

GRAPE VINE

space in the March break Leadership Development and Training program.

For details of program availability call the Recreation hot line at 873-2601, extension 275.

Tenant talks continue

There are still no firm tenants for the recently purchased Canadian Tire store on Mill Street although co-owner Doug Fread said they are "still negotiating" with potential renters and that there's been "no lack of interest" in the building, purchased by Fread and neighbour Gerry Rivers last month.

At the time Fread said they want to try to help revive the downtown core of Acton.

Library spaces available

The Acton Public Library still has room left in their winter Preschool Storytime programs.

Registration has been extended and spaces will be filled on a first come basis. Registration forms are available at the circulation desk. Please bring proof of your child's birthdate. Call 853-0301 for more details.

Open house

In honour of Dora Guthrie's (Lambert) 90th birthday, an open house will be held at the Elliott retirement home in the auditorium, 170 Metcalfe St. in Guelph from 2 to 4 pm tomorrow (Thursday). Best wishes only.

Val Farrell recovering

The holidays were especially happy at the Farrell household in Acton this year as daughter Val, struck by a car and severely injured in April, was home for an extended stay.

Val, who came out of a five-month coma in September, is being taught to talk and walk again at a Hamilton rehabilitation centre and although dad Dennis said that it has been a long, hard, slow recovery, Val is getting better.

Still room left in some Recreation programs

Cowboy boots will give way to roller blades in Acton this spring as the Town Recreation and Parks department drops its line dancing program and replaces it with roller blade instruction.

Although the line dancing classes at Acton High were popular, staff say it's a trend that's at the end of its life cycle and that there is a demand for roller blade classes.

Although most of the Town's winter programs are full, there is room in the Saturday Peanut Club for pre-schoolers and there is still



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Gordon Johnston celebrated his 90th birthday last Sunday at Trinity United Church with an open house which his sister, Corinne Van Loon attended. The siblings are the two remaining in a family of six children born in Acton. (Karen Wetmore photo)

Caveat Emptor!

Sports fans are still in shock over the elimination of the Dallas Cowboys by the upstart Panthers. Football has ruled the TV in many homes this past week, an mine was no exception — much to the disgust, I might add, of The Bride and my two middle daughters. In addition to the daily battle over the tube schedule, some other interesting issues were debated.

Last week it was reported that Cowboy stars Michael Irvin and Eric Williams have been accused of assaulting a woman at gun point. Further investigations have cast some doubt on this woman's story, but some of the muck will inevitably stick to these two men no matter what the outcome. In Irvin's case, a conviction would mean real trouble. He's on parole from a drug charge with a warning from the judge that he'll get 20 years if he shows up in court again.

This led to an overall discussion of what responsibilities sports and entertainment "stars" have to be an example to youth or society as a whole. I think they do have a big obligation but my daughters have a far different opinion.

I think there should be a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to significant criminal activities by sports stars. I would have applauded the Cowboys had they suspended Irvin as soon as he was convicted on the cocaine charge. What kind of message are we sending by continually allowing felons to occupy centre stage? Should there be different rules for someone who can run, pass or kick? We wouldn't allow our politicians to get away with this stuff.

I read that one time, while Irvin was buying drugs, a little kid came up to his car, stared at him in awe and said, "When I grow up I want to be just like you!" You don't

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



think that kid knew what Irvin was up to?

From sports we ventured into the entertainment scene. The big hype is on for *Evita*. My kids are probably going to see it. I wouldn't go if they paid me.

There is no doubt that the Andrew Lloyd Webber inspired movie will probably be entertaining. I just can't bring myself to pay to see it knowing that part of my money will be going to Madonna. She stands for almost everything I oppose.

The press is reporting every word about her views on motherhood. There are very few women in this world whose views on parenting I could care less about. Her fame (or whatever) is due in no small part to her penchant to obscenity and outrageousness. Now she's supposed to be a motherhood symbol? Not to me, although I did chuckle when she said that her kid will not be allowed to watch TV.

If I was her, I wouldn't want my kid to see any of my movies either.

For me it's simple. If all I have to do to stand up for my principles is skip a movie, no problemo. I'm not a big movie-goer anyway.

I used to be a sports fanatic but I'm growing out of it. Incidents like the Alomar one last summer are turning me off sports stars, and subsequently the sports themselves. Whining millionaires bore me.

I long ago tuned out entertainers. Those of you old enough will remember a group called "The Monkees." They had a very popular

TV show. After a while though, they started to get "preachy" and I remember thinking "Who do these clowns think they are?" They could sing and play some, but deep thinkers they weren't.

Last Saturday night, Don Cherry ripped into our judicial system for only giving 3½ years to a hockey coach who molested two of the boys playing for his team. When Ron MacLean tried to suggest that the sentence reflected an early guilty plea and that the boys (now men) were spared a painful trial, Cherry snapped "That's bull——!"

I was amazed to hear on Sunday morning that callers to a radio show were critical of Cherry. They thought his language was inappropriate for "publicly funded radio." Don't these people ever watch CBC news or some of the CBC's locally produced sitcoms? I thought Cherry was right on the mark. It's about time somebody expressed, in no uncertain terms, the way most of us feel about the creeps and S.O.B.s (as Don would say) who are abusing our children.

As for my opinions on Allan Rock and our justice system — even Don Cherry wouldn't put them on TV.

As a parent I often feel helpless to initiate change in a world I see swirling into a sewer. But I can skip a movie, not buy a sports sweater and try to hit these people where they live. In the wallet. It may not be much but it's a way to register my disapproval.

Probably my kids will go to see *Evita*. They won't push it with me because they'll think I might get angry. I won't. I think it will be, however, the wrong buying decision. I just hope they remember the old adage "you get what you pay for." There's more than a movie involved here.



PURE STYLE: Seven-year-old Christopher Yundt has his eyes on the head pin as he delivers a winning ball during the bantam league time at Acton Lanes last Saturday. (Karen Wetmore photo)