

Acton man to witness the last launch of NASA space shuttle

By **TED BROWN**
Staff Writer

When the final launch of the US Space Shuttle Atlantis blasts into the sky July 8, an Acton resident will be standing in the media circle witnessing the historic event.

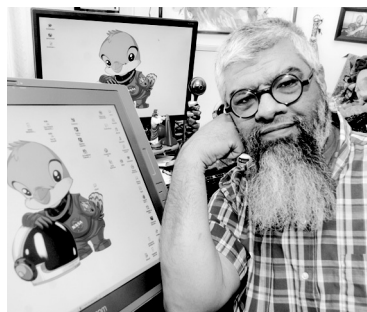
Longtime Acton professional cartoonist/caricaturist Lar deSouza is one of 150 @NASA Twitter followers to participate in the Tweetup for the final Space Shuttle Launch. Atlantis is targeted to launch on July 8 at around 11:40 a.m. EDT on mission STS-135 to the International Space Station.

"As a science and sci-fi geek, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said deSouza, "I have memories of watching the moon landing in my parents' basement when I was only five, and some of the Apollo launches in grade school, herded into the gym to watch a small television because this was history being made. That wonder at the human achievement has never left me."

deSouza was one of more than 5,500 Twitterers who applied to witness the launch, and was selected through a lottery program. He and the other 149 will receive a tour of the Kennedy Space Center on Thursday, and be given access to interview and chat with NASA shuttle astronauts, technicians, engineers, managers and NASA's social media team, and

then file reports on Twitter, which deSouza has been an avid participant for years.

"We are encouraged to post everything we see— this is a common thing with NASA's program, and Twitterers follow the event closely," said deSouza. "I believe there is only one other Canadian taking part... There are some from Europe, and the bulk of them are from the U.S."



LAR DESOUSA

While most of the Twitter people will be posting their personal comments, deSouza will be taking a unique approach.

"I'm going to sketch and draw caricatures of those taking part" said deSouza, "I hope to be able to assemble a collection of my sketches and perhaps put them into a comic book."

When the Space Shuttle mission is nothing more than a memory, deSouza is pleased he's been offered the opportunity to take part. Although he's on a tight professional schedule that week, he's re-scheduled his time to take part.

"The only thing that can go wrong for me would be to have the mission scrubbed," said deSouza. "I'm hoping it goes off without any problems— it's my once in a lifetime chance to see it."

You can follow deSouza's tweets at twitter.com/lartist. More info on the NASA Tweetup is www.nasa.gov/connect/tweetup/index.html

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS MPP TED ARNOTT

Web: www.tedarnottmpp.com
Phone: 1-800-265-2366



The McGibbon Hotel

LUNCH BUFFET SERVED THURSDAY & FRIDAY

11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Featuring:

- Roast Beef
- Baked Ham
- Mac & Cheese
- Assorted Salads
- Dessert Table
- Tea & Coffee

\$ 11.50

HST INCLUDED

Private Catering Available

~ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ~

Friday 9:30 pm - close

Saturday 9:30 pm - close

Plan B
Rock n' Roll

Neil Cotton
Rock n' Roll

79 Main Street South, Georgetown

905-877-3388



Happy 10th Birthday

Kira

Love Mom, Dad, Jade & Blake

WANTED

Homes With Asphalt Shingles in Need of Replacement

Ontario Shake N' Tile, Ontario's most trusted metal roofing specialist, is looking for homes in your area that need a new roof and never want to roof again.

We offer the beauty and elegance of a natural wood shake roof with the durability and unmatched performance of metal. It comes with a lifetime transferable warranty against: winds, rain, snow, moss, hail and tree resin. This beautiful roof is being introduced to your local market now.

If you participate in our Display Home Program, we will reduce our already competitive pricing and make it worth your while to investigate the many benefits of our roof. You must book your job within 10 days of this advertisement.

Low payments, 100% financing available, O.A.C.



Call NOW for HUGE Savings!
1-888-271-7119



When It's Time To Replace
Your Garage Door
CHOOSE A GARAGA



Garaga Garage Doors
The most energy efficient doors available

Ask for a **free** estimate now!

BM

Garage Door

GARAGA
Experts

(905) 873-4848
1-888-836-5552

118 Guelph Street, Unit #6
Georgetown, ON L4G 4A3
www.bmgaragedoor.com

< MARK BROUSSEAU bmgaragedoor@hotmail.com



Visit our
showroom