

# GRAPE VINE

## Swans need help

The Town has an unusual job to fill – that of Fairy Lake winter swan feeder.

Dr. Van Der Bent, who donated swans to the Town in 1972, will continue to look after their health care, but can't make the daily commitment to feed them – there are 12 in he flock now – at their wintering location for four months.

Thanks to the generosity of Bob Mares, owner of The Breezes, the swans spend the winter under a bridge on the campground property where Mares has a pump to keep the water open for them.

Anyone who is interested in helping to care for the swans should call Bryan Shynal, the Town's Superintendent of Parks and Cemeteries at 873-2600, extension 274.

## Heimlich training

Worried that staff or parent volunteer lunchroom supervisors might not have the training to handle an emergency, the Halton Council of Home and School Associations has set up a series of seminars to teach the Heimlich Maneuver.

During budget debates, trustees voted to cut funding for the lunchroom supervisors and now

each school is deciding how it will supervise students during lunch.

To ensure that whoever watches the students is prepared, the Association, with the St. John Ambulance, is hosting training sessions throughout the Region this month.

Each session is one hour and will cost \$5 per participant. The North Halton seminar is Thursday, Oct. 17 from 7 to 8 pm or from 8:30 to 9:30 pm.

Enrollment is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis and all elementary schools have registration forms.

## Attention pet owners

A low-cost rabies clinic will be held Saturday, Oct. 19 from 1 to 3 pm at the boathouse in Prospect.

For \$10 participating veterinary clinics will vaccinate pets against rabies – a fatal disease for animals and humans.

Southern Ontario has one of the highest incidents of rabies in North America and each year about 3,000 people must receive anti-rabies serum.

Officials warn that rabid raccoons are travelling from New York State to Ontario, increasing the chances of household pets or humans coming into contact with a rabid animal.

## Historical meeting

Actonite Jean Somerville will talk about the Frank family and their love of music at the next Esquesing Historical Society meeting, to be held Oct. 9 at Knox Church at 7:30 pm. Her book, *The Bands Played On*, will be available for purchase.



A bird's eye view of Acton taken in 1969 shows there have been some significant changes since then. Fairy Lake had been dredged and the sand-like forefront of the photo is where fill was dumped as well as the area between the arena and Elizabeth Drive. The Elizabeth Drive seniors' apartments did not exist and, of course, the Danville subdivision, north of the CN tracks did not either. The contours of Fairy Lake made Prospect Park look like a ship nosing its way out of harbour. Many improvements have been made in the park since then. Can you find them – and others as well?

## Let's send Mr. Rock stones

Once our fall fairs are over, you know that summer is shot. I used to look forward to winter, but not any more. I'm not sure if my new attitude is a result of old age creeping up on me or the fact that, having seen so many winters, I've learned that mucking through the snow isn't as much fun as striding down the fairways. I hate winter.

Neither Acton nor Georgetown had good weather for their fairs. Still, thousands turned out and on behalf of the volunteers who run these affairs, I'd like to offer a hearty thanks. Fair weather or foul, hundred of people are involved in planning and putting on our fairs. As you read this, next year's events are in the planning. I hope you will make a note to attend. Like any other community enterprise, if we don't support it, we'll lose it.

So, if next year's weather isn't just perfect, throw on your jacket and come out anyway. The lines are shorter and many of your neighbours are already there, working hard to conduct the various activities. See you at the '97 fairs.

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Further to last week's column regarding the Liberal's law reform, I found the following campaign very interesting. Debbie Mahaffy, whose daughter Leslie was murdered, is asking Canadians to put some pressure on our Justice (?) Minister. Mrs. Mahaffy, along with many Canadians, is not satisfied with the Liberal plan to obstinately continue offering early release to murderers. She is asking each and every one of us to send a small rock to the justice minister.

She is hopeful that this kind of protest might convince Mr. Rock to repeal Section 745, which allows for the early release of killers. Wrap it in a simple note saying "I want the repeal of 745." Include your name and address.

Too often I've heard people say, "It does no good to protest –

### The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



they'll just do what they want anyway." I suggest that this attitude has caused a lot of the judicial mire we're in today. I'm as guilty as the next guy. All through the '70s and '80s I was so busy working that I didn't pay enough attention to what was going on in Ottawa and at Queen's Park. The G.S.T. was my wake-up call. I couldn't believe that my government (yep – I voted for Garth – the first term) would shove the G.S.T. down our throats in spite of almost 90 per cent opposition by the people. Give me this – when I'm wrong, I'm really wrong!

I submit that Allan Rock's tinkering with the sentencing provisions for murderers shows the same type of contempt for the wishes of Canadians as Muldoon, Turner et al did. This time though, there's still time to stop the government. Who knows, if enough of us do it, maybe he'll discover the stone to stop mollycoddling those who rape and murder our children.

There is no postage required. Send your pebble to Allan Rock, House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6. Or call MP Julian Reed at 877-2900 and let him know how you feel. There's an election in the wind. You'd better believe they'll listen.

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The resignation of House Speaker Al McLean should make Ontarians uncomfortable. He was tried by the press and convicted in the kangaroo court of political expediency.

Most news organizations have been firmly on both sides of the argument. At first they expressed righteous indignation at the accusa-

tions levelled by former aide Sandi Thompson against McLean. Then, when some claims appeared contradictory, the media turned on her. That's the problem with trial by public opinion – there is no resolution. The only accomplishment is two reputations destroyed and two careers ruined.

