

# GRAPEVINE



## Babies galore

Fifty-four babies – from sleepy newborns to rambunctious toddlers – crowded into the tent at the Acton Fall Fair on Saturday for the popular baby show.

Held by their anxious parents (and in some cases proud grandparents) the babies, cuties one and all, were judged on their personalities and developmental skills.

Winning is getting to be old hat for two toddlers – Mackenzie Howard and Hunter McCauley – who took home first place red ribbons for the second year in a row.

Each baby was a winner, as all entrants received a prize bag of donated goods.

## Generous donation

Thanks to the generosity of local businessman and The New Tanner columnist/curmudgeon Mike O'Leary, fair goers were able to pick up giftware at great prices during the fair.

O'Leary donated some stock from his recently closed Today's Idea store to the Acton Agricultural Society that set up a booth and did a brisk business.

## Fast and free

Thanks to the generosity of Tyler Transport, 446 fair goers bypassed parking hassles by riding a free shuttle bus back and forth between the Legion to Prospect Park.

Tyler's donated the bus used to transport the Miss Acton pageant contestants back and forth from Knox Church to the fairgrounds during the pageant and also provided a truck to deliver the beer to the beer tent on Friday and to take back the empties.

## Accessible hall

Plans are being made to increase accessibility to the Band Hall on Wallace Street with a ramp and a wheel-chair friendly washroom.

Federal money – funnelled through the provincial government – and Acton Citizens' Band cash will be used to pay for the work, which also may include new storage for the Band's instruments.

The Band shares the hall with a popular mom and tot drop-in program run by Halton Hills Community Support and Information.

## Church anniversary

St. Alban's Church is preparing to celebrate its 130th anniversary in Acton next month with special services, a dance and a campfire.

For the anniversary service on October 6, church officials have invited past ministers and bishops and hope that the congregation will dress in period costumes.

## Tree time

There's still time to purchase a

beautiful Colorado Blue Spruce tree and help Halton Women's Place raise money for a new facility in Burlington.

The Rotary Club of Acton is selling the locally-grown trees until September 22, with deliveries scheduled for October 5 and 6, just in time for fall planting.

The five-foot trees are priced at \$75 and the tallest 11-foot trees are \$200. For details call Herb at 853-2423.

## Chamber honour

Congrats to Georgetown's Doug Penrice who received the long-time volunteer award from the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce at its annual general meeting at Blue Springs Golf Club in Acton last Thursday. Penrice was honoured for his two decades of dedication and hard work for the Chamber.

The Chamber also gave gift baskets to 43 volunteers who gave their time and talents to Chamber events last year and the olde Hide House president Steve Dawkins accepted the Chamber's 2002 Civic Pride award to for its Leathertown Centre development.

## Name change?

Most of the IGA Garden Market stores in Ontario are converting their name to Sobeys, which owns IGA and Price Chopper stores, but the Acton store is bucking the trend, for now.

Acton IGA owner Mike Manes said Sobeys Inc. is making the changes because of customer perceptions that "IGAs are more small town," but since "we own the whole thing, we don't have to, although legally they can force us to change."

Manes said the outside signs will continue to read Garden Market, but all of the advertising will change to just say IGA.

## Party time

Acton's Bronze Salon is celebrating its first anniversary with in-store product discounts and a customer appreciation party on Saturday (September 21) at the Legion.

"I've have over 1,000 clients and I couldn't handle that many if I had a drop-in and I didn't want to take a chance with the weather to have a barbecue in the parking lot, so I decided to rent the Legion," owner Darlene Saunders said.

The party will feature a disc jockey, raffles, door prizes and a silent auction with proceeds earmarked for Halton Women's Place.

Saunders said local businesses have been very generous in donating goods and services for the silent auction.

to become Miss CNE, but she is not too young to dream. She is young enough to have fun, yet mature enough to present herself in an appropriate fashion.

Maybe it doesn't matter if beauty pageants are dated and when it comes right down to it judging people is a bad thing. Maybe all that matters is that the sparkle in Miss Acton Fall Fair's eyes was bigger than the twinkle in the plastic crown, and for one year she is a Queen.

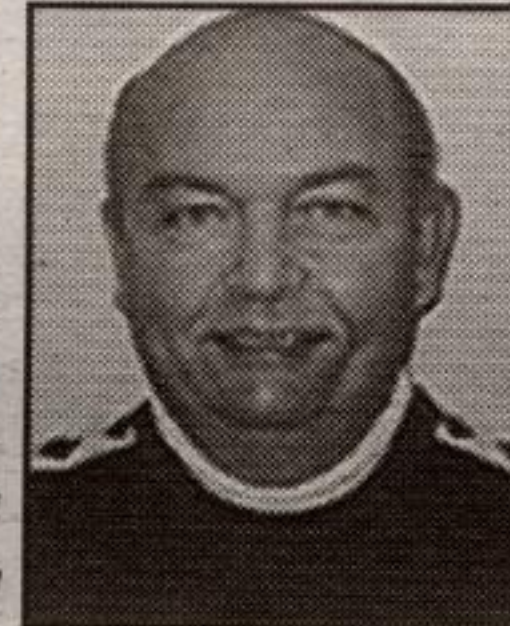


**CIVIC PRIDE:** Olde Hide House vice-president Cathy Coles (right) and president Steve Dawkins accepted the 2002 Civic Pride award for their Leathertown Centre development at the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting on Thursday at Blue Springs Golf Club. On hand to congratulate the awardees were (from left) Chamber member Norm Paget, Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle, Halton MP Julian Reed and Halton chairman Joyce Savoline. – Frances Niblock photo

# What results do we want?

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



How long, oh Lord, how long must we put up with this dysfunctional Prime Minister? Even long time Liberal supporters are disgusted with him. Will the Liberals really inflict this man on us until February 2003? Surely, someone will have mercy on us.

