

GRAPEVINE



Fill that bus

One of the entrants in Acton's Santa Claus parade next Saturday will be a bus, which hopefully by the end of the parade route, will be filled with new unwrapped toys, gift cards and cash from parade watchers along the route who want to help make sure that needy kids have a Merry Christmas.

Last year, the Halton Police Toys for Tots program raised a record-breaking \$180,100, which was used to spread holiday cheer to 3,000 local families in need. This year, the program includes a Community Challenge. Organizers ask people to make Toys for Tots their charity of choice and to take the program to their schools, workplaces, organizations and neighbourhoods. The toys and gifts collected are distributed by the Salvation Army to local families in each community.

A happier Christmas

Families struggling this holiday season can apply to be part of the Acton Community Christmas Hamper program, which distributes food and age-appropriate Christmas toys to needy families. Application forms can be filled out on November 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Salvation Army Church at 114 Mill St. East, and again on November 26, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The program is a joint effort by the Salvation Army Acton Family Services, St. Vincent Charities of St. Joseph Church, Acton Council of the Knights of Columbus, and the Rotary Club of Acton. The hampers will be distributed on December 17.

Applications are also being accepted until December 2 at the Acton and Georgetown Links2Care offices for its Holiday Hamper program, which provides new children's clothing to low income families with children under 18. Links2Care is also looking for people who would like to sponsor a family. For details call Cathy at 519-853-3310.

Hallowe'en for Hunger

Students at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School collected 186 pounds of food for Acton's FoodShare food bank in a Hallowe'en for Hunger campaign. The food drive was part of the school's "spooktacular" Hallowe'en activities organized by the Student Council. While the junior grades enjoyed a costume parade, other classes decorated their doorways and carved pumpkins.

Anniversary tunes

There will be a lot of jazz in the air on November 26 when

the Halton Region Museum celebrates its 50th anniversary with a night of music and food. The Hearthside series involves a fireside scotch tasting, a foods of the world buffet and three jazz acts, including the Vickie van Dyke Trio, James Brown and the Chris Platt Assemblage. The Museum is located in Kelso Conservation Area in Milton. For details visit www.halton.ca/hearthside or call 905-875-2200, ext. 27.

Busy Library Calendar

Everything you wanted to know about bone health will be revealed on November 16 at the Acton library. Kate Harvey from Osteoporosis Canada will talk about how nutrition and exercise can build better bones. To register, call 519-853-0301, ext. 2550.

Want a sneak peak at some new books before they are put on the shelves at the library? Check out the Coffee, Books and Conversation event at the Acton library on November 25 from 2 to 3 p.m. Along with refreshments, participants can chat about their recent reads, and learn all about eBooks by trying some of the different eReaders available. Registration is recommended by calling 519-853-0301.

For the PA Day tomorrow (Friday), kids are invited to bring their lunch to the popular Munch to the Movies event when the library will screen the new *Winnie the Pooh* movie at 12 noon.

Life giving

Seven first time donors and three 10 timers were among the 74 people who attended the Canadian Blood Services clinic on Monday at the Acton arena/community centre. Sixty-one units of blood were collected. The next clinic is December 15 at the Acton Legion. To book an appointment call 1-888-236-6283.

Bazaars on tap

Looking for some stocking stuffers? There are two great Christmas bazaars and teas on the calendar, starting with the Christmas bazaar and general store at Trinity United Church on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring a bake table, homemade jams, a penny table, vintage aprons and a coffee shop.

A penny sale, grocery basket draw, religious articles and homemade baking will be featured at the St. Joseph Patron of Canada annual bazaar and tea on Saturday, November 19 in the Church Hall. The tea table will be open from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – before and after the Santa Claus parade – and Santa will be on hand between 2 and 3 p.m.



KNOX NOSH: Acton's Dorothy Rognvaldson and Bern Van Fleet enjoyed lunch at Knox Presbyterian Church's recent annual bazaar and tea. – Ted Tyler photo

I know I will remember

About a month ago I couldn't help but notice the area around our Cenotaph had been unearthed. I had no idea what was going on. I wasn't sure if they were replacing or maybe adding to the memorial or digging a hole for something else.

As the days went on, so did the work and soon it was noticeable; it wasn't a hole that was being dug yet, they weren't replacing it or adding onto it, they were doing something to the memorial to enhance it.

Almost every day I would drive through downtown and make sure I looked at the work in progress. At first it was hard to figure out what and more importantly how they would improve the memorial. In the beginning it just looked like a big, dirty mess that surely couldn't be done in time for November 11th. I started wondering why they had waited so close to the date to do all this work. Why didn't they do this in the summer I thought?

One day it looked like pieces of wood were plotting where perhaps concrete was going to be poured. A handful and



By
Angela Tyler

usually just one or two people were dutifully continuing with the work almost daily. I recognized a couple men from our Legion. That was when I decided I needed to figure out what was going on. I went on our Legion's website and realized that it was a branch project to give our town's Cenotaph a "much needed facelift".

As the days to our first Remembrance Day service was fast approaching the work on the site began to really take shape. Then what seemed like overnight the memorial that I would look at once and a while when I drove by seemed to emerge from a place of quiet existence to one of which had presence almost overnight.

It didn't happen overnight though. There were hours upon hours of hard, physical labour being done. There was raking and grading and digging and most importantly hoping for decent weather to complete the project to honour our war dead

in the services.

On Saturday, our family attended the first of two Remembrance Day services in our town. The Cenotaph looked wonderful. It may seem like a simple change for some when they look at it however sometimes you need to look past the surface and remember the work that was done to achieve what was done.

At the service I was thinking how I always tried to attend in the past and for many years participated in the service with our Acton Citizen's Band but when I didn't have to attend it wasn't hard to find an excuse not to attend. Now with having our own children, I don't want to find those excuses. I want us to attend and I want our children to learn, remember and appreciate. However, I also want them to not only learn, remember and appreciate our veterans. I also want them to learn, remember and appreciate self-less acts and people who volunteer. As a result of our Legion member volunteers performing a self-less act I know I will remember our town's veterans more often...thanks to all, our Cenotaph looks great!

