

# GRAPE VINE

853-0457.

## Title Teasers champ

Congratulations to Acton's Marissa Kidd, 8, winner of this year's Title Teasers contest at the Acton Library.

Marissa, a Grade 3 student at McKenzie-Smith Bennett, said it was "fun" to try and name book titles by clues in the library display case. Marissa named 16 of the 20 titles, despite the best efforts of children's librarian Marie Vickery to stump one and all.

Marie takes the annual contest seriously - she won't even tell her fellow staff the answers.

For her great deductive work Marissa received a library book bag, a teddy bear zipper pull and, of course, a book.

## Give...to give hope

This Christmas season, support the fight against arthritis by purchasing poinsettias or 1997 Daytimers from the Arthritis Society or by sending your family or friends a Christmas card drawn by arthritic children.

Help the Society achieve its campaign goal of raising \$15,000.

For details, call the Halton/Peel Arthritis Society at (905) 712-2281.

## Bargain-full bazaar

The calendar of great fall craft sales and bazaars continues next weekend with the annual Lakeside Chapter of the I.O.D.E.'s annual bazaar at Knox Presbyterian Church.

The sale will feature homemade baking, treasures and a draw for a trip to Niagara Falls and runs from 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday, Nov. 9.

## Nostalgic memories

The anniversary of the end of W.W. II will be celebrated with "An Afternoon of Memories" at the Acton Legion this Sunday (Nov. 3).

The main hall of the Legion will sound like an old English music hall with a community sing-a-long, entertainment featuring Kent Tocher and the presentation of the J.M. Barrie play *The Old Lady Shows Her Medals*.

Refreshments will be served during intermission by the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary. Admission is free and the program begins at 1 pm.

## Scout food drive

Acton Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Acton Calvinist Cadets will make it very easy for you to take part in Saturday's 6th annual food drive - they will come to your door and collect whatever you can offer to help stock the shelves of Acton FoodShare.

Have your non-perishable donation - cereals, peanut butter, canned meat and fruit are needed most - ready between 9:30 am and noon, or just leave it on your porch to be picked up.

If you want to drop off food you can take it to the Scout Hall on School Lane or call FoodShare at



INTRODUCING 'UNISHARE': Eleven-year-old Sarah Kobsa came up with a bag full of prizes for choosing the winning name for the United Way's new mascot, Unishare. Pictured with the mascot and Sarah as she received her prizes last Friday are Russ Miller and Elly Tuitman, campaign chairs for Halton Hills east and west respectively. (Jennifer Flesch photo)

# Tragedy rocks a small town

As the last leaves flutter to the ground, we are reminded of just how fragile life is. Even mighty maples are at the mercy of Mother Nature and a sudden frost.

Ten days ago the young people of our town were dealt a brutal reminder of how tenuous the grip on the tree of life really is.

First, cancer claimed the life of Kelly Jupp. The death from cancer of a loved one or friend, sadly, is not unusual these days. In Kelly's case however, there were only a few weeks from the time he was diagnosed until his sudden passing. There was no time to prepare, to even consider this eventuality. Young people don't expect to be burying one of their peers. When you're in your early 20s you feel invincible. Life stretches ahead of you like an endless river flowing to the future. That's the way it should be.

The youngsters were still reeling and trying to come to grips with Kelly's death, when John Wilson was killed in a traffic accident. I'm sure most of you have read or heard how John was involved in two accidents within an hour, both involving drivers now charged with impaired driving.

One of the joys of small town living is our kids grow up with the same circle of friends and continue to chum together into adulthood. Even after they move away, events like the Fall Fair bring them back to renew old friendships and catch up on important and trivial happenings in their lives. It's a comfortable feeling, coming back home. This same sense of community made the unexplainable and sudden passing of these two friends almost too much to bear.

When tragedies like this happen, nearly everyone in town is affected. Most every household knew someone in the families or in the circle of friends. The whole town is in mourning.

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



Adding to the expected grief in the eyes of the young people, there was also confusion. How could this happen to two of our friends? Why?

There is, of course, no answer. For some, faith will help them through. For others time will be the only healer. All can draw on the strengths of their circle of friends and family. Life will, as it always does, carry on.

