

GRAPEVINE

SPEAKERS' SERIES - BEARDMORE

Historian Mark Rowe of the Esquesing Historical Society will lead guests down memory lane on Sunday, January 22 at the Acton Town Hall with photos, sound clips and lots of opportunities to share stories.

Beardmore & Co. was once the largest tannery in the British Empire and operated until 1986. The business shaped Acton's history, transforming it into Canada's Leathertown. The Heritage Acton Absolutely Acton Speakers' Series is focused on our history as we celebrate Canada 150 and the feature for January is Remembering Beardmore.

Collections from the Acton Free Press and private collectors will be on display. Everyone is invited to bring stories and any collections or photos. There will be tables all around the room for displaying collections big and small. The goal of the event is to also record and capture stories for future generations. Refreshments will also be served.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m., with a start time of 2 p.m. Beardmore employees can attend this event for free. For more information about ticket prices email info@actontownhallcentre.ca, or call 519-853-5302, or buy them at the door.

FREE RESUME AND JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE

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A BRUSH WITH HOLLYWOOD

Mayor Rick Bonette's wife, Josey Bonette, met Kevin Costner at the Beaver Valley Ski Club while waiting for the chance to be an extra in his new movie, Molly's Game. The movie is about a young skier and former Olympic hopeful who becomes the target of an FBI investigation

when she establishes a high-stakes, international poker game. Directed by Aaron Sorokin, the film also stars Jessica Chastain and Idris Elba.

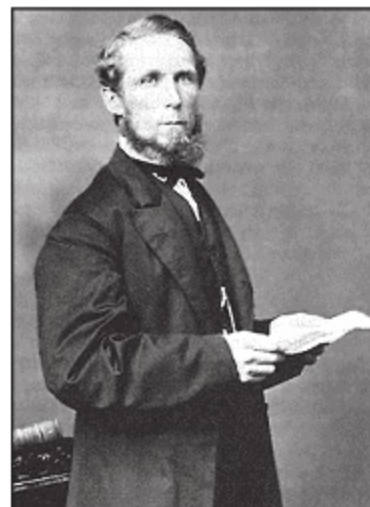
CANADA'S SECOND PRIME MINISTER

Alexander Mackenzie was Canada's second Prime Minister who came to power when Sir John A. Macdonald left office as a result of the 'Pacific Scandal' in 1873. The Governor General asked Mackenzie, leader of the Liberal Party, to form a new government. When an election was called in January 1974, Mackenzie's government won with more than 50 per cent of the popular vote.

During his years as Prime Minister, Mackenzie introduced the secret ballot, advised in the creation of the supreme court, and in establishing the Royal Military College of Canada. He also created the office of the Auditor General. However, his years in office were plagued with economic depression and even a newly negotiated trade agreement with the United States did not improve Canada's economy.

Mackenzie's government was defeated in October 1878, but Mackenzie remained leader of the opposition until 1880. He died in 1892 of a stroke, and had remained an MP until his death.

Mackenzie was born in Scotland in 1822 and immigrated to Canada in 1842. Before entering politics, he worked as a building contractor and newspaper editor. Mackenzie refused a Knighthood three times in keeping with his democratic principals.



Alexander Mackenzie, 1868
Topley/National Archives of
Canada PA-025303



FIRE DAMAGE: Soot above the window openings and ice covered trees are the remaining evidence of the fire that struck 13241 Sixth Line Nassagaweya on Monday. - Les Schmidt photo

LETTERS

The views expressed in these published letters are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The New Tanner Publishing Ltd.



Editorial shows bias

Dear Editor,

In the Tanner editorial of January 12th., the editorial writer refers to the acceptance speech of Meryl Streep upon receiving the Cecil B. DeMille Award. (His name was misspelt by the way)

Meryl Streep mentions that heart rending moment when Donald Trump made fun of someone and how it will stay with her forever.

Ah, the pathos, the sadness of it all. Actually her speech was worthy of an Academy Award, possibly her second best ever.

Her best ever performance would have to be, a few years

back, when she gave a speech about Roman Polanski and how that Hollywood hero was suffering in exile.

Polanski was the Hollywood director who used his position of power and authority to drug and rape a 13 year old girl and then to escape justice in an American jail, fled to a mansion in Europe. But like Whoopy [sic] Goldberg said, in defending Polanski, some rapes are not really rapes. Apparently not, if they are committed by elite members of the Hollywood community. It is well known Hollywood does corruption and abuse of power better than anyone. That

is Hollywood and the Entertainment Industry today. They put themselves on a pedestal and worship themselves and expect to be worshiped. They regard themselves as American royalty and they love Hillary and the Democrats, but hate Trump and the Republicans. And they will tell you what to believe and who to vote for.

It's disappointing that the Tanner editorial referring to Streep's speech also railed against biased reporting but turned out to be an excellent example, itself, of bias in the media.

Regards,
Jury S. Klymk

JUST A THOUGHT

Taxation for Representation?

These days, when I open my wallet and see dozens of reward cards, I am suddenly reminded of the layers of bureaucracy in which we are living. Thousands of memberships that do very little but make me feel like I belong. From the small communities we call home to the collective groups of towns and regions, we are members of too many layers of government. Even our education, health care, and voting aligns us into different clusters. However, amongst all these we also belong to consortiums that many are unaware of, including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), of which our own town and regional councilor Clark Somerville is currently president. While not new (the FCM has been around since 1901), these bodies basically take hefty membership dollars (around \$10 000 per year EACH for a Town like Halton Hills, and yes, the Region pays too), and in turn advocate on behalf of a variety of diverse municipalities or, as FCM claims, "roughly 91 per cent of all Canadians."

It doesn't take an economics major to see the inherit problem with using tax dollars from one level of government to pay membership dues in a group that lobbies others. AMO claims



By
Trish Bell

they "ensure that provincial policies and programs respect municipal authority," yet what authority do we have when we have to pay to ensure representation at the table?

Our council, amongst countless motions advocating for more control over infrastructure decisions or allotment of the necessary funds to fulfill provincial and federal resolves, has recently approved yet another 2.3 per cent rise in taxes in conjuncture with the 1.9 per cent announced regionally. And while FCM is "dedicated to improving the quality of life in all communities by promoting strong, effective and accountable municipal government," FCM President Somerville collects his pay out of our tax dollars while having missed approximately 40 per cent of regular Town of Halton Hills council meetings since his FCM election.

While it is noble to come together as a group to address issues like housing, infrastructure and waste with more clout, our actual return on this investment seems murky at best. AMO

says that over the past decade through an agreement called the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) they have "weighed in on countless policies and have fought for strong, effective government and policies that are practical, flexible and appropriately funded." And yet we continue to drown in debt: \$315 billion provincially, \$640 billion federally, and an average personal debt of \$1.65 for every \$1 earned.

What is ironic is that while municipalities implement, finance and enforce the provincial and federal decisions they fundamentally disagree with, they continue to encourage this game. Apposing CN's Milton Logistics Hub Project on one hand, and then, celebrating a \$25,000 award for 2017 tree planting from—yep, you guessed it—CN, makes us at least look like we are willing to play. Sure MOU means that under law, municipalities are partners, but this relationship is increasingly abusive, making us seem more like battered partners who simply keep going back, giving power to someone who knows that without them they have no power at all. Saying the higher tiers of government have to consult is, and never will be, the same as sitting equally at the table. And shame on us for paying for the privilege.