

GRAPEVINE



Night of the Iguana?

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette is just a little concerned what might greet him in the council chambers on Monday when staff presents a proposed bylaw banning exotic animals in Halton Hills. The restrictive – or rather restrictive – bylaw will ban all snakes over 1-metre in length, farm animals within urban limits and also a number of exotic pets like pot-bellied pigs, exotic cats and elephants. The bylaw will be enforced on a complaint basis.

Bonnette first raised the issue six years ago after a man with a python wrapped around his neck startled people on the midway at the fall fair.

"I couldn't get pleasure buying a live rodent to feed live to a snake and watch it devour it, but to each their own," Bonnette said, adding that venomous snakes will also be banned.

"We're the last municipality in this area to pass a pet bylaw and it's about time."

Spiel appeal

Acton area Big Brothers and Halton Hills Community Support and Information (HHCSI) were the big winners at Saturday's second annual joint agency bonspiel at the Acton Curling Club.

Fourteen teams of veteran and first-time curlers, along with corporate donations and sponsors, raised thousands of dollars for the two agencies and their clients in the Acton area. The Halton Big Brothers organization operates from HHCSI offices on Willow Street.

Agency staffs prepared and served the breakfast, lunch and dinner, a unique feature of the Acton bonspiel that shows Acton staff and volunteers give both their time and money.

Youth Centre benefit

The proposed Acton Youth Centre will benefit from tomorrow's (Friday) Acton Kinettes teen dance at the Legion. This is the fourth youth dance sponsored by the Kinettes who have made youth programs one of their main community focuses. The supervised dance will include a DJ, snacks and free bowling passes for all those who attend. Tickets are \$5, available at the door.

Dance divas

Kudos to Acton Figure Skating Club members Jesseca Brake, Erin O'Leary and Aiden Stanley who competed recently at the Central Ontario championships in Downsview. Brake placed fifth in the senior bronze ladies' dance, Erin O'Leary placed eighth in the senior silver ladies' dance and Aiden Stanley finished 13th in the preliminary dance.

Jubilee 2000 Campaign

Watch for petitions at several Acton locations for A Call for Jubilee, a United Church of Canada millennium project that asks world leaders to forgive unpayable debts of the world's most impoverished nations.

"Some poor nations are paying millions upon millions of dollars in interest charges on these debts, while people are dying from starvation because of the crushing nature of their debts," explained Trinity United Church minister, the Reverend Bob Matton, who is also approaching other Acton churches for their support.

The Jubilee debt remission initiative is inspired by the biblical vision calling for the cancellation of debt, redistribution of wealth and renewal of the earth.



Don Marzo loaned us this picture of his Gr. 3 class at Robert Little school taken in 1956. Daisy Folster was their teacher. Do you know the names of the class members?

Uppertopperfloppestoppers

A new item last week caught my eye. Seems like the Canadian military is updating all their uniforms. Including undergarments. Since it isn't just "This man's army" any longer a Captain Delanghe has been charged with the responsibility of coming up with a combat bra for female personnel (one hopes, but these are the 90's).

Regular readers will know that I'm a patriot. I have sometimes also been somewhat critical of government programs. It has been my observation that, generally speaking, most governments couldn't organize a two car funeral. So, despite the pitfalls, I feel an obligation to provide some guidance to our gallant soldiers as they embark upon this perilous mission. And dangerous duty it is as any man who has ever purchased ill fitting or uncomfortable lingerie for his lady will tell you.

You may be wondering what qualifications I have since I am obviously not of the gentle persuasion (that last part is said in a very deep voice) or a military type. It's quite simple. I've been buying ladies' underwear for years.

Stop snickering! You know what I mean.

So for the benefit of Captain Delanche and his team, I offer the following suggestions.

(A) Obviously a combat bra should be (you should pardon the word) built to deploy pepper spray in the event of capture. This feature will be easy to sell, the P.M. will love it.

(B) Experience tell me the good captain would be wise to have a winter model that is fur lined and battery heated.

(C) Keep Red Green away from the project. If that proves impossible at least ensure the duct tape is sticky side out. We are not a nation of barbarians.

(D) Every government program needs a name. When the U.S. army re-designed the Jeep they call it the "Hummer". I sug-

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



very comfortable to me.

And now for a few snippets of news and views that tend to amuse and confuse.

The school custodians in Toronto settled their strike on the last day before March Break. Go figure.

Preston Manning was attempting to start a new party, a united alternative, until he discovered that all the assets of the Reform Party would revert to the Federal Treasury if Reform wound up.

This included a million in cash. Suddenly the new party is "a merger". Follow-me proposes Preston, then falls flat on his face. Good grief.

Mike Harris calls Dalton McGintuy names. Dalton calls Harris names. Howard Hampton calls everyone names. We are supposed to be impressed. Not!

Sid Ryan is running for the NDP in the next election. I hope he wins. As a sitting member for a party at 14 per cent in the polls we'd never hear from him again. Where can I send money to help his campaign?

Justice Minister Anne McLellan introduced yet another bit of tinkering to The Young Offenders Act. The left think she went too far. The right think she didn't go far enough. In fact, there is only one group who are happy with the proposed Youth Justice Criminal Act. The juvenile delinquents.

The Leafs are virtually assured of making the playoffs. Now I'm really worried. Maybe the world will end this year.

April 9 has been declared "Nookie Night" in Canada. That's the date couples need to conceive if they want to have a "Millennium Baby" on Jan. 1, 2000. Yeah. If I was a woman, I'd sure want to be in a windowless room going into labour when the computers crash, the lights go out and airplanes are falling from the sky. Sounds like a guy idea to me.

LETTERS

Town should thrive

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter in hope of getting the citizens of Acton to take a good hard look at their town and see what is happening.

We have yet another business, Pallet, Pallet closing and moving to Scarborough! At this rate we are heading in the same direction as Elliot Lake.

This town should be thriving, not dying.

Acton has great potential, why is it not being put to use?

Sure we have a new arena, and Home Hardware has expanded and moved to a larger site. But to me that just leaves another empty store in our downtown core. This is simply unacceptable.

The people of Acton pay taxes too. We deserve a better shake than this. There is nowhere where we can shop for clothes, shoes, and other necessities we need.

It seems apparent to me that the "Powers That Be" are turning a blind eye and deaf ear to these problems.

So all you politicians and espe-

cially the mayor, when are you really going to help the town of Acton instead of mouthing empty promises?

If Acton's downtown area keeps closing stores it will soon look like a movie set for a ghost town picture. Hey, maybe that's what's needed. Bring in a movie company to town, at least that way the folks in Acton might possibly get jobs as extras.

But on a more serious note folks, let's all band together and say Enough! We want to see immediate action concerning the welfare of our town; not just more empty promises and stores. One more thing, a while ago one of your readers said that a mall in Acton would be its "death knell".

Well, in my humble opinion without a mall or even a superstore I'm afraid the "death knell" is already sounding.

Come on people, let's not wait for that to happen. Let's get our town up and running again.

Sincerely,
Anne Bloye

THE **NEW TANNER**
Hometown News



WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.