

GRAPEVINE

NEIGHBOURHOOD FOOD DRIVE

A group of thoughtful Dairy Drive kids gathered 90-pounds of food and collected \$131 cash at their lemonade stand at the annual multi-family Dairy Drive garage sale on Saturday.

Approximately 25 families took part in the giant sale which offered great deals, and treats at a food drive booth – a food donation earned a pop, juice, Popsicle or lemonade.

The Labonte family and friends ran the food drive and delivered the donations to FoodShare's Churchill Road depot on Saturday afternoon.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Thanks to a \$150,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, St. Alban's Anglican Church can renovate its kitchen facilities into a commercial-like community kitchen on the lower floor and an upstairs warming kitchen.

The renovations include a fully accessible Community Kitchen which will allow St. Alban's to expand its food supply efforts and partnerships including its weekly "Food for Life" and "Refresh Foods" food distribution centre.

Two years ago, St. Alban's celebrated completion of accessibly work including a lift, raised sidewalks, electronic door openers, and motion

activated light switches and enlarged washrooms, paid with a \$150,000 Trillium grant.

Church members will raise money for the Primate World Relief and Development Fund at an annual garage sale/car wash/ bake sale on Saturday at St. Alban's, from 8 a.m. to noon.

CONDOM CONCERNS

The Acton mom of two kids was disgusted to find approximately 40 condom packages and unused condoms mixed into the gravel at a children's playground in Bovis Park, but Justina Mehmedoglu was also impressed how quickly a Town works crews came to clean up the mess.

Mehmedoglu said she was "disgusted" when she realized what the litter and garbage was when playing in the park with her seven-year-old and toddler son two weeks ago. "There were a bunch of condom packages ripped open (and they were) dug into the gravel, all over the place," she said, urging anyone to report teenagers seen hanging around Bovis Park.

Mehmedoglu wants people to keep an eye out. "Watch out – make sure that nobody (including) inappropriate age groups of people are not sitting there and ripping up condoms," she said.



FOODSHARE FUNDRAISER: Kids on Dairy Drive collected 90-pounds of food and \$131 at their lemonade stand on Saturday at a massive multi-family garage sale in their neighbourhood. On hand were Erika Labonte (centre), Paco Eldridge, Gabriel Labonte, Ruth Vuyk, Linsy Eldridge and Thea Martin. - Frances Learment photo



ARTISTS' AID: Acton's Knox Presbyterian Church recently donated cash to three local musicians - Emma McLean (left), Sasha Daleman and Isaac Hills - to help further their musical education. The funds were raised at an artists benefit concert in January. - George Henderson photo

LETTERS



To the Editor,

We wanted to send a big thank you to those that helped raise funds for the Darling Home for Kids at the June 21 Acton Trunk Sale. That list includes the Rotary Club of Acton for donating booth space, vendors

that donated articles for sale, as well as cash contributions, and generous patrons who helped support the children's hospice and respite care facility.

Sponsorship for Jeff and Tyler to compete in the Muskoka X paddling race, which

goes to further fund the Darling Home, will be accepted at www.darlinghomeforkids.ca/canoeforkids until race day on September 13.

Thank you,
Shelley Carson
Acton, ON

Science Matters

By David Suzuki



There was little doubt the federal government would approve the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline project, regardless of public opposition or evidence presented against it. The prime minister indicated he wanted the pipeline built before the Joint Review Panel hearings even began. Ad campaigns, opponents demonized as foreign-funded radicals, gutted environmental laws and new pipeline and tanker regulations designed in part to mollify the B.C. government made the federal position even more clear.

Canadian resource policy is becoming increasingly divorced from democracy. Two infamous omnibus bills eviscerated hard-won legislation protecting Canada's water and waterways and eased obstacles for the joint review process, which recommended approval of the \$7.9-billion project, subject to 209 conditions. The government has now agreed to that recommendation. The time-consuming hearings and numerous stipulations surely influenced the government's decision to restrict public participation in future reviews, making it difficult for people to voice concerns about projects such as Kinder Morgan's plan to twin and increase capacity of its Trans Mountain heavy oil pipeline from Alberta to Burnaby from 300,000 to 900,000 barrels a day, with a corresponding increase in tanker traffic in and out of Vancouver.

And to keep democracy out of fossil fuel industry expansion, the government switched decision-making from the independent National Energy

Board to the prime minister's cabinet.

Probably the most egregious omission from the review process is the dismissal of impacts such as climate change and rapid tar sands expansion. Here's how the panel justified not taking these into account: "We did not consider that there was a sufficiently direct connection between the project and any particular existing or proposed oil sands development or other oil production activities to warrant consideration of the effects of these activities." As for climate change from burning the product, "These effects were outside our jurisdiction, and we did not consider them."

A pipeline to carry diluent from the coast to the tar sands to dilute bitumen that would then be carried back to the coast in another pipeline for export to world markets in super tankers does not have a "sufficiently direct connection" to the tar sands? And the impacts of the tar sands and its products on climate are not relevant to the project that makes these impacts possible? What the hell?

This project should never go ahead. And not just because no amount of money will undo damage from pipeline or tanker spills and accidents along the route, the B.C. coast or the ocean, or that it is opposed by First Nations and other affected communities and lacks social licence — although those are strong enough reasons to stop it. The main reasons it and other pipeline projects shouldn't be built are the very same ones the government and joint review panel refused to con-

sider.

Rapid tar sands expansion, increasing reliance on dirty fossil fuels and more infrastructure that ties us to them for decades contravene the need to protect the environment, human health, global climate systems and even economic resilience.

Our choice is between ignoring overwhelming scientific evidence about the human contribution to climate change and pollution or changing our ways and reducing carbon emissions and fossil fuel dependence. It's about whether to join the green economy or pin our economic hopes on an increasingly risky industry. It's about the kind of country — and planet — we want to leave to our children and grandchildren.

The government has irresponsibly weakened democracy in its wilful blindness to the most pressing economic and environmental issue of our time. The spectre of climate change means all humanity has a stake in the future of coal and oil. To avoid the worst impacts, we must shift to a zero-carbon-emissions energy system within the next few decades. Yet Canada doesn't even have a national energy strategy. As Canadians witness how vulnerable our communities are to climate change impacts like increased intense precipitation and flooding, sea-level rise and risks to food production, demand will grow for solutions such as clean energy.

Northern Gateway has received qualified government approval. The decision will now face First Nations court challenges and backlash from the majority of British Columbians and Canadians whose voices have so far been ignored. For the sake of our communities and the future of our children, let's hope democracy prevails.

Learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org