

GRAPEVINE

Champion chosen

Congratulations to Acton's Jim Warrington whose unselfish acts as a kind neighbour and valued citizen earned him the honour of being named an Acton Community Champion.

Warrington, whose dedication to the Acton Agricultural Society is well known, is less known for being willing to "always lend a helping hand" to his friends and neighbours.

Warrington's nomination form reads, "He keeps an eye on our houses when we all are away and cuts everyone's grass. He even weeds our flowerbeds ... and goes out of his way to make the kids feel special with little gifts and extra treats at Hallowe'en."

The Acton Community Champion program is designed to honour people who demonstrate, through a random act of kindness, heart for this community.

Congrats, Jim.

Glenlea closes

After 29 and a half years at Glenlea drugstore, Acton pharmacist Gary Barton packed up his antique scales, mortars and pestles and moved to the new PharmaPlus store on the weekend.

After his last customer on Saturday, Barton, who came to Acton 33 years ago to work for pharmacist Bill Yundt, supervised moving the pills and potions, shelving and notions to the Acton East plaza.

Barton, who trained in the Air Force, carefully packed his impressive display of apothecary containers for the move, including one tall, green glass cough syrup bottle from his days in the pharmacy at a Quebec army base where he was stationed.

In those days, Barton says he dispensed prescriptions wearing roller skates. No word what he's wearing to get around in the new, larger store.

Card night

The emphasis is on fun and friendly, not cutthroat cards, when Acton area seniors meet for their monthly evening euchre game.

The next euchre night at the Acton Seniors' Centre is February 6, at 7:30 p.m. and organizers are hoping for a good turnout of 50 to 60 people, as both the monthly and daytime weekly games are popular.

The Centre is also gearing up for a February 14, Valentine's Day pot-luck supper by inviting people to bake Valentine's cakes to be entered in a draw.

After the 6 p.m. supper, the band from McKenzie-Smith Bennett

Dr. Landry caring, competent

Dear Editor:

As Dr. Landry stated in a letter to his patients last week in The New Tanner, through an oversight his annual Physician's fees were late, resulting in a lengthy process to be reinstated.

We have been patients of Dr. Landry for 25 years, and he is a caring, competent, concerned doctor. He has never had a complaint against him. We have the utmost re-

School is booked to play.

Fade to black

Cogeco 14 closes its Acton office for good in two weeks as it moves its production facilities to a storefront in a Milton plaza.

The move was no surprise - the company closed its business office on Main Street North more than a year ago as it centralized operations to save money.

The Acton facility, which is for sale, was built in 1990 by the then Halton Cable Systems. Cogeco says customers won't notice any difference, except they'll have to call 875-9306 to reach the production office.

Home safe

One Acton mom (and Tanner circulation employee) is happy to know her daughter suffered no lasting effects after becoming ill over Christmas while on a school-sponsored trip to Kenya.

Jenna Grossman, 18, a student at the tony Lakefield College School once attended by Prince Edward, spent the holidays with 16 other international students on an African trip, building a dormitory at a school and heading out on safari.

Grossman, who last attended school in Acton in Grade Six, said the best part of the humanitarian trip was "just being with the people and sharing and telling our stories and hearing their stories."

The worst part of the trip was coming down with food poisoning and having to go to a Kenyan hospital, described by Grossman as "pretty scary," for treatment.

Grossman, whose 15-year-old sister Sophie also attends Lakefield, travelled and worked in Costa Rica two years ago on a similar school work trip.

Liberal nod

Halton Hills Councillor John Day will carry the standard for the Liberal party in the next provincial election after being acclaimed as the Halton candidate in a riding association meeting on Saturday in Milton.

Day, a nine-year veteran of Town and Regional Councils, gave a polished speech according to one of the 120 people at the meeting, saying his for Halton is a government which "creates truth and inspires hope."

A landscape architect by trade, Day lost the Liberal nomination in 1999 after Mohan Anand showed up at the nomination meeting with a couple of busloads of new party members. (Tory Ted Chudleigh MPP held his seat with over 20,000-vote plurality.)

spect and confidence in his ability. If anyone in the community wishes to support Dr. Landry, please write to:

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario
80 College Street, Toronto,
Ontario M5G 2E2
Attention Ms. R. Sandhu.
Fax: 416-967-2673.
Thank you,

Mr. & Mrs. C. Gregory



TYING ON THE FEED BAG: The Acton Community Brunch on Sunday morning was in support of the Acton Tanner Major Novices and, left to right, Roger Kirkness, 8, Dylan Cremora, 8, and Harold Kirkness, 4, were there to support the team. - Angela Tyler photo

Robert Little Grade 2s

Ickiest things that ever happened

Students at Robert Little Public School recently wrote stories on the topic: "The ickiest thing that ever happened to me." Following are some of the stories written by Mrs. McCluskey's grade two class:

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I wanted to play downstairs. I was about to step in my cat's poo but just in time I didn't step in it. - Ashley

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was that someone put a flower in my desk and it said Your Secret Admirer. It was from someone in our class. - Leah

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I stepped in cow crap. I was in my Uncle's barn looking for my cow. And then it happened!!! I stepped in cow crap. It happened six months ago. It was on July 2nd. Right after Canada's birthday with the fireworks. And it was in the afternoon. - Jonathan V.

