

GRAPEVINE

GOLDEN ARCH

Congrats to Acton McDonald's owner Dave Beatty, one of a very select group of worldwide franchisees to be honoured with a Golden Arch Award for his relentless focus on customer service, significant community involvement and exceptional achievements.

Beatty began his career as a fry-boy at McDonald's 37 years ago and worked his way up through the ranks, buying his first franchise in 1992.

Now in partnership with wife Lucy, Beatty Foods Limited owns eight franchise restaurants including Acton, Georgetown and Brampton.

COP AUCTION

If ever there was a reason to mark your valuables...

All of the goods Halton police have not been able to return to their rightful owners – including 130 bicycles – will be auctioned off on Saturday, beginning at 9:30 a.m., with viewing at 8:30 a.m.

Jewellery, golf clubs, car stereos and fishing rods will also be auctioned in the underground police garage at the Oakville HQ.

Terms are cash or cheque with proper identification.

SAP TIME

The theme is maple this Saturday at the Limehouse Memorial Hall for the Sweet Taste of Spring – an annual fundraising to help with hall restoration costs.

The menu – pancakes, maple-baked beans and maple sweets – will be served from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Baked goods and maple syrup will also be for sale.

GOOD DEALS

Do you have good quality infant and children's cloths, toys, games, books, strollers, high chairs or playpens that you don't need any longer?

Organizers of the Spring Mom to Mom sale at St. Alban's Church are looking for vendors to sell their baby/children stuff at the April 22 sale.

Call Susanne at 853-0390 for details.

SURVEY SAYS

Now is your chance to tell the Town what you would like to see in the way of recreation and parks programs – the Town is asking residents to take a few minutes to complete it's recreation needs survey.

Those who complete surveys

before March 31 will receive a free swimming/skating pass. The surveys are available at all Town facilities and at www.haltonhills.ca.

HONOUR FIREFIGHTERS

Long service medals for 25 years of service to Halton Hills Fire Protection & Prevention Services were presented to nine firefighters at a formal presentation and dinner in Markham on Tuesday, March 21. Hosted by the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office, the Ontario Fire Marshall Bernard Mayle presented medals to Captain Doug Andrews, Captain Doug Hewitt, Captain Steve McKnight, A/Captain Doug Ferguson, Fire Safety Specialist Bruce Lewis, Safety Officer John Packett, Captain David Ford, Captain Bill McGilloway and Firefighter Lyle Preuter.

Spouses were also formally recognized and presented with the Fire Services "Companion Brooch," designed in an Ontario trillium motif.

PUSH IS ON

The snow is in retreat, the trash is popping up – can Clean Up Day be far behind? If Mayor Bonnette, Councillor Clark Somerville and Josey Bonnette of the BIA can be believed, the push is on. Friday, April 21 is the 20 Minute Make-over Day for businesses, schools and institutions to break out the gloves, garbage bags and rakes to spruce up their grounds. All good corporate citizens are asked to contact the public works department 905-873-2601 ext 2601, to register and arrange for special pick-up. Garbage bags and gloves will be available at the Acton BIA office.

On Saturday, April 22 the rest of the volunteers will be hitting the roads, boulevards, parks and vacant lots to clear away the winter's flotsam and jetsam. Clean-Up volunteers should call Public Works at 905-873-2601 ext 2601 to let them know where the clean-up will take place and to arrange for a garbage bag pick-up location. Garbage bags and gloves can be obtained from the Works Yard office or the Acton BIA.

ADHD SUPPORT GROUP

Parents of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder can meet to discuss issues and share ideas on Tuesday, April 4 from 7-9 p.m. at 290 Main Street S, Georgetown Alliance Church. Please call 905-873-2960 for information.

glide over the ice like it was butter. Number 30 scored our only goal and it was a glorious sight to see. What was even better to see was how these kids, which I kept referring to as cute little things gave it their all and really enjoyed the game while their surrogate mom was in the top row yelling at the top of her lungs to "GO...GO...GO" as they skated towards the net.



SIGN OF THE TIMES: A small but dedicated group of community members, Town staff and councillors gathered early Saturday morning beside the Acton Arena and Community Centre to unveil the sign for the "3 Musketeers Skateboard Park." After five years of hard work the Acton Sports Action Park (ASAP) committee is finally seeing their dream come to fruition with construction of the skateboard park set to begin in late summer. - Danielle McIsaac photo

Hot times in our little town

Last Saturday night Mary and I were honoured to be present at the Acton Legion's 75th Anniversary celebration. The main room was packed with Legion members and guests. The whole evening was a top notch affair beginning with the life members and past presidents being piped in with our country's colours and ending with an evening of dancing to the band "Last Call."

