

GRAPEVINE



Fundraiser fun

Just what were those prominent Acton men doing Thursday night, supping suds with Acton's Sue Walker and Maxine McBride, fundraisers for the Acton Agricultural Society?

And why, after the meeting, did many of them head straight to a Mill Street gym to work on those love handles so they'd be picture perfect?

"So many men, not enough months," was all McBride would say as Walker hummed, "January, cha cha cha, February, cha cha cha..." when asked what was going on.

New horizons

Acton's Orv Chapman is working his way through his wife's job jar and considering his future after retiring, settling into retirement after 53-plus-years at what was A.P. Green Refractory, recently sold to RHI of Vienna by Harbison-Walker.

Chapman, who worked his way up to plant manager in Acton, spent the past decade in sales and said after all those years, he can't just suddenly stop.

"I'm just kind of settling down and see what I decide to do. I have a couple of things in mind," Chapman said without elaborating.

Chapman sat on the Acton school board for four years in the 1960s and on Acton Council for five years - but has no plans to run again.

"After running a plant, it would be pretty hard to sit and argue all night," he laughed.

Frizzells flock to Acton

About 120 Frizzell family members

from far and wide gathered at the Legion in Acton on Saturday for a family reunion, the first they hope of many more to come.

Acton is a central location for family - brothers Dobbie and Larry live here. There was a contingent of Frizzells from Napanee, home before Dobbie came to Acton to work for hydro.

The family - everyone from babes in arms to seniors - spent the day looking at old photos, taking lots of new photos, and catching up on all the news.

Co-pilot?

Lucky Walter Barlow of Acton - he's won a three-hour ride in the CFRB airplane in an Off The Wall youth centre raffle, after his name was drawn during the Leathertown Festival. Walter's wife, Pauline, is an active senior with Halton Hills Community Support and information.

The NHL's chief referee Brian Lewis of Georgetown won two green fees at Blue Springs Golf Club and Beryl Stevenson of Georgetown won four autographed Blue Jays pictures. All of the prizes were donated and proceeds will be used at the Acton drop-in centre on Mill Street.

Generous donators

Seventy-two generous Acton area people gave the gift of life, at last Thursday's blood donor clinic at the Legion.

Clinic co-ordinator Julia Roehrig was pleased with the great turnout in the traditional slow summer months and again extended heartfelt thanks to Acton.



CALITHUMPIAN PARADE?: This photo of a clown band, taken probably in the 1950s by Vic's Photography Studio, alias Vic Bristow, was submitted to The New Tanner by Bing and Jessie Ramsden for our old photo page. Recognize anyone? They were all well known Actonians. Front: Amos Mason, (Norm Braida?), George Smith, Charlie Landsborough, Rudolph Spielvogel, Tom Nichol, Bing Ramsden, Arlof Dills, Standing: Ray Agnew, George Simpson, Ollie Stapleton and Bus Nicol

Darn it, I like those moose!

By Joy Lippai

I'm going to make a statement that will probably be met with derision and antagonism and will most likely irritate one Mike O'Leary. But I'm going to say it anyway. *I like the moose.* There, I've gone and done it. I'm sure I'll never hear the end of this and my artistic abilities, taste and discernment will be questioned. But, darn it, I like those moose.

I frequently travel into Toronto and when the moose first started to appear I thought the whole venture was a bit silly. Just another wild, left lib idea cooked up by the vacuous bureaucrats who seem to have more money than brains. One night, having been at work until the wee hour of 5 a.m., as I was walking the downtown core looking for a taxi, in the quiet of the simmering dawn without the jostling masses of humanity as distraction, I was able to look at a lot of the critters standing in their painted majesty. I had to admit, some of them looked very interesting and were quite well done.

If, as Mayor Mel said, there is no cost to the taxpayer, that the cost of this little scheme is completely covered when the moose are auctioned off, then it has created not only an interesting addition to the downtown core, but an opportunity for 300 artists to express their creativity in a unique manner, perhaps for some of them acting as a stepping stone to recognition. Hopefully the moose themselves will be viewed and enjoyed for a long period of time wherever they eventually reside.

