

GRAPEVINE



Sincere flattery

Rooster-haired Rod Stewart imitator Vinnie Green turned more than a few heads while cruising the aisles of Wal-Mart, handing out flyers for his upcoming Las Vegas Legends on Tour show tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday at the John Elliott Theatre.

Friday's show features Garth Brooks, Phil Collins, Elvis and Sinatra look-a-likes. Saturday, Green and his five-piece Hot Legs band, pay homage to Rod Stewart.

If you spot Green's limo in Acton - write down the licence plate - the first ten callers to the theatre win free tickets.

Calling Halton

Hopefully Halton's new toll free phone number will mean fewer busy signals for Acton residents calling Halton Region.

Halton CAO, Acton's Brent Marshall, said one of his key priorities is to improve customer service - a consultant is working on a report - and the toll free number will improve accessibility for those who use one of four trunk lines to avoid long distance charges to the Region HQ in Oakville.

The cost of toll free numbers has dropped enough that it's covered in the existing budget.

The trunk lines, including 853-0501 from Acton, will remain in service until the end of this year, at least. The new toll free number is 1-866-4Halton or 1-866-442-5866.

Tips solve crimes

Anonymous tips to Crime Stoppers helped Halton police help solve 90 cases last year. The tips, from the 801 received from the public, led to the seizure of \$107,000 worth of drugs and recovery of \$55,000 in stolen goods.

January is Crime Stoppers Month and Crime Stoppers (CS) Halton hopes those impressive stats will encourage citizens to call police with information about criminal activity. Calls are eligible for cash rewards up to \$1,000 - but almost half those who call, don't want the money.

LETTERS

33 families helped in Christmas season

Dear Editor,
Halton Hills Community Support and Information would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all those who helped to make the holiday season special this past year for 33 families in our community.

During the months of November and December, members of our community donated many items to our agency, including toys, clothing, knitting, and money. It is always wonderful to see how generous a community can be. Thanks so much to everyone who took the time to donate!

Several groups, churches, businesses and individuals assisted with our program by providing hampers

for families. They purchased clothing and toys and put hampers together for families. We are very grateful for their continued support of this program.

Many families continue to struggle through difficult financial times. It is always very reassuring to know that people are willing to share their resources in order to help others. The families that received hampers would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to a very caring and generous community.

Sincerely,
Cathy Gerrow, Community Support Coordinator,
Halton Hills Community Support and Information

Salvation Army thankful for people's generosity

To the editor,
On behalf of the Acton Salvation Army, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest thanks to the people of our community for the generosity they have shown during the past Christmas Season. Your response to our Christmas Donation Appeal was heartwarming. Through your goodwill we were able to

brighten the hearts and homes of those less fortunate. Thank You to the citizens of our area for their unselfish interest in helping others. May God Bless You All!

With deepest gratitude,
Lyndon Hale, Captain
Corps Officer
The Salvation Army - Acton Corps

CS Halton says the courts have ruled that tipsters will not be called to testify in court. The Tip Line is 1-800-222-8477.

Still with police...

Along with creating a Race Relations Unit, Halton Police beefed up their upper ranks and that gives Halton Hills a permanent on-site commander - Superintendent Mike Kingston, with Inspector Bill Ford - in Georgetown.

Until now, the commander worked from the Milton station and that left Acton and Georgetown without a locally based commander.

New Year

Congrats to Acton's Caroline and Simon Demoulin and big brother Max, on the birth of Catherine Demoulin - the first

baby born at Georgetown hospital in 2001.

The 7-lb., 15-ounce cutie arrived a week late at 1:16 a.m. on January 2.

A check of local hospitals used by Acton residents failed to turn up another New Year's birth.

Sad passing

Many long-time Acton residents noted the recent passing of former Actonite Linda (McIntyre) McDonald who died before Christmas in Victoria.

Mrs. McDonald was married to the late Don McDonald, former publisher of the Acton Free Press and TD bank manager. She also worked at the Free Press as a compositor.

