

GRAPEVINE

So long, Sharon

After 17 years of supplying Acton shoppers with frozen foods Freezer Frenzy owner Sharon Vincent has sold her business and is retiring for "a much-needed rest." The deal closed on Monday, but Sharon will be behind the counter for another week as she teaches the new owners the ropes. Sharon, a long-time Acton resident, said she'll miss her loyal customers but won't miss the long hours. "This business has been like a baby that never grew up," Sharon joked, adding that she'd like to say a special thank you to the staff who have worked with her over the years.

Mini carnival coming

The Acton Figure Skating Club will hold a mini carnival at the Acton arena this spring. Plans for the annual popular carnival were up in the air until last week when the skating club executive determined that they could stage a one-day event to showcase their skater's talents and entertain the public. The mini carnival will take place on Saturday, April 4 from noon to 4 p.m. Tickets, available only at the door on a first come, first serve basis, will be \$2 per person or \$5 for a family of five.

Attempts to save the Prospect Park arena

Attempts by the Acton Agricultural Society to save the old Prospect Park arena from the wrecker's ball are continuing. A recent vote by the Society executive cleared the way for a formal proposal to be drafted and it should be presented to the Town by the end of the month.

One earlier plan called for the cement pad arena floor to be saved so a tent could be erected over it for the Fall Fair weekend to house exhibits that need protection.

The Town has earmarked \$110,000 in this year's budget for demolition of the old arena.

Tribute trees

It's not too late to "purchase" a tree from the Rotary Club of Acton to be planted in Rotary Park in memory of a loved one. For approximately \$300 you can have a tree planted in the Elizabeth Drive Park and the name of the person being honoured will be inscribed on a plaque on a stone marker in the park. Last spring 14 trees were planted and any one buying a tree now will be invited to a planting and dedication ceremony this spring. For more information call Rotarian Doug Fread at 853-0239.

Looking for donations

The Acton Legion Ladies Auxiliary will once again be holding a garage sale and bake sale at the legion on April 4. If you have items to donate to the sale, they can be dropped off at the Legion or you can contact Fern Shultis, 853-0866

Go team!

The Acton Juvenile Sabres host Trenton this Saturday in the next game of the OMHA semifinals. Acton is trailing the 5 game series with only 1 win to Trenton's 2 wins. The Juvenile Sabres play great home games. Come out, make some noise and support your team. It promises to be an exciting night.



"WHO DUN IT?", a murder mystery and silent auction by the members of the Acton Curling Club drew appreciative audiences for this strange cast of characters. Cast members above are, left to right, Wayne Atkinson, Cheryl Daponte, Peter Vidler, David Breen, Arlene Lindsay, Gerri Hardcastle, Gus Jeffrey, Sonia Breen and Greg Faber.



'Tis a fine day to be Irish

Next Tuesday is March 17, the holiest day of the year - St. Patrick's Day. In addition to my annual greetings I thought that this year I would give you the reasons I love St. Patrick's Day. There are, naturally, seventeen of them.

- Winter is over when the shamrocks come out.
- We don't have to eat haggis.
- I can go out for a drink with my friends 'cause I'm allowed.
- My daughters, who are fiercely Canadian, are reminded of our family heritage.
- Daughters have to pay for dad's beer.
- St. Patrick's Day parades are fun for children from 4 to 94.
- When I come home from the pub and (in my best John Wayne impersonation) bellow: "Woman of the house - where's my supper." The bride doesn't laugh in my face. She leaves the room first.
- Girls look great in green.
- My friends Heather and Bill McGrath got married on St. Paddy's Day. Happy 19th anniversary, guys.
- I can wear my cableknit sweater and tam without some people thinking I'm a sissy.
- People buy you beer if your dress in Irish fashions (Station Hotel, please note).
- It's hilarious when my friend Richard Paramonczyk tries to do an Irish Brogue.
- I don't have to drink green beer (ugh!) to be Irish.
- When walking home from the pub and the banshees try to capture your soul a leprechaun is always handy to save you.
- Potatoes taste better.
- My RRSP mutual fund owns Molson's and Labatt's stock.
- And lastly, I can share this Irish blessing with you. "May you be in heaven an hour before the devil knows you're dead."

A HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY TO YOU ALL.

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



Your correspondent is always looking for world news, which is both interesting and historic. Consider this:

- (A) President Fidel Castro was re-elected last month for another five year term as dictator of Cuba.
 - (B) Dog pees on hydrant.
- Each was equally unexpected.

Poor Jean Charest. He's in a lose-lose situation. The pressure on him to take the Liberal leadership in Quebec is incredible. He's cooked, no matter what he does.

If he goes to Quebec City and loses the referendum, everyone will blame him. If he wins the referendum but reform makes a successful raid on PC members in the East, everyone will blame him for deserting the National Party.

If he wins the election and stops the referendum he'll be a short term hero.

In order to win, however, he'll have to adopt policies that are popular in Quebec but odious in the rest of Canada; especially in the West and parts of Ontario. He'll be finished as a national political leader.

If he doesn't go to Quebec City and Bouchard wins both the election and the referendum everyone will blame him for losing the country.

Poor Jean Charest. If I were him I'd say, "To hell with them all" and go back to Sherbrooke. He won't; he'll do what he thinks is best for his family and his country. It will destroy his career. It's a darn shame.

Seems like the International Skating Union (I.S.U.) is finally taking notice of the outrage over the cheating that went on at the Olympics. Specifically, the judging farce in ice dancing. They have announced proposals for rule changes to be voted on. At the I.S.U. congress to be held in June.

David Dore, President of the Canadian Figure Skating Association, said, "It's a start." Initially, you see, the I.S.U. was denying there was any problem at all (their anthem is *3 Blind Mice*). "To me," said Dore, "this is recognition that there is a problem and we're going to go ahead and do something." But hold on.

In the next breath, Dore cautions that the changes will not be in effect for the world championships later this month. Dore hopes the ice dance judges there will "be on their best behaviour." Is that code for: expect Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz to get screwed again! Don't place any foolish bets.

Dore, ever the politician, observed that these things take time and that, "Rome wasn't built in a day." Perhaps not David, but after two months even the Romans expected to see some *!#\$!*# bricks laid.

Why can't they just fire the Olympic judges? That would be constructive.

As a final thought, how about this? Jean Charest goes to Quebec City and trounces Benedict Bouchard. Don Cherry takes over the federal PC's, punches out all the blockheads and kicks Preston Manning's butt back to Calgary. The rest of us get on with our lives.

It could work! Sounds great to me.

Erin Go Braugh!

"Our Survey Says..."

What are you doing during the March Break?



"I'm going to relax on March Break. I'm going to take in a few games of Bingo. I really like Bingo."

Ed McGilloway, crossing guard



"I'm going to be doing some spring-cleaning and wallpapering. I'm also going to be visiting my family in Kingsville and spending time with my grandchildren."

Joan Parker, secretary, Robert Little P.S.



"(My sons and I) are going skating, for walks and playing in the park. My sons are also going to visit their grandparents for a few days."

Lisa Howe



"I'm going to visit family and friends in Toronto, Ottawa and Brighton."

Lucy Gibbons, bus driver