

# GRAPE VINE

Down the Street." "It's really beautiful to see."

Donna says that Norman Avenue and Rosemary Road neighbours are also joining in this year.

How it's done: take a square bottomed plain lunch bag and put about two inches of sand and put litter in the bottom. Place an eight-inch candle in the sand and light it. The candle should burn for about six hours. You'll need one for every 10 feet of your lawn.

## Knox services

Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton invites you to join them in special services to celebrate the Christmas season as follows: Sunday, Dec. 22 service of worship at 11 am and a "Warm up for Christmas carol sing" at 7 pm; Tuesday Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service at 7 pm and Wednesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day service (communion) at 11 am.

## Join in the fun!

Trinity United Church is having an old-fashioned Christmas get-together this Saturday (Dec. 21) from 7-9:30 pm at the church.

Join in the crafty fun, refreshments and carol singing!

## Meet your neighbours

What better way to say "Merry Christmas" in your neighbourhood than by following the example of Acton Boulevard residents?

Each year for the past six, the residents have lit candles on their front lawns on Dec. 24 at 6 pm.

"We go out at 6 and light the candles and stand on the road and talk, wish everyone a merry Christmas," says Donna Cripps, who first organized the "Christmas Up and

## Tanner takes a break

There will be no issue of *The Tanner* next week, as the office closes for one week for Christmas (Dec. 23-27).

Watch for your next issue of *The Tanner* on Tuesday, Dec. 31 - one day earlier to accommodate for the New Year's Day holiday. The office will be open every day during the week of Dec. 30 to Jan. 3, except for Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Everyone at *The Tanner* wishes our readers and advertisers safe and happy holidays.

## Calling loyal "Royals"

In anticipation of its 75th anniversary, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is looking for any items of interest to add to its archives.

This would include ribbons, photos, video footage, old home movies, news articles, posters, etc. Any donation would be appreciated.

If you would like to help make 1997 a great Diamond Jubilee celebration, contact Sue Bundy at (416) 393-6411.



**BLOWING THEIR OWN HORNS:** The Acton Citizens' Band recently welcomed its newest members, some of whom have advanced up from the junior band. In back are Amanda Corp, 13, (clarinet) and Chris Beeney (trumpet). In front are Chris Galda, 11, (trumpet); Adam Burgess, 11, (coronet) and Norman Corp, 11, (coronet). (Eve Martin photo)

# Wish Warhol said *five* minutes

My first instinct was not to comment on this story. At a meeting last week, however, two of my fellow BIA committee members (ladies both) challenged me to reveal my thinking on this touchy subject. Truth be known, they pretty well double-dog-dared me to write this. So, here goes.

We were discussing the Ontario Supreme Court decision which clears the way for women in our province to bare their breasts in public. I don't want to put words in my friends' mouths but I had the distinct impression they expected me to say something outrageous like: "I think it should be mandatory." So I did! (One has to satisfy one's audience.)

I was, and still am, very uncomfortable discussing these points. I think under the joking veneer, many women see this as an obvious demonstration of the rights (and lefts) of The Sisterhood. Others see it as just another example of some radicals trying to nipple - I mean nibble away at the moral thread of society. The majority would probably view it as a simple attempt at titillation.

I heard the Feds were behind the exception that women can't shuck their shirts in public for "commercial purposes." Health Minister Dull Dingbat is supposed to be concerned that the tobacco industry might try to find a new showcase to replace advertising previously shown on racing cars. I heard he has no intention of standing for any "bouncing billboards."

Other than the obvious health hazard - that a significant portion of the male half of Ontarians would suffer recurring whiplash injuries - I don't think the Minister has much to worry about. Current tobacco legislation should pretty well cover the situation, so to speak. No matter how lucrative the offer, only the brazen would walk down the street with "Warn-

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



ing: habitual use could kill you" so prominently displayed.

I sought out the opinion of Village Constable Bill Riddle on the new law. Residents will be relieved to know he hasn't seen any trend to topless shopping. He assures all citizens that he's on the "look-out" for any freezing floozies and that he will closely investigate any unveilings. I'll sleep better knowing Bill's on patrol. Wish I knew what the grin on his face meant, though.

With all the press, radio and TV coverage this subject received, I came to one definite conclusion. It was a slow news week. Undoubtedly, some women will test our communities' shock-quotient by walking around half-nekkid. Probably not for a few months though, given the weather we have coming. Still, come May, we may have a new meaning for the old saying "Spring is busting out all over."

