

# EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

## Smell the roses

Here we are, standing on the threshold of a New Year, wondering what it will hold for us. Perhaps many of us should follow the old dictum about "stopping to smell the flowers."

In our modern world everything moves at such a fast pace that we don't often get a chance to enjoy the journey. Anticipation, desire and especially patience seems to be lacking - replaced by instant gratification.

We can go across the country in a few hours, prepare meals in a matter of minutes and purchase expensive items on credit cards without waiting until we have the money. It has spawned a lot of anxiety about "keeping up with the Jones's" and created enormous debt for some people who buy beyond their means.

If we are making resolutions about the New Year before it steps across our threshold perhaps we should "stop and smell the roses."

Where are we rushing to with such speed? If we are not enjoying the journey we are missing out on something special - the peace and contentment that comes with taking the time to enjoy the world without its vanity and acquisitiveness. We wish all our readers joy and happiness in the New Year and may they take the time to enjoy the pleasures of living without the problems we create for ourselves.

## Drinking and driving - recipe for disaster

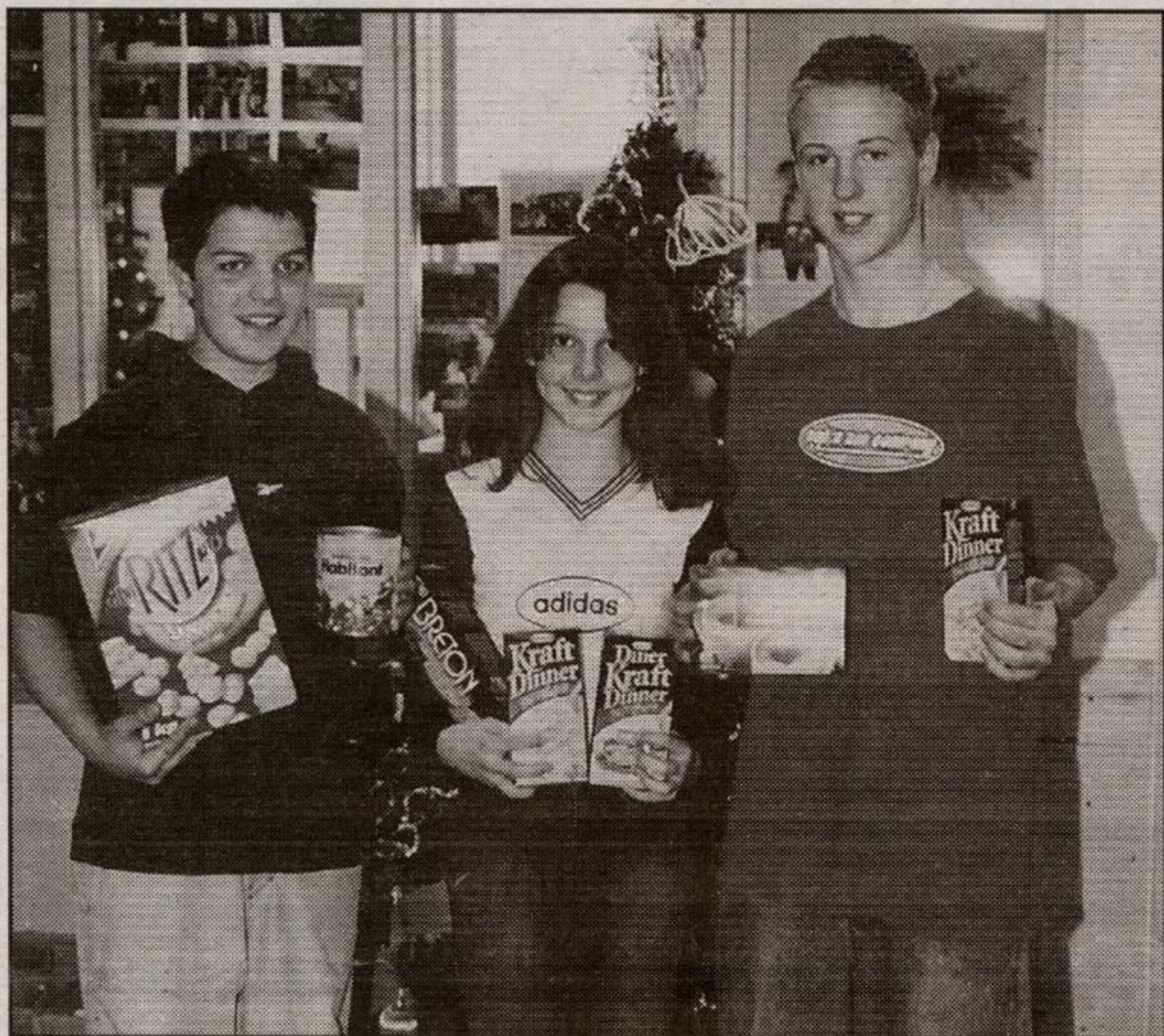
Both the Ontario Provincial Police and the Region Police are warning drivers about the risk they are taking when they drink and drive. It's a one-way street to disaster.