The McDonalds left Acton in the mid-80s and moved to Lloydminster, Sask. Their son, Don junior, lives in Calgary.

Results missed

Swim meet results for Acton Aqua Duck Victoria Fritz were inadvertently omitted from a recent story about the club's success at the Georgetown meet. Victoria had a great meet with the following finishes: 200m free - 5th; 50m fly - 7th; 100m back - 3rd; 50m free - 2nd; 25m free - 1st; 100m breast - 4th and 4th - 200m free relay.



GO, GIRL: Acton's Simone Da Silva's first time on skates at Acton arena on Saturday was a little less slippery, thanks to the steady hands of mom, Carole Lavigne and dad, Bert Da Silva. - Frances Niblock photo



WELCOME WARMTH: Acton Tanner hockey dad (and former coaching staff member) Bill Curry took a welcome break from flipping burgers for hungry fans to warm his hands during the Tanner's Christmas hockey tournament. - Frances Niblock photo

It was a dark and stormy night

Snoopy always started his novel with those words and they came to mind when I was barbecuing last Sunday night. The air was crisp, snow was falling, the night was still. Editor Coles always manages to see the beauty in the untracked snow, glistening in the moonlight.

I sat on our porch wondering if I was out of my cotton-picking mind. Bad enough that I was out in the cold without someone pulling a gun on me but, before starting, I had to shovel out the barbecue. Enough already, we've had enough snow.

I think the ministers in our town should come together and compose a prayer asking the Almighty to give us a break. Why not? We seem to have a prayer for everything else imaginable. Hopefully my pastor, Father Bulbrook, will be able to whip-up a weather-calming Psalm. Something to warm the cockles of our hearts other than, of course, any references to the Fires of Hades. No need to go overboard here. So ministers, that's your challenge. We need less snow. I've done my part; I supplied the Father Fodder.

★★★★

I notice C. Homolka is concerned someone might harm her if she is released. She's not as stupid as she comes across. Once released, she will be hounded by the media. There is nowhere in the country where she can hide. I don't have one ounce of sympathy for her.

Notwithstanding her outrageously short sentence, her four crimes justify her never having a moment's peace again. Now I hear she is exploring the option of leaving Canada. (Huge applause from entire country here.) But who would take her and where would we like to see her end up? My number one choice would be Afghanistan. No? How about a deserted island on the equator with brackish water guaranteed to cause Montezuma's Revenge. Sharks surrounding the island would be a nice touch. Do you think Saddam might need a file clerk?

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



Fact is, I doubt there is any country on this planet who would take her. Do you blame them? We, however, are stuck with her. So now what do we do? We can't keep her in prison where she belongs, and Canadians don't really support vigilante justice.

I think the powers that be should be re-examining her testimony to see if there is any cause to re-open her case. Then, if convicted, sentence her to life and throw away the key.

One question: if she is too much of a danger to get early parole, as the Club Fed officials claim, then why is she still in a medium-security facility? Normally, I would say we should be pressuring the government but, in this case, that would be a waste of time. So I suppose we just have to wait and see what happens. Someone asked me the other day if I would print her whereabouts, should I come into that information after her release.

In a heartbeat! And damn the consequences.

★★★★

There was a terrible story in The Star about a minor hockey coach who apparently suffered a heart attack after an altercation with a parent at a game. It seems like this form of stupid behaviour is becoming more and more prevalent. The M.T.H.L. has a rule that ends up with the suspension of the child if the parent acts up. I don't think that's fair.

I do think that the arena management should react faster and get police to eject idiot parents. Trespassing letters should be on hand and given out on the spot. No excuses.

I've seen a crowd turn and it's frightening. My nephew played for

the Provincial Championship in Erin a couple of years ago. The game was pretty chippy and the refs lost control. Later, in the parking lot, things started going bad. My nephew's bus was rocked and a few punches thrown. Many parents, and I use that term lightly, were in the thick of it. You could see the rage on their faces. Luckily, most of the crowd had a brain and, with the police, calmed the situation.

