

# GRAPEVINE



## Good night, Sweet Dreams

Pat Lee, owner of Sweet Dreams Bakery and Café has unfortunately closed the doors at their Acton location. Lee contacted *The New Tanner* Monday with the sad news. Although their clientele were incredibly supportive, Sweet Dreams found mornings and evenings a little slow. Sweet Dreams tried different ideas from brunches to musical evenings and amalgamating the café and bakery to keep their dream alive. Lee would like to thank everyone for the patronage and will be continuing their ventures at the Civic Centre in Georgetown and the catering part of the business.

## Playing around

Ever wonder just what goes into the designing of a play? Your curiosity can be satisfied by attending the official design studio for the Eramosa-Guelph Community Play, "All Over the Map." The designery launch will take place at the Guelph Recreational Park in Marden on Thursday, July 30 at 7 p.m. with professional theatre designer Ruth Howard. Ruth hails from Toronto where she has worked on a number of community theatre and artistic projects. She and her crew will be working through the summer to prepare for the play, which takes place on Sept. 19 and 20. Ruth was the designer for the highly acclaimed community play, *The Spirit of Shivaree*, which took place in the Rockwood Conservation Area in 1989.

## Just stopping for a visit

Guess who's coming through Acton and Georgetown on Monday, August 1 - John Davidson - on his way across Canada in honour of his son, Jesse, who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. In 1995 John pushed Jesse in his wheelchair 3,300 km across Ontario, raising over \$1 million to fund research into genetically inherited disease. Since Jesse's health has deteriorated and he is unable to undertake another journey, John began a cross-Canada journey April 10th, Jesse's 18th birthday, to raise more funds. The journey will end in Victoria, B.C., in January 1999. The goal of

"Jesse's Journey - A Father's Tribute" is 10 million steps for \$10 million.

John Davidson, a London resident, worked as a broadcaster at the London TV station.

## Summer Carnival!

Magician Brent Mackie and his crew of balloon artists will be a feature of the annual Recreation and Parks Summer Carnival at the Acton Arena on July 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. The booths will include a dunk tank where kids can dunk their camp leaders, live entertainment, a jumping castle and a baseball pitching station for measuring throwing speed. Admission is free and tickets for booth activities and refreshments range from 25 to 75 cents. Families are invited to come out and enjoy the event with their kids. For information call the Civic Centre at 873-2601, ext. 267.



NICK AND CHRIS JORDAN

## Flies beware!

Have you got a problem with flies in your home or business? Young entrepreneurs Nick and Chris Jordan are a fly swatting team with not only experience but lots of enthusiasm.

"We were swatting tons of flies in our house," said Chris, 7.

Big brother Nick, 9, came up with the idea to turn their expertise into profits and as of yesterday, The Bug Busters opened for business.

The Jordans have their own equipment, including swatters and a flashlight, and have very reasonable rates: just \$1 per hour. They can be reached at 853-4739.

"We will solve all your fly problems," Nick said, adding he thinks the business will be a success.

"We hope we get some luck," he said. Entrepreneurs Nick and Chris Jordan



JUNIOR FIELD TRIP: Totty Tots Daycare children visited Lakeview Flooring and Kitchens on Mill Street East and made themselves right at home among the paint cans, picking out their favourite colours. The children ranged in age from 12 months to five years. - Submitted photo

# Oh no! You can't do that!

The hot topic around town these days is - what's going to happen to the old arena? The issue has risen to the top because the Agricultural Society needs to know if the building will be available for this year's fair, which is only eight weeks away.

Before looking at the issue of the old arena proper, let's consider the proposal to move the handicrafts exhibits, baby show, Miss Acton Fall Fair competition (love that title) and the other events usually held in the fairgrounds to the new arena. This is a dumb idea and a logistical nightmare. Entry to these events is included in your fair admission. Is anyone seriously convinced that a family will come to the fair, park, that at some later time leave the fairgrounds to visit the new arena? The Miss Acton contest may draw on its own but people visit the homecrafts as part of the fair experience.

