

GRAPEVINE



Monthly men

Seems the Men of Acton calendar is a hot ticket in a number of predominantly female offices 'round town - one proud owner shared hers with co-workers who called for a women's version and suggested some new faces (and other body parts) for a 2001 version.

"We're already planning for next year," calendar co-creator Sue Walker said, adding the fundraiser for the Acton Agricultural Society's new building has created quite a buzz.

Recently, Acton politician Clark Somerville praised the creators for their work and told his council colleagues to check out the March photo, because it's the best.

Several more Acton businesses, including the CNIB, asked for calendars to sell to customers. They're available at the Needle Gnome, Wetherby's, Halton Hills Furniture and by calling 853-0239.

Friends indeed

Wear your boots and bring a rake or shovel to Prospect Park Saturday morning if you want to help beautify Acton. A works crew, including members of the Friends of Fairy Lake, Credit Valley Conservation and the Town will meet at 9 a.m. near the old playground near the lake to plant approximately 120 shrubs that the Friends purchased from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The shrub beds are located three to five feet from the shore, in part to discourage geese from feeding and nesting and fouling Prospect Park.

Rabies clinic

Pet owners in Acton - Saturday is the annual low cost rabies vaccination clinic, but it's moved to the Acton arena, from 1-3:30 p.m.

A North Halton Veterinary Association release notes the recent death from rabies of a Quebec boy and the increase of raccoon rabies in animals in eastern Ontario highlight the need for family pets to be vaccinated.

The fee is \$10. Vouchers are available to cover the cost, if needed, by calling the Halton health department at 853-0501.

Commencement

The 92 members of the 2000 gradu-

ating class from Acton High School will receive their diplomas at the school's commencement exercises tomorrow (Friday).

The new tougher workload from Queen's Park has left some teachers without the time or energy to help with commencement, but union spokesman Dave McConnell said enough teachers are able to help to "sustain a good commencement" although it won't be like some in the past.

"It will still be a good one - the grads will be honoured in the way we want them to be - but there might not be all the fanfare we had before."

Daryn McIntyre is the class valedictorian. Sixty-three other awards, scholarships and bursaries will also be awarded to Acton grads.

Churchill crafts

Raffles, fun, food, and good deals. That's what you'll find at the Churchill Church craft sale on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The annual event features vendors with unique homemade crafts, mouth-watering baking and fun for the kids.

Candidate profile

Haven't had a chance to meet or hear what any of the municipal election candidates have to say for themselves and can't get out to any of the all candidates meetings? Well, you can see and hear what each potential politician has to say this Sunday, on Cable 14, as the local cable company airs candidate's statements, beginning at 12 noon. Each candidate was given three minutes to read a prepared statement.

Purity praise

Kudos to Acton's Purity Life that cleaned up - winning eight awards - at the Canadian Health Food Association trade show and conference on the weekend at the Metro Convention Centre.

The biggest win was "Supplier of the Year" recognizing the efforts of over 100 Purity staff - most of them in Acton - and the sales reps across Canada and in the U.S.A.

Purity grabbed awards for best new product - the Treemenda line that is Purity's own brand of Tea tree oil products.



SLOW DOWN: Limehouse residents are taking matters into their own hands. If you are travelling through the village you will be greeted by hand-made signs reminding you of the speed limit. - Angela Tyler photo

The forgotten election

With all the hoopla over the Federal election the municipal election has been pushed into the background. Municipal elections traditionally, have had low voter turnout. I've never understood that. After all, the mayor and council members are making decisions which impact us immediately, at our homes. We should be closer to them, and more interested, than we are to provincial or federal officials who represent a much larger constituency. Unfortunately, municipal politicians tend to be given a short shrift until the road isn't plowed or the garbage not picked up. Then we all want immediate attention to our problem.

This week and next, our paper will be giving substantial coverage to the candidates and their positions. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the issues and their answers. The next three years are going to be important in the life of our town. Hopefully we will finally get the needed developments in Acton East. Will we also get a new plaza? Do we want one? What's going to happen to our electricity cost with hydro going public? I got a notice from Toronto Hydro asking me to sign up with them. Will I get a better rate because Toronto Hydro has more purchasing power? What's the three year plan for garbage? Are we considering wet/dry sorting for recyclables? The list goes on and on.

The New Tanner does not endorse candidates, preferring to remain neutral. I on the other hand, have some observations I would like to pass on to you. My intention is not to influence your choice but rather to stimulate your thinking as the election nears on Nov. 13th. But first, the disclaimer.

The following views are strictly those of this writer and are not to be construed as the editorial opinion of The New Tanner, it's editor, publisher or employees.

First my easy choices. Public school trustee Ethel Gardiner has been acclaimed. Normally, I dislike acclamations. But in this case Ms. Gardiner did good work on the contentious Mackenzie-Smith playground problem and would have deserved to win.

In the separate school board race, longtime trustee Irene McCauley faces newcomer Paul McDougall. I haven't been happy with this board for years. Mr. McDougall has been active in parent council. I think it's time for new ideas and will support McDougall.

