

# GRAPEVINE



## Francesco's

The mouth-watering rumour is true. A new Italian eatery featuring pasta, sandwiches, salads, desserts, gourmet coffee, espresso and cappuccino is opening at 35 Mill Street, the vacant Sweet Dreams Café.

Francesco's - named after owner Francesco Lo Turco of Acton - will hopefully be open at the end of the month if all of the necessary permits and paperwork is complete.

While the hours are undecided at this point, Lo Turco plans to open early with coffee and baked goods for the morning crowd and offer homemade, family-oriented dining.

## Rotary cleanup

The eastern entrance into Acton looks a lot nicer thanks to the hard work of Rotary Club of Acton members and youth volunteers who staged a major litter cleanup on Saturday in a five-kilometre stretch of Highway 7 from Churchill Road, east to the Sixth Line.

Rotary Club members used some persuasive techniques to enlist help according to Acton Tim Hortons owner John Malinosky, who said he volunteered after it was suggested that his coffee cups are part of the problem.

A dozen teens, members of the Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle Church youth group and some Acton High School students also helped collect approximately 50 bags of garbage.

## I won't run

Acton's Gerry Rivers is "amazed" and bemused by persistent rumours that he intends to run for mayor of Halton Hills in the upcoming municipal election.

"We're hearing it too, but I know nothing about this," Rivers protested on Sunday when asked for confirmation or denial, adding his sister from Georgetown, his wife and two local friends also heard the rumour.

"This is too bizarre - this is like a nightmare and as my wife said, I don't have the patience or the demeanor to be a politician and have no plans to run for any office," Rivers said, adding he would love to know who started the rumour, and why.

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Another River's family member is in the news. Congrats to Jackie Rivers, 12, one of eight Guides from southern Ontario chosen to attend Tapestry 2000, a national Guiding event this summer in Saskatchewan.

Jackie was chosen from among a number of applicants to attend the 10-day celebration to mark the 90th anniversary of Guiding near Regina. Over 800 Guides from across Canada and from international Guide and Scouting groups will attend the 10-day camp, featuring a mix of First Nations and Guiding customs and events.

## Acton program spreads

Looks like the new Community Champion program in Acton has

caught on in another community, just like the local organizers hoped it would.

The program publicly acknowledges the people whose random acts of kindness make this community a nicer place to live. The very first recipient, Tim Hortons employee Gail Thompson, was honoured for her unfailing cheerfulness.

Turns out a Burlington woman saw the story in The New Tanner that announced Gail was the first and the woman, a Lions Club member in Burlington, phoned Gail to ask about the program and invite her and the Acton organizers to come and explain how it works.

## Lottery win

Just in time for the barbecue season, lucky Acton Councillor Clark Somerville will be dining al fresco in style after winning a patio furniture set in the Princess Margaret Hospital lottery.

Somerville bought the winning \$1000 ticket over the phone several months ago and forgot about it until an official letter arrived in the mail, telling him to go to Mississauga to claim his prize.

"It's not the \$525,000 home, but it's great," Somerville said. The prize is valued between \$400 and \$500.

## Superior idea

Kudos to Superior Glove Works Limited in Acton for coming up with a unique fundraiser for the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society.

For each customer who returned a satisfaction survey, superior donated \$5 to the Cancer Society and president Cathy Gerrow marveled at the ingenuity of the program, the brainchild of Superior veep Tony Geng who said he often gets surveys containing a Loonie or Toonie, enticing and hopefully making him obligating him to fill it out and send it back.

"We wanted something a little more altruistic and sure, it takes a few minutes of your time, but you're helping yourself by getting better service and helping the company with your feedback and you helping a good cause," Geng said, adding the program was such a hit, it will become a yearly tradition.

## Black Gold sale

Acton Horticultural Society members were very happy to hear that Black Gold compost will be available at their plant sale on Saturday morning - they know a good thing, and a good deal, when they see it.

The pure organic Black Gold compost, supplied by Guelph, is being sold by the Acton Agricultural Society as a fundraiser for its building replacement fund.

Ag. Society spokesperson Janis Fread said they've had lots of great testimonials about the compost that sells for \$3 a bag or 4 bags for \$10. It will also be sold by the yard with local delivery and if there's any left it will be for sale at the Acton Trunk Sale next Saturday (May 20.).

