

GRAPEVINE

Spots available

Halton Regional Police still have some spots available in the upcoming PEACE (Police Ethnic and Cultural Education) Youth Leadership program which runs from 6:30 – 10pm every Wednesday between October 1 and December 9 at Halton Regional Head quarters at 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville. Each week participants are given presentations on various aspects of the Police Service including Recruiting, Tactical Rescue Unit and K9, Traffic Reconstruction, Police Training Unit, Forensic Identification Bureau, and the Communications Bureau. This program mirrors the Citizens Police Academy but is more youth oriented. More information is available by visiting www.hrps.on.ca and click on Diversity, then PEACE. The application can located online.

Tutors wanted

Literacy North Halton needs volunteer tutors for its Read*Spell*Write program based in Acton. No experience is necessary, training is given. Registration is from Sept 6-22. Call 905-873-2200 for more information.

Good article

Arvid and Helle Rannik of Rockwood, concerned about the number of farmers going out of business, draws the New Tanner's attention to the September issue of National Geographic which carries an article, "The Fife Diet" in the Eco-Living section. "As some farmers from whom we used to buy various produce are going out of business, while ecological footprints of foods originating far is getting more attention," they feel the article might encourage the younger generation to continue farming.

Two safe beaches

Water samples taken on August 26 by the Halton Health Dept. revealed only two beaches in Halton were safe for swimming – Kelso Conservation Area in Milton and Beachway South in Burlington. All the rest, including Acton's old beach in Prospect Park, had high levels of bacteria

and are unsafe for swimming.

Pre-School programs

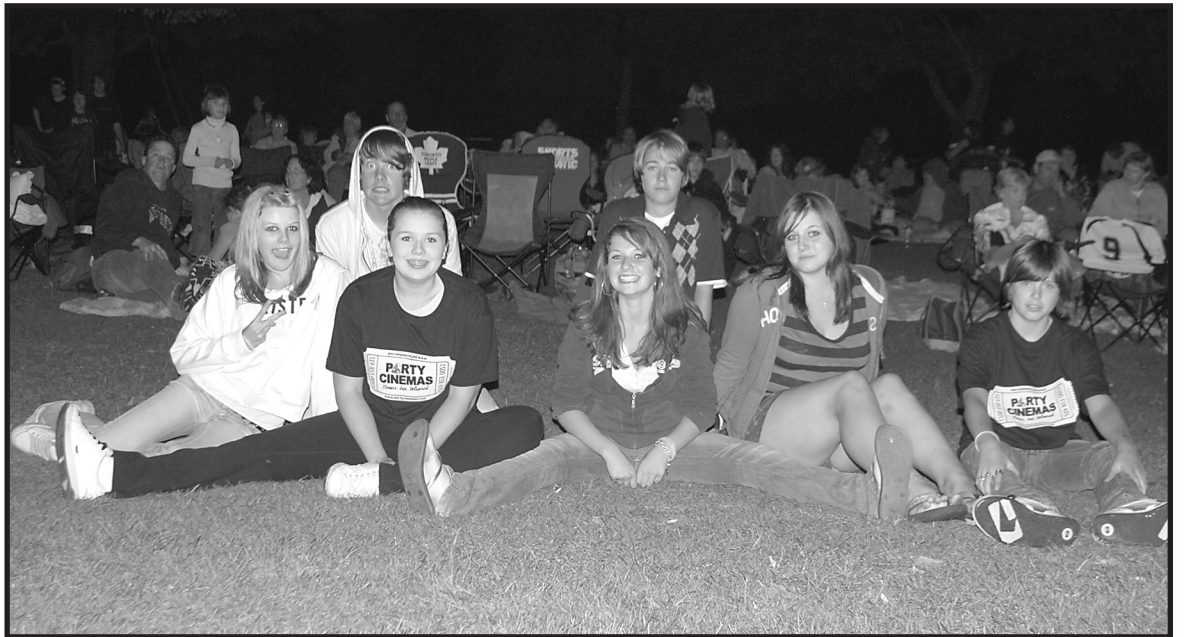
Halton Hills Public Library offers free programs for children aged 6 months to 5 years. You can register online beginning September 9 at www.library.hhpl.on.ca Programs begin in October and are offered in both branches. For babies 6-23 months and their grownups the library offers Baby Tales, a one-on-one program using music, rhythm, rhymes and puppets to stimulate your baby. For two-year-olds and their grownups, the library offers Tales for Twos, which includes picture books, rhymes, music, and creative movement. Library Lion Tales is for children 3-5 years old, and includes stories, music, games and other fun.

The library also prohibits drop-in programs that so not require registration. For more information please call (905) 873-2681 ext. 2520 or (905) 853-0301.

Organic feast

This Sunday, Sept 7 Everdale Organic Farm and Environmental Learning Centre near Hillsburgh will open their gates to hundreds of guests who can partake of an authentic organic feast prepared by local chefs, vintners and brewers but it will cost \$100. Organic and local food guru, Chef Michael Stadlander will give a keynote address at 3pm. Feast of Field was created by Organic Advocates, a non-profit association that supports organic food awareness and sustainability. The event runs from 1pm to 5pm.

Former Actonians Kay Graham, and Gord Gibbens were in Acton on Tuesday visiting all their old haunts and included some time in The New Tanner recounting old times. Gord has been living in Lindsay for decades but says he still considers Acton his home town while Kay, his sister, lives in Guelph where she raised her family with husband Hugh. Kay and Gord are the children of George and May Gibbens who were Acton residents since they came from England and established here.



