

GRAPE VINE

Milton, last Sunday. Jim shot a hole-in-one on the sixth hole of the course, which, in golfing customs, means he had to buy everyone in the clubhouse a drink. We don't know if he had to adhere to the tradition or not, but regardless, congratulations are in order. Way to go, Jim!

Garden tour

Back by popular demand, the Acton Horticultural Society is offering a self-guided tour of eight rural/urban gardens. The tour takes place on Sunday, July 14 from noon to 5 pm.

Tickets may be bought at Godfather's Pizza or by calling Max at 853-0001, and are also available on the tour. Cost is \$3 for Society members and \$5 for non-members. By paying as a non-member, you are then entitled to a 1996-97 membership.

Big-time birthdays

Hitting the 90 mark is always a special milestone on the road of life and former Actonite Elemere White celebrates her 90th this week. She now lives with her daughter Joan Tyers and her husband John near Belwood on Lake Belwood. A special birthday party will be held at her granddaughter Julie's home in Georgetown this Sunday.

Another Actonite, Jean Marcoux, was in Quebec City on the weekend to join his family celebrating the 100th birthday of his mother. She resides in a nursing home in Quebec City.

Hole-in-one!

Let's hope Actonite Jim Cruickshank went to the bank before playing a round of golf at Halton Country Inn Golf Course, north of

Crowds crowd fireworks

Acton volunteer fire fighter Herb Dodds reported the Canada Day fireworks "went excellently" and were appreciated by a huge crowd of spectators.

"I think it was a larger crowd than last year's - judging by the amount of cars leaving St. Joseph's school at any rate," Herb said yesterday (Tuesday).

Herb added this year's program was very similar to last year's, including the popular loud fireworks which were accompanied by bright white flashes of light.

"We usually get two or three of those every year - the crowd always enjoys them."

The fire fighters set off the fireworks at a faster pace than last year, "to keep the sky full."

Rockwood garage sale

Service groups, volunteer organizations, stores, individuals and businesses are invited to participate in the third annual community garage and sidewalk sale.

The sale will be held Saturday, July 13 from 9 am to 4 pm on the lawn of St. John Anglican Church, at the corner of Guelph and Main Street in Rockwood.

Use this opportunity to raise funds for your organization or to improve your store's sales. Space is going fast. Call Gord Martin at 856-2120 for more information.

A Peek at the Past...



Acton Boy Scouts, since the troop lived closest to the Blue Springs Scout Reserve, has also been the guardian and protector of the Reserve, even way back in the 1930s when these scouts, Gib Romph, Ken Hassard and Drib van Googen were among the troop camped on the Sixth Line wilderness. Blue Springs, noted for its mineral coloured blue water, has long been a favourite picnic and camping spot. Owned by the Murray family and operated as a park for many years, it was a stop on the now defunct Toronto Suburban Railway until it closed in the early 1930s. It was sold to the Boy Scouts of Canada and since then has been a training camp for leaders from all over Canada. Scoutmaster George Mason took this photo at the camp.

Games promote jolly good fun

I'm not a soccer fan. I find the game confusing and frustrating to watch. I've seen a lot of soccer mind you, because my girls have played it for the last 18 years.

When I hear "football" however, I think of well-padded behemoths crashing together at the line of scrimmage. I also recall past glories when I played for Michael Power H.S. and Ryerson. The word "football," to me, does not invoke images of guys in shorts. I wish the Brits would stop calling soccer football.

Before the entire Bailey family lays siege to my door, let me hasten to add that I realize soccer players are in great physical shape and that soccer is a rough sport. I also realize that soccer is the most popular spectator sport in the world. Regardless, I find it boring to watch, especially on TV.

Imagine my surprise last week, when I caught myself listening to a radio talk show discussing the World Cup Games between England and Germany. (Germany won). It wasn't the usual jock talk that held my interest but rather the outrageously funny war of insults being waged between the fans and media of each country.

Regular readers will know I'm no great proponent of political correctness. The proposition that any story that refers to nationality, sexuality, gender, age, religion and so on, immediately brands the teller as some kind of phobic-bigot-Nazi-type, is possibly the worst aspect of this new-age philosophy. We're losing the capacity to laugh at, and with, each other's idiosyncrasies. We're in danger of becoming a nation of anal retentive achromatons.

I can't say I've ever been a big fan of English humour. However, the war of words between the

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



English *Daily Star* tabloid and German newspaper *Bild*, as described on the radio, had me laughing out loud.