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was I was watering my Mom's flowers and then I was weeding them. Then, right in the middle of the garden I saw a toad, a small greasy, slippery, yucky toad. Then I picked it up and put it into the bucket. I went down to the park and put it in the water and then I ran home. When I got home, I found

another toad in the driveway. Now I am never, never, never doing the garden again. - Luc

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I brought my turtle outside. I was playing with it and my Mom ran over it. It was gross and I had to pick it up. Blood squirted on my face. - Jeremy

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when my baby sister pooped all over. Some of it even went on my skin. - Derek

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I was out in the backyard and I was walking around the garden. I saw a hole and I saw a black thing. I thought it was a shoe lace and I picked it up. It wasn't a shoe lace - it was a worm! So I quickly dropped it and went inside and washed my hands. Then I went back outside to play. - Allison

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I split my chin. My sister was having a bath. I slipped on some water and hit my chin. I yelled Ouch!! My Mom and Dad ran into the room. Then I went to the doctor's. - Jeff

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I went outside to go in the backyard. Then I saw a toad bone. - Alicia

The ickiest thing that ever happened

to me was when I was brushing my teeth. When I finished brushing them, I came down and my foot went in the toilet! My socks got wet and then I had to change them. - Shenita

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I got bit by a snapping turtle. I tried to pet it. Then it bit me. I was bleeding. It really hurt. - Matthew

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I was out in my backyard. I heard a squeak and a squirrel got ran over by a bus. - Stephanie

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was a frog pooped on my shoe at my Gramma's. - Josh

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I went to pick up a snake. I thought it was a branch, but it was a snake! - Jessica

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I got stitches in my finger. My brother threw a glass plate at me. - Kenny

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when I threw up in the pool. My Mom was screaming! - Kyle

The ickiest thing that ever happened to me was when my dad almost cut off his index finger or his middle finger. Now he has a scar around his finger. It's a good thing he didn't show us the cut. - Robyn

Existing businesses hurt by expansion

To the editor,

We read with distress of the proposed opening of a Pet Value store in the new mall in east Acton. What is going on? Do the mall owners really want to possibly destroy some existing small businesses in the community? Where is the voice of the council in this? Is Acton, which has been such a great little town with an active downtown for the more than 30 years we have lived here, going to end up little more than an ugly straggle of strip malls along the highway?

We made a conscious decision to avoid shopping at the relocated IGA when we heard it was going to be open 24-hours a day and include a photo developing service, which is quite unnecessary for the survival of the IGA but may make it difficult for many of the existing 7-11 stores and the photo store in Acton. And now we read about plans for a Pet Value! What will this mean to the existing pet supply store, a small family business just minutes from the new mall?

Through our family's close association, with medical care in Acton, we have been able to witness the ben-



efits of the very personal care and service that Bill Yundt and his wonderful staff are able to offer, especially to the elderly and residents of the group homes downtown. What will happen to these people when this centrally-located pharmacy has to similarly leave the downtown core, now that the IGA anchor has gone? (And no, for many of these citizens, a bus shuttle service will not replace being able to walk there.)

We don't have to simply mutely follow in this path, sacrificing community and responsibility to one another according to one definition of "progress." In years to come, as the population of Acton expands, yes, there may be room to support a number of stores offering overlapping services. We realize that the new mall will create employment, but what of the people in existing stores who may be driven out of business? Would it be that difficult for the new mall owners to simply make a deci-

sion to bring in only new types of business, rather than possibly deliver a deathblow to some that already exist by callously permitting direct competition? It's easy to think of numerous services and businesses that would be a welcome addition to our town.

One of us, having travelled and worked as a professional in international development and policy for more than 20 years, has seen firsthand the impact of this type of diminishment of community worldwide. There are many towns that are in fact now desperately working to bring back the strong community core that Acton still has, but seems threatened to lose.

We urge like-minded citizens of Acton to please continue to support the already-existing small businesses in this town. These people are your neighbours, and they rely on your business. Think about the social impact of where you shop. Whether or not one thinks about it consciously, shopping is a political act with social and ethical consequences.

Joy, Jane and John Dougan