Canada is known for its moose. A few other countries with cold, uninhabited lands have moose, but Canada seems to be known as the global harbour for these wonderful creatures. Now, to be sure, facing an honest-to-goodness moose in the wild would make my heart race at about 300 miles per hour and the breath-taking sight of such a magnificent creature would never, ever leave my mind. The likelihood of my ever witnessing such a sight is pretty minimal because I have no reason to head into the wilds where these creatures exist. So in honour of our native beast, and in hopes of giving a closer look to those who will never encounter its innate glory, (and, yes, let's give the tourists something to photograph), these plastic reproductions

are possibly the next best thing to the real thing.

The Toronto moose border on the actual size and dimensions of a live moose. For those of us who have never seen a real moose and cannot therefore fathom the size of the creature, these plastic cast moose give one a good indication of the immensity of the animal.

I suppose they could have created the 300 moose and just stuck them up around the city if perspective were the only reason for this venture. That, though, would have been dreadfully boring. What an opportunity for the creative force in the City of Toronto to express themselves and to give vent to their creative juices. Some of the moose have been done absolutely first rate. To mention three, the one in front of the Royal York in its maroon shawl with the gold fringe is a classy, classy guy; the one in front of Union Station painted with the red and white of the Canadian flag, and having glued to its exterior symbols of the sports we play (a half soccer ball, a half baseball) and wearing a golf medal such as is won in the Olympics is an indication of the enthusiasm and support we feel for our athletes; the one grazing on the knoll at the airport is so natural looking as to inspire a moment of thrill before your realize it is only a statue.

There are 297 others and each deserves a look and at least a modicum of appreciation for the talent that gave rise to its decoration. Think about it - even if each of the moose isn't what you would deem absolutely fabulous in concept and execution - consider how difficult it would be in the first place to paint it artistically and as close as possible to your artistic conception and lastly to do it well. These artists had a tough job to do and they did it, generally, with above average results.

I don't know how the artists were chosen, but I would have loved to have been asked to do one. I think it would be a hoot. I'm afraid, though, that my artistic abilities would probably have created an inferior beast which may have succumbed to the law of survival of the fittest. But I'm willing to bet if I had Mr. Mike and the Bride helping the Groom and myself we could have come up with a superior creature.

The plastic moose may also have

the benefit of claiming to have saved lives. The term "painting a moose" for this exercise is a bit different than what an artist such as Robert Bateman does when he paints a moose. I heard of an artist who wanted to get near a moose so as to view its physiology for accurate translation onto the canvas. She found a discarded pair of antlers, went out in the rut season and holding said antlers to her head, called to nearby males so as to entice them closer to herself for observation. When the bull came in looking for a fight, she would drop the antlers to the ground and the confused male would stumble around myopically looking for his antagonist giving her the opportunity to see this testosteroneed creature at close range.

I'm not sure if this woman is still alive - my guess would be no (in which case her moose paintings, if any, would be worth a fortune). Were she to have had the opportunity to "point a moose" on Mel terms, she may not have indulged in her questionable behaviour so as to "paint a moose" in Bateman terms. Thus, Mel and the moose would be able to claim credit for the saving of a life (or lives were any of the other artists involved in the plastic moose painting inclined as was this woman.)

I have been given to understand that the painted creature idea is not original to Toronto. I heard that Chicago was the birth city of this artistic indulgence. I don't know if they painted moose or if they painted a different creature. It would be nice to think that they did something else and we aren't complete copycats. However, even if they did paint moose, I'm not sure what other creature we could have chosen. Personally, I just can't see painted beavers as being a great success.

The one thought that does strike me, though, is that Mel, the consummate politician, missed a tremendous opportunity to further his political career, bring himself to the forefront of everyone's consciousness and to proliferate his image. Wouldn't we have been truly unique if we had 300 painted statues of Mel Lastman gracing our city?

Joy Lippai is a resident of Acton who works in Toronto.