His comments on September 11, which could be interpreted as blaming western society for the murderous attacks of 911, were at best intemperate. Many think they bordered on the obscene. With all the money we spend on his support staff, shouldn't he have a speechwriter with some grasp of current events? Or at least a muzzler?

We should have seen this coming when Mr. Chretien chose African poverty as the centrepiece of the G-8 conference earlier this year. This project is obviously his long hoped for legacy. On the surface, this issue seems to be a no-brainer (that's fitting). Who, after all, would ever declare themselves to be pro-African poverty? The problem is in the implementation.

African poverty is not going to be solved by showering money on the various African governments. All too often aid money is siphoned off to support oppressive regimes or purchase military equipment which is used to enslave and murder their own people. We all watched and supported the dismantling of Apartheid in South Africa. I was especially moved by the ecstasy shown by folks who lined-up to vote for the first time. Especially since this right is something we take for granted. But the country has not progressed. In fact, the opposite occurred. South Africa is now one of the most dangerous countries in the world in which to live.

Now before the howls of outrage start, I am not suggesting a return to Apartheid. Consider what we in the west have done, or not done, in that dismal land. Western powers have historically acted, both covertly and overtly, against regimes we oppose. I think we have the best of intentions. But all too often we walk away far too soon and leave a power vacuum. It's just not good enough to declare "There you go, now you're a democracy. Have a nice day."

The sad truth of humanity is that nature abhors a vacuum. Westerners don't understand the tribal loyalties that exist there. The powerful will always try to enslave the weak.

I think we have to provide immediate food and medical aid to the African

people. But we have to go further and stop doing some things. I would start by enlisting all western countries to stop sending military equipment to African nations. I would establish a sea blockade to back this up. I would establish several fast reaction UN Military divisions to protect African states' territorial sovereignty. I would be ruthless with armament companies who defied the embargo. I'd start by jailing for life, in Africa, executives who are adding to the misery of those suffering millions while enriching themselves.

Would it be expensive? Yes! But not as expensive as conducting scores of wars against potential terrorists and mass murderers. We must also stop trying to impose our way of life on other cultures and let the natural customs of those countries prevail. They don't have to have a mirror image of our democracy for our assistance to be considered successful. We should be satisfied with peace in their lives and food in their bellies.

This is the failing I see in Mr. Chretien's plan. All I've heard from him is that we have to spend more doing the same old, same old. History has proven that those tactics don't work. Unlike Mr. Chretien, I'm not suggesting we should be ashamed of our wealth. I say we should be damned proud of our successes.

Because if the western world wasn't so wealthy – who would be in a position to help alleviate the suffering in this world?

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We at The New Tanner are justifiably proud of the interest readers take in our weekly efforts. This was demonstrated again at the fair last weekend. Many, many people approached me about the letter regarding our town's youth and vandalism, which appeared last week. Although many of the comments can't be repeated in a family newspaper, here are a few of the highlights.

Regarding the proposal for a legal graffiti wall – well, that dog won't hunt. (Translation – dumb idea; forget it). I do have a modest suggestion. Perhaps the

"graffiti artists", an oxymoron if I ever heard one, could use the garage doors or walls of their own houses. Just a thought.

I have had the pleasure of knowing hundreds of youths in Acton. They are neither bored, unheard, misunderstood, disrespected or angrier than any other teens in any other generation. There are many activities available in Acton if you choose to participate. Sane people do not consider pansy pitching or tree homicide to be acceptable youth activities.

Actually a higher Police Presence does help. Before we had a Village Constable, people were afraid to walk downtown and drugs were sold openly. Constable Riddle began the program that Constable George continues today. They re-established the rule of law with an even-handed approach. It may come as a surprise to some social engineers that much of their information regarding crimes comes from so called "Street Kids." They have a relationship based on respect, not fear.

I'm tired of hearing "it takes a village a raise a child." If that were true, where do I send the bill for the town's share of my daughters' university expenses! It seems to me that people who chant this particular mantra are never interested in sharing the responsibilities of raising children. They just want to lecture us on how to do it. To all those folks, with all due respect – P@#% Off!

Youth have not changed, but the problems they face are certainly different. As adults, we have an obligation to assist our children to make the right decisions. We all succeed to a greater or lesser degree. If we want our children to be responsible adults, shouldn't we be teaching them responsibility from day one?

Making excuses for mindless vandalism will not encourage good citizenship. It will ensure the child will grow to an adult with no self-control, no sense of community and no respect for others. I want more than that for all the children in this town.

There did seem to be some agreement that we should not "give troublemakers a one way ticket to Vancouver." We have nothing against Vancouver. Baffin Island was a suggested alternative. There, they could write in the snow with spray paint or anything else their little hearts desire.

But they can't do it here. Not without consequences.

# Dreaming of wearing a tiara!...

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was hoping for a silly, juvenile story like she slept in the cape with the crown on her head. Instead, the big smile and sparkling eyes reappeared. Miss Acton Fall Fair, aka Rachel, told me how she laid her sash, cape and crown in front of her bed so she could see it as she fell asleep Friday night. It was the perfect answer for our Queen.

Rachel Wallace, Miss Acton Fall Fair, is only 15. She is too young