

GRAPEVINE



Sherlock the profiler

Criminal profiling is nothing new according to historian Doug Wrigglesworth who will explore the 60 stories written by Sherlock Holmes – the first profiler – at the Esqueing Historical Society's next meeting on September 14 at 7:30 p.m., at Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown.

Jazz series

The first season of the popular Jazz at the Museum series at Halton Region Museum kicks off Sunday with Sean Bray's Peach Trio. The performance, a fundraiser for the Halton Museum Foundation, takes place in the Hearth room in the Museum's historic Alexander Barn from 2 to 4 p.m.

Waste diversion events

More than 1,000 tonnes of processed compost will be given away free to Halton residents during a one-day compost giveaway on September 17, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Halton waste management site in Milton. Residents are asked to bring an item of non-perishable food or a cash donation to be distributed among Halton's food banks.

Halton is also hosting special waste drop-off days for safe disposal of household hazardous waste and electronic waste, including pesticides, paint, motor oil, computers at two Halton locations. For a complete list of items that can be dropped off and for dates and locations, visit www.halton.ca/waste

Toonie Breakfast

The next Men's Toonie Breakfast at Bethel Church is Saturday (September 10) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All men are invited every second Saturday of the month to the \$2 break-

fast that features food and fellowship. For details call 519-853-2121 or visit www.actoncrc.com

Library calendar

On-line registration is now open for various free programs for kids at the Acton Library including Baby Tales (six to 23 months), Tales for Two (24 to 35 months), and Library Lions (three to year.)

If you haven't already registered with the Town for a recreation program or with the library, fill out a PIN application form on line at www.haltonhills.ca/recandparks or pick one up at the library.

Acton's Judy Hopper, a public speaker who began a new Toastmasters Club – the Acton Orators – recently, is the guest speaker at the Halton Hills Library's Toastmaster Info Night on September 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Free job search help

Looking for work, but need help? All this month the Links2Care Employment Resource Centre is offering free employment sessions including job search essentials on September 12, employment and retraining programs on September 15 and 29, interview skills on September 20 and on September 28, there will be a small business information workshop. For more information call 519-853-5014.

Knox is Fair ready

Homemade pies and a soup/sandwich luncheon will be offered at Knox Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 17 from 11 a.m. until they sell out – which they always do – by early to mid-afternoon. Proceeds from the annual popular event will go into church coffers.



LIFE LONG LEARNERS: Like kids all over Acton, these well-dressed students lined up for the first bell as classes began in public schools on Tuesday, and at St. Joseph Catholic School on Wednesday. – Marie Shadbolt photo

TV Dilemma - To View Or Not To View

When Little J came into our life, I made a conscious decision to try to keep her active with things other than television. I do think television is inevitable and it can be educational as well as entertaining but she has a life time of it to experience.

Many people find it hard to believe that we have one television. Unlike many households, we don't have a television in our bedroom either. Don't get me wrong though. The Dude and I do watch television, although my personal television viewing is very limited now with Little J and Junior A in our life.

One of the reasons my own television viewing is limited is because the kids and I try to do things that don't involve television. Our days are filled with reading, colouring, going for walks and outings, learning things like counting and the alphabet and Little J and I are slowly trying to do some baking together. Right now we really don't have time to watch television.

However, when talking with people here and there, there usually is a point where someone will say something like, "She (Little J) must have heard that (or saw) that on television..." When I tell them she doesn't watch television it is usually followed by the look of shock similar to the



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expression "a deer caught in the headlights."

After feeling guilty for Little J not seeing Sesame Street or other kiddie programs, I decided when she was starting to talk and walk to plunk her down in front of the television and see if she would watch it with me. While Elmo and all the other Sesame Street buddies were on she wouldn't watch it. She was more interested in talking to our dogs than watching the show.

Then for Christmas, I was looking for something for her stocking when I came across a DVD at Giant Tiger in the bargain bin. It looked cute so I got it. After Christmas we tried watching it and she entertained the idea for a few minutes but still nothing. About six months later, we tried it again and now it is a different story...sort of.

Into our life entered Pocoyo. He is an animated boy with his friends Pato, Elly (the Elephant), Sleepy Bird (although the Dude insists he is Stinky Bird) and an array of other characters. Little J refers to him as Po' and she adores him. She squeals with delight when she is allowed

to watch an episode. What I like about Po' is the episodes are only seven minutes long and the messages are positive and toddler friendly. Little J is allowed one or two episodes at a time.

Lately though we have turned to the portable DVD player with Po' to entertain her for long car ride trips. When I say long, I mean over two hours. She loves being able to watch Po' thanks to her aunt buying her a special Po' DVD however, I am feeling like a worse mom than when I wasn't plunking her in front of the TV. Shouldn't she be watching the scenery or listening to music and signing along when we are on a road trip? We never had a portable movie to watch when I was her age to keep us entertained and we survived. Then as I start to think that way...you know the "when I was your age we walked five miles to school in a snow storm without boots..." way adults used to talk, and then I think did I actually almost say that out loud? Little J likes watching a DVD on a road trip that is kid friendly with a positive message and she likes it. When I think about it in that aspect, it makes me wish we had a portable DVD player when I was a kid.