

# GRAPEVINE



### Glad to help

Sometimes Grapevine is the conduit between interesting people, places and things, as witnessed by thanks from a satisfied reader, happy that Grapevine ran an item last spring about a photographer, Acton's Nik Milner, who was looking for classic cars to shoot for the 2011 Walmart Dream Car calendar.

Acton's Brenda Denny responded to Milner, and her 1957 Chev Belair is "Miss February" in the calendar. "Thanks to your article, a local girl and her car are (almost) famous," Denny wrote. She's owned the red convertible – one of six classic cars in her fleet – for 10 years, and it is her "baby."

The car, \$2,306 brand new, was a promotional vehicle for KRLA radio in Los Angeles. It sat in a trailer in Toronto for over 10 years before Denny bought it and now shows it off at cruise nights and car shows.

The photo that Milner selected was taken at the north end of Sauble Beach. Proceeds from the 97-cent calendars, available at Walmart, goes to the Children's Miracle Network. "If I hadn't been reading Grapevine, this never would have happened."



### To Be Determined

Two weekend performances of the new To Be Determined Theatre Company's *Sucked In* were well accepted by appreciative audiences at the Acton Town Hall Centre. The youth theatre company was recently opened by artistic director Alexandra Lent, who said she grew up in Georgetown and was always scared of "audition-based theatre groups and programs – so everyone is welcome, no audition required."

Lent, who also is part of the Escarpment Fencing Club, is also prepping for a Swords and Stage holiday theatre camp at the Town Hall Centre from January 2 to 6. Participants will learn fencing and drama skills, and get to re-enact their favourite movie sword fight. For more information about call 905-864-2897.



### Balsam best?

Balsams are touted as the tree of choice by many people this Christmas – and it's proving to be a popular seller at the Men of Heritage Acton's tree lot by the tracks on Mill Street. This is the 14th year the group (former Kinsmen) has sold trees to raise money for local groups. They hope to sell all of their 350 trees and raise \$5,000 this year.

### Thanks, but no thanks

"What a waste of money." That's how one local reacted to a congratulatory shout out from Halton Chair Gary Carr which included a copy of a newspaper picture of them receiving an award and Carr's business card saying "You're Making News."

On Tuesday, Carr defended his practice, which he began as an MPP in 1990, of recognizing citizens' achievements, and defended his fiscal record. "We have the best record in all of Canada in keeping taxes down. We've been able to freeze taxes at the Region for six years," he said, adding "with all due respect to the person who complained – the first one ever – I'm going to continue to recognize citizens who do great work."

Carr said he clips the photos from the papers himself, and sends out approximately 12 congratulations each month, so the only cost is to mail them.

### Coin campaign

During Sunday's Children's Christmas pageant, congregants at Knox Presbyterian Church will turn in the coin banks which were handed out at Thanksgiving. The money, collected in memory of the late Kim Petty, is used to help children in Acton, across Canada and around the world.

Since Petty's death in 1982, the church has collected money to support a foster child, provided money and assistance to a boy with autism, enabled a child with cancer to go to camp, and made donations to Sick Kids Hospital where Petty was treated. The remainder of last year's collection will help pay for a service dog named Cruiser who will help Acton's Austin Daleman, who is autistic, to live a safe, healthy life. Approximately \$1,000 is raised annually through the coin banks.



ANGELS SING: The junior choir was part of the performance on Sunday night when Churchill Community Church staged its annual Christmas pageant. – Ted Tyler photo

# Television nostalgia

The other night there was nothing on the television – odd because there really always is something on. However, that night, nothing seemed to make us want to actually watch.

As I was flipping the channels, I ended up on the Game Show Network. It was a *Family Feud* marathon; episode after episode of *Family Feud*. The interesting part was the episodes we ended up watching were the original ones from the 70's with former *Hogan's Heroes* star and host Richard Dawson, and they were good.

Over the past month or so, more "blast from the past" television shows have showed up, and quite frankly, in my opinion, I really do enjoy watching them more than many new television shows.

I was pretty happy to see the original black and white episodes of *Gilligan's Island* playing nightly again. There is something about shows like *Leave it to Beaver* that may seem really out of it for some, especially younger people, yet there is no violence, no swearing, no sex and usually a decent



By Angela Tyler

story. Now granted, the story of the castaways might be a little farfetched, but it is still amusing, if nothing else.

A few weeks back at Junior A's playgroup, talk turned to the moms' favourite nursery rhymes and songs from when they were little. Most of the moms there are at least a decade younger than me, so their memories are better. Then, the group co-ordinator and I somehow ended up reminiscing about television shows we watched when we were younger via the old bunny ear style antennas.

"Do you remember *David and Goliath*?" she asked me. Well of course I did. It ran on the Commander Tom show from Buffalo every week day at 4 p.m. With the bunny ear antennas though, sometimes we could only see the show if the weather and cloud cover permitted.

She then continued with remember when. "How about *Tiny Talent Time*?" Another home run. "My sister was ON IT!" I exclaimed. "My sister tap danced on it." "*The Friendly Giant*....?" she inquired. "Yep I remember him, but I didn't like him. He gave me the creeps," I replied.

Then she tried to stump me. "Miss Fran?" she inquired with hesitation. I blurted out... "*ROMPER ROOM!!!* How come they never said your name when you wanted them to?" By then, the younger mom's in the group were looking at me like I was from another planet.

They have no idea what they missed out on, long before video games when we had Miss Fran looking through a magnifying glass (without the glass) into the television lens telling us she could see us and hopefully saying our name as if she was really talking to us. How do you really explain shows like these to people who grew up with computers, email and video games instead learning to see people through a glassless magnifying glass?

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