

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Diversion, charges or the wood shed?

What do you do with two young boys – aged 10 and 12 – who broke into an Acton auto repair shop and went on a wanton vandalism spree? Police initially pegged the damage at \$12,000 but that could hit \$50,000 as repairs are made to vehicles, equipment and trailers.

The two Acton boys in question – nabbed on Monday after being spotted inside a trailer where they had apparently made themselves at home, eating, playing and using the facilities – were arrested by police, but not charged.

The 10-year-old is too young to face charges – the minimum age for laying a charge under the Criminal Code is 12. Other than making his parents aware of what happened, “There’s nothing we can do (with him),” Staff Sergeant Nick Milinowich said.

The 12-year-old was diverted to the Halton Youth Justice Program, a move that police are required to consider, based on the type and severity of the crime. Instead of being charged, he will be held accountable for his actions as part of the program designed to help youth deal with the underlying issues that played a role in their criminal behaviour.

To be considered for the Halton Youth Justice Program, offenders must be between 12 and 17, there must be sufficient evidence to lay a charge, and the youth in question must accept responsibility and be willing to participate in the program.

Youth diverted to the program must sign a contract which may include a curfew, regular attendance at school, abiding by parental rules and discipline, restitution, counselling, drug and education abstinence and a writing assignment. Staff Sergeant Milinowich said so far this year, 87 youths in One District – Acton, Georgetown and Milton – have been diverted into the program, and historically, “most” have successfully completed their contracts. If the youth breaks the contract, charges will be laid.

While no one wants to see a 12 year old marked for life because of a stupid mistake, for some of the victims of the vandalism, the diversion program may be cold comfort.



BLACKBIRD BEAUTY: Acton’s Katelyn Donaldson, with her yearling Blackbird, was named Halton 4-H Grand Champion Showperson at the beef show judging on Saturday. Katelyn’s sister Kailey was named Miss Acton. – Frances Learment photo

Letters

Grateful Jubilee medal recipient says thanks

To the Editor,

Words cannot express how thankful I am to the person or persons who submitted my name to receive The Queen

Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal.

It was presented to me by the RI Honourable Michael Chong MP at the seniors dinner at Sen-

iors Centre on last Thursday. I also want to thank the many people of Acton who have been there for me over the years.

Dorothy Rognvaldson

Praise for Acton’s Speaker Series

To the Editor,

I had to write in to say what a wonderful evening it was on Sunday at the Acton Town Hall for the start of this year’s Absolutely Acton Speaker Series. We were treated to an evening of Blues and Boogie Woogie with Bob Baldori and Arthur Migliazza – both phenomenal pianists.

The next upcoming event is Sunday November 25th with

Terri-Jean Bedford “Canada’s dominatrix” and Alan Young, an Osgoode Hall Law School professor. That should be an interesting Series. The series are a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon in a glorious building.

As with last year’s series, I just sat there thinking that we have this fantastic talent/speaker in Downtown Acton. This place should be packed with a

line-up out the door.

Last year, the Speaker Series was fantastic and this year’s line up looks great as well. I urge everyone to check this out at info@actontownhall.com and get your tickets now before you are disappointed with a sell out.

Regards,

Nancy Wilkes, RO
Acton Optical
Acton, ON

Looking Back

Ten Years Ago

• Acton Agricultural Society officials were a “little surprised” by a “very significant” drop in the number of people attending the Fall Fair, leaving the gate down \$10,000 over the previous year, to \$55,000.

• The Acton Terry Fox Run raised \$29,500 for cancer research, bringing Acton’s total pledges and donations over 22 years to \$435,670.

Five Years Ago

• There were rave reviews for the new building in Prospect Park used by the Acton Agricultural Society for the Acton Fall Fair. Officials said it was a record-breaking year financially for the Fair.

• Halton police seized 5,400 marijuana plants – with an estimated street value of \$2-million – from a field on the Fourth Line, east of Acton, during a joint forces eradication operation.



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