

# GRAPEVINE

## Spring opening

Construction of the new Home Hardware store in east Acton is on budget and on schedule, heading for an early March opening. The studding and floor in the office area is complete and the wiring and dry wall work is underway. The shelving will be installed in the coming weeks on the new store which will allow Bill and Val Manes to double the stock they now carry.

"Things are going pretty smooth," said Bill Manes who expects to close at one location and open at another the next morning. The Manes' lease on the 43 Mill Street East runs until the end of March.

Along with expanded sports and toy departments the new store will feature a gourmet section, like those in Orangeville and Burlington stores, featuring higher end gifts and house ware.

## Lasers banned

Laser pointers once a presentation tool and now a hot fad that can cause eye damage - are no longer allowed on school property in Halton. The Halton Catholic District School Board has banned the pointers, often sold as a key chain or pen, and the public board has issued a hazard alert to all employees and students.

For some students, silently zapping people with the laser pointers is a game, but a Georgetown High student was suspended for two days after flashing a laser pointer at a teacher, who was not believed to have suffered permanent damage. If a student has a laser at school it will be treated as a discipline issue, unless the student intended to hurt someone and then it would be treated as a weapon.

## Christian unity

In an attempt to foster Christian unity in Acton, the congregations of

two Acton churches - Trinity United and St. Joseph's - will celebrate Ash Wednesday next month in a joint service at St. Joseph's. The two congregations celebrated Epiphany in a recent service at Trinity.

"There are many ways to express Christian unity and both churches were thinking of ways to do that in addition to the Unity Week and once-a-year unity service," said the Reverend Bob Matton of Trinity.

## Unity rebuilding

Looks like all of Acton churches will participate in Acton's annual Service of Christian Unity scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 31 at the Legion. Two churches, Acton Baptist and the Acton Salvation Army Corp, boycotted last year's service because they didn't like the theology of the guest speaker, the Very Reverend Lois Wilson, former speaker of the United Church of Canada.

The Acton Ministerial picked from among its own for this year - the Reverend Shawn Brix of Beth-El Christian Reform Church will be the guest speaker.

## Downtown murals

Murals could be painted on building walls in several areas of Acton under a plan being studied by the board of management of the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area). The BIA had initially talked about putting murals on the walls at the main corner when they did the major work on the Mill and Main streets parkette in 1997 and the issue has been resurrected by Acton Councilor Clark Somerville, the council rep on the Acton BIA.

"not necessarily a strict Leathertown theme

## Annual meeting

The Acton Agricultural Society will hold its annual meeting at Knox Presbyterian Church Hall on Saturday, Jan. 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## Arena letter continued

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officials and visitors. Then of course, I thought of the parents, and the parents, and the parents...

"I could not imagine that anybody could write such a headline about such a treasured memory, and a place where so many came to grow and play.

"In any event I could not let it pass without doing something, so I wandered down and spoke to the demolition company, and asked for a piece of your memories. I really wanted a small house brick that had been in the changing room area, but I could not find a good one, so I settled for a bigger concrete brick, that has hopefully as much or more meaning. This brick I took from the coach's bench area, and as you will see one side is painted in the arena blue colour, and the other in the tell tale white of the indoor part of the arena that you know so well.

"I know you looked at this brick, whether you know it or not, and that this brick watched over you and your kids through the years. The spirit of this inanimate gift is really in my mind a testimony to your commitment and time that you shared with your boys, and I wanted you to have something to remember all those years by. I simply could not let that

building go without getting you some part of it. So here it is.

"What you will do with it I know not, in fact as long as you keep it, it does not matter, but perhaps you could plant some flowers in it in the garden in the summer, or maybe it could be a door stop, or simply hang around in your garage. Who knows you could even turn it into a conversation piece. I know one thing for certain. When you look at it you will remember this passage of your life, and the fond memories you must have, and be certain in the knowledge that you gave it everything you could. There can be no doubt that you will not have any regrets about your investment in that place and in your boys over the passage of time.

"In any event here's to you and your boys, and may you never forget those magical and precious moments you share with them as their dad. As you know I think you have made an exceptional commitment to your family, in all aspects of life, but particularly in the arena of sport, which is such a worldly acumen. As you know I am trying hard to emulate you, and be such a master of protocol, discretion and yet support and commitment.

