

# GRAPEVINE



A lot of hard work and dogged determination has paid off big time in Acton for the United Way of Halton Hills.

Donations from the commercial/retail sector so far total \$4,970, two-and-a-half times more than last year, and Campaign West chair, Dean Haughe, deserves most of the credit.

"That's Dean," said United Way executive director Brenda Smith when asked to account for the dramatic increase in Acton donations.

"He's done a great job. He's got some new canvassers and some that have helped him in the past, and many companies have been very generous, including Beardmore Leathers, Tannery Run and the olde Hide House," Smith said, adding the United Way will publicly thank contributors at its Chili dance at the Legion on Saturday.

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The September 11 terrorism may mean the local United Way won't reach this year's \$275,000 goal, as confidently anticipated until recently when some GTA United Way campaigns said they won't make their goals, mainly because many people are earmarking their charitable donations to help in the aftermath of the attacks.

"Our direct mail (campaign) is up by \$4,000 from last year to \$31,329, but until the transfers from the other United Ways occur later this month, I won't know if many people who live in Halton Hills, but make an employee deduction somewhere else, have asked that their money be sent to the U.S.A. fund," Smith said, adding the United Way of Canada has sent \$3-million in relief aid, allowing 54 new agencies to allocate funds to victims.

## Pastor picked

Pastor John Bell will take over the pulpit full-time at Acton Baptist Church next month after serving as interim pastor for almost a year.

Bell, from Guelph, resigned as interim pastor in October to become eligible as a candidate for the full-time position.

For the past few months, the Reverend John Griffiths has been the interim pastor, counselling and advising the congregation in its search for a new pastor, which began when pastor Tom Cullen resigned in June 2000.

## Creative Memories

Chronicling lives and major milestones in keepsake albums is becoming very popular for many people who want to preserve the past and celebrate the here-and-now.

Many have boxes of photos, but no clue how to organize them into a

keepsake package, and that's where Acton's Tammy Somerville can help.

She operates Creative Memories, a home-party style business that introduces the concept in a one-day class and also offers workshops to complete a project.

Somerville said the Creative Memories concept is to "help people preserve the past, enrich the present and inspire hope for the future," with keepsake albums.

"I just had one client who did a Christmas album for her family where she went back over 30 years of Christmases and put together a surprise album," Somerville said, adding the finished products are much more than scrapbooks.

## Carnival plans

Due to popular demand the Acton Figure Skating Club will add a second performance to its annual spring carnival on April 6.

The sold-out crowds of the past three years convinced club officials that another show would be welcomed by proud parents and skating fans who applaud the wobbly-ankled efforts of toddlers as loudly as the grace and power of the older skaters who land double jumps.

This year's event has a travel-related "Are We There Yet?" theme and will feature everything from exotic locations to family vacations.

The carnival soloists and featured skaters were determined by medal results from a recent club competition, and club member Krista Petty of Rockwood, who competed at the Canadian nationals last year, will also be a featured performer.



**KEEPSAKE SKILLS:** Acton's Tammy Somerville helps people create keepsake albums to preserve history for future generations. She runs Creative Memories seminars and workshops from her home and displays some of the family albums she's created - Frances Niblock photo

# Tories mismanage...

Continued from Page 4

have been lost and tests have been posted on the Internet. The release of individual school scores has been delayed and may have to be cancelled. Just think how many Special Needs students could have benefited from the money wasted on these stupid tests alone. Also, you \$500 million handout to private schools is inexcusable.

While calling for spending cuts, you still seem to be able to take plenty of dollars out of the cookie jar to give to your corporate friends. Maybe, if we didn't continue with these corporate tax cuts, we just might have a few more dollars, say, for health care. Duh.

Your tax cuts have resulted in the deterioration of our health care system, the destruction of our public education system and have had little, long term benefit to our economy.

One final comment, Ted. I see that you are supporting an individual

for the PC leadership race who is currently not a member of your government. Just like your current leader, Mike Harris, who is leaving when the times are getting rough, so too did Ernie Eves. Ernie resigned from his seat in the legislature last January. Both Mike and Ernie seem to live by the same slogan, "When the Going Gets Tough - We're outta here."

Your government has tried to use solid business concepts to run the province but you have failed. Principles of Business 101, state that if a board of directors, for any private corporation takes the company from a profit situation to a loss, in a short period of time, they would all be fired by the shareholders. Ted, we are the shareholders. The next election is our next shareholders meeting. We can't wait.

Richard Boychuk  
Acton.



## Nutcracker Suite

# CAAAAAAAAAARR!

We shouldn't be surprised that it's come to this. A Hamilton woman has demanded that her city enforce a seldom-used bylaw that prohibits playing on the street. In this case, the accused is a 10-year-old boy and his father. Their crime - road hockey. The penalty could be a fine of up to \$2,000.

According to the plaintiff, "This whole thing started over street hockey when the balls kept going into my garden." At first the plaintiff would carefully retrieve the balls but that became tiresome and she ordered the boys not to trespass. When the players persisted she harassed (her word) the police to lay the charge. Obviously the police saw this for what it was, a dispute between neighbours, and would have like to settle things locally. The plaintiff refused and so they went to court last Monday. We may know the decision by the time you read this.

