

GRAPEVINE



Empty space

The agent for Acton East plaza finds it "very unusual" that no one stepped up quickly to lease the two vacant stores – the former KFC and Curves, said Paul Ciardullo, agent/property manager for Effort Trust.

Asked for an update, Ciardullo said "surprising, nothing much was happening." "We usually in Acton have never had a vacancy," he said, repeating that it's very unusual, especially for the former KFC.

"It's a fully equipped restaurant. I thought I'd have that rented in a heart beat, but that's not the case...it's very strange because there's not very much for rent in Acton," he said, adding he does not know why there is no interest.

Starlight films

A jacket or warm blanket might be a good idea if you're heading to Party Cinema's Movies in the Park screening of a thrilling swashbuckler at dusk on Saturday. Because the movie is being shown before the DVD is released for sale, the title of the film can't be revealed, but it involves a scamp of a hero in the fourth instalment of the films.

It's always a good idea to arrive early at Prospect Park if you want the best seats for the movie, which is sponsored by a dozen local businesses. The movie is free with donation an item of non-perishable food for the food bank. After five successful movie nights in the Park, which each drew approximately 400 people, Saturday's screening is the last one of the summer season for Party Cinemas.

Food needed

While there is lots of dried pasta on the shelves of Acton's FoodShare, they are "out of everything else," according to Board chair Arlene Humphreys as she surveyed the dwindling stockpile recently, noting there were only four packages of juice boxes left, they had no salmon, very few tuna and were low of peanut butter.

President's Ball

The United Way of Halton Hills has a lot to celebrate at its annual President's Ball next month – the umbrella organization is 25 years old and hopes former Board members and supporters will help mark the milestone.

Twelve local agencies will be presented with one-time funding cheques at the semi-formal at the Club at North Halton on September 17, which will include a champaign bar, silent auction, gourmet dinner

and entertainment. All proceeds will support the United Way which currently funds 20 local social service agencies. For more information call Janet at 905-877-3066.

Safe to swim

Now that it's too cool to swim, it's safe to do so at the Old Beach in Prospect Park. The August 23 Fairy Lake water test results show bacteria counts at an acceptable level. For up-to-date beach water test results dial 311, or 1-866-442-5866. During regular business hours ask for beach information and after-hours press "0" for health information.

CFUW meet

The first Canadian Federation of University Women kicks off the 2011-2012 season with its first meeting on Tuesday (September 6) in Glen Williams at the St. Alban the Martyr Parish Hall at 7:30 p.m.

For details visit www.cfuw-georgetown.ca

Auxiliary cops wanted

Halton police are looking for community-minded people who would like to be trained as civilian volunteer Auxiliary members. They support regular police officers with local crime prevention initiatives, help in ground searches for lost or missing persons, and help at events like the Acton Fall Fair. For information visit www.haltonpolice.ca or call 905-878-5511 ex: 4705.

In the swim

The Acton Aqua Ducks Swim Club holds its fall registration for returning members and their siblings on Tuesday (September 6) at the Acton Indoor Pool from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Registration for new swimmers – who are asked to bring a swim suit for swim assessment – is Wednesday (September 7) from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Suicide prevention

Acton's Roxy is one of several Halton locations to host concerts on Saturday, September 10 to mark World Suicide Prevention Day. The Halton Suicide Prevention Coalition, along with volunteers with Compassion and Peace, and the Halton Branch of Canadian Mental Health, has organized Live 4 Life: Concert for Cause, featuring bands from across Halton.

Local artists will donate their time and talents – along with Limehouse's Tim Alberts, HannahChaplain, ChrisGolden and The Prodigal Son, there will be an open mic schedule for the Roxy. All proceeds will go to local programs promoting Suicide Prevention. For details visit www.live4life.ca



BUS SAFETY: Acton area first time school bus riders watched a bus safety video in Acton High School on Saturday, and then checked out a bus and went for a short ride at the school bus orientation day hosted by Tyler Transport. – Pat Robinson photo

The grass isn't always greener on the other side



By
Angela Tyler

Over the weekend, the Dude had another 'road trip' out of town for work for the day. He had one a couple of weeks ago as well. Before we had the troop, if he had a day trip here or there, he would do his thing and I would do my thing. Now, we look forward to these trips as an opportunity for quality time and join him.

Last time, we headed east to Trenton. I hadn't had reason to travel in that direction past the city for a number of years. It was a Saturday so the traffic wasn't too horrible and it was different in a nice way to get out of my travel rut.

As we drove there, one kid asleep and in between us singing Fisher-Price tunes with the other one, we started talking and doing the 'remember when' talk. I was like a tourist in a way seeing Toronto for the first time. I spent half the time turning my head to take a second look at things I missed while the other half of the time I spent saying "WOW, did you see that?" Our remember when talk had me reminiscing about one of my last summer's as a teenager. I'm not sure if I was just finishing High School or already finished. Either way, friends and I would either drive to the city or hopping the bus down to Yonge Street where we would wander the stores buying vinyl records and trying to look

like we weren't from a small town. I still can't believe I did that. Now, the city is a place I rarely go and really don't miss going. Heading east of the city and seeing a bit of Trenton was nice, but as a creature of habit, I wasn't in a rush to go back.

This past weekend, we headed north of the city. We went north of Barrie and took the back way to get to the 400 above the city. We went to a family friend's cottage last year and that was the last time I was that direction. Things have changed going north as well, however, I don't think as much. It's odd not seeing the signs for Molson Park and instead seeing the development. It was even stranger seeing the old McDonalds rest stop being torn down to be replaced with a new one. I think it was the only one that had a drive-thru and service station under the restaurant.

On the way home I asked if we could take a different back way home and soon we were wandering through many small towns heading to Wasaga Beach and then weaving our way south and home. The Dude said to me as we drove along it felt like we were going back in time. Before

we got to Wasaga Beach there were no 'box' stores. There were no Tim Hortons and one town the only thing still not boarded up was a real-estate office, which I couldn't figure out.

However, the majority of the small towns were really cute for want of a better word. They had stores on their Main Streets and a variety of them as well. The downtowns looked nice with their landscaping and flowers and patrons walking and going into the stores. From the beach to Acton every town was the "cute" little town with a "cute" little Main Street and it was really nice to see.

Then as we got into Acton we had a sort of unfamiliar feeling. In one way we felt like we talked about how pretty these little towns were but we never stopped to actually go out and look around. We did the same thing when we went to Trenton. Then we had another thought. We have that "cute" little Main Street (or Mill Street in our case). We have the street lined with flowers, with nice store fronts and people out and about on a weekend going into the stores and restaurants or just out for a walk. Sure we could use some more retail stores and fewer services on our "Main Street" but in this case, the grass isn't greener on the other side. Our downtown grass is doing pretty good when you stop and think about it.