A sign of the commitment the Legion ladies have to their organization came when it was suggested that another group be found to handle kitchen duties on this auspicious occasion. The offer was politely declined and a tasty meal was served to all present. Congratulations ladies, the empty plates hardly needed washing they were cleaned off so well.

The piping in of the life members and past presidents was an impressive ceremony. It's wonderful to see the long serving members, many of whom I knew, recognized for their service to our community. And the Legion remains an important part of Acton's lifestyle. Other than some dues and fees sent to Ottawa the money raised in town stays in town. We are all fortunate to have such a successful Legion in Acton when this organization is falling on difficult times in other larger centres.

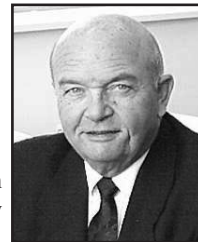
Congratulations to Legion President Wes Kutasienski, Ladies Auxiliary Peggy Harris and the entire organizing committee on a successful evening. Mary and I will both hold it in our memories forever.

Along the same vein, I wrote last week about the Mayor's Luncheon for youth. I would like to report that Paul Rosen, the goalie for Canada's gold medal winning sledge hockey team, was the featured speaker. Over the years I have heard multiple inspirational speakers. Rosen, "Rosie" to his friends, was definitely one of the best I have heard.

Speaking without notes, his

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



life story about how he lost his leg, and his outlook on his life these days, had tears in most of the audience's eyes. His life story is fascinating and I hope you can hear it yourself. There are lessons here regarding your own life, and possibly more important, the lives of your children.

The medal winning sledge hockey game is on the CBC on the 15th of April I think, in the afternoon. I was amazed to hear that these athletes can fire a puck at over 80mph. That's one game I've put on our calendar. If you would like to contact Paul Rosen you can contact him through Mayor Bonnette's office. Schools and service clubs are especially encouraged to consider his services.

While we're on the topic of hockey, I'd like to tell you a bit about an exciting week at the end of August this summer. From Aug. 28 to Sept. 1 Bryan Trottier, in partnership with Acton's own Inside Edge Pro Sports, will be running a hockey camp at our Acton arena.

Bryan Trottier has been teaching at hockey schools for over 30 years. You may remember that he presided over the opening of Inside Edge Sports (located in the Sobeys plaza) last year. Phil and Nathan Marzo, the store's owners, started working on this project around the same time. I see it as a real coup for the Marzos to have secured such a prestigious member of hockey's hall of fame.

Along with Tottier some other instructors will be goalie Billy Smith, Acton's own Victoria Glassford who is manager of our midgets and certified trainer Margaret Iutzi. I also heard Canadian women's team star Sami-Jo Small will be coming to the camp for a day and bringing her gold medal. Quite the line-up of pros.

Details and applications can be picked up at Inside Edge Sports in the Sobeys plaza. Both boys and girls from ages 5-16 are most welcome. Spaces are limited and I understand they are almost three-quarters sold our so time is of the essence.

A sure sign of winter coming to an end is the Acton Figure Skating Club's annual carnival being held at the arena this weekend. The carnival is one of my most favourite events of the year. This will be my 20th carnival or so since all of our girls have been participants. I have never seen a less than thrilling show.

The stars are the kids themselves. This is serious business for them. I can remember how determined ours would be not to make any mistakes and how proud they were to get costumed and made-up.

I think our whole town should be grateful for the club's volunteers and the professional coaching staff. In addition to their year round duties the carnival is a very busy time for the board and the extra volunteers needed. Have a good look at the details in the stage props and costumes involved in our production. I've had many comments that our carnival is far superior than many of the larger city clubs.

The professional instructors do an amazing job year after year. From choreographing the different dance numbers, setting the theme and organizing the final presentations our professionals are kept very busy.

We have many new residents in and around town and I certainly encourage you to attend our carnival. It's one of those captivating events that keep the "small town feeling" in our community. The carnival will be staging two shows this Saturday, April 1 at 2p.m. and 7p.m. I would recommend you arrive at least a half-hour before showtime. I can assure you that you'll have a wonderful time.

See you at the rink.

Surrogate hockey mom...

Continued from page 6

fit into their equipment were having a great time. Even though they were young, it was like they were playing for the Stanley Cup.

"Look at the goalie...he is in a complete split," I told the Dude. Ours was like a Curtis Joseph doing the splits while stopping the potential goals.

In the end, our team lost, but it was great watching number seven