

GRAPEVINE



Rule Britannia

Wetherby's will be festooned with Union Jacks and portraits of the Monarch on Sunday as the Acton all things British store celebrates the Queen's 50 years on the throne with Regal Day.

The Golden Jubilee fun will feature a garden party with refreshments, a large selection of Jubilee collectibles and souvenirs and a remote broadcast by AM740 radio.

The Acton Citizens Band will also play - including both God Save the Queen and O Canada - as well as other favourites and Wetherby's owner Jo Lister, who still carries a Yorkshire accent despite almost 37 years in Canada, will also display some official photos from the Queen's Jubilee.

"I've got a very large collection of official photos of the Royal family and a collection of the London Illustrated News," Lister said, adding there'll also be lucky draws for royal souvenirs, Union Jack flags and a putting game for the kids and a large card for well wishers to sign before it's sent to the Queen.

Book bonanza

Looking for a great read at a great price? Check out the annual giant used book sale at the Acton library on Saturday (June 8) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hundreds of discarded items - everything from children's and adult's books, magazines, cassettes and laser discs - will be offered at rock bottom prices.

Past sales have been very popular, so shop early for the best deals.

Bible school

Looking for a week of fun, Bible stories, games, crafts, songs and snacks for your kids aged five to 12?

Pre-registration for Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held on Tuesday (June 11) at Bethel Christian Reformed church. Registrations by mail will be accepted until June 21 for the popular program which runs mornings from July 1 to 5 at Bethel CRC.

This year's theme is SonCanyon River Adventure and involves learning about wilderness excursions, creating works of art and according to the brochure, learning that "God's wisdom will guide them through each adventure that life brings." A donation of \$2 per child and \$5 per family is suggested to help cover costs.

Physio help

Thanks to a number of fundraisers - including a barbecue last weekend at the Acton clinic of Eramosa Physiotherapy Associates, (EPT) - Acton's Off The Wall youth centre will remain open on Mill Street - at least to the end of the month.

EPA partner, physiotherapist

Life on my street...

Continued from Page 4

petition between neighbours to keep their homes looking topnotch.

Last month it turned 10 years since I moved in. Last month, a 'for sale' sign went up on 73 Danville. That's where Buck, Kerry and their kids live. They are one of the last who were here the day I moved in. I remember the day their son Tyler was born (maybe it was the name that stuck in my head).

So now it's me, maybe one other family, and a whole bunch of new neighbours. It's a different story now. There are new faces with names I don't know and the lawn maintenance competition is gone. Peel Street is the same as well. I barely know anybody on the street now.

Robin Collins said that along with the barbecue, they had door prizes (donated by Acton Home Hardware, IGA, M&M Meats, Guelph Lakes Golf and Country Club) and invited the public into the clinic for a look around.

"I asked some of my patients where the proceeds from the day should go, and several suggested that Off The Wall was a good cause and needed the money," Robin said, adding it was nice to do something for the community.



IGA Kids rule

Congrats to Acton's Nicholas Van der Eyken, 8, (above) who is the lucky winner of two front row tickets to the Toronto Blue Jays' August 5th game against Baltimore.

Nicholas' name was pulled on Saturday from among the 300 entries submitted in the first of what will be monthly draws of prizes for members of the new IGA Kid's Club.

"We have over 700 kids entered in the club and although it has slowed down, I'm still getting about 25 new members signing up each week," said Club organizer Monica Manes.

Each time a Kid's Club member comes to the store with an adult they can fill out a ballot for the draws and select a treat from the treasure chest.

Preschoolers wanted

The Grade 11 parenting class at Acton High School is looking for 10 local pre-schoolers that it can "enroll" in a free morning playschool running from June 10 to 14.

The playschool is the classes' final class project - they've planned themed activities, snacks and crafts and had childcare and safety training - but don't have the three-to-five-year-old, toilet-trained kids to practice on.

Teacher Joan Boychuk said the playschool is a tradition at Acton High and it's the first hands-on experience the class, 17 this year, three of them male, has had.

The playschool runs June 10 to 14, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Call Joan at the school for details.

As I drove home the other night there were two street hockey games. The first one was at the entrance of the cul-de-sac. The children stopped play and waved me through like a police officer directing traffic.

In the court, there was another game in play with about 10 kids. It was at that time I had regained that feeling of belonging, which I lost as the last for sale sign went up on Buck and Kerry's house.

I find comfort in knowing that the children playing together are starting their own extended family. They were playing together, going to school together and going to each other's birthday parties the way I had on Peel Street. The cycle is starting all over again.



GOLF SONGS? Musical theatre star Michael Burgess and Father Mark Curtis, also known as Canada's Singing Priest, Father, (middle left and right) teamed up with Glenn Kean and Mark De Bruyne during the second annual Mayor's Heritage Golf Tournament at Blue Springs last Thursday. - Frances Niblock photo

And now, the end is near

My mother was a huge Frank Sinatra fan. It was natural, therefore, that the words from 'My Way' came to me when I first heard the shocking news that Paul Martin had been turfed from cabinet.

By the time you read this, the Martin departure will have been analyzed and dissected Ad Nauseum. Some folks say he resigned, others that he was fired. Once past the semantics, it's obvious that Martin was shuffled out of office by a petty Prime Minister concerned primarily with his own inflated ego.

Martin and the PM have always been reluctant partners. They worked together more out of necessity than pragmatism. Chretien had to appoint a Finance Minister who could control the deficit. Martin needed a senior portfolio to convince the rank and file he was not too far on the right to deserve a shot at 24 Sussex under the Liberal banner.