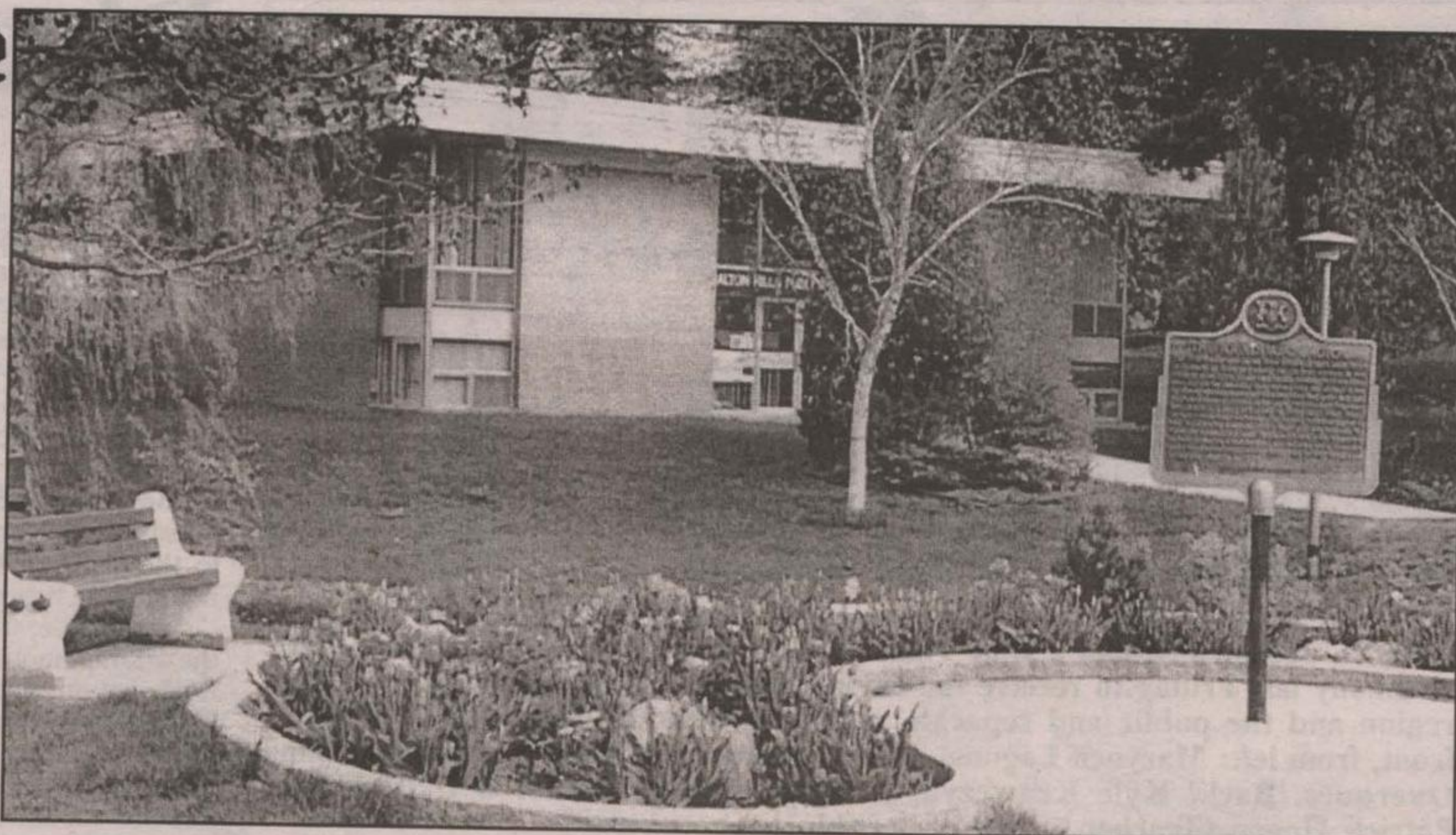
## Writer wants Tanner's hide

York and Havana.

It also boggles my mind that an insignificant newspaper such as the Acton Tanner should find it necessary to dump all over these young people and make light of their efforts. I don't know which would be more effective, to have Big Jule pay them a call, or to call on Sister Sarah Brown to ask the Tanner to go and sin no more.

The Guys and Dolls at Acton High School are to be applauded again for their efforts. The Tanner needs to be tanned.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Beaton



**SPRING HAS SPRUNG:** Flowers are brightening up the flowerbeds at the Laura Dietrich Memorial Garden by the Acton Branch of the library. You can bet the Acton Horticultural Society will be busy making additions as the season progresses. - Angela Tyler photo

# Enough is enough

There has been a lot of concern expressed lately about the incidents of vandalism in our town. Last weekend I ran into another problem which, on its own is bad enough, may well be related to the rash of vandals. I'm talking about the number of drunken, obnoxious teen staggering around our streets. Most of them appear to be underage. I'm tired of their foul language and the litter they leave as they troll around town.