McLean, in hindsight, should have taken a leave to cool the political heat. That would have given both parties time to settle this in court, where it belongs. Instead, he was forced to resign in disgrace, which leads me to this question: What happens if he is ultimately found innocent? How can he ever regain his reputation or his position? He can't. He's toast.

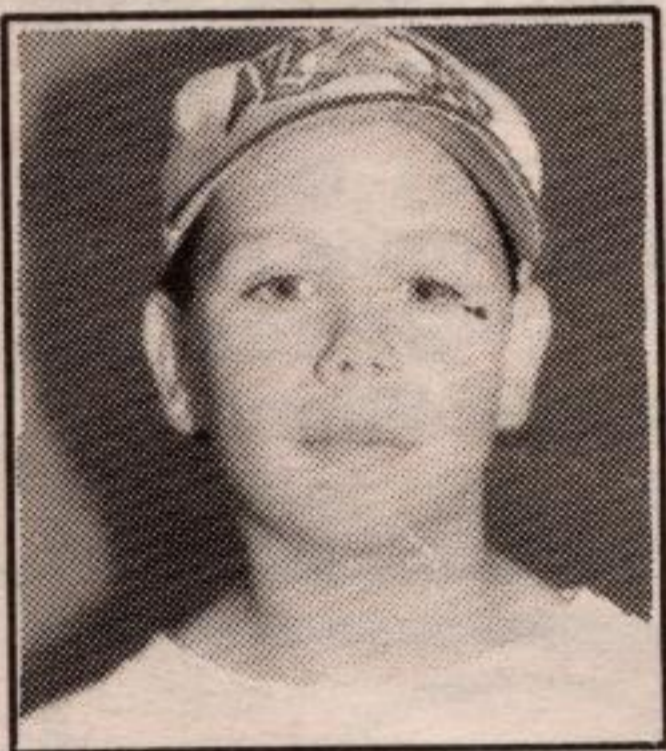
Workplace harassment is a fact. I strongly support any effort to bring the perpetrators to justice. We do have laws and a system, however flawed, to handle these incidents. Going through the procedure allows for some fairness to both parties. I hope this case causes some second thought to reviewing how sexual harassment cases are conducted. For the sake of all parties, we need to proceed fairly. The guilty need to be punished, the innocent exonerated. Trial by press only creates victims.

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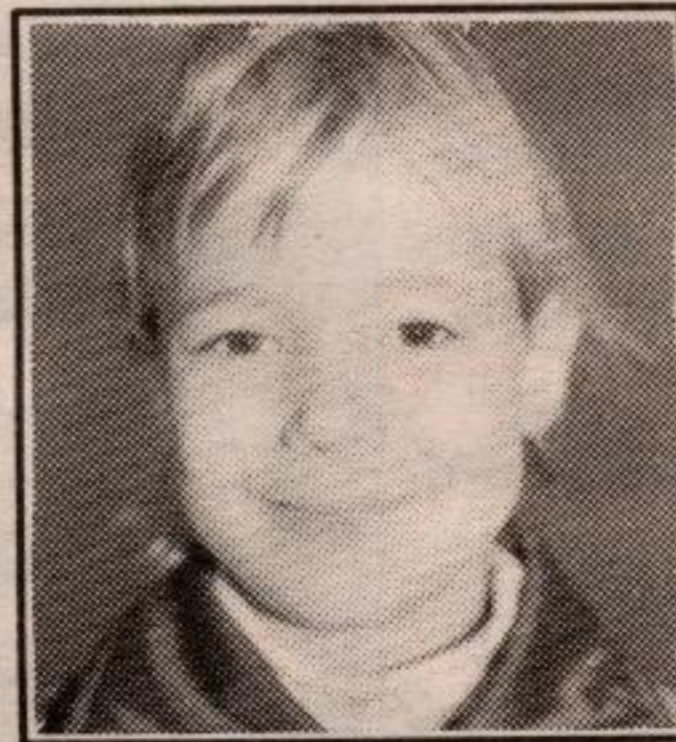
I was a big fan of Robbie Alomar when he played for the Jays. His attitude last year when he was leaving gave me cause for second thought. His actions last week – spitting in the face of an umpire, then dragging the poor man's dead son into the altercation, quite frankly disgusts me.

What is it with these ball players? For every class act like Winfield or Molitor, there are jerks like Alomar and Strawberry. Somebody needs to tell these navel-gazing prima donnas that on a scale of 500 important occupations, baseball player comes in at number 943.

## HEY! How was your baseball season?



"Great! I improved a lot. I had a good steady season and only missed one game."  
**Wesley Kentner, backcatcher**  
**Mosquito Select Hardball**



"Really good. Baseball helped me get along better with other kids. I loved to be at bat."

**Vikki Rolfe, left field**  
**Grasshopper Travelling**



"Really fun. I enjoyed the fellowship. We didn't win much, but it didn't matter, I just had a great time."

**Graham Rhynold, third base & pitcher**  
**Pee Wee Hardball**



"Good. I had lots of fun. I made a diving catch between first and second and got the runner out at first. That really felt great."

**Michael Burke, second base**  
**Rookie Hardball (Most Sportsmanlike Player)**