When someone succumbs to disease as Kelly did, there is a sense of fate attached to the event. Not that this in any way diminishes the sense of loss - it doesn't, but you can't get angry at cancer. All you can do is accept the inevitable, keep precious his memory, and perhaps support cancer research in the hope you can spare another family such a loss.

John Wilson's death is another matter entirely. We can all do something about drinking and driving. In the last 15 years we've come a long way to changing society's attitude to drinking and driving. At least I thought we had. The circumstances surrounding John's death lead me to wonder if we're just kidding ourselves.

I was discussing this incident with a Georgetown resident I do business with. She's been hit twice at the mall and both times the driver was under the influence. "I don't like to drive around town on Friday or Saturday nights," she said. Maybe I'm naive but I was surprised. And then I remembered the incidents involved in John Wilson's death.

The government is trying to do its part. In addition to police patrols and spot checks, new legislation is on the way. In future, if a driver

blows over .08, the police will be handing out immediate 90-day suspensions. Currently, people can continue driving until convicted of impaired in a court of law.

Ordinarily I would oppose such a law in favour of the principle of "innocent until proven guilty." In this circumstance however, the common good must prevail. Obviously the measures taken so far to combat drinking drivers have not been effective.

I've known John's wife Julie since she was a little kid. She swam with my daughters and her dad, Gerry, was extremely active with the Acton Aqua Ducks swim team. I'm seldom at a loss for words, but when I held Julie in my arms and looked into Gerry's eyes, I had no words for them. What could anyone say to ease their pain?

Every person reading this knows a couple like Julie and John Wilson. For their sake, make sure you never put yourself in the position where you might take a life. Make sure you aren't responsible for destroying the plans of two people just starting life's journey. Could you live with yourself knowing you were responsible for a good and kind young man never being able to hold his child? Could you explain to that child why you killed his father? Please, don't drink and drive. The consequences are just too severe.

To my young friends who mourn so deeply - be strong. Keep faith with the memories of your departed friends. Remember their sense of humour, the good times, the laughter. These things are immortal. Stay in touch with the families; you are a bridge to the past. Keep a prayer on your lips and a resolve in your spirit to ensure this will not happen again. Support each other.

I wish I could ease your pain. I can't. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you.

# HEY! What sort of business do you think Acton needs?



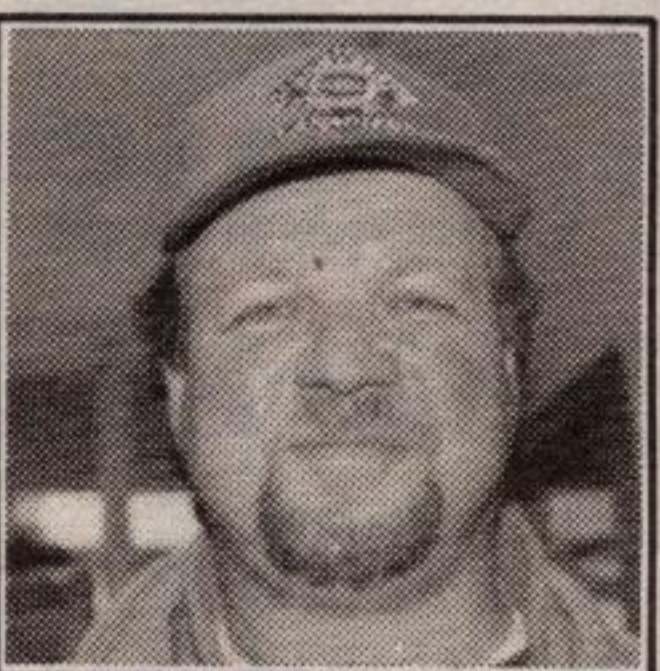
"Acton needs a small retail chain store for small gifts. It would eliminate driving to Georgetown."

Cathy Vanden Hoek, R.R. 2, Acton



"I'd like to see a movie theatre in town. A lot of young people would go to it."

Julie Waring, Elmore Drive



"Acton is a big sports town and we sure could use a sporting store. It's a shame we have to go out of town for sporting equipment."

Fred Schiller, R.R. 1, Acton



"We need a children's clothing store in town. It doesn't have to be big or expensive, just convenient."

Connie Turpin, St. Alban's Drive