

GRAPEVINE



New top staff at AHS

Staff at Acton High school have welcomed their newly appointed principal Greg MacPherson and vice-principal Caroline Conn-Smith with open arms. Before the ink was dry on the press release announcing their appointments for September, staff at Acton High had phoned to invite them to a staff golf outing.

"What a welcome," exclaimed Conn-Smith on Friday. "I've heard great things about Acton and can't wait to meet everyone. Conn-Smith, who lives in Kilbride, north of Burlington, leaves her vice-principal post at Aldershot High school to come to Acton.

Principal MacPherson was most recently in charge at Burlington Central High school where he was posted for seven years. Prior to that MacPherson was principal at Milton District High.

Doggone missed it!

Barley, the blues singing bowser, didn't get to show his stuff on Saturday in Toronto at a pet food company's auditions for a singing spokespet, but his chances for stardom are not over. Although his handlers showed up late for the live audition, they can still submit a video to the Advantage singing pet contest, a North America-wide search for a "carolling cat or musical mutt."

Barley's owner, Scott Masales said he'd set up a video machine at the shop because he expects "everybody and their dog" will want to know what happened.

"I thought I'd better have something to show people since Barley didn't get there on time," Masales said. A video of Barley singing al-

ready won a west-coast preliminary audition and Masales said a musician friend is coming by this week to jam with Barley while they shoot some new footage of the video.

Successful clinic

The number of new, first-time blood donors at Thursday's Red Cross blood donor clinic at the Acton Legion made organizers very happy. Along with 20 new donors, a very large number for Acton, there was a huge turnout of students from Acton High, who along with the faithful regulars, donated 94 units of blood.

On any given day the Toronto Blood Centre needs 650 units of blood for patients at the 61 hospitals in central Ontario that it covers.

Acton Red Cross volunteers will hold an extra clinic at the Legion on Wednesday, July 8 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. to meet the increased demand for blood during the summer months.

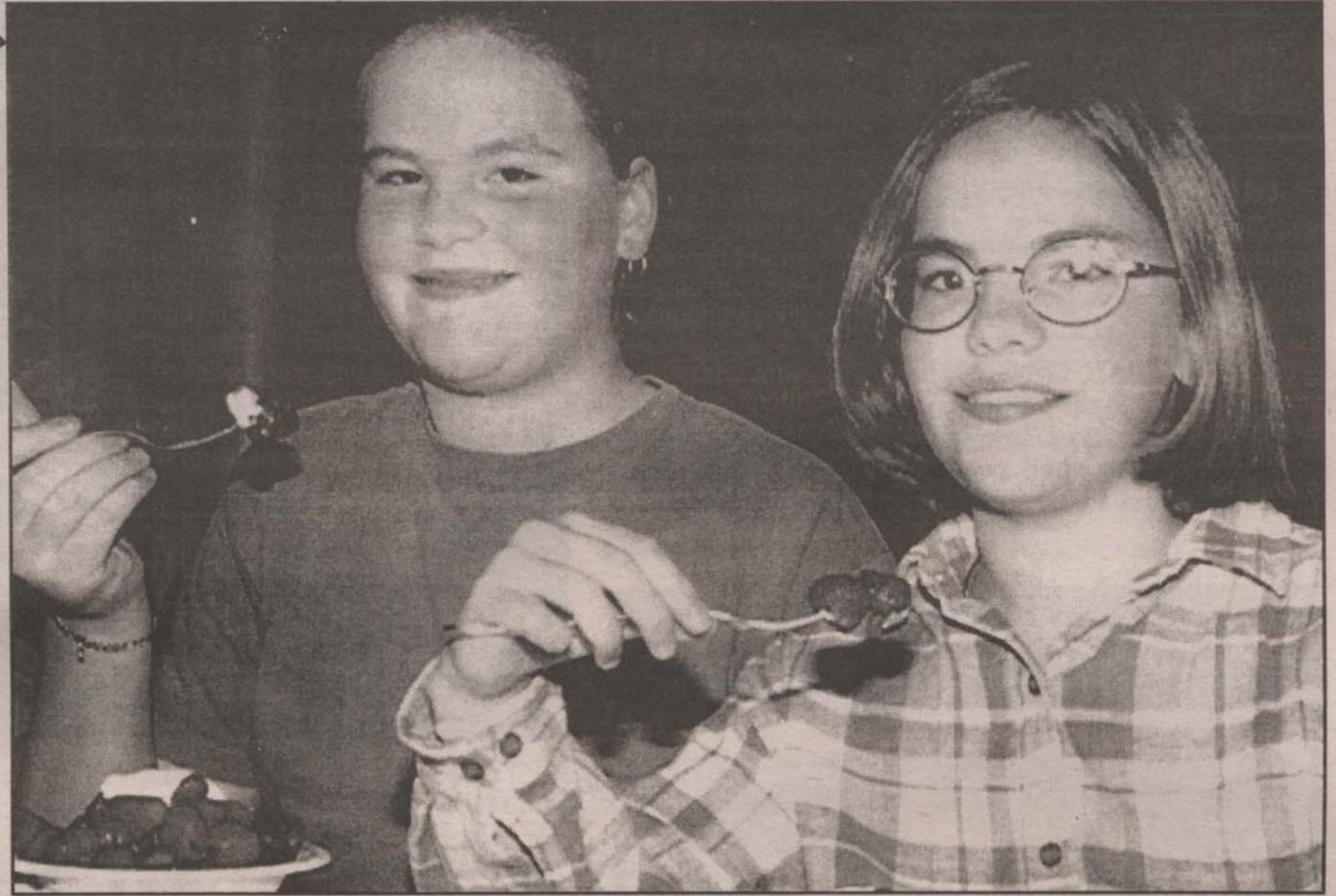
Green light alert

Do you know what to do if you see a car with a flashing green light while you are driving?

