

GRAPEVINE



Teachers meet

The October meeting of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario - Lydia Snow Branch - will be held on Monday, October 23, 2000.

Guest speaker, Doug Christensen, will discuss "Senior Housing."

All retired women teachers are invited to join at 9:30 a.m. at the meeting room in the Georgetown Police Station, Guelph Street, Georgetown.

Kick off campaign

The United Way of Halton Hills had its President's Ball/Campaign Kickoff on September 23 at the Georgetown Golf Club. The Ball raised almost \$2,000 and signalled the official start of the 2000 Campaign which has a goal of \$250,000.

United Way has arranged a 10 day cruise worth \$20,000 for its annual draw. The cruise includes all taxes and air fare from Toronto to Miami, where two people will board one of Holland America's cruise ships. Second prize is a weekend stay at Windermere House in Muskoka and third a three piece set of luggage.

Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25, and can be obtained at Scotiabank, the Credit Union, Home Hardware and Needle Gnome in Acton.

Passing the profits

Blue Circle Aggregates picked up some windfall cash recently when it made the Acton quarry available as the location for a half hour segment of the children's television series, The Famous Jett Jackson.

The quarry was supposed to be a town in North Carolina.

Company Lands Manager Moreen Miller says the company picked up \$4,000 in location fees from the television studio which shot the film and decided to pass on their funds to several community groups in need of funding.

Recipients of the unexpected funds were the Georgetown Children's

Chorus, the Limehouse Memorial Hall, the Remembrance Park Community Project in which the Town of Halton Hills is a partner, and Halton Hills Community Support and Information.

Video on violence

Domestic violence is the subject of a half hour video presentation released recently which will appear on

COGECO Cable television through October. Called Prisoners of Violence it is a joint presentation of Halton Region Police, the Women Survivors Advisory Group of Halton, Khadija Productions and COGECO. The video covers the issues of domestic violence through re-enactments and candid interviews with three survivors of domestic abuse.

COGECO will be broadcasting the video on October 23, October 31 and November 13 at 7 p.m.

Grand re-opening

The Acton Branch of the Halton Hills Public Library is hosting an open house to celebrate the Grand Re-opening. The official ribbon cutting on the bridge will take place Saturday, October 14 at 2 p.m. All are welcome to come and join in the celebration. Refreshments will be served.

Jean Stairs returns

When Acton's Trinity United Church hold their 156th anniversary celebrations on Sunday, October 29 it will not only be a celebration but feature the presence of a former Acton personality. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Jean Stairs, former popular pastor of Acton Baptist Church. Rev. Stairs is now head of Theological Studies at Queen's Theological College at Queen's University and lives north of Belleville. Rev. Bob Matton of Trinity notes everyone is welcome to attend the 10 a.m. anniversary service.

Thanksgiving Mass

St. Joseph's Church had a mass of thanksgiving (Eucharist) on Thanksgiving Day morning to mark the holiday. Parishioners brought bags of food for the Acton Food bank for the offering and they were presented to Food Share this week.

Board rates rise

Halton District School Board has raised the mileage rate from 30 cents per km. to 35 cents for staff and trustees on Board business. Escalating fuel costs and a recent staff survey of public and private sector organizations which pay mileage, persuaded the Board to raise its rates. The Board will also discuss changing meeting nights from Wednesday evenings to Tuesday evenings at their October 18 meeting.



PASSING IT ON: Blue Circle Aggregates passed on some extra profits to community organizations recently. Recipients from the left were Lois Fraser with Jack O'Brien and Haleigh Rees) of the Georgetown Children's Choir, Councillor John Day from the Remembrance Park Community Project, Blue Circle Aggregates Lands Manager Moreen Miller, Joe Brooks and Susan Cox from the Limehouse Memorial Hall committee, and (front) Rosslyn Dowell for Halton Hills Community Support and Information. Each group received \$1,000 from Blue Circle. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Memories of an era

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend. Ours was pretty traditional with family gathering at home and stuffing themselves with turkey and other fruits of the harvest. The trees were beautiful. I've always found Thanksgiving weekend a time to slow down a bit and reflect on what a wonderful country we live in. A time out for the spirit, so to speak, before hurtling forward through another winter. There were, however, a couple of dark clouds on the horizon which put a bit of an edge on my weekend. And I don't mean the ones which dropped a dollop of wet snow on us last Sunday.

