

GRAPEVINE

REMEMBER TO YIELD

With so many fires occurring in the area, please remember that many firefighters use a flashing green light when using their own vehicles to respond to a fire or emergency. Please remember to yield the right-of-way so firefighters can respond quickly and safely.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The *New Tanner* celebrates new Canadians in honour of Canada's 150th Birthday with a free birth announcement. This special offer runs from now until the end of December. Conditions do apply. For more information contact our advertising department at 519-853-0051, or email us at thenewtanner@on.aibn.com.



FIRST SEMESTER EXAMS BEGIN

Final exams at Acton District High School begin January 26 and run to Wednesday February 1. Final Exams for Christ the King Catholic Secondary School begin

January 26 to January 31.

PA DAY

There is a PA Day for both elementary and secondary students on Friday, February 3 for the Halton District School Board and the Catholic District School Board.

CANADA'S THIRD PRIME MINISTER

Sir John J. C. Abbott was Canada's third Prime Minister. And born in Saint-Andre, Lower Canada in March 1821, the lawyer and professor was also Canada's first native-born Prime Minister. He served in office from June 16, 1891 to November 24, 1892—just 17 months. After Sir John A. Macdonald's death, Abbott took on the leadership of the Conservative Party and stepped into the role of Prime Minister.

During his short time in office, Abbott faced many challenges; Canada's economic recession, his party linked to a financial scandal, and a failed attempt to negotiate a new treaty of reciprocity with The United States.

Abbott's failing health forced him to retire to private life in 1892, and he died less than a year later at the age of 72.



Sir John J. C. Abbott
Source: National Archives of Canada, PA-033933

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.



Plan now for Canada 150

To the Editor;

I should like to use your well-read newspaper to make a suggestion to your readers.

Soon Canadians will want to see a special celebration for our 150th birthday. Because "time flies" may I ask your readers to think what they would like to see happen? Then give your ideas to

your local group—or even your Council—and your ideas will be happily accepted.

Don't wait, it takes time to get planning started. Your input is essential for this day to be great. You are important. Do it now before you forget.

To get you started, find out about your local area's history and the noteworthy people. Go

to the Library for help. Find out who lived on your street or why it got its name. Keep on asking and enjoy the searching.

If you are a musician or artist, please create a special work for this date. Maybe you will be famous.

Mrs Drijber,
Rockwood

Ageism at Sobeys

To the Editor;

How many of you have experienced the distinctly irritating situation of being asked for your I.D. while buying alcohol when you are obviously over 40, over 50 and, yes, over 60? Perhaps I am channelling my 60's counter-culture self by refusing a young lad (who looks barely 19) when he insists on proof of age. There was a Mexican stand-off until my wife's cooler nature prevailed and she caved.

I find it insulting and of-

fensive. Also, I find it totally unnecessary, beyond explanation, and, of course, age discriminatory. I am guessing that this young fellow must be following orders, presumably from the meathead department. Would he find himself unemployed for using common sense and respect for his elders?

Why on Earth has the management of Sobeys taken such a bizarre and scorched Earth policy? What issue do they have with the provincial

plan of selling alcohol in an enlightened, urbane and civilized manner? Their seemingly "zero tolerance," "my way or the highway" approach is curious and beyond belief. All "zero tolerance" does is undermine discretion, as well as individual initiative and judgement. It insists on level of submissiveness which is ultimately unhealthy.

So, I can only hope Sobeys will be called out for this "barbaric cultural practice."

Terry Ferguson

JUST A THOUGHT

And the show begins...

As the 45th President of the United States takes office, there continues renewed interest in contrasting ourselves with our American cousins to the south. However, be it through geography, history, politics or economics, our culture is perhaps entwined with no one more than Americans. Our colonies began, not as brave experiments of democracy and opportunity for all, but as extensions of an old system, entangled in entitlements and elites at every level of power. Through our sheer collective will to take the "road less travelled," we have forged a "brave new world" indeed, but this dance of trail and error obviously doesn't have all the footwork quite right yet. Sure, the premise is sound and the choreography strong; we just need to adjust the dancers style to keep audiences in their seats. And to this end, we find our southern neighbours have recently cast a tarantella in place of the conga. Not, as many suggest, because they are idiots or bigots, but because they are struggling to endure past failures and growing pains of a nation in a constant global state of flux. This, by its very nature, means that sometimes they will succeed and often they will fail.



By
Trish Bell

Smugly, Canadians think we don't share this problem, yet, we too, cry out for change. We want health care that is both available and affordable. We want education and jobs that pay for the things we need and the chance to strive for the things we want. In short, we, like our American brethren, want delivery of the promises we buy into as we pay our taxes, cast our votes and live our lives: opportunity for everyone and the chance to thrive, not just survive. So, we too have recast our dancers. Instead of a waltz, we chose a bransle, despite the fact that fewer and fewer people seem to remember doing so. For the record, both the federal and provincial Liberal agendas were voted in by majority, along with its elitist leaders claiming to understand the middle class. Our sudden denial of this choice is like a one-nightstand that leads to more doctor appointments than one ever chooses to admit. I mean ever. Be it ignored Anglophones in

Quebec, struggling oil workers in Alberta, or elitist environmentalists in Ontario, our own fearless leader is crossing Canada in a so-called attempt to connect with those he said he knew all too well. Of course, it is all lies, but lies in thin onion-like layers don't really count like outright in your face lies, right? And besides, we all know what horrors await a politician who actually says it like it is or does what he says he'll do.

The Trump experiment is, if nothing less, entertaining to behold, because while we really can't know where this whole show might lead, we do know it is scripted to enthrall us. And while we share similarities with the colonies to the south, we are not the same. We are merely spectators on how their system and their decision will turn out. Our relationship reminds me of reunions where everyone pretends to care when really they are constantly judging and comparing themselves. Our brethren below the 49th parallel are not the only ones finding themselves in a field of dangerous landmines, choosing devil's advocate as sheriff. Perhaps instead of looking down our noses at their choices, we should start taking a good look at our own.