

# GRAPEVINE



## Events in Africa

Cinder block by cinder block, a school for orphans is taking shape in Zambia with volunteers led by Acton's Yvonne Marcil, who is keeping a promise she made three years ago to children in the small, remote Zambia village.

In 2008, Marcil, and a fellow Habitat for Humanity volunteer, vowed to return to the village and build a school. The plan expanded to include building two houses for teachers, and eventually, a boarding house for rural students. In her latest blog, Marcil wrote: While we were busy inside, Gibson (the headmaster of the current orphan school), brought his first class to help collect stones that will be used in mixing concrete. In the afternoon, we volunteers were slinging bricks and mortar again, while the guys were installing the door and window frames. Starting to look a wee bit like a school." Marcil's blog can be found at <http://yvonnesevent-sinafrica.blogspot.com/2011/06/hello-from-zambiafinally.html>

## Kittens galore

The newly formed North Halton Kitten Rescue group is holding a garage sale on Saturday at the Limehouse Memorial Hall to raise money for the organization, run by former volunteers with the kitten adoption program at the Upper Credit Humane Society. All proceeds will fund the kitten rescue program, which uses approximately 30 foster homes – including some in Acton – to care for the kittens and moms until permanent homes can be found. The garage sale runs 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Safe swimming

The latest water samples from the Old Beach at Prospect Park showed it was safe to swim last week. The weekly sampling results are posted at the Halton Health Department's beach hotline and are updated on a regular basis to indicate which Halton beaches are safe and which are closed because of high bacteria levels. For beach water quality results call 311 or 1-866-442-5866.

## Successful stretching

The Yoga in the Park continues to draw large crowds to Prospect Park on Thursday nights to stretch and relax. Participants are asked to donate non-perishable food or cash – to date, they've donated 215-pounds of food for FoodShare and \$297 for the Link2Care backpack program.

The Yoga in the Park sessions, offered by Leanne Monaghan of Staying Alive Fitness, begin at 7 p.m., with registration at 6:30 p.m., for first-timers.

## Dercatch competes at CNE

Miss Acton Fall Fair, Robin Dercatch, will represent Acton

in the Ambassador of the Fairs competition at the Canadian National Exhibition next month in Toronto.

All Fair queens and ambassadors from across Ontario, who are at least 18, are eligible to compete in the Ambassador competition on Sunday, August 21. More than 70 contestants will vie for the title at the 40th edition of the competition.

For Dercatch, it will be one of her last duties as Miss Acton – she turns over her crown at the Miss Acton pageant at the Acton Fall Fair on September 16.



Robin Dercatch

## BMO guard

Many customers and passers-by were somewhat startled last week to see a guard at the Bank of Montreal Branch on Mill Street.

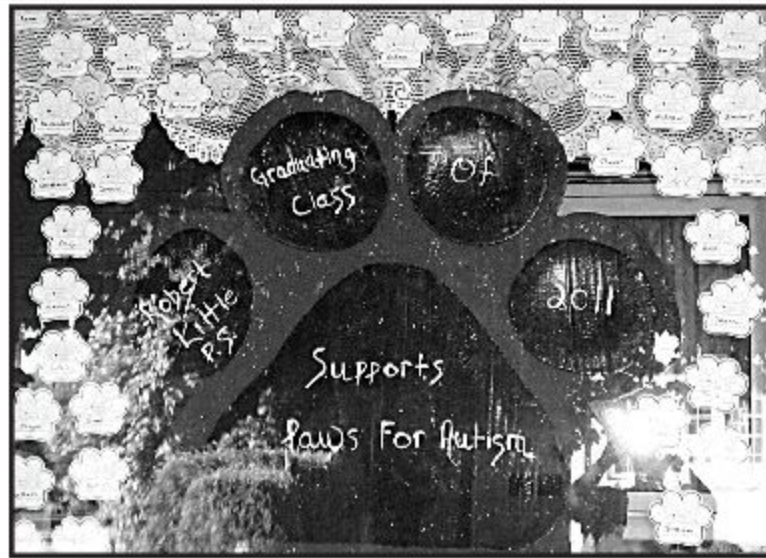
A bank employee, who did not want to be identified because she was not authorized to speak for BMO, said the guard would rotate "randomly and intermittently" visiting BMO branches in Halton on a two-week basis, stressing that there had been no incident or issue that prompted the presence of the guard.

## Acton aces

A couple of Acton residents have received some great ink lately – Curtis Hopkins, 7, was featured on the front page of The Star as he threw out the ceremonial first pitch at a Jay's game on Friday. Wearing a fake beard and sunglasses – in honour of his favourite player, Jose Bautista – Hopkins was selected for the honour after catching the attention of officials at an earlier game, when he was wearing what had been his baseball Halloween costume. Hopkins will be back at the Rogers centre on July 30 when the Jays met the Texas Rangers.

