

# GRAPEVINE

## SAVVY SENIORS PROGRAM

Halton Hills Public Library and the Hillview Active Living Centres are kicking off Seniors' Month with a hands-on technology drop-in. Come explore the latest trends, or bring your own device and learn a new skill. Drop-in from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, June 1 at the Hillview Active Living Centre in Acton. For more information, please call 905-873-2681 ext. 2511.

## IN DANGER REPORTS

Acton High School's In Danger Reports will be emailed to parents this Friday, May 26.

## BYO-BABY MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY

Parents can enjoy a movie with their babies at the Halton Hills Public Library, Acton Branch on Thursdays, June 15 and 29 at 1:30 p.m. The sound and lights are kept low, and the movies are free. For more information, please visit the library's website at [www.hhpl.on.ca](http://www.hhpl.on.ca) or call 905-873-2681 ext. 2520.

## CANADA'S 20<sup>TH</sup> PRIME MINISTER

In November 1993, Jean Chrétien became Canada's 20<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister after beating out the Conservatives led by Kim Campbell. Much of Chrétien's success in the election was believed to be the result of his platform called the Red Book—for its red cover—outlining a plan for what the Liberal Government would do while in office, including replacing

the GST and renegotiating NAFTA. The other parties did not have platforms with the same level of detail.

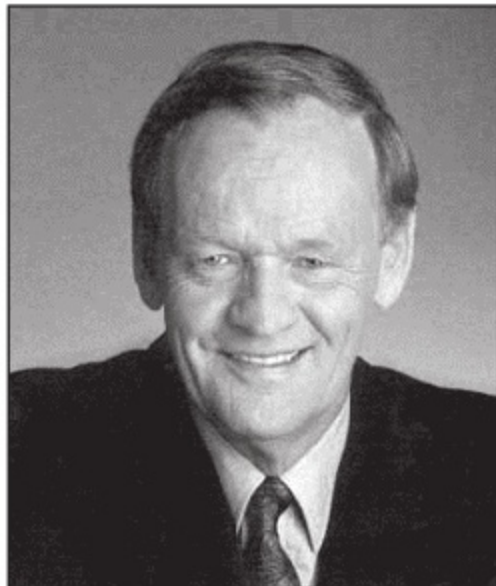
Once in office, Chrétien spent \$6 billion on infrastructure—both keeping his Red Book promise and stimulating the economy. Chrétien was met with less success, however, in his efforts to renegotiate NAFTA when then United States President Bill Clinton explained that he would be unable to convince Congress to make the changes.

Chrétien's government inherited a large national debt from the previous Trudeau and Mulroney government. The budget introduced in 1995 cut a number of programs in an effort to eliminate the deficit, a decision Chrétien did not like, but saw as necessary. However, the Liberals did not replace the GST as promised. Still, the economy improved, and in 1998 Canada experienced its first surplus in 30 years.

Chrétien's Liberals won a second term in office. In 2000, and despite the the Alliance Party gaining popularity, Chrétien won a third majority with 172 seats.

After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Chrétien sent troops to Afghanistan, but refused to participate in the Iraq War without authorization from the UN Security Council.

Unfortunately, Chrétien had begun to lose favour within his own party, many supporting Finance Minister Paul Martin instead. Chrétien announced his retirement in November 2003, and stepped down as Prime Minister on December 12, 2003.



**Joseph Jacques Jean Chrétien**  
© Office of the Prime Minister



**SPRING SWANS:** A pair of swans graced the calm waters of Fairy Lake on Saturday. - 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.



## George Elliott to be honoured

To the Editor;

On Sunday, May 28 our community's Dr. George Elliott will be honoured for his 60 years as Director of Music at Trinity United church here in Acton. Our diamond "Minister of Music" Dr. George Elliott will be joined by musicians, neighbours, former and present choir members, former ministers and members of his family.

There will be a worship service at 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and a

second celebration event from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on May 28.

At both services many musicians of all ages from our town and from as far away as the Ottawa Valley will be participating. Come and hear the pipe organ, piano, violin, oboe, guitar, our choir, and visiting soloists present a great variety of music to honour this remarkable person, Dr. George Elliott.

The story of the installation of the pipe organ will be shared

and a celebration of Dr. George Elliott's contribution in music will be celebrated and honoured.

Please set aside Sunday, May 28 and be part of this special celebration.

Trinity has an elevator to provide access to the sanctuary.

We thank you for coming to honour Dr. George Elliott.

On behalf of everyone at Trinity, thank you.

Keith Black  
(member of Trinity)

## JUST A THOUGHT

### Manchester United

Today, I am angry. I am not shocked, although I fear I should be. Nor do I feel bitterness, hate or revenge, despite a reserved hunch that such might be justified. No, I am simply angry. I am angry that humans can manipulate and be manipulated so well. I am angry that desire for power can lead so many to such brutal barbaric acts against their fellow man. I am angry that the blood of children spilled today is somehow justifiable for past or imagined transgressions to any human on this earth. Yet, I am also angry at a world of individuals so caught up in themselves and their miniscule daily existence that they miss what is happening to the world under their watch. I am angry that crowds of people can watch in great detail the happenings of an (and yes I am being a bit generous here) unorthodox president but see nothing of the countless other undertakings that are destined to doom us all. And I am angry that the innocent will continue to be massacred as we pretend to care for a moment and then go back to doing nothing to stop these atrocities.

Many Canadians only get their news from tidbits on comedy shows or highlights on social media feeds. This is both



By  
**Trish Bell**

naïve and dangerous. In fact, a Matters of Opinion report stated, "the reliance on Facebook as a primary [news] source means users are getting a limited world view and limited set of opinions that closely match their own." Canadians no longer seek out news, nor do they feel responsible to know what is going on or seek action by our government. What's more, they don't even seem to be committed to any particular way of thinking. The report states "more than 71 per cent of Canadians could be persuaded to change their minds, while another six per cent said they would change their views on current events fairly easily," meaning we only hear what we want to hear and are easily swayed; many a tyranny or dictatorship was built this way. Unless it's popular or directly impacts their own lives, people don't make change happen. I fear Daesh and other fear mongering terrorists do not allow such complacency to go wasted.

The responsibility for what

happened in Manchester this week is on us all. Sure, we didn't push the button, yet, we are all guilty just the same. When people aren't willing to take action, make tough choices, say what isn't popular or stand up for what they believe in, terror will win. We pretend and act shocked but then let it happen again and again and again. Human thinking and leadership is in many ways like a vacuum that must always be filled. Sure people stand up to Trump and his antics; crazy or not, there is little chance he'll send a suicide bomber to your door. No, Trump is an easy mark and he, believe it or not, is not the problem. 2016 was our worst year for terror, with 469 terror attacks carried out by over 800 people in 28 countries. Right now, we need to band together for the rights of humans and show that we too are willing to stand up and die for what we believe in, including the freedom from fear. If we don't, we don't stand for anything. 5650 is the number of men, women and children who were killed in the efforts to terrorize our world last year alone. All were once someone's little boy or girl. Lip service is easy. Action is hard. Or will it only matter if it is your child in the body bag.