

GRAPEVINE

FREE FAMILY DAY ACTIVITIES

The Acton Arena and Community Centre will be hosting a number of free activities on Family Day—Sunday, February 20—including: Crafts from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sportball at 10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., Monkeynastix starting at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., a Parent and Tot Skate from noon until 12:50 p.m., family skating from 1 p.m. to 1:50 p.m., and a Public Skate from 2 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.

The Acton Lion's Indoor Pool will be hosting a leisure swim from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

DINNER NIGHT OUT

Acton Together is hosting a Dinner Night Out at The Roxy at 6 Mill Street East this Friday, February 17 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy a free roast beef dinner.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

YOUTH OF YESTERDAY

Heather Thompson of Homeshare will speak about alternatives that help seniors stay in their home and young adults afford rent. Free. All are welcome. Bethel Church, 365 Queen St., Acton. www.ww

actoncrc.com 519-853-2121.

DE-CLUTTER AND HELP KITTENS FIND A HOME

North Halton Kitten Rescue is collecting donations of Books, CDs and DVDs for their up coming sale. Donations can be dropped off at Global Pet Foods at 8 Main Street North. All money raised from the sale will go to supporting the kittens and mother cats in their care.

CANADA'S SIXTH PRIME MINISTER

Sir Charles Tupper, Canada's sixth Prime Minister, took on the role in May 1896, and only served until July of the same year.

During the 1896 election, Tupper struggled to bring Conservatives together, but unfortunately the issue of the Manitoba Schools Question kept the party divided.

Despite Tupper's Conservatives winning most of the votes—48.2 per cent to 41.4 per cent for the Liberals—Tupper's party won only half of the English Canada seats, while the Liberals won Quebec in a landslide. Wilfrid Laurier won the election with 55 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons.

Having been in office for only 68 days, Tupper's was the shortest term of all Canadian Prime Ministers, and his Government never went before Parliament.

Tupper remained the leader of the opposition until November 1900 when he stepped down as leader of the Conservative Party.

He passed away in October 1915 at the age of 94.



UNDER THE B: A good crowd was present for Thursday's weekly Bingo Night at the Optimist Club of Halton Hills. Profits from the Optimist Club Bingo go to support youth initiatives. For the month of February, funds raised will go to the Gardener family in support of the considerable medical expenses they face as a result of sixteen-year-old Shauna Gardener's battle with a rare autoimmune disease. - Les Schmidt photo

JUST A THOUGHT

When is enough, enough?



By
Trish Bell

Halton Region has always been a bit different. Urban centres lay aside some of the best farmland and natural wonders Southern Ontario has to offer. Halton truly is an incalculable collection of town and country that by sheer nature is different. So, it is no surprise that when pushed, our Region is more than willing to be the rebellious child; not a shock per se, but certainly a bragging right. Case in point: the issue of growth and the money to pay for it.

Our Regional Chair, Gary Carr, once again, stood his ground recently with the provincial powers that be and rightly demanded accountability. According to the Region, the Ontario Liberals, have not provided \$9.7 million dollars due in agreed upon funding transfers. This is the money that is meant to pay for the growth the Liberals both brag about and demand of our little chunk of Ontario due to a seemingly authoritarian piece of legislature brought in during McGuinty's turn at the helm. The Places to Grow Act gives the province the "authority" to designate our Region as a place of growth, to the tune of 780 000 residents by 2031. What the province forgets is that the law also states that "the plan must reflect the needs

and opportunities of the communities involved and promote growth that balances the needs of the economy and the environment." In theory, this legislation was a great idea: "address the negative effects of urban sprawl and encourage population growth where it is needed." As then Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal stated, it should allow for "planning for the kind of growth Ontarians want." The problem is that in action it looks vastly different – \$9.7 million different. So instead of being proactive, we are saddled with the burden of accommodating a fool's errand we neither want nor support, without the resources necessary to even be adequately reactive.

Enter Carr's threat. For the third time (see 2007 and 2013), Halton has sent the province notice to either ante up or watch their growth goals put on the back burner. This seems reasonable considering that without additional funding it is nearly impossible to accomplish such ambitious targets. Currently, out of every tax dollar collected, municipalities see

only about 11 cents, yet are responsible for the health, social assistance, education, childcare, transit, and infrastructure promises made by all three tiers of government. So, while Wynne's Liberals mandate us to grow, they seem to forget that our current population is already struggling to get services: ambulances with offloading delays, too many students for classrooms and resources, never-ending specialist waitlists, and constant congestion and needed repair of regional and provincial roads. Adding insult to injury, the Development Charges Act actually "limits the amount of money municipalities can collect to cover the costs of infrastructure and services to support growth." It seems that Mr. Carr isn't just a feisty regional chair; he is legitimately sitting at the table with no cards in a poker game that is fixed against him. So, no wonder the unorthodox measures, yet will it be enough for Wynne and her cronies to finally hear our plea? Doubtful. After all, they seem to enjoy the role of self-serving dictator, cozy in their Queen's Park palace, bragging about laws much more than actually helping us in accomplishing them; time for them to put their money where there mouth is.



Sir Charles Tupper

Source: National Archives of Canada, PA-027743