

GRAPEVINE

Long distance dining

Hope Geordie Wheeler gets to enjoy the large Godfathers pizza he won at the Acton Fall Fair. Wheeler is from Dunedin, New Zealand – clearly out of the Godfathers delivery area.

Godfathers manager Deb Fendley said they had a good laugh when they drew Wheeler's name, and 11 others, from people who had bought tickets for the Rotary Club of Acton steer draw.

For the past two years, Godfathers, along with IGA, have paid the printing costs of the Rotary's tickets, and as an extra incentive, Fendley offers one large pizza per month to 12 people who purchased steer draw tickets.

Fendley said she was surprised to see other far-flung winners including ones from Regina, Fenelon Falls and Waterdown.

"It's nice to see that so many people from so far away are coming out to see our fair," Fendley said.

Sports Spectacular

In response to requests for more Town programs in Acton, the recreation and parks department is launching Sports Spectacular next month.

The eight-week program – one geared for six and seven-year-olds and the other for nine to 12-year-olds – will teach sports skills and sports etiquette with coaches instructing participants in various sports, chosen by the participants, which could include basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer and handball.

Sports Spectacular begins October 16 at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School. The cost is \$43. To register call the Town.

Tutors wanted

Are you someone who likes people, is patient and has three hours a week available to volunteer? If so, Literacy North Halton could use you as a tutor to help clients with their basic reading, spelling, writing, math or beginner computer skills.

No teaching experience is necessary, the group will train tutors and provide resource material. The next orientation session is October 1. Call 905-873-2200 for details.

Brunch time

The popular Acton Community Brunch resumes on Sunday (September 29) at the arena after a summer hiatus.

Run by the Kinette Club of Acton the \$5, all you can eat buffet was initiated as a way to build community spirit.

Blame the French Judge?

continued from page 6

but it doesn't hide the truth." Wallace said she entered Miss Acton because her friends convinced her and she did it "for fun".

Maybe it was fun for the ex-Miss Acton, but it can't be fun anymore. It can't be fun for her family. It can't be fun for Rachel, whose reputation could be tarnished by the incident and, which also could affect her dream of a future law career. It's not fun for the fair board and Miss Acton committee who now appear haphazard in some ways. And, it is

The local chapter of the I.O.D.E. is co-sponsoring this brunch – in exchange for cooking, serving and clearing; it will share in the profits.

The brunch runs from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

More Fox Run money

Thanks to the efforts of local high school students and a local business, the Acton Terry Fox run will even more of a success.

Acton High School staged its annual Terry Fox Run on Thursday as students, staff and teachers raising pledges of \$1,021.35 for cancer research.

As well, staff at Acton's Prosperity One raised \$1,000 in donations and pledges for the Terry Fox Run, a donation that will be matched by Prosperity One's charitable community action fund.

Run organizer Jon Hurst said Acton always generates more than its pledges and was confident this year's event, the 20th, would raise well more than the \$29,500 pledged.

Last year, Acton was 10th highest run site in Ontario based on dollars raised per capita.

Double the fun

Twins Bob Marshall of Acton and Ella Marshall Morton of Guelph celebrated their 85th birthday, separately, on the weekend.

Although the twins and other siblings and extended families usually get together for one big birthday bash, health issues forced the brother and sister to hold separate parties in Brampton and Guelph.

Bob Marshall said he doesn't know who was born first at Mrs. Smethurst's nursing home in The Crescent in 1916.

When asked if he looks like his twin, Marshall passed the phone to his wife Lil.

"Round face, fair hair. They look alike," she said.

Books for cats

Cats Anonymous, a registered charity, is holding its third annual used book and garage sale in Rockwood on Saturday (September 28) at the St. John's Anglican Church Hall.

Organizers are asking for donations of used books and Knechtels/A&P shopping receipts, used postage stamps and Canadian Tire money that is used to buy supplies. All proceeds are earmarked for the Cats Anonymous no-kill-shelter.

The sale runs from 10 a.m., to 4 p.m.

definitely not fun for the people of Acton who are shaking their heads in bewilderment over the conduct of one 15-year-old all for the honour of wearing a plastic crown and winning a few hundred dollars in prizes.

The royal court has adjourned on the would be lawyer. The verdict for the Queen is disbarment.

Out with the old Queen...on to the heir and the spare. Hail to a new Queen, but the question now is, does the first runner up become Miss Acton or will she abdicate the throne?



STUDENTS FOR TERRY: Acton High School students, teachers and staff held their own Marathons of Hope last Thursday as they raised money for the local Terry Fox Run. Their hard work is expected to put the run total over the \$29,500 pledged. – Frances Niblock photo

Just trying to be helpful

You may have noticed that the Halton Public School Board has been receiving lots of flack over a weekend Professional Development Seminar for principals. The problem is not with the seminar, it's the optics. Many taxpayers are angry that the board held the meeting at a resort rather than use one of their own facilities to save money.

I find myself somewhat on the boards' side on this issue. I have conducted many seminars over the years and the most productive ones were held out of town. Participants are away from day to day irritants and are therefore able to concentrate on the issues at hand without distraction. In addition, the leisure time is an excellent opportunity for team building and brainstorming.