I would also like to see the jerks who yell obscenities at games banned from Town facilities. We've become way too tolerant of rude and obnoxious behaviour in public. It's long past time to say enough.

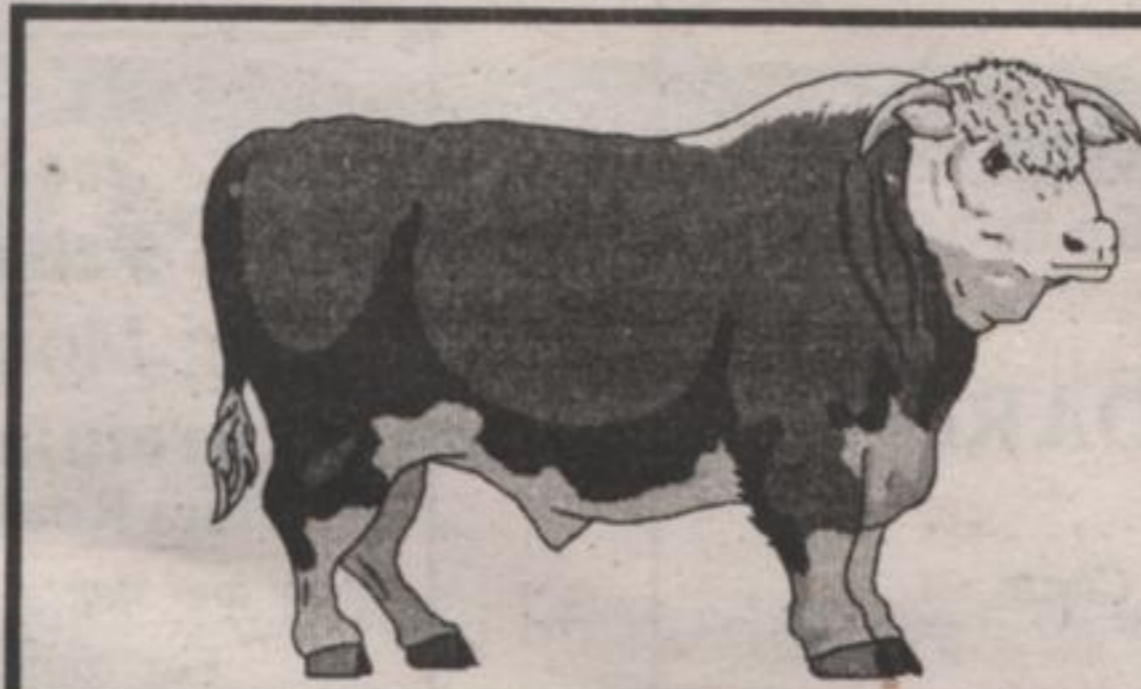
My kids were in swimming, figure skating and soccer so we didn't face the same problems that hockey seems to have. Well, there was the time, during my short-lived tenure as a girls' soccer coach, when one parent got pretty mouthy. He shut-up after I offered him the whistle and clipboard. I explained that I was a volunteer and wasn't there to take his crap.

Figure skaters may hire someone to whack at an opponent's knee but they seldom yell at the coach. Know why? Cause figure skating coaches cry and make you feel bad when yelled at. At least that's what I've been told. I never yelled at the girls' coaches. Wasn't allowed.

★★★★

I see the army has had to mothball 2,764 trucks, 2,542 trailers and 103 towed Howitzers because the wheels are so corroded they might fall off. The vehicles were supposed to have been replaced three years ago. The Feds don't have the \$700 million to buy new trucks. They have no problem finding over \$500 million for a useless gun control boondoggle. There's always hundreds of thousands to jet the P.M. off to the cottage or winter golf. But money for the army Jean loves to trot out when he feels like playing big shot on the world stage? Sorry.

Things just get curiouser and curiouser, don't they?



WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.