

GRAPEVINE

IT'S IN YOU TO GIVE

Canadian Blood Services will be holding a Blood Donor Clinic on Thursday, March 16 at the Acton Legion at 15 Wright Avenue from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Donors should make an appointment by calling: 1-888-2DONATE (1-888-236-6283). For more information, please visit the Canadian Blood Services website: blood.ca/en.

SCHOOL'S OUT

This Friday, March 10 Halton District School Board and Halton Catholic District School Board students at both elementary and high schools will have a PA Day. March Break begins Monday, March 13 and classes will resume on Monday, March 20.

For Upper Grand Distract School Board students, March Break begins Monday, March 13 with classes resuming Monday, March 20.

TECHNICAL SKILLS COMPETITION

Acton District High School hosted its 22 Annual Technical Skills Competition on Thursday, March 2 at the school. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

WISHING A SPEEDY RECOVERY

The New Tanner sends well wishes and a speedy recovery to Mayor Rick Bonnette, who broke a rib while playing goal for an invitational ball hockey league. Despite the injury, Bonnette continued to play four more games.

CANADA'S NINTH PRIME MINISTER

Arthur Meighen, Canada's ninth Prime Minister, took on

the roles of Conservative Party Leader and Prime Minister on July 10, 1920 after Sir Robert Borden Retired. However, Meighen's Government was defeated by the Liberals just a little more than a year later on December 29, 1921.

Despite appealing to the National Liberal and Conservative Party to try to maintain the allegiance of Liberals who had supported a wartime Unionist Party, Meighen's implementation of conscription damaged the party's support in Quebec, and labourers and farmers had also lost confidence in Meighen as a result of farm tariffs.

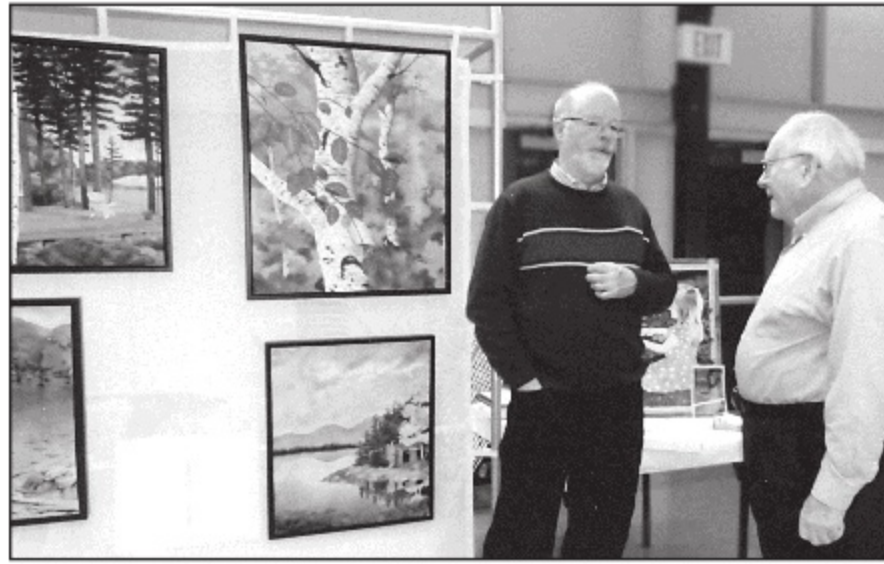
Meighen remained Party Leader and Leader of the Opposition until 1925 when William Lyon Mackenzie King, whose Liberals were besieged with scandal, requested the Governor General call an election which Governor General denied. King resigned and the Governor General invited Meighen to form a government. However, as a result of accusation from King that Meighen should not have accepted the position and losing the vote to appoint his ministers, the Governor General called for a Federal Election in 1926, and the Conservatives were voted out of office despite winning the popular vote. Meighen resigned and as party leader.

However, in 1941 Conservatives voted unanimously for Meighen to lead the party during the Second World War. However, Meighen was unable to win a Commons seat, and was no longer a candidate for leadership. John Bracken was voted in as leader and the party changed its name to the Progressive Conservatives.

Meighen died August 5, 1960 at the age of 86.



Arthur Meighen
Source: National Archives of Canada, PA-026987



ART SHOW: Guests at the recent Hillsview Active Living Center's Wine and Cheese night were treated to displays from local artists. Painter Dave Gordon (left) discussed his work with John McLean. - Submitted 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.



Cancer Society gives thanks to Paul Murr Golf Tournament

To the Editor;

I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Paul Murr Golf Tournament Committee for their extremely generous donation of \$52,000 to the Canadian Cancer Society. Now that technology is unlocking the causes and se-

crets of this terrible disease the money provided by these donations for Research is even more important than ever and Acton can feel proud for its long time support.

Spring is just around the corner. Please welcome your Cancer Volunteer or give gen-

erously by your own preferred method. Also, look forward to another great Fashion Show this Fall. We'll have more info about that later.

Pat Kentner
Publicity Rep,
Acton Branch
Canadian Cancer Society

JUST A THOUGHT

Waiting for the other guy to fix it?

Trying to get to the bottom of this endless hydro saga is a lot like trying to nail Jell-O to a wall; the details seem wiggly, the whole thing is just downright complicated and what irks you the most is that this confusion is done by design. In a nutshell, it appears our long-time provincial government, amidst a whirlwind of ill conceived, seemingly shady backroom deals and poor decisions, has now conveniently found a way to offload some of those dreaded hydro costs just in time for the end of the one season (winter) and the beginning of another (election). If experience is the best teacher, it is likely that the multiple long-term contracts will be shown to vastly favour Liberal supporters and likely do little to help the environment or province as a whole. Scandalous, perhaps, but nothing new: silent backdoor deals appear the hallmark of both current Liberal agendas, bringing to mind that old adage, "better to ask forgiveness than beg permission." Because, while the stories of devilish deals and decisions grow along with the costs, experience also shows that no one will really do anything about it. Think e-Health, Ornge, Gas Plants: sure Brown's PCs are giving their



By
Trish Bell

enraged sound bites, angry taxpayers are waving their fists, and companies are leaving in droves, but when the dust settles, the Liberals know they'll still be calling all the shots and we'll be letting them.

For people who brag about their democracy, it seems a lot more like dictatorship, with the subtle selling feature of picking your own despot. Whether the rumours are true or not, the point remains that these governments were chosen by us, are paid by us and work for us, therefore making them answerable to, that's right, US. However, unlike our American neighbours, our Constitution does not provide for recalling of elected officials. Currently, we rely on the election process to power our choices and voices, yet, these are often four years apart, leaving plenty of time for those in power to do what they want unchecked, while the rest of us slowly forget. In 1995, a bold Mike Harris (considering his platform) amended the law so that if a politician broke his

election promises, he would be held to account. Then, he did everything that he said he would do. In 2001, ironically enough, Dalton McGuinty took power and immediately revoked it. There was a 2013 private member's bill to make it easier for voters to recall and replace their MPPs if they were not performing as promised; however, after first reading, it died. Obviously, we can't have politicians responsible for their own accountability. I mean my dog knows stealing from the counter is bad, but steak is steak, especially when the worse he'll get is a stern lecture.

So, the question remains; what happened to striving for incorruptible government? Did we quit trying because it got hard? Are we afraid? Too busy? Just because people with power always seem to go too far, doesn't mean we have to settle for things as they are. Where will that stop? No, I am still a believer and I am tired of being told that nothing can change. I am tired of hearing people whine about the problem without being willing to put their feet in on the solution. Ontario, like Rome before her, wasn't built in a day. And if we all join in together, she doesn't have burn like Rome either.