

GRAPEVINE

HOT WHEELS

Mini-stock car racer Richard (Rich) Schwartzburgh will show off his nice ride and sign autographs at Acton's Leathertown Festival as he collects donations for the Guelph Wish Fund for Children and Hope in the City at the August 18 street party.

Acton's Linda Olson, a Royal LePage broker, is one of Schwartzburgh's main sponsors in his campaign which includes races at Flamborough, Sunset and Oshweken



SCHOOL STUFF

Lower income families in Acton are invited to apply to the Links2Care Backpack Program which supplies Kindergarten to Grade 12 students with new backpacks filled with school supplies.

Last year, 173 backpacks were distributed by a group of high school students who gained volunteer hours by running the program. Donations to this year's program would be gratefully accepted.

Applications are available at 47 Mill St. East (use the John street entrance), the Acton HUB at MSB, Acton FoodShare and the Wallace Street Early Years Centre. For information call Cathy at 519-853-3310 ext.223.

All of the cash gathered at the weekly Yoga in the Park is donated to the Backpack Program – last week that was

\$86. As well, yoga participants donated 65-pounds of food to Acton FoodShare.

Yoga registration begins at 6:30 each Thursday, and the session begins at 7 p.m. at the Rotary Bandshell in Prospect Park.

PHOTO SHARE

Check out the Town's website for some great shots of all the recreational things there are to do in Halton Hills. The photo gallery on the Town's website was created in celebration of recreation and parks month in June.

The "Play it Everyday" campaign invited people to use their cameras to capture what being active means to them, and then post them. Visit www.haltonhills.ca/liveitphoto to view the photos.

A selection is on display at the Helson Gallery at the Cultural centre, and in the Mayor's Showcase at the Civic Centre.

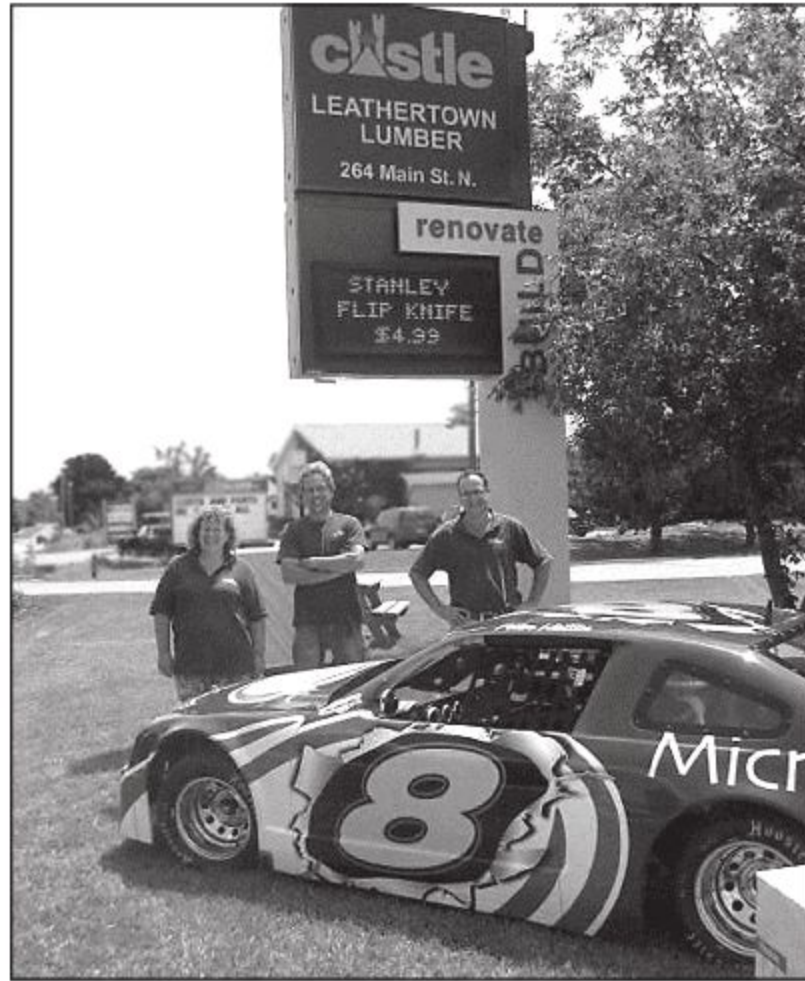
BUS READY

Parents of first-time school bus riders in the Acton Area are invited to register their kids for a free school bus orientation on Saturday, August 23 at McKenzie Smith Bennett School.