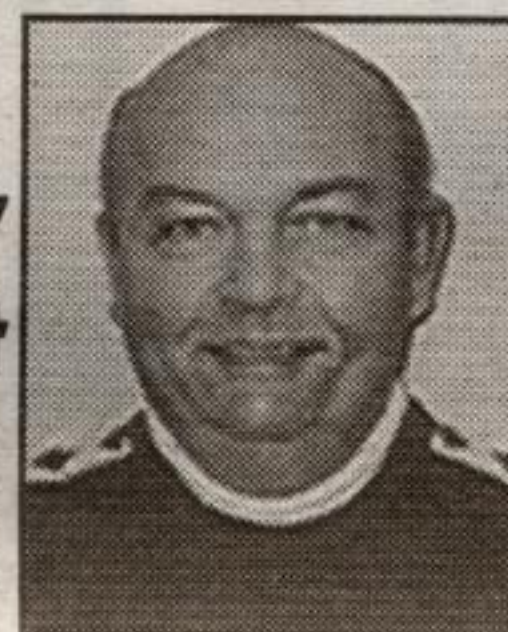
I have found that through specific timing substantial savings are available. Perhaps the board could consider scheduling future meetings in the off-season. I found late fall and early spring to be good times to maximize value for money spent.

The Board is in a lose-lose situation trying to stonewall or argue with angry taxpayers. Now that the matter is out in the open, I suggest the Board take a pro-active approach. The Board should publish the agenda, including leisure activities, so the public can see the value in such seminars. What were the objectives for the meeting? Were they met? With all the concern over lack of funding, I'll wager the principals came up with several cost-cutting measures that would not interfere with students. Why not share them with us? Front-line staff always know how to improve the operation. I assume the board welcomes innovative ideas. Just to label the seminar as a "Professional Development" weekend will not satisfy taxpayers' questions.

One reader wrote in to suggest Speyside School as an alternate site to a resort. That's not as far-fetched an idea as it sounds. Major corporations send senior executives off on wilderness expeditions. By working together to survive executives learn about themselves, their own weaknesses and strengths, and how to work as a team to achieve a common goal. If that isn't profes-

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



sional development, I don't know what is.

Principals could camp-out in the school (there's lots of room). Meals could be cooked outside and eaten together in the gym, which can also be used for exercise activities. Participants would organize balanced groups to draw water from Speyside Store. An evening campfire could be held on the playground. The escarpment is right there for nature walks. With all that talent present surely someone would be able to make "Smores." It's worth considering.

I noticed that the Halton Board is spending more on architects' fees for the new school in Georgetown than they are on furniture for the new building. The reason, evidently, is because the site has some peculiar problems. What those problems are we were not told.

My suggestion is that we should always spend more on students' furniture than architects' fees. Here's how. When a new subdivision is proposed, the School Boards have the right to negotiate for a school site before building approvals are given. I think it would be a good idea to select a site, which would allow for a basic designed building to be placed there. Each school could be given it's own personality by varying exterior finishes and/or landscaping. Also, with land values and heating/air conditioning costs so high, shouldn't we be looking at two or three storey schools? Perhaps the new Georgetown School is, but we can't keep building sprawling flat-roofed schools.

Lastly, if the Board is short of funds for new schools I have a radical idea. Why not sell Speyside School before it falls down? We keep asking this question but, for some reason, the Board will not answer it.

Educators make a big deal about how education is a "partnership" between school and home. It's obvious that the "Financial Partner" wants

more information and accountability from the "Operational Partner," (also known as the employee).

School boards must be aware; not many of us are prepared to be "silent partners" any longer.

I wanted to write about the Hydro rates but Hartley beat me to it last week. When I went to pay my account I remarked to the lady at HH Hydro that this bill is \$100.00 higher than usual. Her answer, that I was lucky because other people's bills had doubled, did not make me feel any less ripped-off. I suppose insightful comments like that are part of the \$13.82 we pay monthly for, amongst other things, "Customer Care." I suggest they change the name back to Customer Service and forget the glib remarks.

Supposedly energy demand, caused by a hot summer, drove up the cost of electricity. So many people cranked up their air conditioners that the law of supply and demand escalated prices dramatically. That's not fair.

I don't have home air conditioning. I do have it in my car and I paid an extra tax for it. Perhaps home air conditioners should be taxed or, at least, electricity should be charged for on a sliding scale. The less you use the less you pay per kWh. If you want all the comforts you pay for it.

The bottom line is the Conservative Government screwed-up. It will probably cost them the next election. Wait until we get our bills this winter when lights have to be on, ovens are in use and furnaces are running non-stop. If I were Ernie Eaves I wouldn't be in any rush for the next election.

If MP Chudleigh would like to respond to our concerns we will certainly print his letter.

How would you like to buy something for .79¢ and then have to pay \$5.58 at the cash? It's easy, drive the 407. I took a .79¢ trip and they added \$2.65 because I don't have a transponder, \$2.00 for an account fee, whatever that is, plus .14¢ GST.

Who do they think they are – Hydro? Use the 407 at your peril. I hope all my suggestions are useful. I do like to be helpful.