

GRAPEVINE

YES TO THE DRESS

Providing free, lightly used dresses, shoes and accessories for graduation or prom. Shopping Event is March 24, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and March 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bethel Church, 365 Queen St, Acton. For information visit facebook.com/yestothedresshaltonhills

BACK TO SCHOOL

School resumes for high school and elementary students from Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic District School Board and Upper Grand Distract School Board on Monday, March 20.

SOUP WELL

Could you use a cup of soup? Looking for an excuse to hang out with your neighbour? Know of a teen, retired or someone unemployed that could use the social outing? Everyone is invited to stop by Wednesday afternoons anytime from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. downstairs in the "Grounded Cafe" of Bethel Church, 365 Queen St.

CANADA'S TENTH PRIME MINISTER

William Lyon Mackenzie King was Canada's tenth Prime Minister. He served six terms—the most of any Prime Minister—and 22 years.

He and his Liberals were first elected in 1921. During his time in office he pushed to lower wartime taxes, and for Canada to have distinct voice

from England with respect to foreign affairs. King also contributed to the planning and development of Ottawa, despite many of his plans not being completed until decades after his death.

King increased Provincial Government powers by transferring the ownership of crown lands to Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and working with provincial governments, he implemented an old age pension based on need. He also appointed Cairine Wilson, Canada's the first female senator in 1930.

King's Government, however was plagued with corruption scandals, and in 1930 he lost the election to the Conservative Party, but remained Liberal and Opposition Leader.

In 1935 King and the Liberals won by a landslide. During this time in office, his government passed a trade treaty with the United States—the 1935 Reciprocal Trade Agreement. He implemented relief programs in response to the Depression like the National Housing Act and National Employment Commission.

King would remain Prime Minister throughout World War II, where he expanded the National Research Council of Canada. Despite having promised not to impose conscription, he introduced it again after France fell but promised only volunteers would be sent to Europe.

King retired in 1948, and passed away in 1950 from pneumonia at the age of 75.



IRISH EYES WERE SMILING: Eden Mills was the place to be Saturday night as Clan Hannigan performed a celtic concert as part of the 'Music in the Hall' series, just in time for St. Patricks Day. Parents Steafan Hannigan and Saskia Tomkins along with children Oisín, Elie and Ayisha, from Cobourg, Ontario, played a wide range of instruments: Irish pipes, whistles, fiddles, the Cittern, a 'Nyckelharpa' (a wooden stringed instrument dating back to the 14th century) and the Bodhran, a percussion instrument son Oisín has mastered. Daughters Elie and Ayisha sang and performed Irish dance. - Vivien Fleisher photo

SCIENCE MATTERS

By: David Suzuki



Faulty logic fuels fossil fools

Apparently, fossil fuel companies protect watersheds and rivers by removing oil. That's according to comments on the David Suzuki Foundation Facebook page and elsewhere, including this: "The amount of contamination occurring [sic] from extraction is far less than if we just left the oil there to continue polluting the waterways."

The "logic" of climate change deniers and anti-environmentalists is often baffling. Although the person who posted that comment doesn't appear to claim professional background or knowledge, Canadian anti-environmentalist Patrick Moore — who capitalizes on his science degree and long-ago association with Greenpeace to shill for polluting industries — told the Vancouver Sun in 2011 that oil companies are "leaving the soil cleaner than they found it because they're removing the oil from it."

Those who coat their "alternative facts" with a veneer of "expertise" often employ twisted logic. Take a petition letter urging U.S. President Donald Trump to withdraw from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Letter author Richard Lindzen, a climate skeptic whose work has often been debunked, claims "more than 300 eminent scientists and other qualified individuals from around the world" signed the petition. What kind of "eminent scientists" would sign something claiming carbon dioxide "is not a pollutant but a major benefit to agriculture and other life on Earth" and that "warming from increased atmospheric CO2 will be benign"?

The idea that CO2 is little more than plant food is common

in denier circles, floated recently by the U.S. Heartland Institute, its affiliated industry promoters like Canadians Patrick Moore and Tom Harris, and others. In a 2014 book, two signatories to the Trump letter, retired Environment Canada scientist Madhav Khandekar and retired Australian geology professor Cliff Ollier, along with database marketing consultant Arthur Middleton Hughes, wrote the world should burn more coal "to produce electricity and increase CO2 in the atmosphere." They also argue for more use of the pesticide DDT.