I think I know where the line is between humour and insult. I've heard most of the bald stories ever told. I love a good "Pat and Mike" Irish joke. I've had more than a few guffaws over religious epigrams. It's not hard to tell when the story is a joke or an insult. I think it's our loss that over the last 15 years especially, so many Canadians take offence at the slightest reference to their heritage. It sure doesn't appear to be that way "over 'ome."

From what I heard and read, *The Star* fired the opening salvo by accusing the Germans of being overly flatulent because of all the sauerkraut and bratwurst they consume. The Germans fired back that they felt sorry for British cows, who had obviously caught mad-Englishman disease from their owners. Then the battle heated up.

Bild, in an effort to gain the upper hand, printed a Top 10 list of things Germans consider curious about the English. (Most of them are unprintable here). *Bild*, however, is an evening paper, which gave the morning *Star* an opportunity to reprint *Bild's* list and publish their answers.

For example: *Bild* - Why do you English drive on the wrong side of the road? (Biting Hessian humour at its best.) *Star* - So we can meet your tanks head-on. (That should be popular down at the Legion).

Bild - Why won't the English win the game? (Answering their own question) - Because the Americans can't rescue them in the second half. And on it went.

What was interesting to me was the reaction of Canadians. CFRB did two shows on the question "Is this racism?" Many obviously English and German people called in. One Englishman said it best when he described the whole thing as "jolly good fun."

A heavily-accented German woman basically concurred that the whole thing was just part of the hype. She added that she was a big fan and thought England would win. The host tried to imply she was being a quisling (traitor) for not cheering for Germany. "Why would you say that?" she asked quite indignantly. "I'm a Canadian." Great answer!

Caller after caller thought it was just a fun part of the game. To a lesser degree we do the same thing. When the Jays were in the World Series the papers from both towns got into a mud-slinging match. We just don't get as down-and-dirty. Of course, a few P.C. types called in to denounce the whole thing. Some people just don't get it.

There is nothing funny about the war, the Holocaust or the millions who perished. But that's not what this was all about. It was about a soccer game with a dollop of nationalism thrown in. I think it was also about the continuation of a healing process between the two countries. I hope we can learn from the Europeans and lighten up a little bit.

So the next time we meet, ask me to tell you the one about Pat and Mike, sitting in a pub, discussing their trips to Confession. It's a hoot!

HEY!

Are the discussions about Town boundary changes good for Acton?

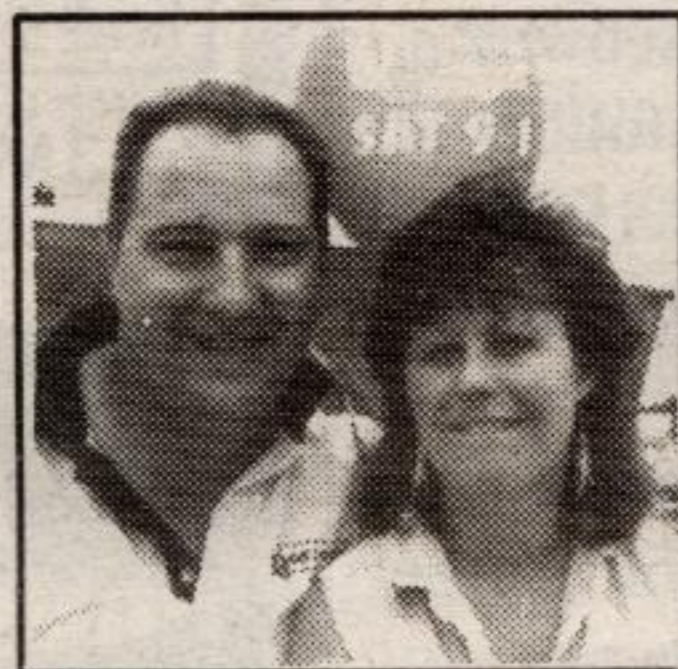


"It's a difficult decision to make. A Regional representative can represent equally and not be divided and still allow for our uniqueness."

Anne Sidebottom

"We don't like the idea of anyone trying to take away our small town feeling. We like the idea of Acton, not Halton Hills."

Ted and Michele Saelzer



"I like it the way it is now. I don't want to lose our small town identity. I want Acton to be Acton."

Henry Venema

"Change can be good or bad. It depends on how you pull together as Halton Hills and take advantage of the best possible representative at the Region."

Betsy Cornwell

