

GRAPEVINE

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is accepting applications for the Canadian Women in Municipal Government Scholarship.

FCM's scholarship program for secondary school students began in 2010. There are five awards of \$1000, each, with one award to be presented in each of the five regions of Canada (British Columbia, The Prairies and Territories, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada). The scholarship is open to women students enrolled in any year of study in secondary school and who are contributing to their school's leadership team or student council.

The application period is now open until January 31, 2017. To apply visit the FCM website, www.fcm.ca.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AT THE ACTON TOWN HALL

The Acton Community Christmas Dinner held on Christmas Day at the Acton Town Hall was a big success with volunteers making Christmas special for more than 100 people. Volunteers took on a list of 83 items that included carving the turkey, making stuffing, gravy-making, serving and dish-duty. The Acton Brownies and Girl Guides provided the table centrepieces and party crackers.

FUGITIVE OF THE WEEK

In this edition of Fugitive of the Week the 3 District, Burlington Offender Management Unit is searching for Mohamed Ozor, 22 years, of Quebec. It is alleged: In April of 2016 Ozor committed three commercial break and enters on the North Service Road in Burlington.

During one of the break and enters, an alarm was activated and police responded. Police arrived and Ozor was arrested

inside the commercial premise. Ozor was on probation at the time of the offences, and he was charged with Break and Enter, Failing to Comply with Probation, and Obstruct Police Officer.

Ozor has since failed to appear to court in answer to the charges, and his whereabouts are unknown at this time. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

He is now wanted by Halton Regional Police Service for: Break and Enter – 3 counts, Obstruct Police Officer, Fail to Comply with Probation, Fail to Appear in Court.

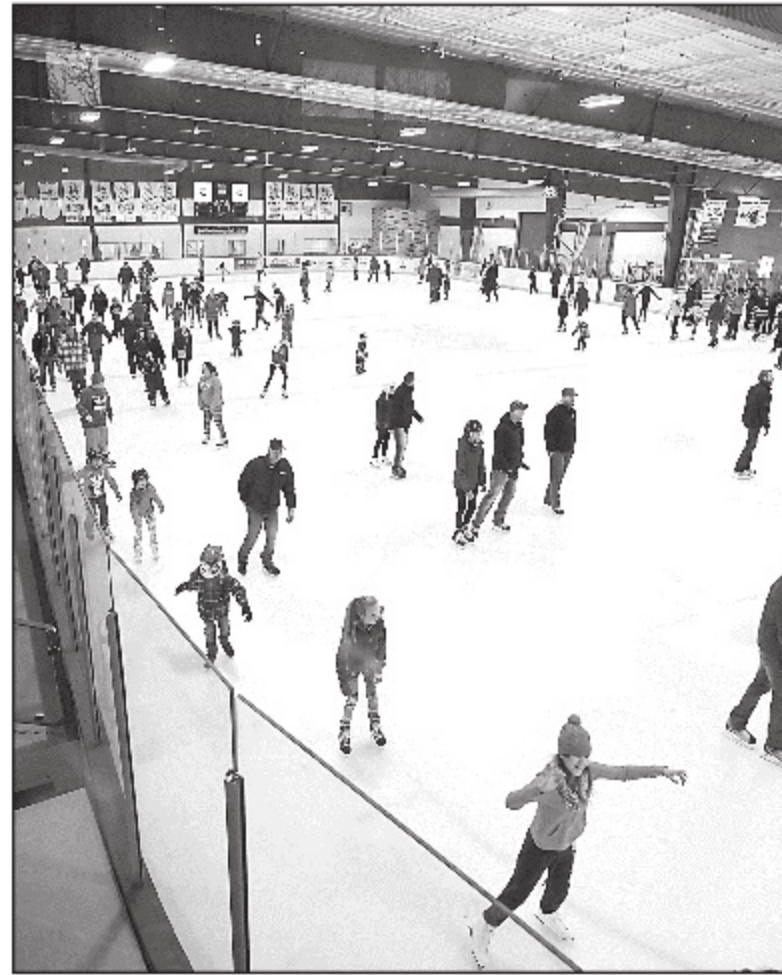
He is also wanted in Toronto for Break and Enter – 6 counts, and he is currently on charge in the province of Quebec for 13 counts of Break and Enter.

