

GRAPEVINE

AWARDEES HONOURED

It will be worth the drive to Georgetown to pick up their awards for the three Acton winners of the Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards. Three of the four annual awards were won by Acton businesses and residents including Bill and Val Mane's Acton Home Hardware – Business of the Year, Nancy LaRose – Employee of the Year (Salvation Army Thrift Store) and Andrea Clark – Entrepreneur of the Year (Tanners Pub and Grill). The Downtown Georgetown BIA (Business Improvement Area) captured the Green Award.

The awards dinner/ceremony is March 6 at The Club at North Halton. Call the Chamber for tickets.

HAITI MISSION MONEY

Want to help send a missionary crew from Acton's Bethel Christian Reformed Church to Haiti in May? The Church is staging a dinner and silent auction on March 9 to raise funds for the young adults' mission trip to Haiti to help build houses, and possibly a medical centre. The trip will cost approximately \$37,000.

Organizers promise great food, live music and awesome auction items. For tickets call Losina at 226-979-6226 or contact losina_123@hotmail.com

FREE TAX CLINIC

The Acton library branch will host a free income tax clinic on March 21 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Find out if you are eligible to make an appointment by calling 519-853-0301.

As of March 5, the library will accept registrations for its spring line-up of children's programs – everything from Baby Tales for babes in arms to Library Lion Tales for pre-schoolers.

A Family PIN is needed to register – apply online at www.haltonhills.ca/recandparks and forms are also available at the library, at www.hhpl.on.ca or call 519-853-0391.

EARTH HOUR PREP

Students at two Acton schools are working on energy conservation post-

ers as part of the Town's fifth Earth Hour celebrations on March 23. The Robert Little and St. Joseph Catholic School students will make and decorate stars describing how they will mark Earth Hour, including turning off all unnecessary lights to cut energy use and combat global warming.

Since participating in Earth Hour, Halton Hills has saved enough energy to power approximately 17,200 homes for one hour.

On Saturday, March 23 Acton's Dave Quinn and the North Halton Astronomy Club will help the Town celebrate Earth Hour with a star gazing event at Gardiner Public school in Georgetown. Both an in-door presentation and an outdoor telescope viewing session are planned. RSVP to Jennifer at 905-873-2601 ex. 2290 or email jennifers@haltonhills.ca

SWEET WATER SEASON

March is maple month at both the Crawford Lake Conservation and Mountsberg Conservation areas where hundreds of Maple trees will be tapped for syrup – the sticky sweet harbinger of spring.

At Mountsberg, over 600 trees will be tapped and turned into syrup at the Sugar Shanty and served over hot pancakes. For details call 905-336-1158 ex. 233 or visit www.conservationhalton.ca

YUK IT UP

Former Acton resident, comedian Jeff McEnery made CBC's George Stroumboulopoulos laugh on Tuesday night when he joined a panel of comedians on the television show. The show's theme was great comebacks, and McEnery's droll humour was evident when he suggested that "rehab" is key to any comeback.

McEnery, now Yuk Yuk's youngest headlining performer, once credited Acton High School drama teacher Jen Ross for his early success. After graduation, he racked up comedy awards including Best Stand-Up Newcomer at the 2007 Canadian Comedy Awards.

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign up soon so we can get an idea on how many busses are needed.

Last Sunday, we had our Zone winter social. The theme was Mardi Gras and it was great. So many people dressed up and looked amazing. The afternoon was filled with games, food and a DJ. It was nice to see everyone come out for a meet and greet. It was a great opportunity to meet members of the other Branches.

This Thursday, the Branch is having a blood donor clinic in the main hall from 5 to 8 p.m. If you have the time and can give a gift of life, please come out and give a pint of blood.

The next Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be held on March 7 at 7:30 p.m., sharp.

Keep looking in the paper for your March events happening at the Legion.