Now that I've made a clean breast of things and exposed my opinions to public ridicule, I hope my BIA colleagues are happy. Frankly, I see the debate as a tempest in a C cup.

While most of the province was either ridiculing or looking forward eagerly to this change in society, I noticed an article buried in the business section. A survey recently showed that one-fifth of Fortune 500 companies do not have any women on their board of directors. Even more alarming is the fact that the appointment of women to these senior positions is slowing down. Of the 6,123 seats, only 626 are occupied by women. The moral of the story is if you really want to see big boobs, check out the old fools

who run these corporations and make these appointments.

Gwen Jacob has had more than her Warhol 15 minutes of fame. We've all had fun with the great shirt debate but I fear that stories like this will only trivialize the discriminatory practices that women continually have to overcome. As the father of four daughters, I want to see the *real* wrongs being righted. To me, the freedom for women to go bare breasted on the street is a giant step - in the wrong direction.

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This is our last issue before Christmas. I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you the best for Christmas.

Christmas is an important time in our house. Being self-employed, it seems that life is a carousel spinning faster and faster every year. I remember my Dad telling me how quickly life was rushing by, but now I know what he meant.

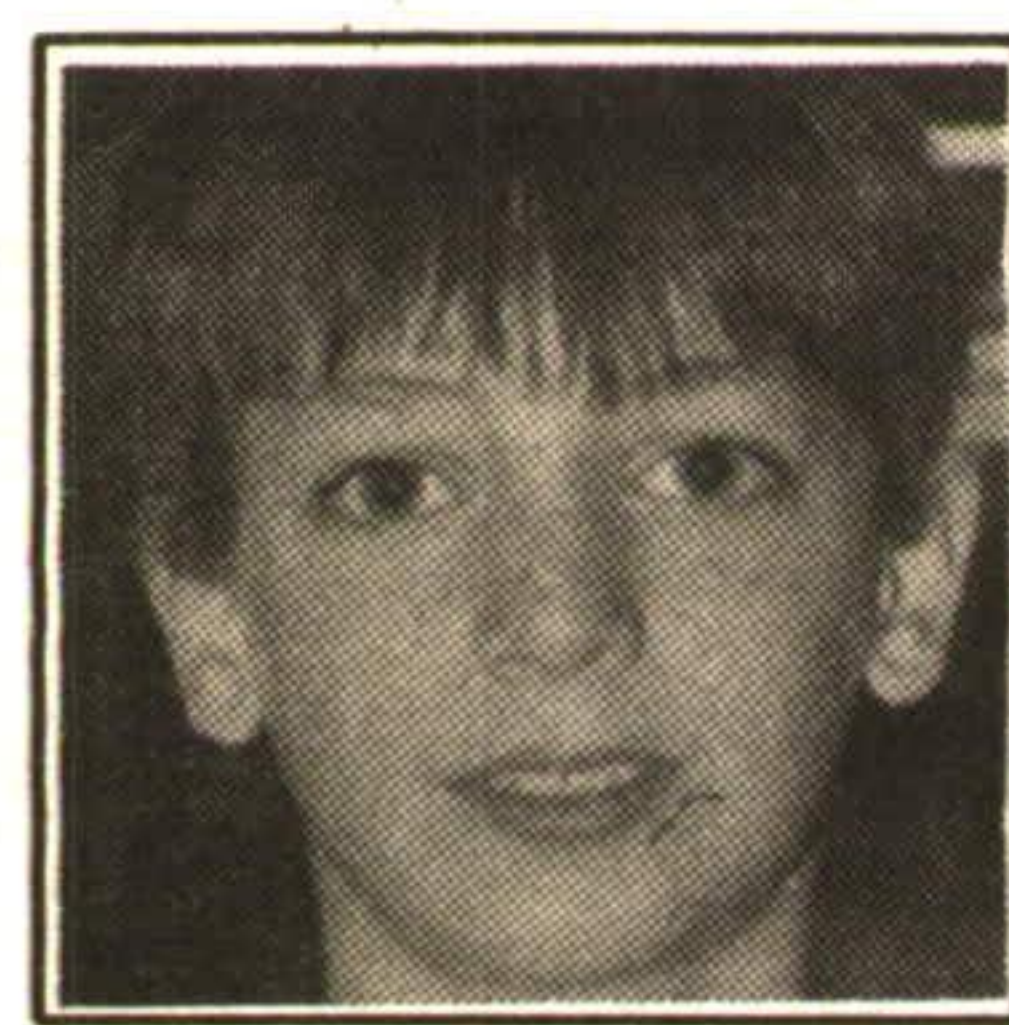
I look forward to slowing down a bit and spending some time with the family. They're growing up so fast there may not be many more years when we can all get together. Those with older children know what I mean. If you have little ones, savor every moment. Childhood is over in the wink of an eye.

