



**STANDING OVATION:** Some of the Acton High cast of Grease took a final curtain call following Friday night's sold-out performance which earned the students a standing ovation. Shown are, left to right: Nick Vancek (Kenickie), Laurel Soutiere (Rizzo), Aaron Scarlett (Danny), Jenn Johnson (Sandy), Daryn McIntyre (Sonny) and Clair Gregg (Frenchy). - Frances Niblock photo

## Cult favourite rocks

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The New Tanner

Acton High's spirited rendition of *Grease*, the 70's movie musical about the 50's, had appreciative crowds tapping their toes, whistling the catchy score and wanting more following three sold-out performances over the weekend.

The student's joyfully exuberant staging of the quintessential 50's nostalgia musical about Rydell High drew raves review from everyone from pre-teens to baby boomers to seniors.

The main draw of the *Grease* is the music - and the opening number "Summer Nights", in which Danny (Aaron Scarlett) and Sandy (Jenn Johnson) recall their summer romance, had the Acton crowds enthralled.

Johnson, an OAC student, shone as Sandy, the good girl who can't understand why the sweet, caring Danny she met over the summer acts so different when the school year resumes. With the stage presence and pipes of a seasoned pro, Johnson was equally believable as a bobby soxer as she was vamping in skin-tight black leather after her eventual makeover at the end of the production.

Acton High newcomer Aaron Scarlett had just the right touch of cool and swagger as Danny Zuko, who is torn between his summer love and his car-loving greaser buddies. Scarlett was convincing as he lamented over lost love in "Sandy" and led his Burger Palace boys through "Alone at a Drive-In Movie."

Nick Vancek handled the role of Kenickie with ease and humour and made a great appearance in "Greased Lightnin'" while bad girl

Rizzo, OAC student Laurel Soutiere, had just the right touch of moxy as she lampooned Sandy in "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee". Clair Gregg's Frenchy came to life in "Beauty School Dropout" and teen angel, played by Daren McIntyre, (who also played Sonny) had the crowd roaring with laughter.

Andrew Durham's Doody had just the right mix of teenage angst wannabe hipness and had the crowds with him as he pined for Frenchy while Denise Katsilieris had the flashy Cha-Cha moves down pat and Jared Sales was suitably sleazy in his role of Vince Fontaine. Grade 9 student Rita Matton's considerable vocal skills were

highlighted in "Unchained Melody" while the Pink Ladies, cheer leaders, jocks and Burger Boys had their songs and moves down pat.

Backed by a hard driving house band and pianist Mrs. Marg Tamblyn, the production's musical numbers were tight and well-rehearsed and the requisite scenes of the prom, sleep-over and almost rumble were fast-paced and funny.

More than 80 students and staff, including director, Dr. Paul Tamblyn and producer Ms. Wendy Beriault, worked long and hard to bring *Grease* alive and they deserved the standing ovations from the crowds as much as the stage characters did.

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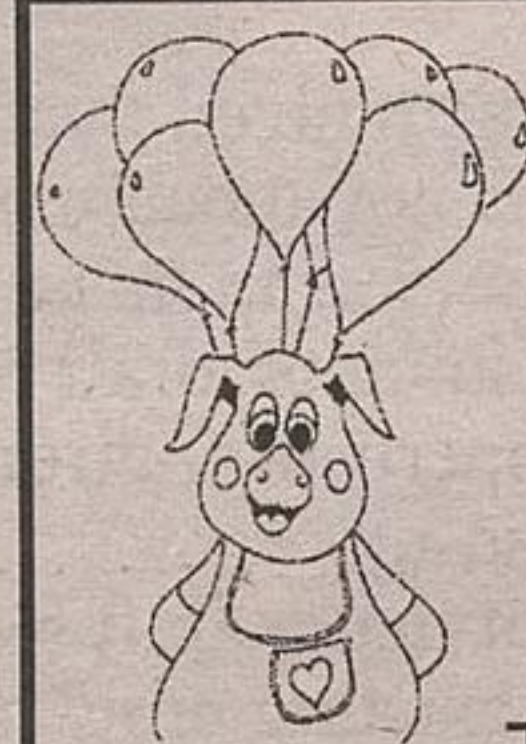
## Business as usual after strike

Unionized planning and public works staff is back on the job in Acton at the Region's Third Line Wastewater Treatment Plant this week after settling a two-week old strike.

Environmental services workers, members of CUPE Local 2620 overwhelmingly ratified a new contract last Thursday and ended their walkout over wages. The new three-year pact includes 2 per cent increases in each year, giving the 113 workers an additional 34 cents an hour in each year of the contract.

Managers and supervisors operated the region's wastewater collection and treatment plants, water dis-

tribution system and fleet maintenance for region, Halton police and RCMP vehicles during the strike.



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