

# GRAPEVINE



## Selective solicitation

Word on the street is that some Acton men are secretly very flattered to have been approached to be part of a fundraising project for the Acton Agricultural Society.

Details are sketchy, but apparently most of those solicited – and sworn to secrecy – by the two project organizers so far, are eager to participate in the event to help raise money for the Society's building fund to replace the Prospect Park arena.

It's not money or donations of goods that are being solicited, but the men themselves that are needed. Stay tuned.

## Air time

How's three hours in the air with CFRB sound? Not on the air but in the air in CFRB's traffic plane. The plane ride – value \$500 – is first prize in a raffle to support the new Off The Wall youth centre at 47 Mill Street (where you can buy tickets.)

Second prize in the Halton Hills Community Support and Information raffle is two green fees at Blue Springs Golf Club and an autographed Blue Jays picture is third prize.

A local youth advisory board member met RB sportscaster Bruce Barker at a function and talked about the raffle for the Acton youth drop-in. Through Barker, the radio station graciously donated the three-hour plane ride.

The prize draws is August 13, during Leathertown Festival.

The grand opening of Off The Wall – ribbon cutting and open house – is Tuesday (July 11) and the public is invited to check it out beginning at 2 p.m. Later that evening, all of the volunteers who made it happen will be thanked for their money, time and talents.

## Glen beats Town 9-7

An infusion of youth, women and luck gave Glen Williams a sweet 9-7 victory over the Town in their annual Canada Day baseball game in the Glen. Last year, the Glen was soundly trounced and were "out for blood" this year.

(At press time, The New Tanner was still trying to confirm widespread

rumours that umpire Wayne Pakulla was seen accepting a large wad of Canadian Tire money from a well-known Glen resident before the game.)

Councillor Kevin "Krusher" Kuiack lived up to his nickname with a nice inside the park homer. Noel Murphy's headfirst dive to scoop a line drive and nail the runner at first gets play of the game honours for the Glen.

## Golf buddies

Murray McNabb's golfing buddies are holding a 9-hole benefit tournament on Wednesday (July 12) at Acton Meadows to raise money for McNabb's two pre-school sons.

McNabb was an avid golfer who was on the executive of the Acton Men's Golf League, and his friends decided the benefit tourney was one way to help the family.

A trust account in the children's names has been set up at the Halton Hills Credit Union and anyone who doesn't want to golf, but would like the help, is invited to make a donation.

Tickets are \$75, and tee off times run from noon to 8 p.m. For information call Dave Allen at 853-1516.

## Moo and meat

The Acton Becker's store will soon be selling a full line of M&M Frozen Meat products as the two companies, both owned by the same corporation, are used as a pilot partnership.

A Becker's spokesman said they chose Acton to test market frozen meats in milk stores because there's only one food store in town, and are convinced people will like the convenience of 24-hours-a-day shopping for more than just variety store items.

Renovations to the store, expected to cost \$300,000, will begin August 8.

## He's back

Downtown business people will be pleased to know Constable Bill Riddle is back in the Mill Street police office again on reduced duties. The popular village constable has been off on sick leave over the last three months and the office has been staffed by alternates. He will be gradually working towards full time duties again.



**PASSING THE GAVEL:** Rotary Club of Acton past president Emrys Jenkins passes the gavel to incoming president Bonnie Ross at the club's recent meeting. Shown behind the pair are club members including Mac Sprowl, Debra Eaton Kent, Bob MacKinnon, exchange student Masaki, Dave Manes, Larry Rigney, Ken Curren, Peter Vandam, Bonnie Townsley, Jake Kuiken, Fred Gordon, Rob Charette, Pat Hatch, Bill Beaton, Bruce Ross and Doug Fread. - Ted Tyler photo

# Oh Canada. Grow up!

Our annual frenzy of patriotism has passed for yet another year. Good Canadians will now pack away the flags and other paraphernalia until next July 1. It's almost like we're embarrassed to be Canadians; to be proud of our country and ourselves. Too bad, really, because we have so much to brag about that one day, or even one weekend, isn't enough time to get the message out.

An integral part of our national celebrations is the ubiquitous "man/woman in the street" interview asking "Why are you proud/glad to be a Canadian?" and every year some doofus chortles "because I'm not an American." Then they smile as if this claptrap is some stunning philosophical declaration that should be chiseled in the granite on the Peace Tower. Let's leave aside the insult to our country's best friend and biggest trading partner and ask ourselves why we, as a nation, seem so insecure. Is that what this country is all about? Do we define ourselves as being the sum of what we are not? After 133 years isn't it time we grew up and became a big country? I say we should celebrate, what we are, what we stand for as a nation, and forget about slagging our friends as a means to defining our national identity. Can you imagine an American saying they are proud "not to be a Canadian" on the fourth of July? Of course not. That type of thinking is foreign to them. As well it should be.

