

GRAPE VINE

mitten, hats and scarves. These will be collected along the parade route and will be given to Acton FoodShare and to Acton Support Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) for distribution.

The parade begins at 1 pm at McKenzie-Smith Bennett school and travels down Mill Street.

St. Joe's bazaar

Everyone is invited to join in the fun at the Christmas bazaar to be held this Saturday at St. Joseph's Church on Church Street from 11 am to 2:30 pm. Attractions include raffles, crafts, baking, a penny sale and tea tables.

Annual Beardmore get-together planned

The first gathering of ex-Beardmore employees was such a success, organizers have decided to make it an annual event.

Forty-five tannery employees met for an enjoyable three-hour lunch at Blue Springs Golf Club last Saturday, said Joyce Buchanan, who helped put it all together.

"We'd like people to know we plan to do it again next year, and that it's for everybody, not just the office staff," she said.

Warm tummies & hands

Robert Little school is asking spectators for this Saturday's Santa Claus parade to remember those who may not be very well off this winter.

The theme for the school's float is "Warm Tummies, Warm Hands," and the public are asked to donate non-perishable food items and/or

151 years strong

This Sunday (Nov. 17) Knox Presbyterian Church celebrates its 151st anniversary and invites you to come and share this special time.

A morning service of worship takes place at 11 am with an evening service of praise starting at 7:30 pm. The evening service includes old favourite hymns, choir anthems and a chance for you to pick your special hymn. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

Chorus to sing in Italy

The members of the Halton Hills Children's Chorus were thrilled when they learned that their audition tape to participate in the 1997 International Children's Choir Festival had been accepted.

Earlier this year, they were invited by Jean Bartle, the director of the Toronto Children's Chorus to submit an application. Bartle will direct the 600 participating voices from all over the world in July of 1997 for a thrilling week of workshops, rehearsals and performances in Italy.

The Halton Hills Children's Chorus has been in existence for just two years and is directed by Sharon Dutton.



GRADUATING CLASS: The Grade 8 class of 1962 posed for this photo, borrowed from Florence Fryer, in their finest attire. In front row from left are Susan Clarke, Cavell Marshall, Anne Fryer, Alan McNabb, Bryan Walker, Ronnie Hagan, Darlene Johnson, Nancy Winters and Karen Perkins. Middle row: Karen Gervais, Bonnie Pachalak, Carolynne Williamson, Eleanor Heard, Kathryn McKenzie, Joan Palmer, Jean Little, Wilma van de Polder, Gail Fryer and Sandra Cripps. In back: Rick Lambert, Fraser Reid, Doug Allen, Doug Garrett, Stuart Johnston, David Garrett, Frank Morton, Robert Jank, Glenn Holmes and Barrie Elliot.

Up to us to grasp the torch!

As I'm writing this the sun is setting on another Remembrance Day. I fear the sun may be setting on the whole tradition. Are we fumbling the torch passed on to us by our parents?

Last Sunday was one of the nicest parade days I can remember. As the final few notes of the Last Post sounded, the sun broke through the clouds. The flags, the Legion members, the vets (fewer each year) and the children stood reverently for the ceremony. As we marched off, I noticed that the crowd seemed smaller this year. Is Remembrance Day going to survive the '90s? It's up to us and we're running out of time.

If you talk to a veteran, their eyes often cloud over and they wonder why people don't seem to care any more. For them, the memories are personal and vivid. Obviously the war has been over for 50 years, but has the sacrifice our troops made been diminished by the passage of time? I hope not.

I can still remember my family telling war tales. Not about the battles, but about the adventure, the loneliness and how difficult life was here. My Mom would tell me how gut-wrenching it was to go through the lists in the newspaper and find one of her friends named. My earliest recollections are of my parents and teachers stressing the debt of gratitude I owed to everyone who served. Those who gave up their lives were to be remembered forever. It was a trust given to my generation. It wasn't an optional thing.

So what happened? How did we get to the point where, with the exception of the vets who have never broken faith with fallen comrades, we only get a few hundred souls out for Remembrance Day on a dry, relatively warm day?

Obviously, part of the problem is with us, the parents. If we don't teach our kids the importance of

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



those long-ago events, why should Remembrance Day seem important to them? We have to build a bridge to the present. It has to be explained that our victory in Europe has resulted in 50 years of peace.

I think the school boards are fumbling the torch. All school boards should demand that students in all grades take the time to understand what our troops did for us in far-away battlefields. This is not to say we should be glorifying war. Exactly the opposite. The remaining vets are the consummate experts on the futility of war. We should be using this resource to teach our children while we still can.

I was furious at the indifference shown by Halton schools to the 50th Anniversary of V.E. Day. The children of the Netherlands show more respect for our glorious dead than the majority of Canadian kids do.

I applaud the six public schools and two Catholic schools who supported the Georgetown Legion's Remembrance Day poster contest. Evidently, one school declined. All schools now have parent councils. Perhaps these councils should take a look at next year's participation. Why should any school decline?

Participation by Acton schools was good - individual principals and teachers appear to be making the effort to keep Remembrance Day alive. How long will this continue, however, if the Boards don't supply the resources and determination to honour our glorious dead?

Ontario school boards showed no hesitation to scare the hell out of several generations of kids by exposing them to the imminent de-

struction of society through nuclear holocaust. Why won't they teach the positive results of war?

The Halton Board, in a letter sent to the Georgetown Legion, is quoted saying they don't endorse poster contests, so as to "reduce the impact on classroom time and resources taken up by such contests." Pardon? There is no time to celebrate 50 years of peace? There's no personal or monetary gain involved for the Legion. The argument that, should the Board endorse the Legion, they would be obligated to participate in numerous contests with other organizations is specious at best, and deceptive at worst. If the board's senior managers and trustees can't see the difference between a Remembrance Day project and other contests, perhaps they should step aside in favour of others who can.

The statement that "our students have a wide range of skills and abilities that are not always able to be reflected or appreciated in a contest atmosphere" substantially underestimates our kids' ability to learn about and appreciate the most monumental events in our history. Somebody has a lot to learn here - not just the kids. It's one of those touchy-feelie, politically correct, supercilious statements that make most people want to gag.

Local councillors, the Mayor, plus Ted Chudleigh and Julian Reed were all at the ceremonies. I hope all the politicians will remember the indifferent attitude shown by the Halton Board to the Legion's effort to keep Remembrance Day alive in the eyes of our children. I guess the Board is too busy trying to flog pop and chips on school bus posters.

To those who are angry and insulted by this decision I leave you with this thought: This injustice will be corrected; the times, they are a-changin'.

You can bank on it!

HEY!

What would you like to see changed at Prospect Park?



"A good swimming area and somewhere where young people can go after school for recreation."
Mary and June Elliott, St. Alban's Drive

"When the old arena becomes empty a roller skating or skateboarding facility for the young people would be ideal. They are in desperate need of a place to go where it is safe."

Jean McPhail, R.R. 3, Acton



"I would like to see flowers planted in the park. It would brighten it up and make it more appealing for visitors."
Gerry Crisci, Main Street

"We need to clean out the lake. It is full of weeds and garbage. I remember a time when we could swim there. We also need an attraction of some sort."

Don Weaver, Churchill Road

