

# GRAPE VINE

## Find time for you!

"A Time For Me" is a unique group experience which offers people 55 and over an opportunity to build on their strengths and enrich their lives.

It takes place on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 pm at the Acton Baptist Church, from Feb. 4 to March 25. For more information or to join, call Acton Support Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) at 853-3310.

## Tutors wanted

Volunteering has many rewards. The North Halton Literacy Guild invites anyone interested in becoming a volunteer tutor to call 873-2200 for more information. The next tutor training begins in February.

## Adult fitness classes

Too much turkey and all the trimmings mean not so trim waistlines! Want to get back into shape? Join one of the many Recreation and Parks Department's fitness programs. Space is still available in the Deep Water Exercises pro-

gram.

Exercise is much easier when it is done in the water. With water exercises you gently stretch your muscles using the resistance of the water to strengthen and tone. No swimming ability is necessary. Classes take place at the Acton Indoor Pool on Thursdays from 8-9 pm.

Call 873-2601, ext. 275 for information on all programs.

## Coach program offered

The Coaching Association of Canada recommends that all coaches, whether novice or master, become certified in the National Coaching Certification Program. A Level 1 program is offered at Acton High School on Saturday Jan. 25 and Sunday Jan. 26 from 8:30 am to 5 pm at a cost of \$47.

Level 1 helps coaches understand why athletes participate in sports and prepares them to teach skills and to design a safe, enjoyable and challenging practice. Call the Recreation and Parks Department at 873-2601, ext. 275 for more details.

## Annual meeting

The Acton Agricultural Society will be holding its annual meeting at the Knox Presbyterian Church Hall on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 10 am to 3 pm.



**WATER TOO COLD?** Five-year-old Joe Frechette didn't seem to be enjoying his Aqua Quest swimming lesson last Saturday at the indoor pool as his instructor tries to get him to float. (Eve Martin photo)

# When sinking, don't grab a Rock

If politicians didn't exist, columnists would have to invent them. The Liberals (God bless 'em) served up another juicy scandal to the media last week.

Has the federal government sent you your letter of apology? No? Isn't it odd that they've apologized to everyone in the Airbus affair except the ordinary Canadian? Of course, we're not directly involved unless you count the fact that we have to pay the millions of dollars in settlement costs. With more, I'm sure, to come.

Regular readers will know that I'm no fan of Brian Bullrooney. I thought it a bit much though, that after apologizing on behalf of the federal government and the Mounties, Federal (In)Justice Minister Rock then had to apologize for the apology. Confused? Join the crowd!

It seems that the original apology was perceived to be insincere. That comes as no surprise to me. I have always considered the term "sincere politician" to be an oxymoron.

Towards the end of last week, the government also apologized to Karlheinz Schreiber and Frank Moores. These were the two other men mentioned in the Mulrooney letter. No offers here, though, to pay legal costs. How much would you like to bet that, as we get closer to the election, a quiet settlement will be made to pay them off? Governments will spend any amount of your money to ensure their re-election.

L'affaire Airbus will probably push the election back to the fall. This story has legs and should hang around for another month or two. The Pillsbury Dough Boy With An Attitude, Monsieur Charest, was on TV the other night. He is, outwardly, full of indignation and vilification that the feds would treat an ex-P.M. so shabbily. Or any Canadian citizen, he is quick to add.

Inwardly, it looked to me that he's latched on to this debacle faster than a junkyard dog chomps

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



into a robber's rump. He won't let it go until he shakes it around some.

The government is claiming that they settled with Muldoon because a medium level Mountie-type suddenly remembered he mentioned the infamous "letter" to one or more journalists. Sure! Listen carefully. Usually you hear a scream or two when a sacrificial lamb is thrown to the wolves.

I find it incredulous, insulting really, that the Liberals expect us to believe a couple of mid-level bureaucrats would initiate a criminal investigation of an ex-P.M., with a foreign power, without clearing it with their political masters. I have often thought the government assumes you and I are dense, but there are limits. Anyone who would believe this fairy tale, or believe they could sell it, has an IQ and a hat size that match.

Redundancy is the lifeblood of bureaucracy. Minor officials make a career out of never making a decision. To propose that one, let alone two, bureaucrats would conspire to launch a criminal probe into the workings of the previous governments on their own is laughable. Someone up there should take giant gulps of reality.

Even syndicated columnist Allan Fotheringham can't swallow this stuff, and he's more Liberal than Laurier. You know you're in trouble when your cheerleaders are root-

ing for the other team.

I said I wouldn't make any New Year's predictions, so I might as well break that resolution now. Because of Mr. Chretien's disaster at the CBC Town Hall Meeting, and L'affaire Airbus, the election won't be held until the fall. Unless the polls are in a free fall during the summer, the Liberals won't want to wait for '98. The longer they put it off, the less room they have to scheme and maneuver. I think the election will be called in September and that we'll go to the polls on Monday, October 20.

Still, I'd feel better if the Liberals threw out an apology for us. They could say they're sorry about the G.S.T. lie. At the very least, they could apologize for foisting Sheila Copps on this country.

Is it so much to ask?

★★★

The axe is falling on Metro Toronto Councils and school boards across the province. As of this writing (Saturday) we don't know if either Halton Board is toast.

Isn't it amazing that the Metro Councils are always blaming the Harris government for funding cutbacks that doom people to freeze in the streets? Millions can be found, though, to run referendums aimed at saving their sorry butts.

I can't buy into the proposition that the mayors are running these plebiscites because they have an obligation to defend our rights.

In the words of Mr. George Bernard Shaw: "When a stupid man is doing something he is ashamed of, he always declares that it is his duty."

# HEY!

*Which team do you think will win the Stanley Cup?*



"The Colorado Avalanche. They have the best goalie - Patrick Roy."  
**Nick Mastro**



"The Tampa Bay Lightning - they're wicked!"  
**Darryl Galloway**



"The Hartford Whalers. They are a strong, determined young team with lots of Canadian players."  
**Scott MacDonald**



"The Philadelphia Flyers. They're on their way to pulling it all together - red hot!"  
**Bill Waites**



*Write a Letter to the Editor!*

**Deadline is Mondays at noon.**