

# Bell's to ring Saturday for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

At 9:09 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9, the Civic Centre bell, along with those at several Acton and Georgetown churches, will be rung to mark FASday - fetal alcohol syndrome day - in recognition of those living with FAS, the leading and only preventable cause of mental retardation in the western world.

Although the Town no longer issues proclamations, it agreed to a request from Acton resident Shiona Watson, the mother of an adopted child with FAS, to ring the Civic Centre bell and mark a minute's reflection at nine minutes past nine o'clock in the morning - the

ninth minute, hour, day and month signifying the nine months of pregnancy during which women shouldn't drink alcohol.

Last year, church and town bells rang in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, England, Sweden, Germany, the USA and Canada to mark FASday. Numerous Ontario cities have declared Saturday FAS day, including Toronto, Mississauga and Aurora.

This year, 100 Canadian communities are taking part in the day and at general committee on Tuesday, Watson gave Town councillors an overview of FAS and asked for their

support, explaining that alcohol can cause a fetus to be "improperly wired" with permanent brain damage and a host of problems.

"By the time the child gets to school not only is their intellectual potential severely compromised by learning and speech disorders, but also my a system ill-equipped to deal with children who are seen as troubled, badly-parented and disruptive," Watson explained.

Watson said FAS is twice as prevalent as Down syndrome with one in 500 babies born annually in Halton suffering from it and each child costing \$2-million to raise.

"The good news is when children receive early intervention suitable for them before the age of six and the parents receive support and understanding," Watson said, adding these kids are less likely to drop out, become drug addicts or criminals.

Watson said she'd like to start a FAS support group in the Acton area - currently the closest groups are in Guelph and Toronto.

Councillors thanked Watson for the presentation and asked that she make the information available to the local cable system and Halton's medical officer of health.

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## 87th Fall Fair on tap Sept. 15-16-17

### Cat shot in cruel attack

#### Cat shot

Police want help in finding the cruel person who shot an elderly Dairy Drive cat, Blackie, in the eye last weekend.

The owner, who picked her 16-year-old cat from the vet's today (Thursday), is offering a \$100 reward to find who shot Blackie with an air rifle. Anyone with information is asked to call Sarah at 853-1952.

The vet found a BB gun pellet in the cat's eye, which unfortunately, couldn't be saved.

Police say several sections of the Criminal Code deal with cruelty to animals and carry maximum fines of \$500 and six months in jail upon conviction.

#### Cat reunion

A 17-year-old Acton Boul-

#### POLICE BEAT

evard cat was reunited with its owners after being found wandering and disoriented on Acton Boulevard last Sunday.

The cat is blind and deaf and initially police thought it was injured when they took it to the animal shelter.

#### Charged with assault

A 43-year-old Acton man is charged with assault after he pointed a bow at a man, indicating he was going to shoot him, at 11:30 last Thursday morning.

The 57-year-old victim told police he was doing inventory in a rear yard of a Main Street north business when he saw a man shooting

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TOP: Warm up for the Tiny Tots at Acton Jiu-Jitsu includes stretching and counting in Japanese. Sensei Linda Bromley has the rapt attention of, from left, Liam McCarley, Mathew Morin and Thomas Graham-Binkowski during their Saturday morning class. BOTTOM: Acton's Liam McCarley, 4, packs a powerful punch as she shows his form and strength to Acton Jui-Jitsu Sensei Linda Bromley during the Tiny Tot class on Saturday. - Frances Niblock photos

### Two new events are scheduled

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

A "horse whisperer" and a wine making contest are two new attractions scheduled next weekend for the 87th edition of the Acton Fall Fair.

Every year, fair board officials try to book attractions to draw the crowds, yet not betray the fair's agricultural roots and traditions.

"We try to change with the times, yet keep it as a traditional fair," Acton Agricultural Society president Doug Fread said on Friday.

"Absolutely not," Fread said when asked if Acton, like Milton and Georgetown fairs, might consider holding a demolition derby.

"They are major draws for other fairs, but we don't feel they are farm or agriculturally-related," Fread said, adding Acton is lucky to have the Ken-Jen petting zoo, that only attends four or five fairs a year.

Besides all of the attractions and events, Fread likes the home coming aspect to the fall fair weekend.

"A lot of people will arrange their visits to Acton to visit friends and relatives around fair time and it becomes more of a social event."

A special event this year is a two-hour performance on Sunday by Greg Barrington, a horse trainer who uses a

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Two train buffs in Glenlea have turned their backyards into miniature railway systems. See story on Page 4.



Dr. Bob Steen has turned in his drill after 30 years of practising dentistry in Acton. See story on Page 9.

### The 2001 Mazda Tribute



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