If we must be grateful for something we're not, why is it always the United States? If I wasn't Canadian, being American would probably be my second choice. What are we going to say? I wish I was Cuban or Russian? How come no one appears on television to say they're proud to be Canadian because "I'm not a Somalian or North Korean?" I often wonder what new immigrants must think about us when they hear this drivel. In many cases they have had to escape from their homelands, endure physical and economic privations we can't

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



even imagine and acclimatize themselves to a winter in a strange land while trying to learn a new language. They chose to come here. All too often those of us born here forget, or maybe we never knew, the gifts that this magnificent country offers.

We have to stop our national navel gazing and resist looking to the world for approval. The Federal government trumpets that, for the seventh year, the UN says Canada is the best country in the world. That's nice, sure, but it's not the big deal the politicians make it out to be. The UN does not supply the glue that binds a country together and generates a national pride. If our ranking next year falls to three or four are we supposed to be diminished as a country? I think not.

I think we should dust off those flags and fly them year round. We must demand the school system teach our children this country's exciting and memorable past. We have many heroes in our history. Let's glorify them. One of the many frustrations I had when our kids were in grade school was the insistence of the school to teach our kids to be proud of their Irish heritage. What Irish heritage? My family has been here for 150 years. I wanted them to be learning about the *coureur de bois*, the Hudson's Bay Company, the Mounties, etc. It's time we dumped this multi-culturalism crap and started concentrating on our own identity.

One of the big events in town on Canada Day is always the volunteer firefighters' fireworks. Another spectacular event lads, and thank you for your efforts. I hope many of you took advantage of the BIA-sponsored walking tours. If you can't get away for the Canada Day weekend next

year don't forget there's lots to do here in the big town.

"The Bride" and I joined in the herd streaming north. I remember saying to her on Friday night that I had to be careful because every OPP officer available would be on the road. The holiday blitz was no secret. So why then did hundreds of folks still get tickets? If they are dumb enough to drive at 150 kmh when they know the cops are out in force then why do they still have a licence? My favourites were the guy caught backing down Highway 11 because he passed a place with cheap gas. Or, how about the guy with eight people in the van and no seats? The driver was sitting on a duffel bag. As for the idiots caught driving at 150 kmh I think their cars should be impounded and their licences burned on the spot. I asked "The Bride" to keep an eye out for couples doing the dirty deed in the car. There were several spotted on the May two-four weekend. No luck, though. I suggested we might want to keep the province's record intact. The bruise on my arm should heal in a week or two.

Although it's a bit late I would like to quote our Prime Minister and wish you all "Appy Birthday Canada." It's the thought that counts.

★★★

**WANTED:** Aspiring writers for column. Apply to the Editor, The New Tanner. It's time for my summer sabbatical. After next week I'm gone, I'm outa here, I'm toast. Now I know there's more than a few of you who disagree with me on many issues. Here's your chance to sound off. Eight whole weeks to prove that Mike Harris is responsible for everything up to and including male pattern baldness. Surely there's a journalism student in town. Someone must want to borrow my soap box.

Editor Coles is waiting to hear from you. No bad language allowed. Service groups welcomed. Got an axe to grind, an ox to be gored? Here's your chance.

# LETTERS

## Keep skirt hems down

To the Editor,  
Oh, the skirts on the Catholic school girls!

It seems to me that everyone thinks that the girls wearing the short skirts with their belly buttons showing are dressing too provocatively. Well, in my mind it's no worse than the Catholic school girls and their short skirts.

The other day when I was reading The Sun I came across the Sunshine girl. And what was she wearing but a Catholic school girl uniform. The next thing you know Britney Spears will come out on stage in a Catholic school girl uniform and then what?

All the young girls will think that's the new style. But I'll tell you it really bugs me when my husband and I are

driving down the road and he says: hey, there's the Catholic school girls and their short skirts.

I just wish someone would start letting the hems down.

Truly Concerned

## Oops

Last week's reunion coverage contained two errors. First, the picture of alumni leading the parade incorrectly identified Edna Jennings' married name. She is Edna Kennedy. Second, at the time of the streaking incident in Rick Bonnette's tale, Acton High School's principal was Dave Katz, not Ted Hansen. The New Tanner regrets the error.

## Thanks for the memories

To the Editor,  
To the Committee of the Acton and District High School 2000 Reunion:

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you!

On behalf of the alumni of the Acton High School 2000 Reunion we

would like to commend the committee for all their hard work and dedication for making this event such a wonderful success.

Thank you "For the Memories".

Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall and Pat Kentner



## WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.