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



Long time Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette is being challenged by former P.O.W.E.R. member Rita Landry. Ms. Landry is quoted saying "I'm not sure I can do anything differently within the system - all the damage has been done." I think we need more than "damage control" from our Regional Councillor. Rick Bonnette has worked hard, consistently represents the interest of our Town and is enthusiastically promoting the growth Acton desperately needs. Count me in Bonnette's camp.

Regional chair Joyce Savoline is opposed by Anne Marsden and Lisa Cooper. Ms. Savoline seems to have a good handle on the challenges we face in the near future. Nothing I have heard or read indicates to me that her challengers have any plans for the problems coming. I'll support Ms. Savoline by default.

Three candidates are looking to be mayor. At this time I would like to present the Noel Duignan Award for hopeless optimism to former Councillor Robert Heaton. I once sat on a committee that Heaton chaired. Suffice to say that most business people on the committee left because we weren't getting anything accomplished. Mr. Heaton was, in my opinion, an ineffectual councillor. Why he is running for mayor is beyond me. Peter's Principal only goes so far.

My contacts with Mayor Serjeantson have left me uneasy. When I chaired the BIA I had no sense of commitment by her to the problems we were facing. Although, she did vote to delay the destruction of the old arena, I certainly didn't see her as being solidly behind the Acton councillors as they fought the good fight. When the school playground issue raged last spring I was incredulous that the mayor would even consider paying the Board for property we already owned. Although she backed off that position I think that was more a case of hopping on the bandwagon than fighting for a just cause. Just recently the bids for twinning the Alcott Arena came in two million bucks over budget. Although we can't place all the blame for the cost over-runs on the mayor, a leader should have a better handle on major projects. I still haven't heard why we are building a Leisure Centre when

there is one 10 minutes away. A facility, I am told, which loses up to \$500,000 per year now. If that's true, why are we building a white elephant?

I'll vote for Kathy Gastle and hope for a change for the better. I won't vote for more of the same from this mayor.

The race for councillor presents some harder choices. Clark Somerville did a good job in his first term so he's got my vote to return. The choice for second councillor is harder for me. Several candidates want to "clean up" downtown. A lofty ambition for sure, but not something council can do much about. We need changes to provincial and federal laws before we can ask police to go after loiterers. Stephen Grasby is a citizen activist and, judging from the length of time his signs have been out there, really wants the job. While he gets full marks for that, truck routes across the Beardmore lands, rail crossing barriers and keeping Lake Ontario waters out of Acton (?) are objectives too grandiose for this job and, in my opinion, are red herrings.

Diane Biggs has made a personal commitment to our town (she owns the old "Y" building). Acton becoming a "booming city" is unrealistic however. We've been trying to grow to 10,000 souls for over 20 years so far. That's the immediate problem that needs attention. I know Jake Kuiken pretty well and have every confidence he can do the job. I'm leaning towards Dobbie Frizzel, however, mostly because of his nine years as hydro commissioner. I'm very concerned that our hydro rates are going to go through the roof with re-regulation. We all are painfully aware of what's happening with natural gas. A trial balloon was launched earlier this year by council to use future hydro profits to fund projects in Georgetown. I'd like to have someone on council who can watchdog this situation with substantial prior knowledge.

So that's my thinking so far. I will, and hope you will also, be going through the next two papers to solidify or change my thinking. The purpose of this column is to get you considering your choice and talking about the options. I certainly am not telling you how to vote but am encouraging everyone to get out and participate.

Remember, if you don't vote, you don't have the right to bitch about the results.

Costume controversy confuses little ones

To the Editor,
As I drove my children to school, I saw many children dressed in their Hallowe'en costumes. Those children who do not attend St. Joseph's School. My children are allowed to participate in Canada's centuries old custom buy dressing in black and orange.

My children are older now and can understand the politics of the situation. Here we go again! The curriculum is too heavy. There is no time for innocent, youthful fun. Are we to believe that this is Mike Harris' Treat or the School Board's Trick? If there truly is no time for this, we must thoroughly investigate other activities which take away from the instruction time, such as Jump Rope for Heart and the D.A.R.E. walkathon. These so-called voluntary activities could be undertaken in after school hours.

The Toronto School Board defends this action by standing behind the phrase "political correctness." A small percentage of students do not follow this custom, so the many that do, can no longer enjoy themselves. If we truly live in a democracy. Let the children and parents vote on their school's participation in the annual festivity.

For the parents, whose children



woke up very excited and by 9 a.m. were very confused as they watched other youngsters make their way to school happily costumed - Happy Hallowe'en.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dawkins

Medical system

Cont. from Pg. 4
had caught up with her and forced her to take some breaks along the way to my house.

Even so, I fail to see what was so confidential about the information I needed given that my daughter had already confided her illness to me. But obviously some people don't understand discretion and her doctor's receptionist is one of those clueless people.

Which comes back to the point of this column. How can you continue to have faith in a system that doesn't know where it stashes patients let alone what condition they're in? And then, when confidentiality can be used to cover it all up, it's downright frightening.