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Former Acton resident, Naval Logistics Officer, Andre Savard – all spit and polish – was selected to be the Commander of the Canadian Force's Honour Guard during the official Canadian welcoming ceremony for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The Acton High School grad joined the Canadian forces in 1999 and graduated from the Royal Military College in 2003.



# THANKS FOR PAWS

A donation in the name of the graduating class at Robert Little School helped the Daleman family of Acton in their quest to raise \$30,000 to help pay for a National Service Dog for their autistic son, Austin. This giant paw said it all.

– Submitted photo

## Letters



# Paws for Austin - A Big Thank You

Dear Editor,

Our family, especially Austin, would like to thank all the shoppers who purchased paws and all our neighbours and friends who made donations in our recent "Paws for Austin" campaign. A big thank you to the Acton merchants and their staff (20 businesses participated) who ran the campaign for us. Thank you to Nancy Wilkes and Josey Bonnette of the Acton BIA for co-ordinating the campaign, we appreciate everyone's efforts.

Seeing the numerous little yellow paw prints appear in shop windows and on bulletin boards made us feel proud and humbled that so many people in our town want to help us better life for our son. Austin enjoyed going around to many of the businesses to personally say "Thank you" when we were dropping off supplies or collecting the envelopes. In Austin's own words, "Mum it looks like the whole world is selling paws for me,"

"everyone wants me to have my dog," and we feel that he is correct on both counts.

Together we raised \$2,100 in June, bringing us ever closer to our \$30,000 goal.

Recently we were notified by National Service Dogs that Austin's dog has entered advanced training and will graduate in the Spring 2012 class. If all goes according to plan, people will

see Austin walking tall in the company of his dog next June.

If you missed buying a paw in June, no worries, paws can still be purchased at Tanners, Dollar Stretcher Daze, Profile Hair and Silver Creek Spa, Acton Auto Tech, Salvation Army Thrift Store, Head 2 Toe, and Active Choice.

Patricia and Stephen Daleman  
Acton

# Thanks to donors

To the Editor,

When I picked up a recent issue of New Tanner and read the front page, it brought tears to my eyes. My son-in-law has been in hospital for over four months (fighting cancer) and has had more than seven blood transfusions. He has a very rare blood type. We have had to get blood from as far away as New York. Giving your time to donate blood is a very selfless gesture. From the bottom of my heart and from my family also, we thank you. We are very glad for the nagging wife. David Forrester, Elmer Dunn and all of you who have donated, thank you. Thank you just doesn't seem enough.

Lorraine Johnson, Acton

# More to Halton Place story - reader says

To the Editor,

RE: Halton Place

With due respect to all of the articles and letters to the editor concerning Halton Place, I would like to get the following comments off my chest:

David Johnston (NEC planner) said in opposition to the Halton Place application that it was based on its "... general level of intensity of use and permanent nature of use." Mr. Jack Pemberton (past president of the Royal Winter Fair and a fixture there, showing his beautiful coaches, horses, and turnout doe decades) said if Halton Place was still a "Mickey Mouse" horse show, nobody in their right mind would risk having their expensive show horses slipping and/or falling due to non permanent, unprepared footing, i.e.: a cut hay

field, therefore there would be very few entries.

Generally attracting 500 competitors and visitors per day should generate quite a bit of revenue for the neighbouring towns. As well as the competitors, there are owners, trainers, grooms, parents, judges, ring crew etc. that would use the local hotels, restaurants, gas stations and perhaps gift shops, theatres, parks and other attractions. Speaking of money, the list of charities that Halton Place donates to is rather lengthy.

Back to the first quote of the first paragraph – how do the two mammoth neighbouring quarries fit into this NEC picture?

I can't imagine a hue and cry of residents and shop keepers in the west end of downtown Toronto about the traffic, noise and odour during the CNE (for

over 100 years), and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (since 1922).

Other questions for Halton Place:

- 1) Do they sell their home-bred breeding stock – Yes
- 2) Do they sell the hay they grow – Yes, to the exhibitors
- 3) Do they use chemicals on their home-grown hay – No
- 4) Have they planted any trees – Yes, hundreds

From all of the uproar, you would think that Mr. Leckebusch was in cahoots with the Conklin Bros.

I wonder, would the Halton Place neighbours prefer the farm's previous occupation (a pig farm), on a hot humid day with a steady, brisk west wind?

Sincerely,  
M.J. Paterson  
Acton, ON