

# GRAPEVINE

## CALLING ALL KIDS

There are still spaces available in many of the pre-school programs being offered at the Acton library branch this winter. For details and to register visit [www.hhpl.on.ca](http://www.hhpl.on.ca) or call 519-853-0301. There are various free programs for babes up to pre-schoolers.

## JUBILEE AWARDEES

Congrats to Halton Chair Gary Carr and CAO Pat Moyle who were recently honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for their outstanding public and community service. Sixty-thousand of the medals will be awarded to Canadians for their significant contributions and achievements to the Canadian way of life.

Carr, who has served at three levels of government, said he was "very surprised and honoured," with the award. Moyle said he was "humbled and honoured," to be a recipient.

## WASTE CALENDAR COMING

Halton's waste management guide and collection calendar for 2013 will be delivered by mail to Acton homes beginning next week. The calendar, effective February 1, includes schedules for Blue Box, GreenCart, bulk and yard waste collection, along with details about waste collection changes effective April 1.

Changes include a \$2 per bag charge for more than three garbage bags for single-family residences, an expanded list of accepted Blue Box materials to include mixed plastic, empty steel paint cans, and cardboard cans. As well, bulk pickups will be expanded to one every four weeks on a regular collection day, along with the existing spring and fall bulk collections.

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Halton will pickup

Christmas trees twice this month, with the final collection on January 23. Make sure tinsel, lights and decorations are removed from the tree, and that it does not become frozen in a snow bank.

## LONDON GIG

Acton native Darrelle London will perform at the River Run Centre in Guelph on January 25 – her first time headlining at a performing arts centre in Canada. London will play two sets and said since she doesn't often get to play in the area where she grew up, this show is important to her.

## SANDY HOOK CONDOLENCE

Acton residents may sign a Book of Condolences for Sandy Hook, Connecticut residents at the Acton library branch. In the wake of the tragic pre-Christmas massacre at an elementary school, the Town provided a Book of Condolence in the Civic Centre lobby.

At Monday's council meeting, Mayor Rick Bonnette said the book would be at the Acton branch by the end of the week, and a week later he would send the local messages of love and hope to the Statesman in Sandy Hook.

## EASTER CANTATA

Rehearsals begin tomorrow (January 11) for the Acton Ministerial Association's production of an Easter Cantata on Palm Sunday. Practices begin at 7 p.m., at St; Alban's Anglican Church.

For a practice schedule or more information contact [jculpeper@cogeco.ca](mailto:jculpeper@cogeco.ca)

## LADIES EVENING BREAK

All Acton area ladies are welcome to a new ladies evening coffee Bible study at Bethel Church. The program, which is open to all, runs Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:45 p.m. For more information call Shirley at 905-877-2790.



**CHARITY HOCKEY:** The score was "irrelevant" in Sunday's game between the Halton Hills Firefighters and the Toronto Maple Leaf Alumni, but the real winner is Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASHh), recipient of proceeds from the fundraising game played at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex in Georgetown. – Traci Gardner photo

# SCIENCE MATTERS

By DAVID SUZUKI



## After 25 years, it's time to stop spinning our wheels

By David Suzuki

In 1988, hundreds of scientists and policy-makers met in Toronto for a major international conference on climate change. They were sufficiently alarmed by the accumulated evidence for human-caused global warming that they issued a release stating, "Humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled, globally pervasive experiment whose ultimate consequences could be second only to a global nuclear war."

They urged world leaders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2005. Had we heeded that warning and embarked on a campaign to meet the target, Canadians would now be healthier (because of reduced air pollution), have greater reserves of energy and more jobs. We'd also be a world leader in renewable energy and could have saved tens of billions of dollars.

The year was significant for environmentalists. In 1988, George H.W. Bush ran for the highest office in the U.S. and promised to be an "environmental president". He didn't have a green bone in his body, but public pressure compelled him to make a commitment he ultimately didn't keep. That year, Margaret Thatcher was filmed picking up litter. She turned t the camera and said, "I'm a greenie, too."

Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was also re-elected in 1988. He appointed a bright new political star, Lucien Bouchard, as environment minister. I asked Bouchard during an interview what he considered to be our most important environmental issue. "Global

warming," he responded. I continued: "How serious is it?" His answer: "It threatens the survival of our species. We have to act now."

In 1988, the environment was a top public concern, scientists spoke out and politicians said the right things. Global warming was a pressing and present issue. Now, 25 years later, carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise, and we're already seeing the consequences – more extreme weather events, melting glaciers and Arctic ice, rising sea levels, reduced water flows in rivers and climate-related illness and death, among others. It's driven in part by rapid economic growth in countries like China, India and Brazil. At the same time, most industrialized nations, whose use of fossil fuels created the problem of excess greenhouse gases, have done little to reduce emissions.

Humans are distinguished from other species by a massive brain that enables us to imagine a future and influence it by what we do in the present. By using experience, knowledge and insight, our ancestors recognized they could anticipate dangers and opportunities and take steps to exploit advantages and avoid hazards. Scientists and supercomputers have amplified our ability to look ahead. For decades, experts have warned us that human numbers, technology, hyper-consumption and a global economy are altering the chemical, geological and biological properties of the biosphere.

In 1992, more than 1,700 eminent scientists, including 104 Nobel prizewinners, signed the "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity", which included this

urgent warning: "No more than one or a few decades remain before the chance to avert the threats we now confront will be lost and the prospects for humanity immeasurably diminished."

The document concluded that environmentally damaging activity must be brought under control and the integrity of Earth's ecosystems protected, critical resources managed more effectively, human population growth stabilized, poverty reduced and eventually eliminated, and sexual equality and guarantees of women's reproductive rights ensured.

The sooner we act, the easier it will be to overcome these difficult challenges. Every year that we stall makes it more costly and challenging, with increasing negative impacts on humans and our environment. There are signs of hope. Many countries – as well as cities, states and provinces – are taking global warming seriously and are working to reduce emissions and shift to cleaner energy sources. Some world leaders are even questioning our current paradigm, where the economy is made a priority above all else.

This is crucial. Over and over, the economy has determined the extent of our response, but how much value does it place on breathable air, drinkable water, edible food and stable weather and climate? Surely the economy is the means to a better future, not an end in itself. Surely it must be subordinate to a rich, diverse ecosystem that sustains all life. Let's hope this year ushers in a new way of living on and caring for our planet.

Learn more at [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org)