

GRAPEVINE



Pinned

Tim Hortons drive-through wonder Gail Thompson (Hi, honey) will be doing a little show and tell at Robert Little school tomorrow (Friday) for pin day. Thompson has a prodigious collection of pins from far and near - almost all of them gifts from customers.

Thompson wears her pins proudly on a tie and coat and soon, on an apron another loyal customer is making for her. Thompson isn't wearing her favourite pin - purple and yellow pins with stones and a puppy made by two little girls - it's in for repairs.

Walk the Cross

Acton residents are invited to symbolically retrace Jesus' Good Friday walk to his crucifixion at Calvary with a Walk the Cross event tomorrow (Friday) from Churchill Community Church to Trinity United Church.

Last year about a dozen people walked the five-kilometres, down Churchill Road from the corner of 32 Side Road to Trinity and organizers hope to double that number this year.

People who wish to participate, but can't walk the entire distance are invited to join the walk anywhere along the route. The walk ended at Trinity in time for the Good Friday service at 7:30 p.m.

Wood wonder

What a beautiful piece of workmanship Acton High Grade 12 student Mike Fowler has created in a cabinet making class. Fowler, 19, designed and constructed the arched pine and willow table as a project last semester, and just put the finishing touches on the piece, which earned him a mark of 95, and accolades from the head of Conestoga College woodworking program who saw the table during a recent visit to Acton.

Fowler will keep the table for himself, and may turn his woodworking skills into a career.



Oh, baby

The crying seemed incessant. It's had not been a fun three days for Acton High school Grade 10 student Maeghan McGonigle, who was caring 24-7 for a computerized doll as

part of the parenting class. The real looking doll - with a normal or cranky setting - is programmed to cry just like real babies and the "parent" must insert a plastic key in its back to settle it - or face the consequences when the teacher reviews a printout of the doll's care.

"It sure re-enforced the fact that I don't want a baby," Maeghan said, adding it gave her a lot of new experiences, none of them good.



Cancer raffle

Feeling lucky and like to help a good cause? Why don't you purchase a raffle ticket in conjunction with the annual Paul Murr gold tournament to benefit the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society. The Halton Credit Union - the tournament's banker - is selling the raffle tickets for organizers and has set up a display/kiosk in the bank.

Tickets are \$5 and are available until the day of the tournament, May 15 at Blue Springs Golf Club.

The main prize is a leather wingback chair and ottoman, donated by the olde Hide House. Other prizes include a set of golf clubs and a barbecue. This is the 16th edition of the tournament, which has raised \$320,000 for cancer research in the name of former Acton resident, and golfer, Paul Murr.

Chickadee a winner

It continues to be a banner year for Acton's Peter Zions Construction and partner firm, Pat Stuart Developments.

Just a month after being named Business of the Year by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, and builder of the month by Builder - Architect magazine, the company learned one of its home designs is one of five finalists in the Greater Toronto Homebuilder's Association competition. The chickadee model was designed in-house - the only one among the finalists, chosen by seven judges from across Canada.

The winner will be announced in Richmond Hill on April 28, the day before the company holds an open house at its new Main Street North Home Store.



CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION: Heritage Acton committee members had a champagne toast Saturday following the announcement that they had received a \$75,000 Trillium Foundation grant. Left to right, Doug Fread, Stella Brunelle, George Elliott, Ted Tyler, Alice Duby, Kathy Sanford, Tracey Tyler and Bill Sanford. Absent from the photo was Vic Bristow. - Angela Tyler photo

Draw a line for lawyers!

When will the spirits of Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffy be allowed to rest in peace? Two recent events have dredged up all the pain again. Convicted murderer and rapist Bernardo had his appeal for a new trial turned down. Hopefully the Supreme Court will decide not to entertain any further arguments. his own perversion, in videotaping the torture of these children, provided irrefutable proof that he is guilty. The failed appeal was launched on a point of law, not that he was innocent. Justice would be well served if he was thrown into a rat infested pit; never to be heard from again. We're too civilized to do that through, More's the pity.

I suppose, that even the most vile murderer should have some legal redress to safeguard his rights. One wonders, however, why it was necessary for him to have four lawyers? One of them was flown, at obvious extra expense, to Toronto from Winnipeg. You can't swing a cat around at Bay and King without hitting a lawyer. The court couldn't find one in Toronto?

My understanding is that Bernardo is no longer eligible for Legal Aid. Instead, the court ordered the government to pay for the appeal. Criminals get a free ride in this system while the victims are, for the most part, left to their own resources. It's sickening is what it is. Our judicial system has been hijacked by the criminals' rights groups. Hopefully, the people will remember the government's refusal to address these issues when the next election comes around.

