
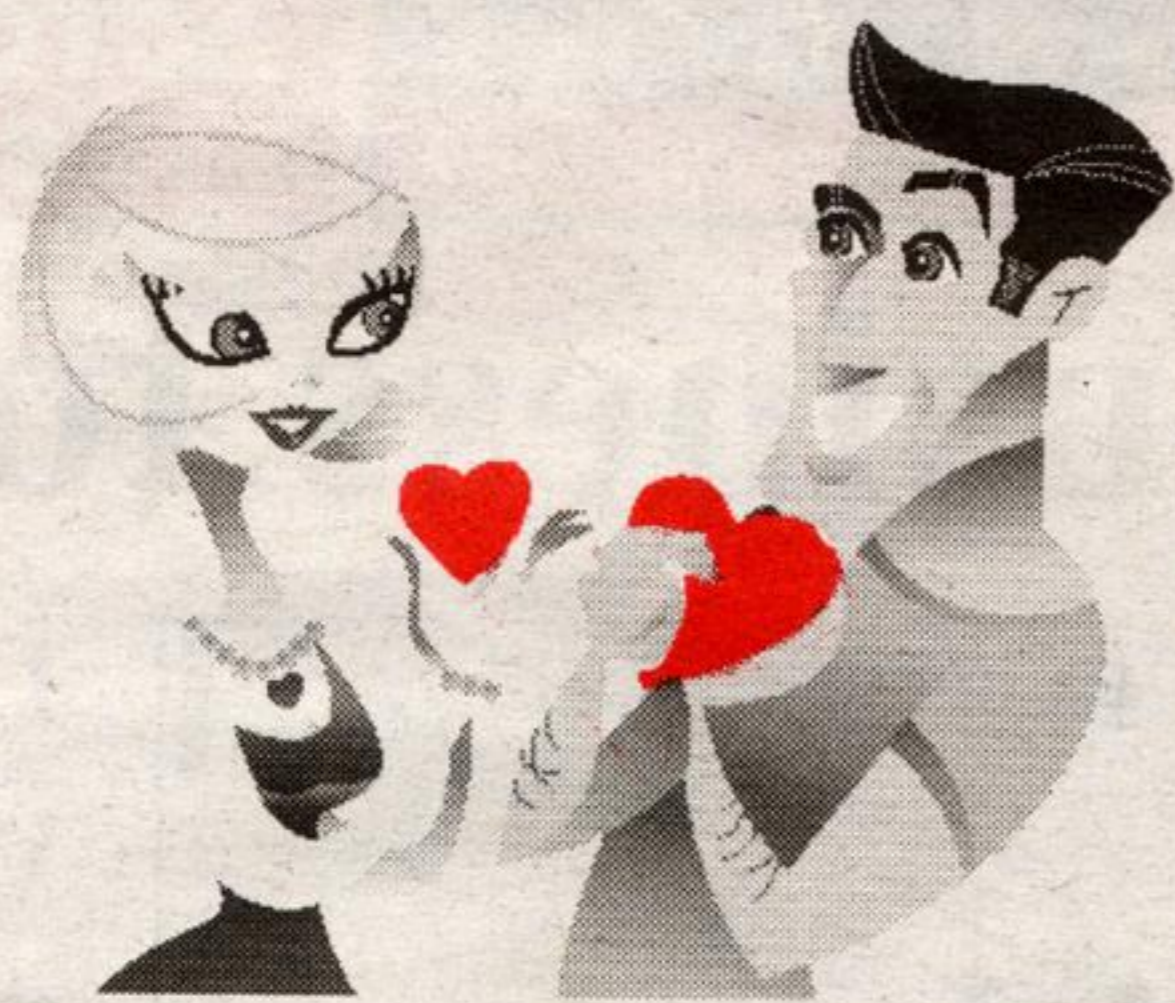


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Bob Austin named CAO...

continued from page 1
He said he did not believe there was a search.

Austin said the promotion thrills him because it is "recognition of who I am, my career here - it has meant something - and it gives you a good feeling that they think that of you," he said, adding he didn't aspire to the top job, but presumed he would retire some day as director of engineering and public works.

"This will put a new twist on it," Austin said, adding there is more of an external learning curve - dealing with the other municipalities, the Region and province - than an internal one because he's done the job for the past six months.

Faced with a tough budget and continued downloading from the province, Austin said he sees opportunities, not challenges or problems.

"We have a new Council, we have a new budget, we have a new CAO and hopefully, all that comes together and has a positive spin to it, a positive

reaction, that we go forward," he said adding "timing is everything."

Asked if he had any trepidation about accepting the job, Austin said, "Oh, always trepidation - to say that it's not a little bit scary. There's always people concerns, and I look at budgets from a whole different reality now," he

said, adding he's developed a big picture view of the Town.

Austin worked for the Ministry of Transportation until hired by the Town in 1974 as deputy engineer. The following year he was named Town engineer, a position he's held for almost 30 years, until July, when he was named Acton CAO.

Police, downtown owners to meet...

continued from page 1

over the Region when people "don't have anything better to do."

"That might be the key right there. There might be a need for something for some of these young people to do," Welsh said, while praising youth programs now in place.

Welsh said the biggest problem is staffing when the two officers in cruisers dedicated to Acton 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, are busy on other calls and there is no one downtown, which the vandals and loiterers take advantage of.

Welsh said police are also following up on a complaint from the businesswoman who said that when she called police in December to report vandals damaging a neighbouring business, she was told police would not respond because it was not her business.

Welsh suggested a Business Watch program,

modelled on the Neighbour Watch anti-crime program - might work in the downtown of Acton, giving police more "eyes and ears."

Blood Clinic Thurs, Feb. 19

Canadian Blood Services continue to experience an unprecedented demand for blood and blood products within the Greater Toronto Region. The demand has been driven by increases in surgeries, traumas and blood-related therapies which are taxing hospital inventories to the limit.

Hospitals require a minimum for day inventory to meet current patient demand. One donation of blood can save up to three lives.

The next Acton blood clinic is on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at the Acton Legion, 15 Wright Ave., Acton. Appointments can be booked by phoning 1-888-2-DONATE.

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