

GRAPEVINE

HELP THE TURTLES

This being the height of the turtle nesting season, many are attempting to cross the roadways to find suitable nesting areas. Seven out of the eight turtle species found in Ontario are now on the endangered list, with the majority being killed by passing traffic, most of those being females on their way to nest. If you encounter a turtle on the road, please do what you can, safely, to help it cross the road to safety. If you are able to pull over safely, you can help the turtle across by picking it up by the shell behind the front legs and gently placing it off the road in the direction it was traveling. If it is a snapping turtle (long tail) you can simply push it along the road with a safe blunt object.

Only one in hundred eggs will hatch and survive, so it is important to provide safety for this endangered species, in order for them to thrive again.

SPLASH PADS

The Town of Halton Hills had extended the closing hours of the Splash Pads an extra hour during the heat wave over the weekend due to the heat wave that hit, and will do so in the future during extreme heat warnings.

The large fish at the Superior Glove Splash Pad in Acton had not been working over the weekend, we were unable to get an estimated time of repair from the Town, but assume it should be back up and working soon.

FIELD DAMAGE

It has been brought to our attention that recreational ATV and dirt-bike riders have been gaining access to farmer's fields and destroying crops. Crops are farmers' livelihood, and destruction costs them time and money. We would like remind riders to stick to trails and to stay off private property, or ask property owners if they have a spot available for use that does not interfere with seasonal crops.

WILDLIFE CONTROL

The Halton Hills Canine Control Services are now increasing their service and will respond to calls that involve sick raccoons and skunks on private property. The animals must be accessible to the officers in yards, not in attics etc. and they will not respond to healthy wildlife that is just causing a nuisance. If you need assistance from Canine Control Services please call 905-877-6235.

HEADING TO GUATEMALA

A youth team of 13 members from Rockwood's United Church will be heading into the remote mountains of Guatemala in August on an exposure, learning trip.

They are collecting items to take with them on this trip, such as ink cartridges, and memory sticks, as well as school supplies, pens, paper, markers, and gently used kids' clothing. If you have items to donate please contact the church at 519-856-4160.



RECITAL: Students of Jennifer Culpeper Piano Studio had fun performing a great mix of solo and ensemble pieces during their recent recital held at St Alban's Anglican Church. Students are: Megan, Sam, Harrison, Hadley, Ava, Bradyn, Sasha, Lili, Mary-Jane, Tessa, Michael, Jessamyn, Briana, Janet, Aidan, Walt. - Submitted photo

JUST A THOUGHT

Small town living isn't anymore

Not so long ago, there were communities where people knew each other; neighbours helped each other; and events brought people together. Folks read community newspapers, shared community history, and attended community activities. Yet, most of all, they shared a sense of belonging to their town and to each other, and this belonging helped weave a fabric of individuals into something more. Somewhere, however, our values distorted, our efforts fewer and our small town ways eroded. Whether you were born into our humble little town or moved here for the lifestyle, prepare yourselves because small town living seems destined to disappear.

The decay of our little town's charms lies evident in the demise of things like the Acton Trunk Sale. True, it still exists, but the essence of what was created in 1994 is all but lost as the Rotary Club prolongs the inevitable and transforms "Canada's Original Trunk Sale" into a money making endeavor for their club (not to say anything ill of the great deeds



By **Trish Bell**

done by our Rotary Club). The fact remains, however, that the original sale was "not a fund-raiser" but instead for the expressed purpose of bringing the community together in a fun, useful way. The original \$4 vendor fee was merely to cover costs associated with hosting the event; any extra money was given 'back' via summer hats for the Acton Citizens Band or new planter boxes around town. Not big projects sure, simply the small "neighbourly" efforts of people taking care of each other. And it begs the question, with a \$15 fee today, what exactly do the Rotarians do with all the proceeds?

But is there, in fact, any proceeds? Likely not. In its very first year, the sale celebrated an incredible average of 30 vendors and over 1000 people weekly, and this popularity grew steadily for the next several years. Then, something happened; be it small town politics, lack of volunteer commit-

ment, less quality vendors, consumers looking to bigger stores, neighbours too busy to participate or perhaps a combination of them all, our great Trunk Sale hit a dry spell that continues to worsen each year. Today, 22 years later, it is merely a sad semblance of what was once an anticipated Saturday morning gathering. Rarely, do we find a variety of vendors substantial enough to encourage weekly patronage now, nor committed patrons out perusing the wares. People don't seem to care about keeping these small town efforts alive, at least the ones that require effort on their part, and thus, what once was a part of our heritage, character and commitment to each other and our town has gone the way of the dodo bird.

Ann Arbor Town Councilor Sabra Briere puts it best, "a small town isn't defined by the number of people in it. It is limited only by the connections we have with our neighbours and by the investment each of us makes in our community's success." If that is true, we are indeed, in trouble.

TIMES ARE CHANGING

Grapevine has returned to its roots of tid-bits of 'newsy' information from around Acton, Rockwood and surrounding areas.

Over the past while, we have had a growing number of upcoming events included in this section, which has detracted from what this section was originally intended to be. In general, these will now be found in the classified section in their own separate space.

What is a Grapevine item? It's simple - something of local interest that is not big enough for a story, yet bigger than just a picture. Grapevine ideas can be forwarded to tannereditor@bellnet.ca