For the past few weeks we have been inundated, yet again, with the antics of murderer Karla Homolka. When, dear Lord, will someone throw this child-killer into a dark, dank hole; never to be heard from again?

The National Post started things off with pictures of Homolka and her sex-pervert roomies having a party. Most people were incensed. The government, with an election in the winds, moved to transfer her from Club Fed in Quebec to a western prison for psychological evaluation. Evidently, she threw a fit and launched a court battle to stay where she was.

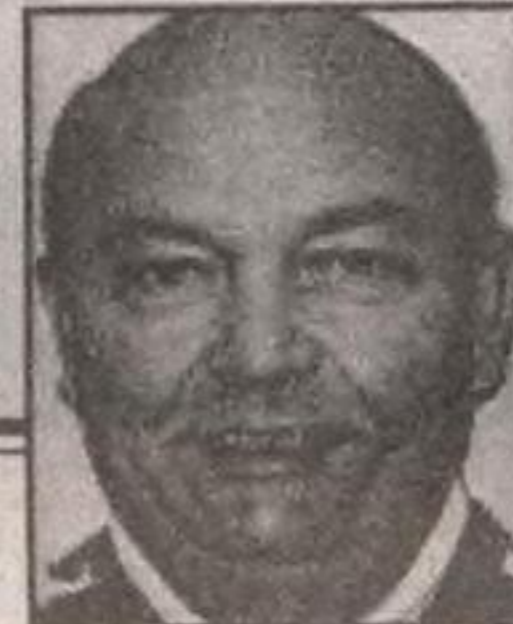
I have two questions. Why are we still paying legal fees for this child molester? And secondly, who cares what she thinks or wants? She's supposed to be in prison, not on an extended holiday. From the pictures of her accommodation one could be excused for wondering what her status actually is. No wonder she's agreeable to serving out her entire totally unacceptable sentence. I doubt she could live as well on the outside.

Kristen French's father Doug spoke for most Canadians when he said of the Quebec Club Fed "It's a disgrace to the rest of Canada." He went on to say "These people should be in places like Kingston. They commit these crimes - They should pay for them." Exactly. A point this federal government seems to miss.

On Tuesday we learned that Holmoka spent Thanksgiving in solitary, eating her turkey in a windowless room. All together now - awwwwww! Are we supposed to feel

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



sorry for her? The families of the children she helped murder still have an empty chair at their table. And always will. On hearing about her new circumstances my immediate reaction was - that's more like it. Now if we could just cut off the heat to her cell, and not hear about her until they carry her out feet first, then she may receive some measure of punishment for her unspeakable crimes.

We don't hear much about her murdering husband. I'd prefer never to read about Holmoka again. Each story must be like a knife in the hearts of the grieving parents. Haven't they suffered enough? We should end this travesty once and for all. Hang both of them.

I would have preferred to stay away from the whole Trudeau issue. It's difficult to argue either side of a myth. In my opinion, that's what has happened here. The Trudeau-Mania of 2000 has grown this former PM's legend to heights he never attained in life. The nation has decided Pierre Trudeau was a hero. So be it.

I remember the Trudeau years. I campaigned for the Liberals in the 1968 and 1972 elections. I was caught up in his vision for the country. Canada was ready for change. I wanted to be part of the movement, however small my participation.

Armchair quarterbacks now question his proclaiming the War Measures Act over the FLQ crisis. I don't, never have. I remember the night Pierre Laporte was killed. British Trade Minister James Cross had been a captive for more than two weeks. I was afraid for my country. I supported Mr. Trudeau when he called out the army. Still do. I was bitterly disappointed when some of the traitors were allowed to escape to Cuba. I was furious when, a year later, they were allowed to return and today walk the streets of Montreal as free men.