GRAND OPENING: There was cake, best wishes and a ribbon cutting ceremony last Thursday at the newly opened office of Royal LePage Escarpment Realty at Acton's four corners. On hand for the celebration were, from left: Dr. Dana Selby, Linda Olson, Janis Braida, Mayor Rick Bonnette, Councillor Mike O'Leary, Susanne Fontana and owner Steve Fontana. – Marie Shadbolt photo

LETTERS

Praise for all

Dear Editor,

The Unity Service held on Saturday, January 27, our first ecumenical community worship service of 2013, was a great opportunity for Acton citizens to come together to worship in unity with each other. The Legion auditorium was filled with over 500 people from the congregations of our town. On behalf of the Acton Ministerial Association, I would like to

express our thanks to several individuals and groups whose contributions helped to make this service so meaningful.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197 provided the facilities for both the adult service and the children's service. The Worship Team from Crossings, and the singing of the ecumenical choir inspired everyone. Blooms Away Flower Shop donated

the lovely floral arrangement which decorated the Legion. Several volunteers helped with the Children's Service. Here we have proof again that Acton is indeed a caring community.

Once again, thank you to all for contributing to our Unity Service.

Sincerely,
Kathy Sanford
Secretary

Acton Ministerial Association

MAYOR'S CORNER

By RICK BONNETTE



Halton Hills Hydro will not be forced to sell or forced to merge with a larger utility without a fight. There was a provincial review done by Murray Elston, David McFadden and Floyd Laughren (representing all three parties) to revisit whether there are too many hydro utilities in Ontario.

They recommended:

- the 73 local hydro's be consolidated to eight to 12 and should have 400,000 customers (over a million people per utility)
- should be done within two years

Whenever there is a forced merger or sale that isn't based on a strong business case, there usually is a negative impact on cost. Reliability of our service to our residents can be jeopardized. I fear if this is approved that years down the road there may be a monopoly of perhaps three or four utilities in all of Ontario.

They claim there will be a savings of \$70 off your hydro bill in 10 year's time. Hogwash! Legal fees from the sale or merger or hiring five more vice-presidents will eat this up. Who wants to be swallowed up by a utility serving over a million people?

There may be cases in Ontario where a sale or merger might make sense. Right now, there is no case for Halton Hills to do so.

Statistics show our residents enjoy the lowest rates in the region. We ranked sixth of 73 utilities in Ontario based on operations and maintenance costs. The Town benefits from steady dividends to assist in our budget.

Hopefully the panel's review will be put in a recycling box where it belongs.

Congratulations to the winners of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce 2012 Business Achievement Awards:

Entrepreneur of the Year: An-

drea Clark, Tanner's Pub and Grill

Employee of the Year: Nancy LaRose, Acton Salvation Army Thrift Store

Business of the Year: Acton Home Hardware

Green Award: Downtown Georgetown BIA

Congratulations to Pam and Bill MacGillivray on being the first husband and wife recipients of the Hockey Heritage Award.

Look for the Town of Halton Hills Spring and Summer Recreation Guide coming out this week and program registration starts March 6.

Big Brother Big Sister bowling event on February 24, at Georgetown Bowl.

Congratulations to: Royal LePage Escarpment Realty, Acton for its Grand Opening.

Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601 ext. 2342, or by email at mayor@haltonhills.ca or you can read my blog at www.rick-bonnette.blogspot.com

LEGION NEWS
BRANCH No. 197 By Sharon Graham P.R.O.

Comrades,
It is so nice to wake up to the sounds of birds chirping. This is a sure sign that spring is not far off.

Last Saturday Zone euchre was held at Branch 136 Milton. Four of our card players made it to District, Ren Cunard, Bob Doyle, Bill Fields and Carl Fisker. Good luck to you all in the next round.

We also had entertainment last Saturday as well in the games room from 3 to 6 p.m. Everyone had a good time. The Falcons were great.

On March 24 the Branch will go to Sunnybrook for a visit with the veterans. We are hoping that we get many of our members to go.