If we all agree, and I think we do, that everyone should have protection from and under the law, then even Bernadro deserves to be suitably represented. Why, though, does he get the Cadillac treatment? If you or I hired four lawyers to represent us we'd be bankrupt. The man who committed one of the most heinous crimes in Ontario gets nothing but the best. There is only one question. Why?

Another question before the court also concerns this case. Bernardo's original lawyer, Ken Murray, is on trial for obstructing justice by withholding the infamous video tapes. Murray is claiming

The Way I See It



with Mike O'Leary

lawyer-client privilege. This is a situation which requires the wisdom of Solomon.

The judge has already ruled that Mr. Murray could use Bernardo's instructions regarding the tapes in his defence. Last Sunday, (of all days) we were confronted by the murderer's handwritten note, telling Murray where the tapes were and what he wanted done with them. Specifically, he told Murray not to view them.

I have a real problem with this matter. I'm obviously biased since I think both Bernardo and his ex-wife are vile murderers. I would be satisfied to see them both executed. My deep feelings make it difficult to excuse Mr. Murray's actions which made it possible for Homolka to make her infamous deal. The tapes were later released and used to convict Bernardo.

At the same time, I realize there is a need for lawyer-client privilege. If you were accused of a crime, the last thing you'd want to hear was your lawyer standing up and saying: "Your Honour, I say my client is guilty." So where is the line where a lawyer is no longer acting in their client's interest and crosses over to obstructing justice? Once it may have been clear but this case has obscured it.

Perhaps the key is in the client's instructions. If the client is telling his lawyer to commit a crime, such as obstruction of justice, then shouldn't the lawyer be allowed to take that information to the court or an ethics panel? Aren't lawyers officers of the court? As such, shouldn't they have the right to refuse an illegal direction?

Part of the problem could be the adversarial system our courts have become. Often, it appears that lawyers are consumed by the desire to win rather than ensuring that justice is done.

In today's world that is probably a Pollyanna attitude. Still, doesn't this case underline the need for us to move towards that ideal.

Everyone deserves a competent defence. The state has unlimited resources and without safeguards, individuals could be steamrolled into prison. There have been several high profile cases recently where innocent people have served significant time in jail. The law must find a balance where the rights of the accused are protected and lawyers can honour their duty to the courts and the Canadian people. Although I loath what he did, Mr. Murray should be cleared of the charges against him. At the same time, parliament and the courts must set a standard for lawyers to observe. Let's not put anyone in Mr. Murray's position again. The search for justice must prevail over any lawyer-client arrangement. It's the "how" which is going to be the tricky part.

★★★★

The (yawn) race is on for the leadership of the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance. Alberta treasurer Stockwell Day made a swing through Barrie, to show us he is an Ontarian, as well as a Westerner. Supposedly, this will make him more electable. You have to wonder which back-room guy came up with that braindrizzle. Firstly - I don't care where anyone is from as long as they look to be a decent leader. It's policies not residency that interest most of us. Secondly - no one in Barrie remembered him even living there. The family was only in town for a few years. Don't look for any signs proclaiming "Barrie - home of Stockwell Day" in the near future. Lastly, why do handlers stage photo-ops for politicians involving sports? Remember poor Stanfield fumbling the football? In Day's case they had him pose as if he was going to throw a snowball. His arm is back, palm up next to his ear. Girls throw that way. Day looked like a sissie. Not a great start. Stay tuned.

★★★★

One assumes the letter signed "Marilyn" in last week's Tanner came from the mayor. I really wonder if perfunctory missiles will solve her P.R. dilemma regarding the MSB lands.

LETTERS

Tories to blame ...

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would break school boards into smaller units, is to imagine a time, long, long ago.

Many people in this community voted for Ted Chudleigh. I suspect because of tax cuts. Well, folks, there are not many things in this world that are free. Tax cuts have come at a cost. The decline in tax revenues due to tax cuts means there must be a decline in government expenditures. So across this province, municipalities, hospital board and school boards have had to find ways to reduce expenditures and generate other revenues. As we have seen, this government believes that public land can and should be sold, regardless of its present or future value.

Mr. Chudleigh is our local MPP and it is his government that has cre-

ated the rules under which school boards must decide whether or not to see excess property or close a school before a new school can be built. His silence on this issue is deafening. I am thankful that our local trustees are taking their time to make such very difficult decisions.

If you are angry about the possible sale of the McKenie-Smith Bennett property, you should direct your concerns toward the people who have created this situation: the Conservative government of Ontario. I suspect to people like our MPP, Mr. Chudleigh, the sale of two soccer fields in order to raise some extra money, would just make 'Common Sense.'

Richard Boychuk
Acton