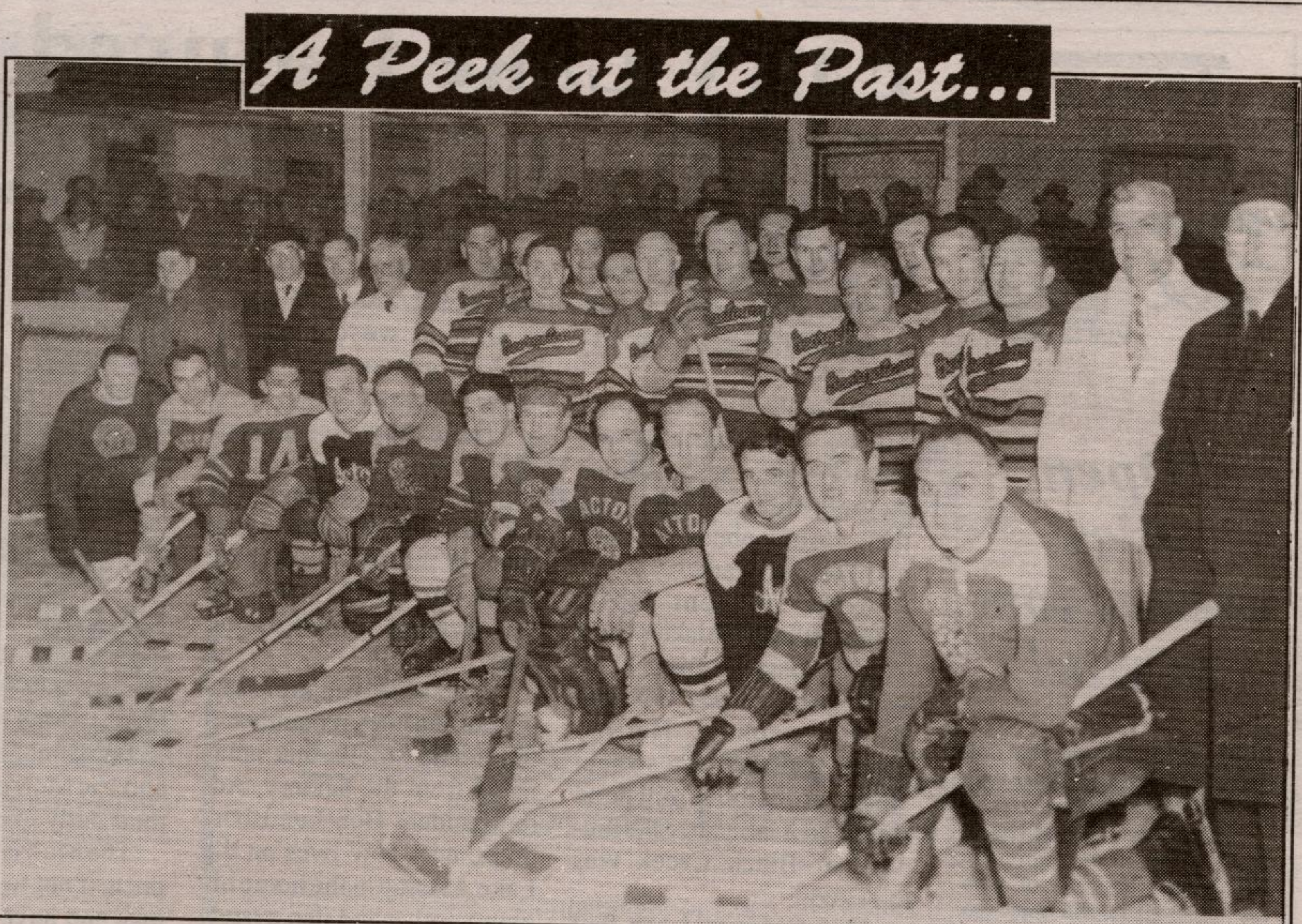
Local athletes Andre Savard, Todd Schonnop, Mike Sop and Chris Young defeated a London team titled "The Rain Men" in the final game by a 16-14 margin.