School Bus Orientation Day is a safety program offered by Halton Student Transportation Services and area bus operators to underscore the importance of school bus safety.

The orientation includes a classroom presentation on safety including a *Winnie the Pooh* video, and a demonstration on a school bus.

The Acton session begins at 9 a.m. at MSB. To register call Tyler Transport at 519-853-1550.



NICE FAST RIDE: Race car driver Peter Hattin and his No. 8 car were a hit when they recently visited Leathertown Lumber. Staffers Joanne Cober (left), Brandon Cober and Anthony Farr admired the car, which is sponsored by MicroPro Sienna Treated Wood. – Submitted photo

Our MPP Reports by Ted Arnott

MPP Wellington - Halton Hills



The Ontario Legislature began a (sometimes sweltering) summer sitting on July 2, with the election of a Speaker for the 41st Provincial Parliament. After the third ballot, we learned that Brant MPP Dave Levac would again take the Chair as Speaker.

The next day's agenda included the "swearing in" of Members of Provincial Parliament and the Speech from the Throne.

On that morning of July 3, for the first time ever, MPPs pledged allegiance to the Queen *en masse* in the Legislative Chamber, with Lieutenant-Governor David Onley presiding.

While the ceremony was over quickly, I again reflected upon the amazing privilege I have been granted by the people of Wellington-Halton Hills, and my gratitude to my campaign team and supporters across our Riding.

In the afternoon, the House was called back into session for the first Throne Speech of the re-elected Liberal Government led by Premier Kathleen Wynne.

It is often said that Throne Speeches are vague and vacuous, but this one left no doubt as to the direction the

Government intends to take. They intend to "lead from the activist centre," the Speech indicated. They "will put evidence before ideology and choose partnership over partisanship."

They acknowledged "that trust is hard-earned, but easily lost."

Only time will tell...

As the Official Opposition, it is our role to hold the Liberal Government accountable in the Legislature, pointing out the flaws and drawbacks of their agenda and their policies. I also believe we have an obligation to offer positive alternatives. But first and foremost, we must speak on behalf of the people in our Ridings.

As the Liberals had promised, on July 14 the Government tabled the same budget as the one that triggered the election this past spring.

I remain very concerned about the key numbers in the budget, as I said many times during the election campaign.

The projected deficit this year is \$12.5-billion, up from \$11.3-billion last year.

The net provincial debt will be \$289-billion this year, up from \$269-billion last year.

Provincial Government spending is expected to be \$130-billion, up from \$127-billion last year.

The net debt per capita, in effect, the amount owed by each Ontario resident, will be \$21,019, up from \$11,339 in 2003.

Interest payments on the provincial debt are \$11-billion. This is the third largest expenditure in the budget, behind only health and education. Interest costs are expected to rise by almost eight percent per year for the foreseeable future and will be the fastest growing expense item in the budget going forward.

On July 4, I was honoured to be named our Party's Critic to the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure by PC Leader Jim Wilson.

A few days later, I was appointed by a motion of the House to be the First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House (an assistant Speaker position).

While these roles will be demanding, as always, my commitment to the people of Wellington-Halton Hills comes first.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott welcomes your comments. He can be reached at 1-800-265-2366. His website address is www.tedarnottmpp.com

CORRECTIONS

The surnames of Queen's Tire Service owner Vito Manchisi and his wife, Teresa, were misspelled in a photo caption in last week's issue of their celebration marking 40 years of business in Acton.

The names of Erin's Allison Bell and Megan Venneman in the *Dutiful Donor* photo caption in last week's issue were reversed.