"Thanks for the great example."  
(Name withheld)



READY FOR THE COLD: Kelsey and Tyler Kirkpatrick of Acton were bundled up ready for the weatherman when they went out to play. Only their noses and rosy cheeks were exposed to Ma nature and her recent nasty tricks. - Angela Tyler photo

## A snowstorm and a snow job

"Do not," said my friend Al the Barber "write a column about the big snowstorm. People are sick of hearing about it." That may be true but it's either the snowstorm or Clinton and I'm really sick of Clinton.

Mega-mouth Mel embarrassed himself and the city with his over the wall rantings. For goodness sake one would have thought the apocalypse was imminent. The rest of the country is having a good guffaw at our expense. Granted, it has been a snowy January but only in relation to the past few years. Why, when I was a boy, we had snow like this from November through April. I had to walk three miles to school and back again. The whole trip, there and back, was uphill. Did I mention I often went barefoot? Well, not really, but for all the protection rubber boots gave you we might as well have gone unshod.

While I am loath to correct our esteemed editor, I fear his memory is slipping a tad. Last week he wrote about the winter pants we wore and called them "breeches". I recall they were called "breeks". They looked like Mountie uniform trousers. They laced up below the knee. They were made of 100 per cent wool with the texture of a horse blanket. Talk about itching. The chafe they caused is not something one discusses in polite company. Blue jeans replaced them and undoubtedly saved generation X from extinction. They came in any colour you wanted as long as it was dark blue. But don't worry, Hartley, they say the memory is the first to go. I'd tell you what the second is - but I forget.

While the snow wasn't that unusual for those of us with long memories it was, I admit, bitter cold. There was not a testicularly intact brass monkey to be found in town. How cold was it? Well, I saw a lawyer walking around downtown and he had his hand in his own pockets. Now that's cold.

I'm always surprised at the number of people who get their

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



cars stuck in the snow. They seem to think the way to free-up the vehicle is to race the engine and burn 10,000 km off the tires. I was discussing this phenomema with my buddy who originally hails from Newfoundland. Here, I figured, is someone who really knows how to handle winter weather.

"Did you put snow tires on your car?" I asked. "Naw boy," he replied. "I tries 'dem once but they're just a big rip-off. Comes de spring, they always melts."

Undoubtedly, the biggest over-reaction to the storm was Mayor Mel's statement last week that he was petrified by the thought of last week-end's forecast blizzard. Now there's a fine example of calm, courageous leadership. At least we can be thankful that Mel wasn't P.M. of Britian during W.W. II. Mel is the winner of our 1999 Chicken Little Award. Who could top his act? Noooooobody!

I was relieved that Peel police caught the vermin who gunned down Brampton Mom Nancy Kidd during a bank robbery. Newspaper accounts of the arrest say the pair started laughing and singing when they realized the cops weren't going to gun them down. Obviously these guys are only tough when they're facing unarmed bank tellers.

At the time of the murder I wondered how long it would take for the forces of the politically correct to spring into action. I refer to the descriptions of the murderers as having a "Jamaican accent." Sure enough, the Toronto Star didn't let me down.

Late last week that paper printed a column condemning the inclusion of the "Jamaican accent" informa-

tion in the descriptions of the murderers. They claim such language stereotypes and denigrates the substantial Jamaican Canadian population. What a bunch of supercilious claptrap. Canadians, no matter their heritage, just wanted these guys caught. The more accurate description the better. What's next? Must we neutralize police descriptions to the point that they are useless so as to avoid the possibility of slighting some group or another? The description also mentioned that the murderers escaped in a minivan. Since I drive a van should I be outraged if a police officer takes a second look at me? I notice that the victim is not spared any exposure. Of course her rights, and those of her family, are of no consequence to those who champion the politically correct cause. Then the Star added insult to injury by running this trash on the very day that Mrs. Kidd was being laid to rest.

On CFRB last week another jerk called in to say we couldn't be too harsh with these killers until we know if they grew up in poverty. Host Paul Mott got so angry he stormed out of the studio. Mott just couldn't take any more of the "welfare was cut and this drives people to desperation" bullroar. I agree with Mott. Ninety-nine per cent of us have had enough of the "no one is responsible for their own actions" apologists. A pox on all their houses.

It will be interesting to see if the Crown prosecutes these murderers for having an unregistered weapon. By definition, a sawed-off shotgun is illegal. Tragedies like this point out the idiocy of the Liberals gun control laws. The hundred of millions being spent on bureaucrats would have done more good if they were used to hire more cops. But that might have made things tougher on criminals. And we can't have that. Can we?



## WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.