"They were really difficult to play against because they had a lot of supporters and they were trash-talking throughout the final game," explained Chris yesterday. "So it felt good to beat them."

The teens won T-shirts and hats for their championship victory.

## Words for Canada Day

"You can be a French Canadian or an English Canadian, but not a Canadian. We know how to live without an identity, and this is one of our marvellous resources." — Marshall McLuhan



*A Peek at the Past...*

They turned back the hands of time in the '40s with a hockey game between the current Acton Tanner hockey club and most of their antecedents at the old ice palace in the park. Remember? The names, the faces. How about front row, left to right, Jack (Dang) Kentner, Ilio Marzo, Lorne (Minute) Walters, Johnny Brush, Doug Dawkins, Russ Brush, Norm Morton, Herb (Fricker) Woods, Ben Bayliss, Bus Morton, Frank Gibbons and Ezio (Itch) Marzo. Back row, Frank (Twitter) Holmes, manager Vic Rumley, Johnny Robson, ??, Jack (Baloney) Greer, hidden face may be Russ Salmon, Charlie (Sonny) Townsley, Earl Waller, Bobby Anderson, Joe Kentner, Clayton (Dude) Lindsay, Fred Dawkins, Fred Kentner, Ivan Huffman, Neil Gibbons, Howard Mooney, Harry (Duke) Arbic, Clarence Kentner, ?? and Bud McDonald.

# Voters the 'butt' of cartoon

From our "best laid plans of mice and men" file, Allan Rock's puny effort at revising our parole laws was derailed last week. Instead of repealing Section 745, as most people want, Rock wanted to simply tinker with it.

I think this government (the federal Liberals) has been outrageous in claiming to fulfill the promises of the Red Book, using semantics instead of real action and legislation. Minister of (in)Justice Allan Rock hit a new low however, in this recent effort. The obvious intention was to present Canadians with a fait accompli, without giving groups like Victims of Violence, C.A.V.E.A.T. or the Canadian Police Association a chance to fight against his proposals.

Rock tried to steam-roll the changes through in a week, thus denying any opportunity for study or debate. Ironically, it was the Bloc Quebecois who stopped Rock in his tracks. This was possibly the first and only service the B.Q. has performed for all Canadians in their role as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Undoubtedly, Rock will bring this tepid legislation back in September. In the meantime, the families of the children slaughtered by Clifford Olson will have to endure a summer from hell waiting for Olson's date of appeal, which is Aug. 12. They will be thrust into an emotional buzz-saw as this killer tries to manipulate the system and gain an early release.

Rock, of course, blames the Bloc. I blame Rock and our MP Julian Reed, who has not, to my knowledge, spoken publicly on this matter. I trust Mr. Reed's oft referred to conscience will not be too troubled by the ordeal the parents of Olson's victims will be subjected to, because of his government's failure to act in the best interests of all Canadians.

Scott Newark, executive director of the Canadian Police Association, pretty well sums up the

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



situation. He is quoted as saying: "If Clifford Olson has his hearing, as appears likely, it is due solely, clearly, and without hesitation, to the incompetence of Allan Rock and the Justice Department. Mr. Rock can try to blame who he likes—Reform, the Bloc, Little Red Riding Hood—but if he wants to find the real culprit, all he has to do is look in the mirror."

Well said Mr. Newark! If he has any shame or shred of decency, Rock will show up in the fall with a beard.

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Did you see Andy Donato's cartoon about the voters who returned Sheila "Just Kidding!" Copps to Ottawa? In a nutshell, he portrayed the voters in Hamilton East as butt-heads. It was, in my opinion, the funniest, most biting political cartoon I can remember.