If you're driving stay sober or arrange for a ride where you won't be exposed to the perils of the road, not only for yourself but for your family, friends, and the community in which you live.

Drink and drive, and your life may never be the same again. Ask those who have been caught or involved in accidents, some with disastrous results.

When you drink and drive, you not only risk losing your licence, incurring expensive fines, doing time in jail or even causing injury or death to innocent people, maybe even your loved ones.

Think carefully this holiday season and beyond - don't drink and drive. There's a better alternative.



**GENEROUS STUDENTS:** Students and staff at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School collected hundreds of pounds of food for the needy in a Pre-Christmas food drive. Helping collect the bounty were student council members (from left) Matthew Hanselman, Allishia Martineau and Kevin Deforest. - Frances Niblock photo



**REMEMBER WHEN:** Orders for the McKenzie-Smith Bennett yearbook were brisk during the school's annual Christmas concert on Tuesday. Elisa Schupp (left) ordered a yearbook for her daughter from parent volunteer Barb Burrows and students Mitchell Morrison and Ryan Wagg. - Frances Niblock photo

## Best, worse and worth repeating

By: Angela Tyler

The December issue of Toronto Life Magazine offered to their readers a section entitled, "Best and Worst of the City". Inspired by that, I give you my Best, Worst and Worth Repeating for Acton and Rockwood 2001.

### THE COST OF DYING WILL KILL YOU:

Rockwood residents were hit with a double whammy this year. Not only did most residents encore a sizeable tax increase, the cost of dying also increased. Cemetery plots (?) at Rockwood Cemetery jumped from \$540 to \$930.

### ACTON'S VERSION OF THE SPICE GIRLS...

This year, Acton women rose to the top inducting their first female fire fighter to the troops. The petite, yet powerful Cathy Trudelle proved it's not just a man's job finishing her training this past spring and became a part of our volunteer forces. Following this, women in Acton were eager to play hockey in a female hockey league. Armed with elbow pads and helmets, during their first suiting up in the locker room, one female asked, "Does this make me look fat?"

### THE BEST WAY TO GET YOUR PHOTO IN THE NEW TANNER:

2001 was a triumphant year for many local residents. Joining the dozens of married couples celebrating 40, 50 or more years of marriage was an almost weekly occurrence of residents turning 90. The "Look

Who Turned 90 This Week" picture in the paper has become one of the most popular items.

### LAW AND ORDER:

Acton had their own version of the popular television series Law and Order. Normally a quiet and fairly crime free town, the beginning of the year found the police hunt for missing gas attendant Eugene Novicky. Following this, Bruce Davitt successfully returned his daughter Betsy from the U.S. following a custody battle. Then the unexplained death of Matthew Virgin left area residents in a state of mixed emotions ranging from anger to confusion of how this could happen in our town.

### BEST PLACE TO BE ON A SUMMER'S AFTER-NOON:

Enjoy the best Acton has to offer when the Acton Citizens' Band plays an outdoor concert at the Acton Legion. Perhaps the best located legions in Ontario, the concerts always sound better with Fairy Lake as the scenery, just watch out for the goose poop. Speaking of geese...the town did declare that the never-ending supply of goose poop on the shores of Fairy Lake was not dangerous.

### TIME TO START THE SEARCH EARLIER:

The annual Miss Acton Fall Fair pageant found itself in trouble this year when the Thursday before the Friday night competition organizers found there weren't enough contestants. After a search through the former IGA store and Subway, enough contestants were gathered in order to crown a new queen. This

year, I recommend starting the search much sooner.

### IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL SHOP:

and shop, and shop, and shop. Shoppers from the surrounding area including Georgetown, Rockwood and Guelph have joined us in making the new IGA Marketplace one of the most popular places in Acton. Although with the huge increase in variety and additional stock, a lot of people had a larger grocery bill during their grand opening week.

### PLAYING IN THE DIRT:

Worth another mention is the continuing hard work of Max MacSween along with the Acton Horticultural Society and the Friends of Fairy Lake who make this town a more beautiful place.

### BEST PLACE TO SEE THE AURORA BOREALIS:

It might not be the Northern Lights but one, if not the best display of Christmas lights in Acton is the many houses around the corner of Queen Street and Longfield Rd. As far as the eye can see, house after house is donned with thousands of Christmas lights. If you can't get out, you can also catch the lights on Cogeco 14. The new and improved local cable channel has new programming, new look and improved sound.

### BIGGEST SIMILARITY TO A YO-YO:

The lengthy and ongoing story of Magna coming to Acton was one of the biggest talks of the year. Between the Town, the newspapers and

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