I hope the Judge uses some common sense because the adults involved here are all a slice short of a loaf. This type of neighbourhood dispute should be settled between adults.

Firstly, let me say the plaintiff has every right to expect her neighbours to respect her property. She should not have to put up with her gardens being trampled by excited children retrieving road hockey balls or any other sporting equipment. That said, I think she's acting unreasonably by dragging the police into this mess.

Much of the blame I lay squarely at the feet of the boy's father. The plaintiff claims the father told his children not to pay any attention to her. If true, the father was just escalating the problem. He should have tried to defuse things instead. The neighbourhood involved is in the east end of Hamilton. It's an older area and the lots are not overly wide. Could the game not have been moved down a few doors to avoid errant balls going onto the plaintiff's property? At the very least the children should have been told to be respectful of the adult neighbour. A little calm reason and this whole problem goes away.

Contrary to popular belief, kids do not have the right to play road hockey. In fact most jurisdictions, including ours, have bylaws prohibiting playing on the roads. This makes good sense from a safety standpoint. These bylaws are seldom enforced on quiet side streets. When the police do intervene, nine times out of ten they are responding to a complaint. The police have no choice once a complaint is lodged. So let's not criticize the cops in these cases.

I have chosen not to use the names of the people involved even

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



though they were widely circulated in newspapers, on TV and radio. I think there's a lesson in this for all of us. Parents have to teach children respect for other people and their property. Adults have to calm down and remember that we were once young and carefree ourselves.

The scourge of our street wasn't road hockey. It was Hide and Seek. Home was the lightpost on my front yard. The games were huge, often 20 or 30 kids would be playing. One neighbour complained about kids hiding in her bushes. The rest of us made it plain that this person's property was out of bounds and anyone hiding there was automatically "it."

The games went on for years without court involvement. Those times are one of my kids' most precious memories. The girls always talk about the fun they had when we gathered on the porch. Truth be told, I also have fond memories about being their referee. Until recently, there was a depression in front of our lightpost where "it" stood while the others hid. I thought of them every time I cut the lawn. With a smile and a sigh I would long to enjoy just one more evening with cries of "Homefree" ringing in the air.

I grant you, it's annoying when road hockey players are slow to move aside. I also don't appreciate the surly looks some of them give you as you drive by. But c'mon, we're supposed to be the adults here and we are disrupting the game. None of us are going anywhere so important that a 30-second delay is such a huge inconvenience. So slow down and don't take any chances that you might hit one of the players. You'll get a hell of a lot more than two minutes in the box for charging.

Also in the hockey news is a tragic incident of "Rink Rage." A father in a Boston suburb is on trial for beating his son's coach to death. As incredible as this sounds, anyone who has attended a Minor Hockey League final can see this situation happening. I've written before about a near riot a few years ago when my nephew's team from Picton beat the Erin team in the Ontario finals. It was just ridiculous how some of those parents acted.

Let's call a spade a shovel. For kids playing hockey here, the only ticket into the NHL will be the one they buy at the Air Canada Centre.

Hockey rage is not a new phenomenon. I was a pretty good athlete but a lousy hockey player. I remember a friend's father screaming at me because I allowed an opposing player past to score the winning goal in a house league game. It scared me. I lost the game and a friend. I never played competitive hockey again. It wasn't worth it.

It's not just hockey where parents act like idiots. Years ago I was pressed into service as a soccer coach here in town. I know nothing about soccer. I had the positions drawn on a clipboard. But Convenor Steve Bailey assured me it would be OK. Everyone will understand, he assured me. HA!

The kids were great. Several of the parents were ignorant. I almost belted one jerk who was cursing and swearing at my assistant coach. He didn't know she was my oldest daughter. I was relieved of my duties halfway through the season because the parents complained that I didn't know anything about soccer. Well Duh! I told them that from the Git-go.

How about sweet, graceful, artistic, figure skating? Our skaters have to carry their skates with them when they're at competitions so the skates won't be stolen or damaged. "The bride" laboured over a new outfit for Erin only to be told she'd better change because the judge that day hated green costumes. She changed! I fumed.

I strongly support amateur sports. Our children learn valuable life skills. Sports build stronger bodies. But every single time you hear of a problem it's invariably some jerk of a parent or two who cause it.

The kids must be embarrassed. I think sport teaches a most valuable lesson. How to win with class and lose with dignity. Now if adults would just learn the same lesson we'd all be better off.

Lastly, regarding the little article about moi in last week's paper: Thank you to the many people who felt compelled to comment. The piece seemed so popular the Tanner staff is wondering if we should do a similar piece on Editor Coles. A lively discussion ended with these questions.

"Who could supply us with an appropriate picture?" "Were cameras invented when Hartley was a boy?" "Had bicycles been invented back then?" And bottom line - "Had the wheel been discovered when Hartley was a Tad of a Lad?"

Appropriate submissions will be appreciated.

\*\*\*Editor's Note: As of Jan. 7, 2002, the judge, in Hamilton, had dismissed the charges against the boy and his father.