Safety-minded and courteous drivers pull off to the side of the road and get out of the way because they know that the green light signifies that the driver is a fire fighter, on his or her way to the fire station to respond to an emergency call.

As of July 1, the Province is giving all fire fighters the option of using a green flashing light, usually mounted on the dash, when they are responding to a fire call. The Halton Hills fire department has launched an education campaign to let people know what the light signifies.

One-half of Halton Hills fire fighters use the green flashing lights when they respond to a call.



HAVING A BERRY GOOD TIME: Lisa and Colleen Burt enjoyed strawberries and whipped cream at Churchill Church's strawberry social this past Thursday. - Angela Tyler photo

A bit of this, a bit of that!

Last week was kind of a slow news period. Nothing pithy piqued my interest. Time then to clean out the files and present a little pot pourri of comment.

The World Cup Soccer tournament is on for the month. Although our kids all played (some still do), I can't get interested in watching the matches on TV. It's almost as exciting as watching billiards. I love it when, in one moment, some player is writhing on the ground in excruciating pain and clutching his knee. Thirty seconds later, he's sprinting down the field at a pace only Donovan Bailey could exceed. I watched 15 minutes or so of a match last Saturday. Haven't seen so many dives since the last Summer Olympics. Many of the games are on during the day so for the benefit of those readers who might miss a game, here are the scores: 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, 0-0. That covers about 80 per cent of the games. Boring!

★★★★★

Convicted murderer and aspiring separatist Paul Rose was shouted down during a recent speaking engagement in Ottawa. Good for those who did that. Yes, I believe in free speech. But who says we have to provide a public forum for traitors? Paul Rose is a murderer and a traitor. Who will Ottawa U. have on next? Clifford Olson?

★★★★★

The new impotence pill, Viagra, is in the news again. Seems that 16 men have died while taking the new drug. Rumours that it took morticians hours to get the smiles off their faces have not been confirmed. All kidding aside, anyone using this product must get a full physical and find out about the pharmacological side effects. Anyone on heart medication should be very wary. After all, you want this product to make you stiff; not make you a stiff.

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



★★★★★

In these kinder, gentler days the movement to humanized criminals grinds on. For years now, prison staff have had to refer to inmates as clients. As a result of the Guy Paul Morin inquiry, Crown prosecutors have been instructed to call accused people by name instead of referring to them as "the accused." The idea behind this is to present the accused as more of a person. The accused should also be allowed to sit beside their lawyer as opposed to being ensconced in the prisoner's box. That will last until some Shylock has the poop beaten out of him by a client. I suppose, in most cases, it's a good idea. The problem comes when you're dealing with some child molester, rapist or murderer. I have difficulty being concerned about these creeps' dignity. I don't hold out much hope, though, that any meaningful reference will be made to these cretins. Something like "slime-sucking scumballs" would be nice. Well, wouldn't it?

★★★★★

I watched Hugh Segal announce his candidacy to lead the federal Tories. Segal, who has twice gone down to defeat while running for a seat, is well known in the Toronto area as a "Red Tory." Now why would the Conservatives pick someone who would lead them down the same road to disaster they so recently trod. It is widely expected that Joe Who (Clark) will announce this week. Great, that makes Joe Who and Hugh Who the front runners for the job no one wants. Maybe God is a Liberal.

Speaking of Liberals, is there any chance the P.M. will get his shoe out of his mouth over the Hepatitis C

issue? His latest gaffe was to lump these poor people in with smokers who contract cancer. Will he ever admit he made a mistake and do the right thing? Don't hold your breath.

It was when he was answering a question and sternly lectured he couldn't just "spend money" because "it isn't mine, it's the taxpayers'." I started to gag. Now this is the same P.M. whose government just pushed through an increase of around \$21,000 per year in salary and benefits for MPs. Calling the raise "a modest one" and "completely justifiable," Monsieur Chretien seemed annoyed the press would even question the trough top-up. MPs' pay is now in the top 10 per cent salary bracket in the country. For this, we get to watch MPs vote against their consciences because the P.M. has given them marching orders. You'd think that for the equivalent of \$140,000 (if fully taxed), we could attract some people with the courage to do the right thing. Seems not.

Speaking of political hacks, another bunch just got appointed the Senate. The big surprise in the gaggle was well known hockey player Frank Mahovlich. Now the Big M has always been a left winger, but this is ridiculous. What's next? Eddie Shack to the Supreme Court?

★★★★★

And lastly, yet another Rottweiler has been shot by police. The officers were at a house investigating a domestic dispute. On three occasions they asked the owner to confine the dog in a separate room. From my viewpoint, when armed people ask me to do something, I tend to comply. Instead, the dog was allowed to run at the officer and was subsequently shot. Now the owner is looking for compensation for the vet's bill Duh!

Problem is, he'll probably get it. It's only tax money, you see.

"Our Survey Says..."

Should Mill Street be made a one way street?



No, it wouldn't help. They should limit parking at Mill Street and Willow Street instead.

Teresa Uiterwyk, Acton



It would be inconvenient. I've never had any problems going through downtown.

Ian Thomson, Eden Mills



No. I've been in a lot of towns where it is a one-way street downtown and it doesn't help.

Joe Gobin, Rockwood



Yes they should. It would help cut down on accidents.

Amanda White, Guelph

This week's New Tanner survey by Angela Tyler

Got a Beef?

Write a letter to the editor!



Deadline is Tuesday at noon