That was probably when the bloom started coming off the rose for me and

I left Mr. Trudeau's camp. The ruinous interest rates and wage and price controls of the 70's slammed the door on my lifelong Liberal association. By then "The Bride" and I were well on the way to raising our family and the huge deficits and corresponding tax increases were really hurting.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Trudeau will go down in history as a great prime minister. Whether his policies will stand the test of time is a question I'll let future generations answer. That he captured the imagination of a country and dragged them towards his vision of a "Just Society" can never be disputed. But are we a better, more united country than we were before he came to power? That, my friends, will be fodder for political discussion for years to come. Trudeau would, I think, enjoy that.

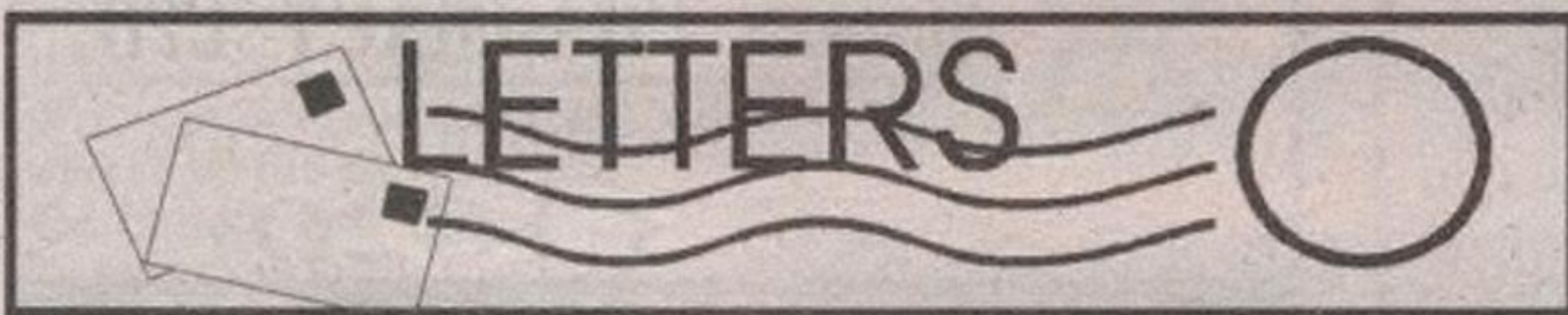
As a parent, and a son, Justin Trudeau's eulogy brought a tear to my eye. But when Prime Minister Chretien tried to use a son's tribute as an election ploy I thought "Here we go again." Mr. Chretien has brought dishonour to his party and defined a new low in crass politics. These guys will do anything, use anyone, alive or dead, to get re-elected. I await the poster which will proclaim that Mother Theresa was a Liberal.

I'm not sure that Trudeau himself would have wanted such a lavish send-off. On the other hand, he was the consummate politician. His private life was usually jealously guarded though and except for birth there's nothing more personal than death. For sure, Heaven will be a more lively place with he and Rene Levesque there to stir the pot.

Justin Trudeau stated his eulogy with "Friends, Romans, Countrymen." The rest of that speech is "I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." I hope not, Pierre Elliott Trudeau deserves better than that.

Winston Churchill, in describing Russia, said it "is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma." He could have been describing the Trudeau I remember.

May God have mercy on his soul.



Ontario's population largest

Dear Editor,

A recent letter to the editor referenced a column by me on economic growth and accused me of claiming Ontario is Canada's largest province by land area.

Canada's largest province by population and economy. While I thought my reference obvious, I would like to apologize to any readers who were confused.

Sincerely,
Ted Chudleigh
MPP Halton

In fact, I was claiming Ontario as

It is Too Much

A train crunched steel and cut out lives

Community and families grieve Acton becomes darkness to us It is too much to bear.

Our community is shattered. Why our young men destroyed so fast?

For lack of safety track barriers,

When technology has answers. Too soon the young die needlessly.

Life snuffed out, precious resources gone.

Athletes, cheerful smiles gone forever.

It is too much sorrow to bear.

Keith J. Black

More letters of Pages 6 & 7