

GRAPEVINE



Gift of Life

Rockwood's Steven Buck, 53, hit a milestone at the Canadian Blood Services donor clinic last Wednesday at the Acton arena – he made his 100th blood donation, continuing a tradition he began on a teenage dare with buddies to see who would give blood first.

"I just do it (donate blood) to help, and if I ever need it, it will be there," Buck said as his O negative blood was collected at the clinic, which gathered 43 units of blood.

The next blood donor clinic is December 16, at the Acton Legion on Wright Avenue, from 2 to 8 p.m.

Wine and Cheese

Limited tickets are still available for the Rotary Club of Acton's ninth annual Wine and Cheese night at the Acton Town Hall Centre tomorrow (Friday). One of Rotary's major fundraisers, the night includes sampling high quality wines from all over the world, specialty cheeses, entertainment and a silent auction. For information call Mark at 1-888-343-9095.

Christian comedian

All are invited to Bethel Christian Reformed Church to hear renowned Christian comedian Phil Callaway's take on "Slowing Down in a Speeded-Up World" on Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

Callaway is an award winning author and speaker whom offers humour with a message, including practical tips to help balance, life, work and family.

The event is free, with a free will offering to support the church's community outreach program.

Stocking stuffers

Hand made knitwear, crafts, a white elephant sale and kids' grab bags await shoppers at Bethel's annual bazaar on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch includes some traditional Dutch items. For details visit www.actonrc.com.

Campaign help?

Are you well organized and able to donate your time and talents for a monthly meeting and for several weeks in the spring? The Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society is searching for a co-ordinator for its annual door-to-door fundraising campaign in April. In depth training and lots of support is available. Call Cathy for more information at 519-853-1424.

Good food & Friends

Looking for a free night out that includes a home-cooked meal, fun and fellowship? Everyone is invited to the

Acton Hub Team/St. Alban's community dinner at the church tomorrow (Friday) at 6 p.m. Those needing assistance with stairs can call 519-853-2711.

Does the shoe fit?

Congrats to Acton's Stephanie Kroezen who will fulfill a childhood wish and open in the role of Cinderella tomorrow (Friday) in Globe Musical Production's presentation of Into the Woods.

Kroezen, a former Acton Citizen Band member who recently graduated from a performing arts school in Toronto, said the show is one of the hardest scores she's had to learn, and it is also the "most exciting and captivating story."

Into the Woods runs until November 27, at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown. For information call 905-877-3700 or visit www.haltonhills.ca/theatre.

Tech awards

Members of the Acton High School senior Technical Design class find out tonight (Thursday) if their submission in the fourth annual "Be a Hero" Halton affordable housing contest is a winner.

They are among the finalists from over 100 entries from Halton public, Catholic and private school students in the contest that demonstrates their understanding of the challenges associated with the lack of affordable housing.

At the awards ceremony at the Gellert Centre in Georgetown, the students' "socially responsible" designs will be on display, and cash prizes totaling \$1,900 will be awarded. A team from Acton High won the \$1,000 grand prize in 2009.

Pictures required

If you have any photos of the Acton area men who gave their lives, or were wounded, during WW1, The New Tanner would like to borrow them for a future feature. Please bring them to our office, so we may make a copy, or email to thenewtanner@on.aibn.com.

Santa Date

Santa Claus will be a welcome guest at the Acton Legion/Acton Rotary Club annual seniors' dinner at the Legion on November 30. Tickets are available at Halton Hills Furniture and at the Legion bar. Proceeds are earmarked for charity.

Benefit concert

Acton's hungry will benefit from a FoodShare fundraising concert at the Roxy on November 26, showcasing local artists who will perform some of their songs featured on the Acton FoodShare CD – Songs for Supper. Doors open at 7 p.m.



STUDENT POWER: Having already raised \$8,400 to build a school in Kenya, these Acton High School Me2We group members sold compostable garbage bags at the annual Christmas bazaar on Saturday to raise money to build a well at the school. The student fundraisers include, from left: Melissa Benham, Jeffrey Ayers, Scott Morris and Chelsea Benham.

– Frances Niblock photo

We should all learn from our elders

By David Suzuki
with Faisal Moola

As I approach my 75th birthday, I find myself often thinking about mortality. I'm in the last part of my life, and that's reality. This is the time when we must fulfill our most important duty: to reflect on a lifetime and then sift through the detritus of experience, observation, and thought in order to winnow out lessons to pass on to coming generations.

The most influential elders in my life were my parents. Although they were in their 30s and 40s when I was a child, they seemed much older and wiser. They taught me lessons that have guided me and that I have tried to pass on to my children: "Respect your elders." They weren't referring to themselves but to older people, who by virtue of having lived a life, deserved respect.

"You are what you do, not what you say." With today's barrage of information, spin, and propaganda from politicians and corporations, it's important to look at a record of action rather than be deceived or confused by words.

"If you want everyone to like you, you will not stand for anything." When I was in high school, I was elected president of the student body. I told my dad that I wanted everyone to like me. He told me that no matter what one stands up for, there



Science Matters
By David Suzuki

will always be those who disagree with you.

"Whatever you do, whether it's washing dishes, scrubbing floors, or working at a job, throw yourself into it with all your energy." I have learned that when I do a half-hearted job, I get a half-hearted experience.

My parents lived through the Great Depression, which shaped their values and outlook. They taught me those values:

"Save some for tomorrow." This was a recurring theme and, of course, a value held by any true conservative.

"Live within your means." This meant that if you didn't have the money to buy something today, you saved until you could. This notion goes against today's easy access to credit, which encourages going into debt.

"Share, and don't be greedy." Implicit in this lesson was the notion that helping someone today was in your interest – to build relationships for the inevitable day when you would need someone to help you.

Perhaps most importantly, they taught me that I had to work hard to earn money to buy necessities in life, but that I mustn't run after money as if having more than others would

make me better or more important.

I'm lucky to have arrived at a time in my life when I am freed from the encumbrances of making money, seeking fame and power, and showing off. We elders have no hidden agenda and can speak the truth. One of the most influential groups in the peace movement was the Retired Admirals and Generals Against Nuclear War, warriors who had played by the rules through the military ranks, but once retired, could speak openly and honestly.

In First Nations communities, elders remain the bedrock of society. In conversations with First Nations people, I am struck by how often they tell me, "The elders say..." or "I have to ask the elders."

In today's youth-obsessed world of rapid technological developments, we too often marginalize elders when their experience is most important.

Elders remember a world that changed more slowly, when "disposable" was not a description of products, when sharing, reusing, and recycling were simply the way we lived. Elders remember a time when family and social activities were the central focus of life, not shopping and owning stuff. Elders remind us that life can be rich and fulfilling without all the toys.

Learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org.