

GRAPEVINE



Going...going....

Love to see the Habs face off against the Bruins and help Rose Cherry's Home, a soon-to-open home in Milton for terminally ill children?

On Monday (March 12), between 8 and 9 p.m., Cogeco 14's phone-in *SportsZone Live* program, broadcast from the Acton studios, is auctioning off a trip for two to Montreal for the March 17 game at the Molson Centre.

The package also includes train tickets, courtesy of VIA Rail Canada, tickets to the March 17 game, courtesy of Goodyear Canada and a hotel for the night.

Spirits expansion

The cramped and out-dated Acton liquor store is getting a major face lift, including an expansion into part of the existing warehouse.

Renovations began last week and will take approximately a month, said store manager Bob Turkosz, adding they're in a "tight mess" with the work underway, it's still business as usual.

"It's an old store that we (the Liquor Licensing Board of Ontario) owns, and you know business is up, and we're modernizing because nothing has been done since '62 when the store opened," Turkosz said.

Still in the neighbourhood....

The liquor store expansion doesn't affect the neighbouring proposed Leathertown Junction plaza - despite the best attempts of the plaza landowners, including Doug Fread.

"A year or two ago we tried to get access and we haven't been successful," Fread said, adding the plaza plan, at the Queen - Young Streets curve, is "still waiting for Town approvals" for a rezoning to allow larger individual stores than currently approved. The property

Village Constables...

Continued from Page 4.

One of Mr. Harrop's duties during WW II was to enforce the nine o'clock curfew which hour was tolled from the old town hall bell. It meant that everyone under 16 years of age had to be home unless they were accompanied by adults. Mr. Harrop patrolled the streets in his auto, a coupe, which had squeaky brakes. His approach was broadcast by the brakes, and teens under 16 who were out unlawfully generally had to hide until he passed by.

When World War II ended and Mr. Harrop retired, Acton decided to hire two constables with full uniform and returning army veterans, Grant Allen and Cecil Gibbons, both local men with army police experience, were hired. My memories are still fresh with the time and since Cecil Gibbons was my uncle it gave me a special insight into the prob-

lems they faced. Faced with a growing population, Acton decided to follow the example of two other towns and villages and decided to contract the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to patrol the town and gave the two constables the option of joining the OPP. Only Gibbons took up the offer and he was sent elsewhere while Corporal Ray Mason, an important figure in the town for many succeeding years, took over policing Acton. That's a complete other story which Sgt. Bob Andrews and Bill McGrath of Halton Police will include in a history of policing in Acton when it appears.

When the OPP left and the whole of Halton was included in the new Halton Police force the village constable was reintroduced and a successful program it has been. More of that in some later column.

Rhythmic request

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." - Ontario Special Olympics athlete's oath.

That's what Special Olympian, Acton's Emily Boycott, will say next month when she and 14 other Halton girls, compete at an international rhythmic gymnastics competition in Montreal.

Coached by Debbie Boycott, a teacher at Brookville public, the Oakville Butterflies is a team for those with mental disabilities, involving individual and team events.

"It's balls, hoops, ribbons, skipping rope and a floor routine where they don't use any equipment," Boycott explained, adding they're a new club, the only one of its kind in the area, and are looking for help to offset the cost of the trip in late April. Donations may be made to Oakville Special Olympics.

March break on ice

One of the best deals for March Break is the daily skating session - 1:30 to 3 p.m. - at Acton arena.

Thanks to the continued generosity of the Rotary Club of Acton, there's no charge all week.

Tweens and teens looking for fun should check out the ice dance at the arena on Tuesday (March 13) from 3 to 4 p.m.



Dr. George Elliott conducts the Acton Citizens' Band at a recent concert.

Acton Band earns Silver at Guelph Kiwanis Festival

The Acton Citizens' Band earned Silver (very good) in the Community Band class of the Guelph Kiwanis Festival at the River Run Centre on Tuesday evening Feb. 27.

The four bands in the Class were: University of Guelph Concert Winds, Acton Citizens' Band, Galt Kilties Band, and Stratford Concert Band. These bands were quite different in terms of age and experience. The Acton band was the largest at 60 members, and also had the greatest range of ages from Joel Dreise, age 8, to long time member Harvey Dewhurst, who stopped counting at 80.

