

GRAPEVINE



Welcome Wickenheiser?

Acton girls and women who love hockey are invited to enter the "Why Hockey Rocks in Your Community" contest launched by three-time Olympic Gold medallist Hayley Wickenheiser who wants women to make some noise for the game they love and the hometown they play in.

Contestants must create a 60-to-90-second video demonstrating true Canadian spirit and girl power. On the line for the winning minor hockey team is a skate with Wickenheiser, an autograph and pictures session, a speech and prizes – some of her personal memorabilia.

Videos must be posted to YouTube and the link submitted via hayleywickenheiser.com. The video with the most "likes" wins.

Dutiful donors

There were two first-timers at the recent Acton blood donor clinic at the Legion when 42 units were collected. The next clinic is May 7 at the Acton arena/community centre, from 4 to 8 p.m. To make an appointment call 1-888-236-6283.

Earth Day celebrations

The Town's 12th annual Earth Day celebrations on Saturday at the Trafalgar Road works centre includes great deals – \$5 per tree, up to four until 10 a.m. – free compost and wood chips, a free drop-off for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), and Electronic Waste, displays and interactive fun and prizes for kids and lots of food.

This year's Earth Day Fair runs from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Georgetown Marketplace Mall and features a Birds of Prey exhibit from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., kids' activities with the Credit Valley Conservation and Conservation Halton and free energy kits at the Union Gas booth. Donations to local food banks will be gratefully accepted at both events.

The new Acton library on River Street is one of five Green Tour locations where green technologies lessen the environmental impacts through sustainable energy and water conservation policies and practices. The library tour runs from 10 to 11 a.m.

Other Green Tour locations include Wastewise in George-

town, the new Fire Department HQ, various solar-powered homes – call 905-299-2327 for details – the historic Dev-ereaux House, and the Willow Park Ecology Centre in Norval.

Money management

Want to learn how to control your bills, build a budget, save for a goal, or understand credit? Representatives of Habitat for Humanity are offering a free, five-week HomeWorks financial workshop at Bethel Christian Reformed Church beginning May 3 and running Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required by calling 905-637-4446 or online at www.habitathalton.ca

Have and Have Not

Some people at the Have... Have Not dinner at Knox Presbyterian Church on Saturday will eat a meal of pulled pork, chilli and salad, while others will eat just rice. The dinner is a fundraiser for the Mercy Children's Centre in Kenya, a school for Aids orphans that Knox has supported for approximately four years.

At the door, guests will draw a "Have" or Have Not" ticket to determine what they will eat – for a nominal fee "Have Nots" can upgrade to the full meal. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., and tickets are available at the door.

Car seat compliance

Halton police were impressed with the much better "pass" rate at a child car seat clinic in Georgetown on Saturday. The failure rate at past clinics has been as high as 70 per cent, but dropped to 53 per cent on the weekend – still not great, but much better. Halton police will conduct a random vehicle stop to check for seat-belt compliance on September 29.

Shoppers' alert

The shovels are in the ground for the upscale designer factory outlet being built at Trafalgar Road and Steeles Avenue in Halton Hills. Calloway REIT and Simon Property Group staged an official groundbreaking ceremony for the Toronto Premium Outlet with local officials – anxious to see the start of construction for the 500,000-square-foot mall, slated to open August 2013.



DANCE DIVAS: The Town sponsored dance at the Acton arena/community centre on Friday drew one of the largest recent crowds, including, from left: Ethan Constable, Haylen Kri, Megan Deschamps and Hayly Simpson. – Ted Tyler photo

Angela practises her curtsy

Since the "Royal Wedding" last spring, it's hard not to get back into the excitement of the Royal family. For a while, with scandal and just some bad public stunts by some members and of course the death of Princess Diana, I think a lot of people wondered why we even bother with the Royal family, or for some why we even have a Monarchy and Queen.

This year marks Queen Elizabeth II's 60th year of reign. Since the age of 26 she has been the Queen and sovereign to millions of people and a list of countries too long to list. She is 86 years old and doesn't seem to be stopping for anybody or anything.

The other night, the CBC had a two-night special on about the Queen and I started watching it because I will admit, there wasn't much else on at the time. However, within a few minutes, I was captivated.

It was such an awakening in an odd way to see the Queen in different aspects that we don't normally see or have explained. For example, the special delved into how it is not the Queen's parliament which is a misconception I never really thought about.

The old photos and film clips were amazing. It reviewed some of the many overseas trips our Sovereign has accomplished in her reign. In 60 years she has traveled almost 300 times overseas. When you think about what is needed for any travel for her as far as the basics of clothing to the security required, 300 trips is an overwhelming thought. Then if you think about how many of these trips were done in the early stages of



By
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her being Queen and how travel even forty years ago was not anything like it is today, it becomes even more amazing how far she has travelled.

Although the "ohs and ahs" of the Queen and the Royals are what most of us see – you know the pictures in the magazines or the weddings on television – the show also inputted how important her visits, which may appear to be just a form of royal promotion, actually are very important to the UK economy and the countries that are visited, beyond the actual visit.

Here are some QEII facts I found interesting:

She has given out about 78,000 Christmas puddings to staff continuing the custom of

King George V and King George VI. In addition, the Queen gives all her staff a gift at Christmas time

Since 1952, she has conferred over 387,700 honours and awards.

Over the course of Her reign, around 1.1-million people have attended garden parties at Buckingham Palace or the Palace of Holyrood House

With the birth of Prince Andrew in 1960, Elizabeth became the first reigning Sovereign to have a child since Queen Victoria, who had her youngest child, Princess Beatrice, in 1857.

Elizabeth is patron of more than 620 charities and organizations.

It may be almost a week late and not the day that is celebrated as her birthday however, the Queen's birthday was April 21 so, Happy Birthday Your Majesty! She's really pretty amazing.



QUEEN FOR A DAY: Good sport that she is, on a dare, Julie Conroy – Acton's newly "crowned" Citizen of the Year – agreed to wear this crown all day on Monday. – Frances Niblock photo