Ozor is described as 5'11", 220 lbs with black hair and brown eyes. He is known to frequent Montreal, Burlington, Toronto and the surrounding areas.

Anyone who may have witnessed this person or has information that would assist investigators in locating him are encouraged to contact D/C Bulbrook - Burlington Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-825-4747 ext. 2346 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or through the web at www.crimestoppers.com, or by texting "Tip201" with your message to 274637 (crimes).



Mohamed Ozor,



HOLIDAY SKATING: The Ice Pads at the Acton Arena have been busy over the holidays. Thanks to local sponsors; the Acton Rotary Club, and the Optimist Club of Halton Hills the Town of Halton Hills has been able to offer free public skating on weekdays between 2 and 3:20 p.m. between December 27 and 30, and at a reduced rate between January 2 and 6. Given the turn out, the sponsor's efforts were well received. - Les Schmidt photo

JUST A THOUGHT

War rages on



By Trish Bell

As is customary, change appears our escort as we usher in a fresh calendar, and 2017 will be no different. This January marks the beginning of yet more battles in the war against the automobile. Today's vehicles, while not the perfect solution to our ever-changing transportation needs, do appear a more suitable alternative to our previous methods. Perhaps, if we lived somewhere where public transit was clean and viable for all of life's needs, than by all means, let loose the throes of war. Yet, for many of us, work and play take us outside town boundaries, and 2017 will see all of us pay more to do so.

As of January 1, Wynne's Cap and Trade provisions have taken affect, upping, among other things, the price of transporting goods both now and increasingly into the future. Unleaded gasoline also saw a hit; the pump price will now reflect taxes to the tune of 40.6 cents per litre: 10 cents to the Feds, 11.6 cents HST, and Ontario taking a whopping 19 cents total with 4.3 cents off to cap and trade. Now, a few cents more doesn't seem much; in fact, for a 40-litre tank, it's only an additional \$1.47: a mere cup of coffee's worth to save the planet. Yet, many

scientists argue this makes little real impact environmentally. Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk noted that the plan "will not meet any key objectives for effective emission reduction," and even Toronto Star columnist Edward Keenan, a pro carbon taxman, remarked that people will not be deterred by mere cents. Instead, we'll quietly make sacrifices in our daily lives to pay the bills, ultimately undermining our province's growth, economy and future and doing nothing for the planet. Hail the environmental heroes.

But parking the car isn't safe either. January 1 also marked the end of parking infraction warnings in Halton Hills. While we all understand the need for parking bylaws and their enforcement, it appears that the Town is forgetting that a ticket is more than just a nuisance. For many, the nightly car shuffle is another stress in a place that is supposed to feel like home. For some, first home driveways are now unable to meet the needs of growing families incapable

of upsizing due to housing prices, job insecurity or the unstable financial situation. But this isn't just a matter of small driveways; people have been ticketed parked at the GO, while eating and shopping locally (in less than the five hour maximum), in front of their homes after a late shift in the emergency department and even outside schools because they continued to volunteer instead of worrying about moving the car. Yes, sidewalks and roads need to be clear, and rules need to be followed, but all of these tickets weren't issued as a result of impending snow removal, making it feel less like a community and more like another money grabbing dictatorship. And holding licenses hostage at renewal time? Or court? Really?

Either by divine providence or simple choice, we live in a small town amongst an ever-imposed global market. Without consistent and convenient modes of transportation, we are isolated, unable to contribute to the vast province, country and world around us. Hopefully, our town and our province will remember that "small town living" is more than a bumper sticker slogan. And those who drive are not faceless soldiers in a war.

The New Tanner welcomes your LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, but, please keep in mind that letters must include the author's name, address and phone number in order for us to contact you if needed. Letters that are sent in anonymously will not be published. They may be edited for content or length. They are published as a first come first serve basis and we do not guarantee publication due to space availability.