

GRAPEVINE



Used car lot

Another business is slated to open in Acton next month. Sunny Mehta (mechanic for 10 years at Jassie's Gas Bar at Silvercreek) is opening a used car lot at 323 Queen St., East.

Mehta will operate his business from the house on the property where his family will also live.

"It's a great location and it was within my budget and I didn't want to leave Acton," Mehta said when asked why he purchased the property on the north side of Queen Street, beside the lot with the new home sales trailer.

Sunny's Motors should be open within weeks.

TimBri takeover

An established Acton eatery is slated to change hands this fall. The olde Hide House (OHH) has made an offer to purchase the TimBri Tea House located adjacent to OHH properties at the corner of Church Street and Eastern Avenue.

OHH president Steve Dawkins said it's too soon to know what changes will be made, but he anticipates some "expansion of the food service facilities," in parallel with the development of the proposed Leathertown Centre, an OHH retail/tourist development on the vacant lot across from the existing store.

It's been approximately four years since the restaurant (Jack Tanner's Table) at the OHH closed and Dawkins said that TimBri's had been for sale for some time.

"Ultimately, we just decided that the surest way of us seeing a quality food service operation continue, was to take some kind of role in it ourselves," Dawkins said, adding they will also change the name as

Need broader vision...

Continued From Page 4

each municipality.

Smart Growth in the GTA cannot be permitted to be a freezing and paralyzing concept on a municipality. The Canadian Urban Institute has grouped the main actions to be taken in Smart Growth under the following six categories.

1. Promoting cities as engines of the economy;
2. Containing urban sprawl;
3. Providing transportation alternatives;
4. Providing housing choice;
5. Protecting natural areas and cultural heritage; and
6. Creating community.

All of these factors cannot be neglected when the development fate of a municipality like Halton Hills is determined by the over-powering urban votes at the GTSB. The GTSB is gradually attempting to assume more responsibility for GTA transportation and planning.

Rural Economic Vitality cannot rest on decisions made on inexperienced and uninformed traditional and sentimental farming perceptions. These produce stagnation in the impacted areas and give rise to Countryside Strategies which amount to nothing more than a back-door means of defining urban edges and a rural component to the GTA without caring for the Rural Economic Vitality of the areas affected. In such context the infrastructure and transportation systems end up being used as a means of thwarting local municipal autonomy and expectation.

The process that we have been witnessing to date amounts to nothing more than an effective way of making what could otherwise be economically vibrant rural areas the subservient buffer zones for dominant

the current owners, Tim and Bridgett McElhorne, will continue manufacturing and selling their TimBri Tea House brand of salad dressings.

Pastor relocates

The congregation of Evangelical Pentecostal Tabernacle was shocked by the news on Sunday that their pastor, Jamie Shepherd, is leaving July 1.

Pastor Shepherd has accepted a two-year posting as Associate Pastor at the Fergus-Elora Pentecostal Church, where he will focus on ministering to young married couples and missions.

Pastor Shepherd, who initiated the Acton Community Champion award program, also coached high school basketball.

Drivers needed

It hasn't happened yet, but the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society has come very close to not being able to provide transportation to patients who need rides to hospital or the doctor's for treatment.

"We haven't turned anyone away, but I have had to call on Milton drivers, and I've also asked patients if they have a friend who could make some of the trips," Acton branch transportation coordinator Pat Lane said on Monday.

"We have a desperate need for drivers."

The Acton branch has approximately 10 drivers it can call on, but only four of them are willing to drive to Toronto and Hamilton.

Drivers are under no obligation to accept a trip - you can choose your own days and destinations - and are reimbursed for mileage.

Call Cathy at the Acton branch if you are a good driver with a reliable, smoke-free vehicle.

and congested urban areas. A more realistic approach must be implemented.

Rural Economic Vitality cannot be preserved and encouraged by restricting and entrenching use to permanent farm-land. Rural flexibility must and should be encouraged.

It seems that the approach that is presently being wittingly or unwittingly adopted is that, in the absence of a clear strategy, firm and damaging restrictions should be imposed on rural areas. Needless to say, this approach is counter-productive and unfair to rural areas.

It is our hope that these comments will crystallize in your mind the serious concerns that we have with the present approaches at dealing with the issues affecting the GTA. In essence it is clear that dramatic decisions are being made without debate, study of the financial impacts, and the input of affected parties and communities.

It is our hope that this will act as an initial step in assisting you in putting in place a more co-ordinated effort in this area which doesn't run slapshod over the interests and rights of the affected parties and communities.