It's been obvious since the last election that Martin was not going to be the PM's choice as his successor. If anyone, John Manley seems to be his pick. This was reinforced when Manley got the plum financial portfolio. If Manley is the appointed one I guess that proves the PM has a warped sense of humour. Either that or he doesn't want to risk being succeeded by a competent and popular administration (Martins).

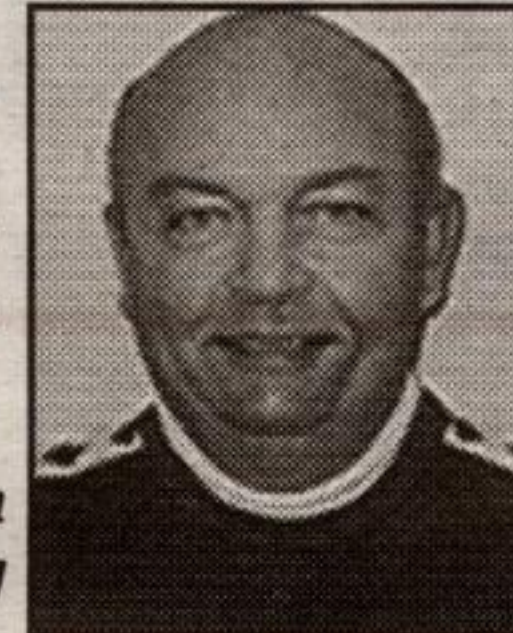
The Prime Minister is ruled more and more by his search for what he considers a suitable legacy. Recent polls indicating Canadians think his government is corrupt shocked him. Cascading revelations of rancid porkbarreling threatened to overwhelm his meagre parliamentary achievements.

So now the fun begins. It appears Mr. Chretien is planning to run for a fourth term. Time is running out on Mr. Martin so he's rolled the dice. If Martin is going to be PM he has to go for it during the next election. But first he has to engineer Mr. Chretien's departure. As Bill Shakespeare said: "There's the Rub."

Liberals pride themselves on not being as publicly self-destructive as the Tories. Don't expect to see a spectacle like the farce surrounding the ouster of Stockwell Day. Whatever the Martin troops have in mind will be much more Machiavellian. Behind the scenes, the political arm-twisting has already started. The climax will come at the mandatory leadership review during the liberal convention next Feb-

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



ruary.

Don't count Mr. Chretien out. He's a proven political street fighter and that may his Achilles Heel. Cabinet shuffles over the past two weeks show the PM tends to bully his way through problems. The sacking of Art Eggleton was especially picayune. I think the victor in this struggle will be the man who wields a scalpel rather than a broadsword.

Canadians tend to vote against a party rather than for one. The Tories were ousted because of the GST not because the Chretien Liberals looked so good. I'm not saying that Mr Chretien is as despised as Mr Mulroney but even loyal Liberals think it's time Mr Chretien left. Each month he becomes more of a national embarrassment. God only knows what faux pas he will make between now and the G8 Summit this month in Alberta.

Mr Chretien made the first blunder. Mr Martin said he heard about his replacement being sworn in on the radio. To treat a popular senior minister in such a shameful manner testifies to the arrogance in the Chretien camp. They think they can get away with anything.

It will be interesting to see what other ministers will do. I wonder if any of them have the testicular fortitude to resign their portfolios and join Martin on the backbenches. That's what did John Diefenbaker in. A half-dozen ministers deserted and he was forced to resign. Chretien's cabinet is loaded with loyal party hacks so I don't expect much movement. Especially with the ongoing RCMP investigation into corruption gathering steam.

Actually, I'm almost cynical enough to think that Martin and Chretien came to some agreement as to when the PM would step aside. Then this whole dog-and-pony show was trotted out to drive the corruption scandals off the front page. Firing Eggleton didn't do the job. Perhaps this is Plan B.

It's probably absurd to suggest that these guys would be that duplicitous with the Canadian people. On the other hand, I wouldn't put anything past them.

Has Chretien painted himself into a corner? Before this, he could have exited after the G8 with all the usual pomp and ceremony. Now, if he resigns, everyone will assume he couldn't stand up to the Martin juggernaut. I'd say that if Chretien survives the leadership review that he'll definitely run for a fourth term.

That could be good news for conservatives if they shuffle Joe Clark off and come to some agreement with the Alliance. Clark, like Chretien, is well past his 'best before' date. If the Conservative right remains split then the next election is a foregone conclusion. Even Tequila Sheila Copps could lead the Liberals to a fourth term.

Paul Martin could unite this country. I think he'd be an excellent Prime Minister. Unfortunately, Chretien and Cohorts still have the handles of power firmly in their grasp. They may deny Martin his opportunity. We can only hope that saner heads will prevail and Mr Chretien takes a graceful exit before February. But I wouldn't count on it.

I hope Paul Martin isn't forced to exit the national stage wearing the same mantle as Ed Broadbent. That is: The best Prime Minister we never had.

Hold tight. One way or another the next few months will be a wild ride.

Ok, Ok, I'll admit to being wrong and it now seems highly unlikely that the Leafs will win Lord Stanley's Mug this year. That's 35 years in a row that my predictions have been somewhat off. I'm nothing, if not consistent.

It was a great run and our boys gave it a valiant effort. A couple of trades and we'll shore-up our weak spots. In hindsight, we probably brought the wakening wounded back too soon. I would suggest that Coach Quinn tell Kaberle it is acceptable to actually shoot at the net, and, oh yes, please sign Nathan Dempsey.

No excuses are necessary. No could'a - would'a - should'a. Those hillbillies beat us at our own game. Obviously, the hockey gods were not smiling at us. I say it's all Ron McKnight's fault for disrupting the force, but that's just this fan's opinion. Next year, providing we resign some of our free agents, things are looking pretty good.

No doubt about it. Next year Stanley's coming home.

Go Leafs Go!