

# GRAPEVINE



## Class act

Kudos to Sandra Cooney's Grade 3 class from Robert Little School whose excellent attitude and work habits won them the first ever "Acton Class of the Month" award.

The students partied hard on Friday afternoon, guzzling pop donated by IGA and pizza from Godfather's and won hidden score prizes from Power Video and Acton Musicland.

All Acton teachers are invited to nominate their classes for the monthly award, started by Acton Bowl's Gord Labombard in an effort to praise the positive.

## Kettle workers wanted

Do you have a few hours to spare and a wish to help someone not as well off? The Acton Corps of the Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to man its Christmas kettles this holiday season.

In past years the Corps has paid people to accept kettle donations, a practice that "kind of offended" Captain Lyndon Hale who said manning the kettles is "supposed to be an act of kindness... you just do that so that others who don't have, can have."

Hale said to avoid donor fatigue they would only have two kettle locations - the liquor store and IGA - mainly on weekends.

All money raised through the kettles stays in Acton and helps pay for Christmas gifts for less fortunate children and food hampers.

Call 853-1140 to volunteer to man a kettle.

## Acton hockey moms

Check out Breakfast TV on CityTV bright and early tomorrow morning (Friday) if you want to catch some Acton hockey moms, and their kids, on the little screen.

The moms recently posed for some hockey-themed photos at the Acton arena - and wangled their way onto the TV show sometime between 7 and 9 a.m. to help launch the fundraiser.

Proceeds from the calendar sales - some moms were doing a brisk business at the arena on Sunday - will be used by Acton Minor Hockey house and select team coaches.

The calendars will be available at the arena and the ladies are putting together a Web site for on-line sales.



**CALENDAR CUTTIES:** Acton Agricultural Society member Caroline Bell sold a pile of Men of Acton calendars at the arena on Sunday. Checking out his handiwork was calendar photographer Bruce Andrews. - Frances Niblock photo

## More calendars...

Acton Agricultural Society member Caroline Bell was racking up sales as fast as she could say, "interested in the Men of Acton?" on Sunday at the arena, which was hosting a hockey tournament and a Community Brunch.

The Men of Acton calendar has

turned into a very popular Christmas stocking stuffer and raised a LOT of money for the Agricultural Society's replacement building in Prospect Park.

## Mayor thanked

With heartfelt thanks and pink roses, members of the Acton Concerns Committee (ACC) publicly thanked out-going Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson for her four years of hard work on the committee during the Acton Community Brunch on Sunday.

"On behalf of youth and families - you lifted our spirits," ACC member Kimberly Rogers told Serjeantson, thanking her for her dedication to Acton.

One of Serjeantson's last acts as mayor in Acton was to present community booster Eileen Dix with a certificate and pin as November's Acton Community Champion, a program Serjeantson helped orchestrate.



**GRATEFUL THANKS:** Outgoing Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson was thanked for her hard work and dedication as a four-year member of the Acton Concerns Committee (ACC) during the Acton Community Brunch on Sunday. ACC member Kimberly Rogers presented Serjeantson with roses and heartfelt thanks. - Frances Niblock photo

## African Christmas

It will be a hot, dry Christmas for the Shepherd family of Acton, as Pastor Jamie and wife Pam, take their new son, Davison, to meet his grandparents who are missionaries in Africa.

The Shepherds will also take best wishes and Christmas presents to the Kauffeldt family, former Acton residents now living in Nairobi, Kenya.

The holidays will be lonely for the Shepherd's dog Sargent, who will have to celebrate with the house sitter.

## Service expands

While some feared closure of the Canadian Cancer Society office in Georgetown tomorrow (Friday) would mean fewer local services - the opposite is true as the Society now provides services and support on a full-time, not part-time basis.

Instead of phoning Georgetown, people living with cancer, their families, friends and caregivers in North Halton can now call the Guelph at 824-8923 for service.

For information about cancer or to connect with support services, Acton residents can also reach the Canadian Cancer Society toll-free at 1-888-939-3333.

## Rockwood crafts

Head west on Saturday if you're looking for unique crafts and tasty treats. Rockwood Nursery School is holding its popular annual craft and bake sale at the Town Hall on Main St. South. Doors open at 9:30 and the sales runs until 2 p.m.



**AWARD WINNERS:** With their proud families and friends watching, these Halton Hills residents received municipal awards from the Town at a ceremony at the Civic Centre on Monday. Included in the group are five Acton athletes. - Frances Niblock photo

# Please God, tell me it's over!

Regular readers will know that your scribbler is somewhat of a political junkie. I relish the thrust and parry of a well fought political campaign. Why, I've even been known to throw my two-cents worth into the odd electoral debate. But I find myself this election eve simply wanting it to be over. I think there are two reasons.

It seems like elections have been front and center for eons. First the municipal vote, then the American presidential soap opera and lastly, the \$200 million monument to Mr. Chretien's ego. All the campaigns overlapped. It's been too much. I think we would all welcome a dose of politicus interruptus. Elections are like horseradish; in small doses they are spicy and enjoyable. In large doses they cause your eyes to water, burn your soul and make you nauseous. Most Canadians have had enough and are looking forward to electing someone, anyone, just to get it over with. Folk more cynical than I might think this was all part of the overall Liberal strategy to cling to power. I wouldn't put it past them. They did, after all, choose the date.