Rather than split the venues, I would suggest the Fair Board suspend the events held in the arena. The split venues will only lead to complaints from the customers. It should be remembered that the fair-goers are customers whose expectations must be met if they are expected to return year after year.

Last week's New Tanner contained a discouraging report on a meeting between town council and staff with some concerned citizens. According to sources, it did not go well. I'm not surprised. It's pretty obvious that the town has made the decision that the old arena is coming down. That should come as a surprise to no one since the demolition charges have been in the budget for the last two years.

I think that, sometimes, we in Acton don't feel we are getting a fair shake from the town. For the most part, the facts would not support such a conclusion. We do have a new arena of which we should be justifiably proud. Where the

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



problems come in is when communication breaks down between the town and interested citizens. One other factor can also influence such situations. Most of us identify very strongly with the town of Acton. Few of us, when asked where we live, would reply Halton Hills. Council and staff, however, have to keep the needs of the entire town in mind. It's obvious that Georgetown, with a much larger population and industrial base, will have more town facilities. This doesn't mean, however, that we in Acton don't get our per capita share. In most cases I think we do.

That said, I have been concerned for years that there is not a "can do" attitude at town hall. In fact, I have observed on many occasions a "can't do" attitude which seems to pervade the place. Local contractors and entrepreneurs have told me it's easier and faster to get development done in other jurisdictions. Since municipalities all use the same codes, why is that?

I realize that we live in a litigious society. Many of our own councillors were recently dragged through a lawsuit. So I guess it's to be expected that town staff would be sure to dot all the "i's" and cross all the "t's." Still, we seem to be mired in red tape every time we try to do anything. It's a subject I think council should be concerned with. We're competing with all the surrounding jurisdictions for growth and development. We should have a "can do" attitude. The old arena would be a good place to re-enforce that.

The cost of repairing the old arena is a real stumbling block. The engineering estimate seems high but you

have to remember that is for a town owned facility. Usually, those buildings are engineered so as to withstand a direct nuclear blast. What would happen if the building could be transferred to a local committee? This would allow volunteer labour to be used which would really reduce the cost. If the town has to tender the job it probably would cost over \$600,000. The private sector could do it for a lot less. The old arena need not be a Cadillac building. We could get by with a Chevy.

There has been some suggestion of putting ice back in the old arena. This will probably not fly. Firstly, putting the ice back in would probably be cost prohibitive. Not that you couldn't make it pay, though. Already, prime ice time in the new arena is oversubscribed. With a good marketing program, another rink could pay. But I was at the meeting several years ago when a former staffer announced that Acton would "never" have a second ice surface. I found it astounding that the councillors present didn't interject at the time. For anyone in government to say a future facility would "never" be build is completely unacceptable. It suggests there is a secret agenda which may not be acceptable to the people. I trust that this attitude has not held over to this day and resulted in the seemingly intransigence on the part of officials to save the old arena.

The different groups who want to save the old arena need to get some concrete proposals and a business plan on the table. Staff and council could then offer positive suggestions on how the arena can be saved. Having one side saying you won't do anything and the other saying you can't do that won't solve anything.

The bottom line is we need a large general purpose building at Prospect Park. Now - how do we make that happen?

## "Our Survey Says..."

If you were asked, would you contribute financially to the restoration of the old Acton Arena?



For sure. It would be a place for my son to play and keep off the streets.

Leslie Schipper



It depends on who is running it. If it was restored and operated privately then yes. If the Region is still involved, it would remain a white elephant. I don't think it will cost \$600,000 to restore it as suggested. It needs to be marketed and restored esthetically.

Phil Marzo



Yes, I think it's good for the community and a good place for the fair to be held. It has a lot of uses for the young people.

Karen McGill

This week's New Tanner survey by Angela Tyler



## WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.