We've addressed the debunked CO2 argument before. It ignores pollution from burning coal and other fossil fuels, and the complexity and interconnectedness of natural systems. Many plants do need CO2, but it doesn't follow that more CO2 is better, or that CO2 is the only factor in plant growth. Studies show rising temperatures often hinder plant growth and nutritional value. And droughts, floods and other increasingly extreme and unpredictable weather events brought on by climate change are not beneficial to agriculture or plant growth. We also need oxygen to live, but too much can be toxic.

So, who are the "300 eminent scientists and other qualified individuals" who put their names to such unscientific nonsense? Like Khandekar, many are affiliated with the industry-funded Heartland Institute, which has promoted tobacco and compared climate scientists to the Unabomber and Charles Manson.

A Desmog Blog investigation described the 300 as "medical doctors, mystery men, coal executives, petroleum engineers,

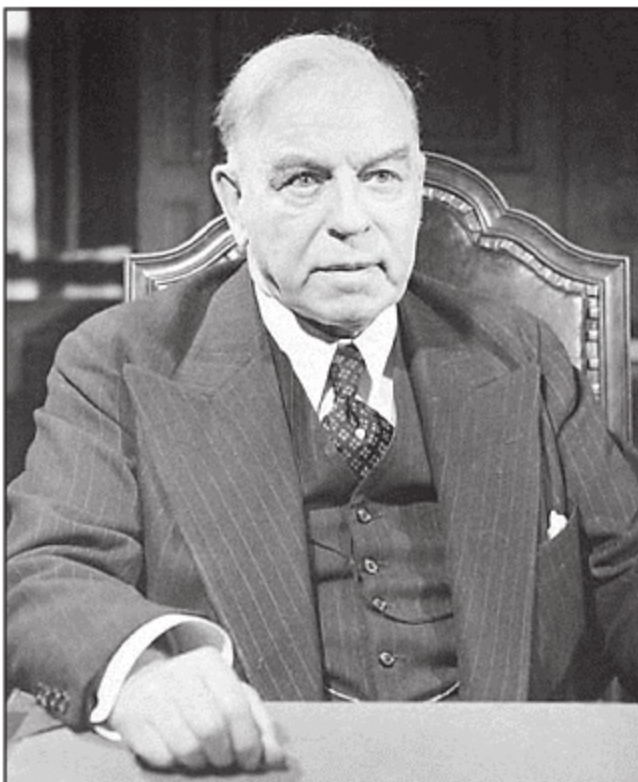
economists, and think tank members. Only a small handful could be considered even remotely 'qualified' or 'eminent' — but not in the field of climate science." Many show no academic affiliation or address. Canadians are represented by the likes of Khandekar and Moore.

Moore once even claimed glaciers are "dead zones" that we'd be better off without! There's that twisted logic. It's true plants don't grow on glaciers, but microorganisms and other life do. Saying "Ice and frost are the enemies of life" is absurd — especially for those of us who require water to live!

Another signatory, William Happer, is a retired physics professor being eyed as Trump's science adviser. Greenpeace once caught him in a sting in which he agreed to write an article touting the benefits of coal and to fake its peer-review status.

People posting nonsensical comments on Facebook might simply be uninformed or misinformed. But it's hard not to conclude that many of the so-called "experts" are being deliberately deceptive. Any scientifically literate person who has examined the massive amounts of evidence for human-caused global warming and its consequences, collected over many decades from around the world, wouldn't fall for such easily debunked claims.

In this "post-truth" era, with a climate-change-denying U.S. administration, those who want to keep humanity wedded to outdated, polluting technologies have been emboldened. It's up to the rest of us to cut through the misinformation and help humanity get on track to a cleaner, healthier future.



William Lyon Mackenzie King
Source: National Archives of Canada, C-027645

Correction: On page 9 of the March 9 edition, an incorrect setback distance of 300 feet was given in Council Chips. It should read 300 meters. The distance to Rockwood should read 1000 meters instead of 1500.

Dennis Campbell was incorrectly identified as the author of a petition. Credit goes to Roy Girardi. *The New Tanner* regrets these errors and apologizes.