I found the federal election campaign far too dirty. The issues were pushed into the background. There was way too much emphasis put on the leaders. If I wanted presidential style politics, I'd have moved to the States years ago. (Please, no letters regretting my choice to stay.) We used to admire politicians like Pearson, and the Kennedys. We were taught to honour Laurier, Cartier, Sir John A. McDonald and others who built this nation. This recent campaign appeared to be a contest to see who could out-sleaze the next guy. Alexa McDonough didn't get quite as down and dirty as the boys provided one overlooks her calling Stockwell Day cockroach, of course. I don't know what Gilles Duceppe had to say since I refuse to clutter-up my mind with the ramblings of a traitor. These are the people who aspire to lead our country? Oh Canada, who stands on

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



guard for thee?

A well informed electorate is supposed to be the last line of defence in a democracy. Have you been reading some of the comments? One of my favourites is a quote from a Mississauga mailman who said "With Jean Chretien and Joe Clark, at least you know what you're getting. Even if they're lying to you, at least they're a known quantity. (Stockwell) Day's scary." I guess we do get the government we deserve.

The vilifying of Stockwell Day's religious beliefs disgusted me. All of the parties were guilty of tarring the entire Alliance because of some politically incorrect opinions held by Mr. Day. I believe in creationism. When the Bible talks about seven days, who says it means seven - 24 hour periods? The Bible is the word of God written down so mere mortals can understand it. People of faith try to follow the lessons of the word. Others mock them. 'Twas always thus. One need not believe in someone else's religion but I thought we had come to the point where we respected each others beliefs. Obviously, I am wrong.

So I suppose we can't elect a Muslim because they would impose Islamic law on Canada. Hindus believe in reincarnation. Does that mean they could purposely screw-up our country and correct things in the next life? You think Stockwell Day is opposed to abortion? Check out the Pope's views on the subject. We'd better get all those Catholics out of Parliament. Actually, let's just get it over with and demand that each MP renounce their religious views before assuming office. We can't be too careful after all. And they call Alliance supporters bigots.

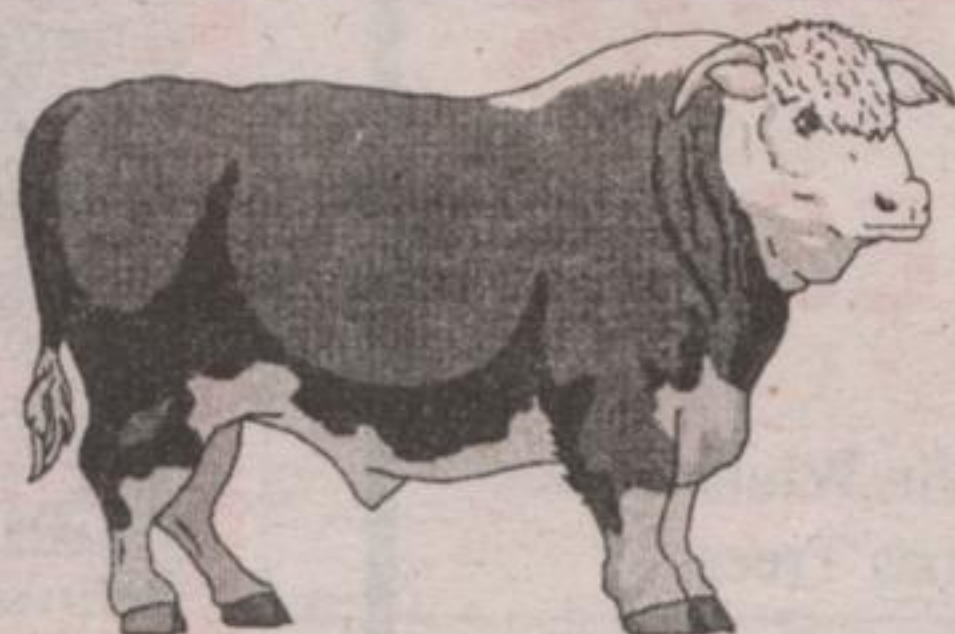
I, like most Canadians, sometimes

get angry at things our politicians say. Liberal cabinet minister Elinor Caplan went away too far. Calling people Holocaust deniers, bigots and racists in order to save her miserable political hide ranks her, in my opinion, as one of the most despicable, disgusting, vile two-bit charlatans ever elected. Honest politicians should resent her presence in Parliament. But government back-benchers will continue to kiss her backside because to do otherwise would incur the wrath of their boss. I just wish someone in Ottawa would put her in her place but they won't. Hey, the election is over. We're all supposed to forgive and forget what was said in the heat of battle. Not me, not that.

We are a nation divided. The anger in the west is palpable. The only bright light in the results for me was the loss of seats by the blockheads in Quebec. This election didn't answer any of the challenges we face as a nation. In fact, we find ourselves today with out differences so firmly entrenched that I fear we may never be able to achieve national cohesion. Look for, in the next 20 years, for the west to demand more representation in Ottawa. They have the economic clout and will not stand for Ontario and Quebec dictating the national agenda based solely on population. In the short term a stronger western separatist movement will be heard from. We enter the new millenium as a country in peril.

Had Paul Martin assumed the leadership of the Liberal party I believe he could have brought the country together. I believe he would have attracted considerably more support from both Quebec and the west. Alas, Jean Chretien's ego was seen to be more important than working to bring our most fractious regions back into the national dream.

Mr. Chretien wants to be remembered as another Laurier. I don't care how many elections he wins, it's not going to happen. The difference is quite simple: Laurier was a nation builder.



## WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.