This, then, is my Christmas wish especially for you: I wish you peace of mind and spirit, so you can appreciate all that is truly important during this holy season.

If you are estranged from friends or family, I wish you the courage to contact them. What better time to mend fences than during the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace?

And finally, the Bride, the Kid, the Big Kid, the Old Kid and the Ancient Kid join with me in wishing you and yours the merriest Christmas ever. Peace; and God bless us, everyone.

# HEY! What do you like about Christmas?

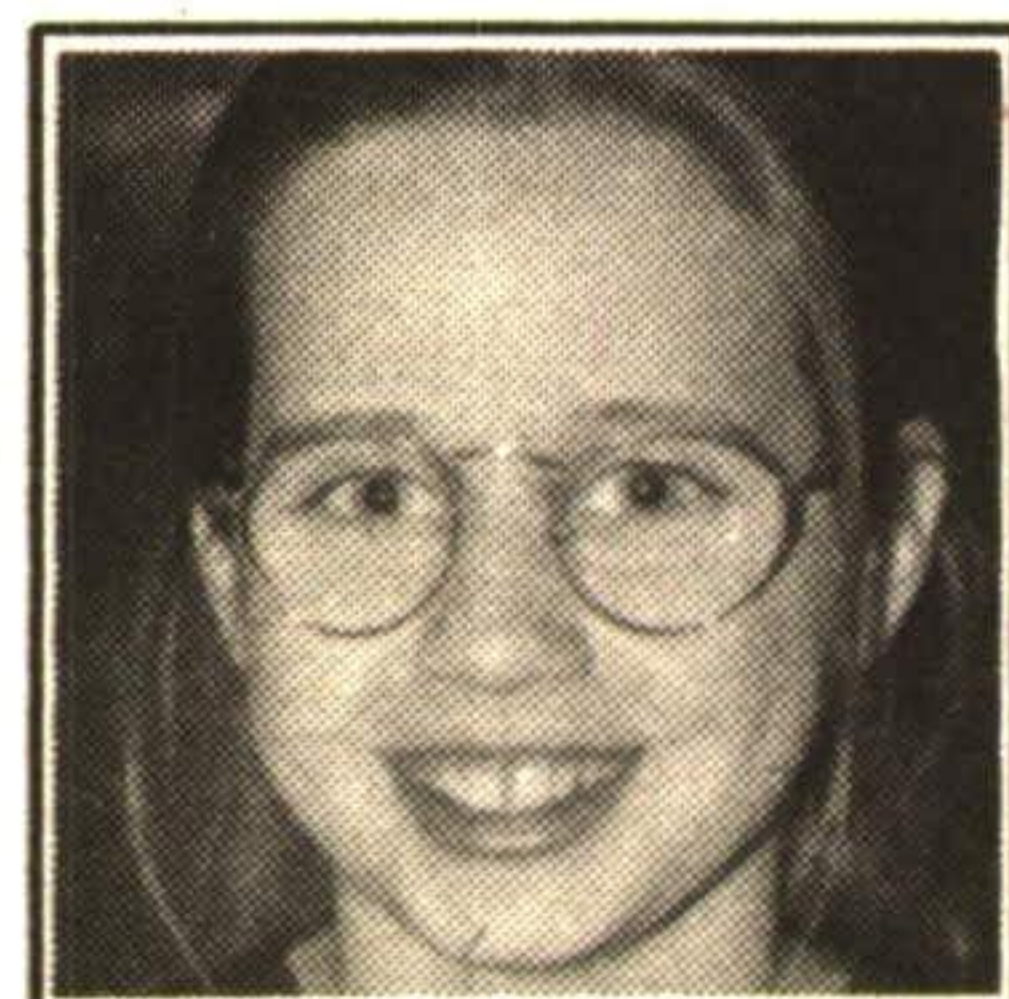
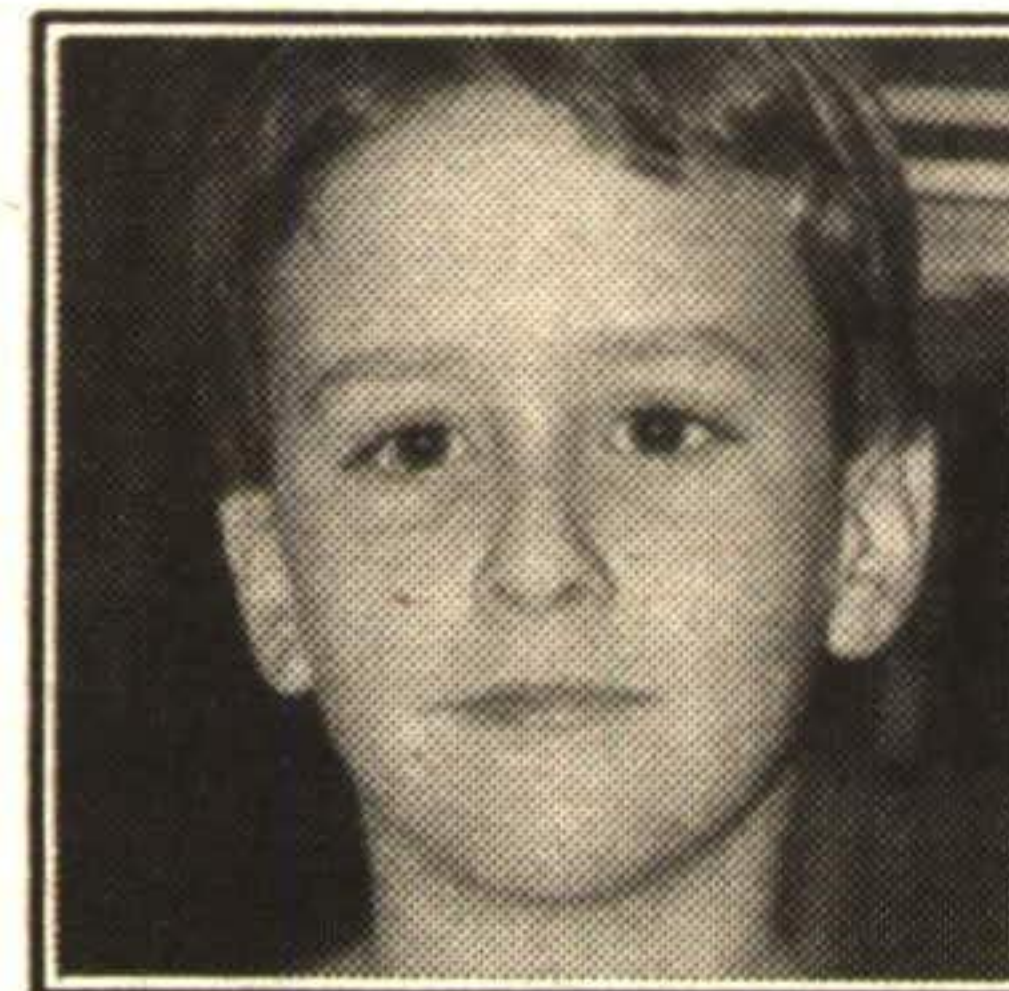


"I like decorating the Christmas tree and finding all the things from my grandparents - rocking horses, presents, little Santas, birds, a star and balls. I also like opening the presents on Christmas."

Darryl Matton, almost 10

"I like Christmas because I like getting presents and decorating the tree and getting the candy canes off the tree. I hope to get a remote control car this year. We go to my grandma's in Oshawa and stay over and have a turkey dinner."

Daniel Kentner, 9-years-old



"The best thing I like about Christmas is that Jesus is being born. And I like presents and not going to school. I also like that one of my dad's friends can come over and celebrate with us."

Erika Larsen, 9-years-old

"One thing I like about Christmas is getting presents (like a Nintendo 64) and giving people presents that they don't have. I gave my friend a couple of puzzles with my own money."

Kyle Simmons, 8-years-old

