



FILLING IN THE BLANKS: The New Tanner is asking for help filling in questions marks with the names of employees of the Mason Knitting Company in Acton, circa 1935 pictured here. What we know, so far is: Front row (l to r) Lol McMullen, Grace McMullen, Charlie Mason, George Mason, Lil Perry, Daisy Folster, Ethel James, ????, Mrs. Mooney, ????, Helen Dawkins, Phil Tyler, ????, Dot Cordner, Dot McPherson, Mary Chalmers. Middle row (l to r) Bill Ramsden, Charlie Kirkness, Ray Agnew, Lottie Mason, Mabel Huard, ????, Flora Sayers, Jessie Young, Louise Latham, Millie Rolles, ????, Helen Cook, Mae Bruce, Reta McNabb. Back row (l to r) Bob Parkinson, Tom Nicol, Toon (Arthur) Gamble, Albert Mills.

GRAPEVINE



Cherry-picking offers lessons in life

By David Suzuki

When my daughter Severn was born in 1979, my wife Tara and I wanted to raise her with an understanding that a lot of food is seasonal, particularly vegetables and fruits, especially in a country like Canada. The only reason we can always get fresh strawberries, tomatoes, avocados, and lettuce is because we use the entire planet as a source of products. When oil was cheap and our awareness of climate change was limited, we had the illusion that it was practical to have inexpensive, fresh vegetables and fruit from all over the world year-round. Now we know better, and more people are eating food that is organic, local, and seasonal.

Around the world, people celebrate our connectedness with the rest of the biosphere through festivals for blueberries, rice, strawberries, and peaches. Tara and I love cherries. We thought it would be great to celebrate their season with an annual ritual. So for 32 years, we have looked forward to our annual cherry run, which begins as soon as school ends. We have loaded up the van and camped our way toward the Okanagan Valley where, depending on what kind of spring it was, we might start south in Osoyoos, or further north in Penticton or Kelowna.

It has become a wonderful ritual, a kind of reward at the end of a school year – even though we’ve sometimes watched our daughters suffer the gastrointestinal problems of gorging on too much fruit. Over the years, they



Science Matters
By David Suzuki

have brought friends and cousins and boyfriends, as much for the swimming and horseback riding as for picking and eating cherries. Now we look forward to our grandchildren participating in the tradition.

When we started this ritual, Kelowna, Penticton, Oliver, and Osoyoos were small towns, delightful to visit and no doubt beautiful places to live. Yet over the years, the area has transformed. Now huge houses and wineries dominate the valley. People have poured into the area, attracted by climate and amenities like fishing and hiking, skiing, and relatively inexpensive homes. In the process, the towns we delighted in visiting have become choked with traffic, air and water pollution, shopping mall after shopping mall of chain businesses, social problems of drugs and violence, and tensions between itinerant labour and locals. And looming always as a major issue is water – too many people and too much demand.

Once, productive soil generated a cornucopia of good food. Now, much of that land has been converted to accommodate big houses and boutique vineyards often run by absentee owners. I doubt that any local politicians in 1979 would have opted for the kind of places their communities have become today. Yet this is happening all over the country, as people seize the short-term benefits of an economic shot-in-the-arm from opening new

developments, filling in wetlands, diverting streams, and so on. In the process, the communities that attracted people in the first place are disappearing.

The problem is that agendas based solely on economics and politics are, by definition, short-term. That is the very nature of these activities. We have few mechanisms to define what people like about the communities they live in, what they hope will still flourish when their children grow up and start having children of their own.

It seems weird to me, living in the wonderful neighbourhood of Kitsilano in Vancouver, that my children will not be able to afford to live in a house like the one they grew up in. That’s not a sustainable, stable community. We have to keep the big picture in mind and make sure we don’t sacrifice the very things that made a community attractive in the first place. And we must protect the things that keep the planet and our local surroundings rich, diverse, and healthy.

The annual pilgrimage that we started so long ago provides me with a perspective, and context to consider where we are and where we seem to be going. All communities need that, and I guess it resides in the elders, folks who have a long history and experience in a place. They can define the pace of change and consider whether it is what people want and need.

Dr. David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author, and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation.

Learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org.

More West Nile virus

A batch of mosquitoes collected last week in Burlington has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the first batch of positive mosquitoes found in the City of Burlington and the second batch in Halton Region this year. The mosquitoes were collected from the area of Guelph Line and New Street. The other batch of positive mosquitoes was collected in the Town of Oakville.

Maps showing the locations of positive mosquito pools, as well as standing water sites that have had larvicide applied are available on the Health Department’s website at www.halton.ca/wnv. To report standing water or for more information about West Nile virus, please dial 311 or call Halton Region at 905-825-6000, toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866), TTY 905-827-9833 or e-mail wvn@halton.ca.

Lord Stanley’s Cup

On July 28, in front of approximately 2300 fans, Guelph native Rich Peverley of the 2011 Stanley Cup Champion Boston Bruins shared the Stanley Cup with his fans. Rich sat on the front hood of a Guelph Police cruiser, holding the cup as he was escorted into the Sleeman Centre where he was welcomed with loud cheers and praises from proud fans who attended this event.

Coming Apart

Century Church Theatre presents “Coming Apart”, August 17 to 28, a witty and hilari-

ous romantic comedy by Fred Carmichael, directed by David Glover. Starring Pat Beaven, Carol McCone, Gary Seibert, Patrick C. Smith. Matinee performances on Wednesday, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 2:30 p.m., Evening performances on Fridays, Saturdays and second Thursday at 8:00 p.m. Box Office 519-855-4586 or www.centurychurchtheatre.com

Long distance delivery

The New Tanner received word this past weekend that our weekly publication is, somehow, making it all the way to Sauble Beach. It seems former Acton residents are keeping informed of events and news in our community thanks to an unknown delivery person. We think that’s great! Thanks.

Beach Unsafe

Beach water samples taken by Halton Region Health Department on July 26 revealed the Prospect Park Old Beach has high levels of bacteria and is unsafe for swimming. Residents can call Halton Region to find out which beaches have acceptable levels of bacteria or which have been posted as unsafe for swimming due to poor water quality. Beach water quality information is available 24 hours a day by dialling 311 or calling 905-825-6000, toll free 1-866-442-5866 or TTY 905-827-9983. During regular business hours ask for beach information, and after regular business hours press 0 for health information.