The reaction from Hamilton was swift and condemning. Politicians blustered, activists flustered while most of us laughed our rear ends off. Liberal MPP Domenic Agostino angrily said that it took him five minutes to get the message in the cartoon. Figures!

Sheila (I'm nobody's baby—butt or otherwise) may have started the whole thing by claiming in her victory speech that "we kicked butt." She also claims her victory should convince Mike Harris to harmonize the GST with the PST. I guess that for the half-million bucks it cost us to conduct this little dog-and-pony show, we deserve a few chuckles.

So, Sheila's back in Ottawa, back in Cabinet, back as Deputy P.M., and we're out a half a mil. La plus ca change, etc.

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From the "technology ain't all it's cracked up to be" file comes this report from jolly old England. Seems a couple of British speed cops were operating a radar trap in a rural area. Suddenly, the machine went nuts, registering speeds up to 480 km/hour before giving up the ghost.

A few seconds later a R.A.F. Harrier jet screamed over on a low level flight. The two cops later called the base and were told things could have been worse—a lot worse.

Seems the jet's defensive computers had sensed the radar gun and decided it was a hostile target. It then locked on the warplane's air-to-surface missiles.

Had the missiles been in the active mode, they would have fired at the radar trap automatically.

Just a little something to remember in case the provincial government brings back photo radar. Anyone know anybody in the air force? Let's be prepared.

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The editorial gremlins have been at it again. Last week I wrote "Last month MP Julian Reed wrote that he voted for the gay rights bill C-33 as a matter of conscience." We left the period out. This caused the next sentence, which was my observation, open to interpretation that it could be part of Julian's statement. It wasn't.

I apologize to MP Reed for any misinterpretation or embarrassment our error may have caused. I accept the blame because I refuse to use a computer and hand-write each column. The staff here have to interpret as well as decipher my copy. I think they do an outstanding job.

I would remind my editors, however, of the 137th journalistic rule regarding punctuation. "When you miss a period, it usually means trouble." Words to live by.

# HEY!

*Should able welfare recipients have to work for their money?*



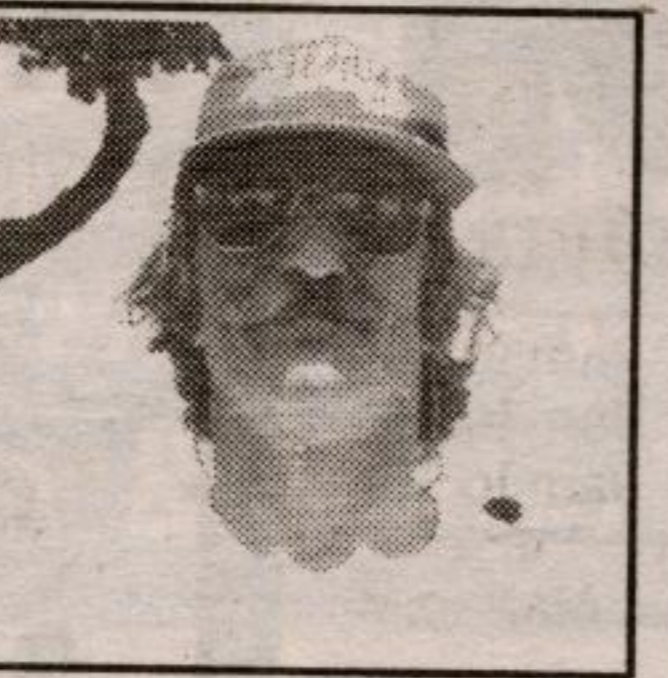
"Yes, I think they should. Recipients would feel better about themselves knowing they are contributing."  
Betty Green



"Yes, cleaning up the environment is a great start. Volunteering at food banks, social services, day cares, etc. would be good."  
Glen McKenzie



"I don't think the government should mess with this. So many people can't work. Government dictates too much."  
Murray Wilson



"Able recipients should be. Every case should be evaluated individually. Working would make them feel better and get motivated for a future job."  
Mike Nevins