

GRAPEVINE

THE MOST PATRIOTIC TOWN

The Fly the Flag Most Patriotic Town Challenge has come to a close, and Halton Hills let their patriotism fly by registering over 57,000 flags by July 1. Congratulations, Halton Hills! And thanks to organizers and participants alike for helping to make this initiative a success.

WRITE FOR THE TANNER

Do you have a flare for words? A natural curiosity about people and the community where you live? Are you interested in local politics, or do you enjoy attending local events? Then you might be just what the New Tanner is looking for. The New Tanner has an opening for a reporter/photographer. If you are interested please, email your resume to Angela Tyler at angela.newtanner@gmail.com

FAKE NEWS AND FIREWORKS

Rumours that this year's fireworks display put on by the Acton Firefighters Association would be the last, are completely unfounded. Apparently, claims that due to financial constraints, Acton Firefighters would not be able to continue with the annual Canada Day fireworks were making the rounds this past weekend, and are completely untrue. Residents can continue look forward to another spectacular show next year.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

The Governor General of Canada is the Federal

representative of the monarchy—presently, Queen Elizabeth II—in Canada.

The role of the Governor General has been in place since the beginning of European settlement. However, the first Governor General at Confederation was sworn in on July 1, 1867. While early Governor Generals oversaw colonial ministers the role evolved after Confederation to govern as per the instruction of the Prime Minister. However, until after the first World War, the Governor General still had to acknowledge British policies, only becoming the sovereigns personal representative in 1931. In 1947, George VI delegated all sovereign authority in Canada to the Governor General. Currently, David Johnston holds the office.

The duties of the Governor General have evolved over the years. As the Queen's representative, the Governor General is responsible for a number of duties for the Senate, House of Commons, and the Queen, including; proroguing and dissolving parliament, authorizing treaties, receiving and sending ambassadors, giving Royal assent to bills that have passed, and more. The Governor General holds the Constitutional rights of head of state, which is exercised by receiving the minutes from Cabinet and regular meetings with government officials, including the Prime Minister. In rare instances, and in cases of emergency, the Governor General may dismiss and appoint Prime Ministers.



His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada

Photo credit: Sgt Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall
© Her Majesty The Queen in Right of Canada represented by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (2015)

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.



'Vanilla Dillas' thank all who helped raise money for endangered animals

Dear Editor,

For Canada's 150th, we the "Vanilla Dillas" sold ice cream during the Acton fireworks to help protect four animals that are in danger. Our goal was to raise \$150 per animal but, thanks to some very generous people, we managed to make over \$180 for each animal we love: the polar bear, narwhal, caribou and bees. Our parents told us

\$600 was a very "ambitious" goal but we raised even more: \$730. We just wanted to say a very special thank you to all the people who believed in us and supported us: Dufferin Aggregates—Acton Quarry, Sobeys, Superior Glove, Acton Fire Fighters Association, Acton BIA and Beauti-Tone Paints; and to everyone that donated and bought something from us. You all helped

make our dream come true for this a special Canada Day.

Thanks again, from the four 10 to 12 year old girls of "Vanilla Dilla"

Emily, Eva, Ivy and Lindsey

P.S.: A special thank you also to the singer of "Scarecrow" for the wonderful shout out during his performance. It was very cool to hear our name from the stage.

JUST A THOUGHT

The elephant in Canada's spare room

Now that the fireworks are over and we've had a few days of summer together with friends and family, its time to unpack that rather large red and white elephant from the spare room. Yes, while we were waving our Canada flags, indigenous people were once again demanding justice for wrongs, past and present. For many of us the whole aboriginal situation is as murky as the swampland that used to surround this area. And that, my friends, leaves us in a bit of a bind, because without clear understanding, we could be repeating the same mistakes. Or, as is our way of late, we might be offering up more than just apologies for wrongs that are not necessarily only ours to repair.

The message of land taken and culture stripped has been repeated so much that it seems undisputable fact, but is it really? What are the truths to this never-ending indigenous claim? Well, the relationship began as a series of alliances and the first nations were stellar negotiators. No surprise—many were warring peoples; they had their own allies and enemies and the adage "keep your friends close and your enemies closer" was a mindset that likely helped them thrive on this less than hospitable land. And, while land ownership might have been a foreign idea, the concepts of territory and advantage was not. By the 1600s, Europeans were here interacting in earnest. Each nation had their game plan for influencing the native peoples to their needs: the Spanish would crush them, the British neglected them and the French chose a "father/child" protection mentality. None was all that honourable: merely an angle to win the day against a



By Trish Bell

slew of European challengers. But kid yourself not: the Natives were also playing this game and far better at it; the indigenous held value to all whose boots landed here, both in military might and economic return, and they never missed a chance to remind others of it. They enjoyed the gifts and honours bestowed upon them, even willfully playing the child as long as it suited their purpose. Yet, this value, while protected, was also abhorred. Despite much effort to the contrary, it was Europeans who were made to adapt here: learning languages and customs, and paying compensation and tolls; add to this ever-changing agreements and a wealth of punishments for mistreatment of natives, and it is clear that resentment was sown into the soil of Canada even before her first breath. While Iroquois chiefs pledged allegiance to Queen Anne, and the king of France was the "lord of the land," never were the indigenous considered subjects of these realms; they were exempt from justice and duty. So how did it change? Well, somewhere along the lines, the greed of alliance lead to a path of demise; missionaries who believed they were bringing faith and culture, instead brought disease and cultural appropriation, the way religion had done all over Europe, Asia and Africa. In this way, our histories are not all that different. We too, have moments of greed and failure, as do our native counterparts. Be it

the '60s scoop or contract scalping and pillaging for profit—we have all sold out our poorest, most vulnerable members to appease the deals made by those in power. None of us is immune from moments in our history that by today's standards are appalling, but we would be wise to remember that they are indeed today's standards, made possible because we travelled through the rougher patches of history's trial and error to arrive here.

And so, Canada and the Indigenous need to make a decision about our future. Keep saying sorry and rekindling past transgressions. Keep claiming victim and asking for more to appease the turmoil. Or we can all stop. Stop pretending that we can somehow rewrite history through some set out dollar amount. Stop pretending we are not one nation. Either we move forward together to build a strong future, or we condemn our children to the failures of our past. If, as I agree, it is "simply unacceptable that Indian Status is an indicator of health, poverty, and education in Canada," as Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day says, then why would these powerful people wait for others to provide it? If, as they say, they are not a part of Canada, then it is completely irrelevant that the situation is "entirely due to federal funding practices, policies and discriminatory legislation?" This back and forth can not continue. If we continue to appease this type of thinking, on both sides, non-natives will indeed need to pack our bags, elephant and all. But that begs the question, to where? After all, knowing how we feel about the past, the Romans are likely to demand Britain back too.