

GRAPEVINE

COYOTE CONCERNS

Once again, the town is cautioning people to be aware of coyotes which may become more aggressive this time of year due to the breeding season and shortage of food. If you encounter a coyote, don't turn and run, but be very loud and wave your arms, or blow a whistle, to try to scare it away. For night walks, take a flashlight and never allow any pet to run freely.

Many coyote-human conflicts involve intentional feeding of the wild animals, so experts urge to not feed them, and store garbage safely. If any wildlife is a threat, call 911.

ACTON RAM DOES VERY WELL

Acton native Sandy Chapman, 32, got some nice ink last week in the Toronto Star for his work as a defenseman for the Toronto Rock lacrosse team, and at a Burlington hospital where he works as an emergency room nurse.

Seen as a team player by both employers, Chapman helped the Rock to three National Lacrosse League titles and one when he played for Rochester. He also helped win three Mann Cups and played on the Canadian team – wearing a Halton Hills Minor Lacrosse Association patch on his jersey – that won the world indoor lacrosse championship two years ago. Chapman began his career as a five-year-old with the Acton Rams.

'HITMEN' NAME KILLED

Public outrage convinced officials with the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association and the Acton Tanners to rethink the decision to use the name "Hitmen" for the newly amalgamated Halton Hills Minor Hockey Association – instead the new name when the league begins joint play in the fall will be the Thunder.

The nickname Hitmen was one of seven suggested to players and coaches from both leagues, and it won by 700 votes, but was immediately criticized for its sexist and violent connotations and officials bowed to public pressure and pulled the name.

The Georgetown player who suggested it will still win a prize of free registration for the next season.

SPEAKERS' SERIES CHANGE

Marina Nemat, a tortured political prisoner from Iran, is

the replacement guest speaker at the Absolutely Acton Speakers' Series, a Heritage Acton fundraiser for the Acton Town Hall Centre expansion project.

Nemat is the author of several books, including the award-winning, international best seller *Prisoner of Tehran*. She has also received the inaugural Human Dignity Award from the European parliament. Along with teaching in Toronto, she also writes book reviews.

Tickets are available by calling 519-853-5302. Tickets for the originally scheduled talk with blood splatter expert Herb McDonald will be honoured for this event.

SURVEYS SAYS...

What do you think should be planted in the Acton Community Garden? Organizers want to know what kinds of vegetables people like, whether fewer or more varieties should be planted and if they should grow from seeds or transplants. Organizers hope to process survey results by the end of the month. The Community Garden group meets February 20 at 7 p.m. at the Dufferin Centre in Prospect Park, and again on February 27.

The survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TXQVPYZ>

FARM FORUM

Members of the local farming community can air their beefs about their farm property taxes at a public forum on February 28 featuring a presentation by a Provincial Farm Specialist with MPAC – the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

Hosted by the Town and the Halton Federation of Agriculture, the meeting will be held in the Civic Centre council chambers at 7 p.m. Pre-registration is encouraged by calling 905-873-2601, ext. 2345.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

Posters, electronic messages and public recognition are part of the Halton District School Board's plans to mark Employee Appreciation Day on February 22. The Board wants its 8,500 employees and the public they serve to know how integral they are to public education in Halton.

More than 5,000 teachers, occasional teachers, 3,000 non-teaching and support staff and 200 principals and vice-principals work at the Board's 83 elementary and 18 secondary schools.



CADET CASH: The Optimist Club of Halton Hills recently presented a cheque to the Acton Royal Canadian Air Cadets 197 Squadron. The money will help with operational costs and the Cadet Summer program. Norm Paget (right) President of the Optimist Club presents the cheque during a parade to Karen Foyley. – Submitted photo

LETTERS

No Frills future?

To the Editor,
Some months ago the public was invited to a meeting to determine the need for a NO FRILLS Supermarket in Acton. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend. A handful of interested citizens aired their concerns which covered, if I remember correctly, "increased traffic and safety of children in the area." I feel certain the safety of our most vulnerable will always

be foremost on the minds of responsible citizens. Like anything else we all have had to accept changes, cope and adjust – all in good time.
So I have to ask if this matter has been put on the back burner or is it a dead done deal? Surely the fierce price war on groceries taking place a mere fifteen (15) minute drive away should be indicative of the need for price changes in Acton to benefit the

many who are without transportation.
So my appeal to the Mayor is to reward many frustrated Actonites with a store that is accessible and offers gloriously lower food prices than what is presently available. We need some redemption.

*Respectfully,
Arline Coultrup
Acton, ON*

Remembering Caroline

To the Editor,
We are reaching out to ask for support for our first public fundraiser for cancer. We are looking for prize donations - gift baskets or gift certificates - for our raffle table.
In February of 2009 our dear friend Caroline Seeds was diagnosed with breast cancer while pregnant with her second child. She underwent chemo and radiation and a double bi-lateral mastectomy, all at the age of 25. Peteypalooza, named for Pete Hargrave, started in July of 2009 with a vision to gather friends and family for a day of fun with a BBQ, swimming and music.
We needed to cover our costs, so we asked for donations and any profit would be donated to

cancer. That first year we donated \$500 to the oncology ward of Guelph General Hospital in Caroline's name. The following year, Caroline signed up to do the Weekend to End Breast Cancer in Toronto. In order to participate, you must raise a minimum of \$2000 as an entry fee. Peteypalooza 2010 raised half of that fee benefiting the Princess Margaret Hospital. In 2011 we donated \$1,250 to the oncology ward at Guelph General Hospital once again. To date we have raised \$2,750 for cancer.
In the fall of 2011, Caroline's cancer had returned and on February 21 last year, she passed, leaving behind Dawson five, and Ryder, three. Caroline had set up a trust for her boys

and asked us to keep it in the minds of those looking to help. With the Peteypalooza event we raised an astounding \$6,300 for The Wilson-Seeds Trust. We will continue to do this as the years go by.
Cancer is still taking mothers from their children and affecting many people everyday that is why we have added a second yearly event to support cancer charities. We have chosen to split all the proceeds from this year's event between CASHh. (Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills) and Cottage Dreams.
We hope you can join us on March 16 for a great night
*Sincerely yours,
The Peteypalooza crew*