PIRATES IN THE PARK: The weather was great for the many people who came out to the Bandshell to watch the Pirates of the Caribbean movie being played. The movie night was hosted by Nancy Wilkes of Acton Optical and Jaycliff Contracting, who were asking movie watchers to bring a donation to the Acton Food Share. Among the many who participated were Front row: Olivia, Leanne, Megan, Celeste, Jordon, Back row: Josh and Ryan. – Tracey Gardner photo

Politics as usual - never ending

Here we go again. According to the TV "talking heads", and they're never wrong are they, the Prime Minister is planning to call an early election, as early as tomorrow. That means we will be heading to the polls in mid-October. That also puts the Canadian election three weeks before the American shindig.

And what does, that mean to the average Canadian? You won't be able to escape the constant assault on our senses by election commercials. Personally, I'm seriously considering running away to the furthest reaches of Algonquin Park where no radio or TV signal can reach.

The reaction of the leaders of her majesty's loyal opposition (and one traitor) have been interesting. Mr. Dion, he of the carbon tax, is unavailable until later in September. I'd say it appears he is ducking the issue but, at best, he is missing in inaction. Honest to God, the man is the invisible leader. When asked, "How are you today?" he's stuck for an answer without his notes.

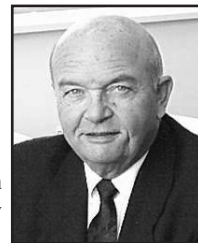
Then we have Mr. Layton, the leader of the NDP. I have to ask my friend who is a member of the 'hopeless party' one simple question. How can the party of Tommy Douglas elect a snake oil salesman like Layton as leader? I mean, if you only want someone who can chant the same old mantra, why not join the Hari Krishna? At least the melody is catchy.

Then we have the traitor Duceppe. He doesn't want an election because he fears losing even more seats in La Belle Province. The BQ's reasons for not wanting an election are irrelevant, as is their party.

Mr. Harper is betting that Canadians will return him to Ottawa with a majority. I doubt it, Stephen. Canadians are traditionally happy with a minority government. They don't want to put all their eggs in one basket. Granted, we have elected many

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



majority governments in the past. To many of us, we always get royally screwed when the PM holds overwhelming power. See metric measurement, free trade, and the gun control act for further examples.

Speaking of Mr. Harper, have you ever seen anyone with less charisma than this man? I mean, he makes Melba Toast seem like a taste sensation. I remember Bill Davis saying bland is good but Harper has elevated that sentiment to an art form.

Normally, that would not be a problem. We've all had more than enough PMs who flipped us 'the bird' or repeated every question in an overly melodramatic senatorial tone. But in today's medium is the message technological campaign. It would be nice if the purported object of our attentions would appear at least to be alive. I get the impression from his TV commercials that Mr. Harper is not even breathing, let alone not being successful in getting his point across.

Mr. Dion keeps saying that the PM is breaking his own law since the standardized election act doesn't call for another election until 2009. The liberals accusing the Tories of ignoring the law after sponsorgate? I tell you friends, I gagged over that one.

I don't know why politicians of all stripes seem to think Canadians really enjoy going to the polls. The percentage turnout of voters certainly tells a different story. Arguably the vote for an MP is one of the most important duties a Canadian has. The seeming malaise that infects our people come election time is difficult to diagnose. Lack of

interest springs to mind.

Anyway, enjoy all those election commercials. With any luck at all I'll be in the wilderness for the next six weeks, listening to the call of the moose.

Now that's how a Canadian passes time!

I watch a number of American channels on TV. Already I'm sick of the commercials and constant politicking on talk shows. Add to that the possibility of a Canadian election leads me to give some free advice to psychiatrists and therapists amongst our readers. Dust off your couches.

Barak Obama is getting most of the attention from Canadian media. No surprise there given this country's love affair with the Clintons and our irrational hatred of all things Bush. The good news for Canadians is that, should McCain win the election, some Canadians can keep on trashing the States for four more years at least.

The big knock against Obama is his lack of experience in government. His choice of Sen. Joe Biden as his VP running mate was an obvious attempt to quiet the critics. But look closely at the guy. Would you buy a used car from his? Personally, I wouldn't buy a used goat. He's over the top on the way-too-slick meter.

The Big knock on McCain is that he's too old. So the wiley old fox picked Gov. Sarah Palin from Alaska as his running mate. The vivacious Gov. Palin is only 44 years old, a fiscal conservative and (not that this helps) was a runner-up Miss Alaska, (not that it hurts), plus she's married to an Eskimo. So much for Obama's mixed-race heritage. Checkmate.

The US race is shaping up to be a barn burner. There's only one nagging question I have that would clinch it for me.

Did Sarah Paulin ever play beach volleyball?

Fire Report

Patient care

Acton firefighters provided medical care to a patient on Division Street until an ambulance crew arrived to transport the patient to hospital at 12:26 a.m. on Saturday.

False alarm

Acton firefighters were unable to determine what caused an alarm activation at a residence on Trafalgar Road, north of Highway 7, at 6:40 last Thursday morning.

Ceiling collapse

Acton firefighters removed a section of ceiling from a residence on 22 Side Road, west of Highway 25 after responding to a call for a ceiling collapse on August 25 at 4:33 p.m.

When they arrived on scene, firefighters found a three-foot-square section of the plaster ceiling had collapsed and they removed some of the remaining ceiling to improve safety. No word what caused the ceiling to fall.