Yesterday, the police, the BIA and Constable Riddle's Citizens Consultation Committee (CCC) met to discuss remedies to the vandalism problem. This writer hopes the authorities crack down on the perpetrators. I also hope they will look at the whole issue of teenage drinking as a way to combat the overall problem.

Some kids, a small minority, seem to be of the opinion that they can do whatever they want. This may come from an in vogue "parenting" (God, I hate that word) theory that you can't deny a child anything lest you damage their psyche. This "strategy" could well be producing the social misfits stumbling around our streets discarding beer bottles as they go. All my adult life I have made it a practice never to give advice or publicly comment on how others raise their children. There are too many variables. I would like to say, however, to caregivers who think negotiation and making deals constitutes any kind of discipline, *Thank you very little*. The rest of us have to deal with the churlish behaviour of too many little brats once they leave the nest. Now that I have cheesed-off more than a few New Age "caregivers" (Mom and Dad isn't good enough any more), let me offer some evidence.

Behavioural consultant Ronald Morrish, in his book "Secrets of Discipline," says parents and teachers should stop making deals with children about proper deportment and start teaching them the rules. "These days everything has become a deal" says Morrish. He observes that in giving children choices and providing rewards and punishments, to encourage them to select well, kids are instead offered the chance to opt for antisocial behaviour. "Instead of getting kids who are respectful, reasonable and co-operative, you get kids who are manipulative, self-centred and

## The Way I See It

with  
Mike O'Leary



argumentative." But don't take my word for it. Read the book. I would also remind you that even Dr. Spock changed his opinion on his original theories.

Here's the straw that broke this camel's back. For some time now I have been angry about the number of kids who pass by our house cursing and swearing. No I'm not foolish enough to think my own kids have never used foul language. Truth be told, my own verbal habits when I'm with my friends could use improvement. But I don't, and I hope my girls don't, walk down the street sounding like cheap trash and disturbing anyone within earshot.

Last weekend, a friend I have not seen in some time, invited me over for a few bubbles. Four of us were enjoying the evening, and each others' company, when I noticed a number of teens walking down the street with open beer cases. One kid had a bottle of C.C. which he was drinking straight. Over the period of an hour or so I'll bet I saw 12 to 15 kids totally plastered. They looked like they were walking an obstacle course. Most of them appeared to be underage. This was all before 11:30 p.m.

When I returned home "The Bride" was on the front porch. Evidently, there was an altercation involving a group of teens at a neighbour's house. It was so loud, and the language so foul, "The Bride" was awakened from a sound sleep. I can tell you my friends, that means the noise level would have registered on the Richter Scale. One young person, not I must add one of my neighbours, had a mouth so vile as to rival the most rank of Calcutta sewers. This, I suppose, makes them feel important. The tragedy is that 10 years from now the kids they think they are impressing won't want to know them. I've seen it happen. What's "cool" as a teen is just embarrassing to most young adults.

When my wife is verbally assaulted on our own property that is enough. As the man said in the movie

"Network" - I'm mad as Hell and I'm not going to take it any more.

We adults are to blame for this situation. We have ignored it for too long. With summer coming on we have a choice. We can lock ourselves, and our children, in our houses and hope these punks don't pick on us; or, we can come together as a community and bring some peace back to our neighbourhoods. This is not a call for vigilante action. Actually, it's the opposite. The results of the meeting between the police, the BIA and the CCC will be published in the paper over the next few issues. I encourage each and every one of you to participate, as good citizens, and help our police curb these problems. Law enforcement must be left to the police.

Some teens think the Young Offenders Act will shield them. They're wrong. Drinking under age carries a fine of approximately \$90. Drunk in a public place - another \$90. Possession under age - another \$90. Walking down the street cursing and swearing is another \$90. (That's creating a disturbance.) So, the hot shot sauntering down the street, underage, drinking a beer and using loud, foul language, could get dinged for \$360. Not much immunity there.

Anyone allowing minors to drink at their house could have real problems. In addition to the obvious charges and fines, if that kid is hurt or hurts someone else on the way home, the homeowner is liable. They could be sued for houses, cottages, cars and cash. The works is on the line. Obviously, I'm not talking about giving your kid a glass of wine or an occasional brew. But in these litigious days I wouldn't give or let someone else's underage kid drink on my property. As always, though, the choice is yours. So are the consequences.

I'm not against kids having fun. Most Acton kids are never involved in disturbing the neighbours with drunken rants. I don't think, though, we should surrender our streets to the anarchy of the few. If you want a chilling reminder of what can happen, just think about that poor girl in Victoria. I'll bet anything that the good people in B.C. never thought that could happen. But it did and it should be a wake-up call to every Canadian.

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