Because of these large differences, bands do not compete against each other, but are graded on how well they met the standard implicit in their choice of music. Acton and the University band were given Silver (very good) and the two other bands received Gold (outstanding). The two other grades are Bronze (good) and Merit (needs improvement).

Adjudicator was James White, Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Education, University of West-

ern Ontario, a well-known performer and experienced conductor of bands.

The Acton band played a concert march 'Tower Bridge' by an American composer, Robert Washburn, done in the style of the great British concert marches by Elgar and Holst. This music is much liked by band members. The second piece, selections of music from the Rogers and Hammerstein musical 'Carousel' was arranged by Paul Yoder. Considered to be one of their finest musicals, this was the favourite of composer Richard Rogers.

Some of the adjudicator's favourable comments in his grading report give a sense of the band's performance. Of 'Tower Bridge' he said, "A fine controlled performance." For 'Carousel' some comments were, "Good Waltz style," "Some really beautiful playing," and "Lovely (French) horns." At the end he commented, "A fine community band. Some superb moments."

Naturally he also noted some imperfections - that's his job - and these were not unexpected. For the

20 players, brought up from the Beginners Class, this was their first performance and competition with the band. So, helpful advice was offered on improving the band's performance. Professor White, in his concluding remarks to the general audience in the Hall, expressed his great pleasure in seeing such a wide variety of ages working happily together in the Acton band, a real community at its best.

Band members sat and listened to the other bands and learned much from the experience. The Stratford Band in particular was outstanding. One of their numbers was titled 'Purple Dawn,' a memorial to the Challenger Disaster in 1986. It was a complex piece of music - not your usual band concert fare - designed for expert players and sophisticated audiences. The musicians, many of whom must have been almost professional, performed it brilliantly - a real eye- and ear-opener for the Acton Band members.

The Acton band will be holding a Spring Concert sometime soon and will feature the two test pieces they played at the Festival.

Community will always have that treasured small town flare

Dear editor:

We enjoy receiving the New Tanner and can't help but wonder what the future holds if Magna or other large manufacturers decide to put their roots in this area.

My wife and I are newcomers to this area. However, over several decades we have travelled through the community and one fact remains, it will always have that small community flare. We have read many of the views from other readers who fear that Acton will lose its "Andy of Mayberry" down home "Walton's Mountain" style of cozy lifestyle.

Well folks, my family and I enjoy that atmosphere also, but only to a point! Do up your seatbelts everyone, because this town is in for some heavy traffic. The very reason that the Halton Chamber of Commerce is laying out the red carpet for Mr. Frank is for everyone's prosperity. It's not just a tax grab, as some selfish people want to view it. The revenue prospects are tremendous, and if there are any visionaries out there, look at the terrific benefits down the



road!

The crucial aspect that every person must make is an obligation to participate in proposal meetings. Your voice counts more than you realize for the simple reason that you are laying the groundwork for the future of this entire area. However, if the Magna plant is scuttled or is viewed as a bad deal by the residents of Acton, you can rest assured that progress will never knock at Acton's door for quite some time in the future.

Don't forget, the eyes of many other communities are watching with envy and excitement. We are on the eve of witnessing how the map of Halton could change and outlying towns may receive the growth they desire as a result of embracing the Magna deal or future endeavours.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is for the citizens of Acton to take a very hard look

around them before they throw their hands in the air and say "nah." Talk to your children and actually listen to what they would like to see in this area. After all, we have the ability to provide future opportunities for them, and not set them up for a mass exodus to the cities. I have always pointed out, if pride is instilled in a community, everything else will eventually fall into place.

Anyone who witnessed (no pun intended) the plight of the Amish/Mennonite community for North Waterloo knows only too well that greed for growth far outweighed respect for the community at large. A preventable tragedy indeed, but a premonition of what could transpire in our own neighbourhood if the citizens of Acton don't stand shoulder-to-shoulder.

In closing, one wonders what the repercussions would be if the olde Hide House or other established businesses ever decided to relocate to other towns in Ontario, would it still be worth the drive to Acton?

Nick Dunning

WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.