Ultimately we are confident that you will see that our position and views are much more congruous in promoting the Rural Economic Vitality of outlining regions like Halton Hills that any decisions dictated by surpassed traditional farming views, convenient clichés, and political slogans.

We look forward to your response and reaction to these comments and an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to this decision process.

Yours truly,
Alessandro M. Di Cecco, LL.B.
Law Firm of Di Cecco, Jones



SQUEAKY CLEAN: The Canadian Mental Health Association held a fund raising car wash recently at Acton Auto Tech. The car wash has become an annual event each spring. — Angela Tyler photo

Springing into summer

The long weekend officially kicked off the 2001 summer season. There's an old saying that the only sure things in life are death and taxes. I suggest we add rising gasoline prices in summer to the list.

I don't understand why the federal and provincial governments don't take action. It's obvious there is price collusion going on. The laws of probability disprove the contention that the market is driving the price. For starters, the governments could lower the taxes on gasoline, diesel and natural gas. The lost revenue could be made up by establishing a "piracy tax" on the oil companies.

One of the silliest claims I've heard is attributed to Peter Dyne of the Consumers Association of Canada. I thought the Consumers Association would be on the side of consumers. Seems logical, given their name and all. Silly me. Mr. Dyne, however, claims oil companies don't make money on gas. "There's far more margin in selling pop than gasoline." Well that may be true, but hardly any of us pull into Esso to pick-up 40 litres of pop. The few that do are easily recognized by their terminal acne.

Petro-Canada's \$358 million first quarter profit, a modest increase of 1.784% over last year, sure didn't come from sales of pop and chips. If it did, shouldn't the Consumers Association be investigating the way we're being ripped-off for pop and chips at service station convenience stores?

The April economic figures were just released and showed inflation running at 3.6%. That's the largest month increase since 1991. Guess what fueled the increase?

If governments don't act to halt price-gouging at the pumps, the greedy oil barons will do even more damage to the economy. Already, the tourist industry is nervous that vacationers will stay home this summer. This is especially true for attractions within a day's trip of major cities.

Who do the oil companies

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



think they are - banks?

It is with the some regret that I note the closing of victim's rights group CAVEAT. I've written before about Priscilla de Villiers and the organization she founded and led. Madame de Villiers was driven to change the laws which often saw victims of crime further victimized by the "justice system." Due to the efforts of CAVEAT, and others, victims' rights are now given more consideration, however grudging, when policies are drafted.

CAVEAT is closing because it sees its objectives are being met. While their achievements are undeniable, the lack of stable public and corporate funding undoubtedly led to the decision. Lord knows we can't trust the courts or politicians to protect our rights. I have no doubt that, should consideration for victims' rights begin to erode, we will hear from Mme. de Villiers again.

We should all applaud Mme. de Villiers on a job well done. It took a special, very strong person to become an advocate for victims just weeks after the murder of her daughter Nina, by a man on parole. Most of us would sink into the depths of depression and shock. That's a perfectly natural reaction.

Priscilla de Villiers directed her intense emotions into changing the system so no other parent would have to live her nightmare. Her courage and determination have brought about changes that surely saved other children. Canada is a better place to raise children because of CAVEAT and Priscilla de Villiers.

Bravo. Adieu.

Speaking about closures, we

boomers lost a big part of our adolescent memories when CHUM 1050 signed off the air. I must admit, I stopped tuning in CHUM about 15 years ago. Obviously, I wasn't alone. It's not that I don't still enjoy music from the 60s, but I found news and travel reports on CFRB more interesting.

I tuned in to CHUM, off and on, for their last few days. I made sure I was listening Monday, May 7 when CHUM signed off. Frankly, it was pretty disappointing. The much anticipated last song was "All Shook Up" by Elvis. That was the first song played when the station signed on in 1957. I would have chosen something by a Canadian artist. Gordon Lightfoot or Ian and Sylvia perhaps.

The last ten minutes was a compilation of cuts from previous announcers. There was an ominous rumbling in the background, which was annoying. Then came the launch of the new all sports radio network. They pretended it was a rocket launch - countdown and all. Pretty hokey actually. It's too bad CHUM went out with a whimper and not a bang.

The Woodstock generation deserved more.

The Toronto School Board is at it again. Now, they are looking at spending up to \$60 million to buy part of Metro Hall from Megamouth Mel. Question: How do you buy part of a building? Don't be surprised if the next suggestion is that they only want to buy the even-numbered floors. That would be your "new math." All of this, friends, comes in the same week the board is threatening to close the pools in Toronto because - wait for it - they have no money. It would be funny if it wasn't so tragic.

Last week I mused that the government would let boards go far enough off track that the Tories could justify getting rid of them. Several people told me I was nuts.

Any doubters now?