LETTERS

Kittens found homes

Dear Editor,

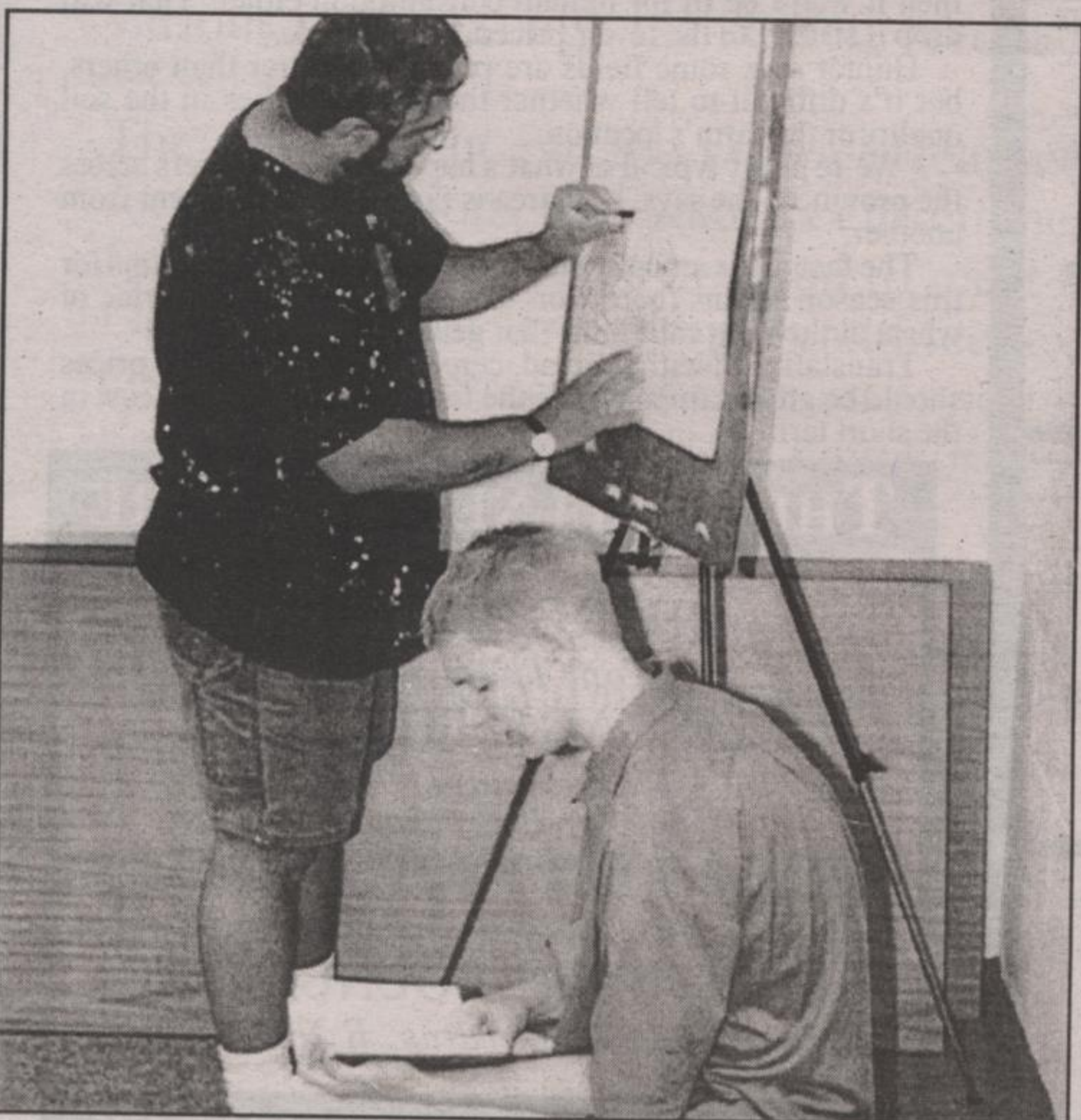
On behalf of the staff of the Acton Veterinary Clinic, we would like to thank you once again for your excellent help in finding homes for our many homeless kittens. Thanks to your article, we actually had more people interested in adopting a stray kitten than there were kittens

available! Every little bit that we can do to help reduce the population of homeless animals in this town is greatly appreciated.

Once again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Vets and Staff at the Acton Veterinary Clinic



DOING THE PICTURES: Acton artist Lar deSousa illustrated one of the Harry Potter books while Halton Hills Library assistant Dan Banks read it to youngsters at a recent library program. - Frances Niblock photo