

# GRAPEVINE



## Acton Internet

Downtown merchants seem eager to make the jump to cyberspace with a BIA Web site and links to their individual stores.

"It's just cheap advertising, basically, and for anyone that doesn't have a Web site, or is thinking about getting one, it's a good opportunity to get involved with the Internet," said BIA manager John McNabb, who currently doesn't have a site for his McNabb Graphic.

BIA co-ordinator Josey Murray is confident 15 merchants – the minimum needed – will sign on because it's a good deal.

"Merchants will have their own page, linked to the BIA homepage," Murray said, adding that Castle Networking of Georgetown will design and maintain the sites, for a one-time fee of \$200, and an annual fee of \$75.

"Anybody who has an existing Web site, if they come on board with use, it's just another hit for them – it's good business," Murray said, adding the BIA home page will be [www.downtownacton.com](http://www.downtownacton.com)

## Youth gospel

Organizers were hoping for a good turnout last night (Tuesday) at the first young people's bible hour at the high school cafeteria.

The outreach program that includes stories, games and quizzes is offered by Acton members of a Gospel Hall in Guelph, including Barbara Reynolds.

"My son goes to McKenzie-Smith Bennett (School) and we thought we'd have some children's meetings, do a Bible story and some games and quizzes with prizes," Reynolds said.

The nondenominational programs runs 7 to 8 p.m., Tuesdays, until May 29.

## Passover at St.

### Alban's

St. Alban's Church will celebrate Holy Week with its sixth annual Seder Super on Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday.

The Reverend Mark Tiller will lead the congregation in a "Christianized version of the Jewish meal of Passover," that he learned from a Rabbi in Burlington.

"We go through an abbreviated form of the Seder... they're getting the Jewish story, they're getting the story of Jesus' roots and we end it with a Eucharist and the stripping of the altar to get ready for Good Friday," Rev. Tiller said, adding the event has grown from a dozen families to 70 last year. The service begins at 6 p.m.

## Jiu-Jitsu's best

The sparring and grappling of

Acton Jiu-Jitsu members came under very careful scrutiny on Sunday during training sessions for referees who will officiate at the world competition this fall in Jersey, England.

"We involve our students and have them do mock fights to help train the referees," Acton Jiu-Jitsu Sensei Linda Bromley said, adding national team hopefuls were also training at her downtown dojo.

Team Canada's three Gold medal wins in world competitions earned it an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records and Bromley expected the team would be picked after the weekend workouts. Acton Jiu-Jitsu will host the national championships for the second year on May 6.

"Everyone loved the venue, loved the arena, the location and the Town and the olde Hide House," Bromley laughed, adding this year's event will be bigger than last year, what with Black Belts competing for a place on Team Canada.

## Plus-fours?

Mayor Kathy Gastle will trade her power suit for golf gear when she hosts the Mayor's Heritage Golf Tournament at Acton's Blue Springs Gold and Country Club on May 31.

The tourney raises money for Heritage Halton Hills.

## Synchro Bronze

The Canada 1 black ice synchronized skating team – which includes Acton's Bronwyn Marshall – captured the Bronze medal with two strong routines at the World Championships in Helsinki on the weekend.

In the stands cheering loudly were a lot of very proud parents, including Bronwyn's dad, Halton CAO Brent Marshall, celebrating Bronwyn's first season with the Brampton-based club that won Silver at the first Worlds in the U.S. last year.

Bronwyn is an urban planning student at Rhyerson University whose home club is the Acton Figure Skating Club home.

## Songs of Hope

A benefit dinner and concert in memory of Emma Hunter, a Crewson's Corner toddler who died of cancer, will be held at the Ballinafad Community Hall on April 28.

All proceeds from the third annual event are earmarked for childhood cancer research at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Last year's event, organized by Emma's family, who now lives in Acton, raised more than \$2,000.

Tickets are available for the dinner and show, or just the show, by contacting the Hunters at 853-1383.



**TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME:** In the late 1940s most of the best hockey players Acton ever produced played an exhibition game against the current Acton Intermediate Tanners. The old arena in Prospect Park was packed for the game which dripped nostalgia. Recognize most of them? Front row, l-r, kneeling: Jack (Dang) Kentner, Ilio Marzo, Lorne 'Minute' Walters, Johnny Brush, Doug Dawkins, Russ Brush, Norm Morton, Herb 'Fricker' Woods, Ben 'Basher' Bayliss, Bus Morton, Frank Gibbons, and Ezio (Itch) Marzo. In the rear, standing, many in loaned Georgetown Raider uniforms are l-r, Frank 'Twitter' Holmes, Vic Rumley, Johnny 'Ingy' Robson, referee?, Jack 'Baloney' Greer, hidden face, Chas 'Sonny' Townsley, Joe Woods, Bobby Anderson, Joe Kentner, Clayton 'Dude' Lindsay, Fred Dawkins, Fred Kentner, Ivan Huffman, Neil Gibbons, Harold Mooney, Henry 'Duke' Arbic, Clarence Kentner, referee and J.M. 'Bud' McDonald.

# They're just blowin' smoke

I don't have much use for Allan Rock as a politician. I think he copped out as Justice Minister and totally disregarded the will of the people who want tougher sentencing for violent offenders. I'm very concerned that this man is now playing at politics using our health care system as his currency.

Last week, there he was again, announcing another tax hike on cigarettes. If you look up arrogant and condescending in the dictionary, I'll bet Rock's picture is there. We are supposed to believe that this new tax is imposed to fund anti-smoking campaigns targeting youth and law-enforcement efforts to combat smuggling. The government claims to be on the side of the angels in helping to save poor smokers.

Let's get serious for a moment. This government is simply interested in screwing smokers out of as much money as possible. That way, they can increase their obscene budget surplus and brag about what wonderful fiscal managers they are. You can't start filling up the old porkbarrel soon enough to get ready for the next election. As an added bonus, who's going to stand up for smokers if they get dinged for more tax dollars? Au contraire, the chattering class will fall all over themselves congratulating each other on how they are saving the lepers of the new millennium. Give me a break.

If the government was interested in really reducing smoking in teens why don't they go after it like they did with drinking and driving? Criminalize the use of cigarettes by kids under 18 and back it up with stiff fines and penalties. Switch the R.I.D.E. programs to the schools and malls for half of their time. Why don't they follow a program proven to work? Smokers are already the social piranhas that drinking drivers have become so the job's half done. It couldn't be that the Feds really don't want to lose all those lovely tax dollars, would it?

If the government wants people to stop smoking why don't they put coupons in every pack which could be redeemed for stop-smoking materials or programs? Why is nicotine gum over \$40.00 a box? Of course it has GST on it. Why is most of the increased tax earmarked for fat cat liberal advertising agencies? But then, I guess you have to plan ahead so someone has money to donate big-time to party coffers. These contingencies are necessary

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



for re-election campaigns. Is there a pattern here?

When any new tax is implemented governments usually turn themselves inside out proving that the poor and/or seniors will not be overburdened. Where is the protection for these groups in this tax? Will they get a tobacco tax rebate like they do with the GST? Don't hold your breath, assuming you still have some.

But why you ask should smokers get any consideration? No-one, including your scribe, will condone smoking, especially amongst the young. So why not tax the hell out of them? One reason could be that they're not doing anything illegal. Some, indeed many, people find the habit disgusting. OK, let's have a \$500 fine for littering. How much should we fine hockey and baseball players for horking all over on TV? Surely that's a disgusting habit. Let's have stiff penalties for people who use the "F" word, and worse, in public. These days, the only public place you can avoid obscenities is in church. C'mon people, let's not stop with smokers.

I find it incredible that smokers are fair game at large. I have seen parents encourage their children to say rude things to smokers. It must be nice to be so perfect. These little terrorists-in-training are going to be a joy when they grow up. Of course, by then they'll be used to saying whatever they please and they'll hopefully get their clock cleaned in the first month of grade nine. Rude children are rude. They are not crusaders.

The government won't even make the use of marijuana as medicine easy. Basically, the patient has to prove conventional medicines are ineffective before all-powerful bureaucrats will grant them absolute. Here's a radical thought, why not leave it to the patient and their doctor? If you have a prescription you can possess it. But where, the all-omnipotent government asks will the patient secure the product? "On almost any streetcorner you jackasses" would be a reasonable reply.

Law professor Alan Young observed that when the smoke clears,

any new legislation will be well intentioned but unworkable. So that makes these regulations a perfect government program, doesn't it? We can call the new marijuana laws "The Son of the Gun Control Act."

I have read that the government is treading lightly on authorizing the use of marijuana because they don't want to be seen as promoting the use of illegal drugs or, naturally, smoking. So why then do we have weekly needle exchanges for intravenous drug users on our Main Street? Ah, you say, that's a health issue. Well, so is using marijuana during chemotherapy so you can keep down some food. Perhaps our MP Mr. J. Reed could explain this to the minister. Hint: Use small words and speak slowly.

The fact that tax money is used to supply needles to people who take illegal drugs while diabetics have to pay for their own should incense us all. But that's a story for another day.

The facts are that this government spends substantially less than other similar jurisdictions on smoking cessation programs. One of their own Liberal senators has been trying to sell a "dedicated tax" on each carton of cigarettes where all the money collected would go towards such programs. The benefits are two-fold. Firstly, more money would be available to target teen smokers than Minister Rock is proposing. Secondly, the levied tax would be \$1.50 per carton saving taxpayers \$2.50. But, of course, the government isn't buying into this scheme. There is no opportunity to top-up general revenue coffers and it might work. What would that do to tax revenue down the line? My God, it might go down!

As I said earlier, I'm not defending smoking. Most smokers, myself included are trying to quit. Sanctionious bafflebag from politicians, from anyone for that matter, is no help at all. But smokers don't deserve to be treated like fourth-class citizens.

As for the government and their pious pronouncements: I don't buy it for one minute. They are operating under their prime directive: Never give a sucker an even break. In other words, they're trying to blow smoke up the collective kazzoo of an entire nation. And it will probably work.

We do, after all, get the government we deserve.



## Spy plane capture raises questions

To the editor,

The capture of the spy plane by China raises some unusual questions.

1. Is the crew not trained to avoid capture? Could the plane have been ditched in the ocean?

2. Even stranger is the fact that allowing another nation to have full control of sensitive equipment –

without a struggle?

3. Even stranger – the crew had no hot button to push to destroy the electronics?

4. Where is the training? Where is the planning? Pretty poor, if you ask me. For the money spent – one has to ask – was it worth it?

John Shadbolt  
Acton

## WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?



Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.