

GRAPEVINE

ON THE MOVE

After being on the market for a number of years, the old medical centre at the corner of Mill Street E. and Fredrick Street N. has sold. Dr. Hess of the Acton Veterinary Clinic has purchased the property, which is scheduled to close in August with plans to move and expand his practise in the new facility. Hess said he will be bringing the 6000 square foot building into the 21st century with the help of a contractor who specializes in the design of veterinary offices.

WEST NILE VIRUS POSITIVE MOSQUITOES FOUND IN HALTON

A batch of mosquitoes trapped this week in Milton tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the first batch of WNV positive mosquitoes confirmed in Milton this year. An additional four batches were confirmed in Oakville in 2017, for a total of five WNV positive mosquito batches in Halton to date.

Urban areas are more likely to have mosquitoes that carry WNV. The types of mosquitoes that transmit WNV to humans most commonly breed in urban areas, typically in places that hold water such as bird baths, plant pots, old toys, and tires. Residents can take the following steps to protect themselves and their families from mosquitoes:

- Cover up. Wear light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and pants with tightly-woven fabric.
- Use an approved insect repellent, such as one containing DEET or Icaridin.
- Avoid being outdoors from early evening to morning when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, as well as at any time in shady, wooded areas.

- Make sure your window and door screens are tight and without holes, cuts or other openings.
- Reduce mosquito breeding sites around your home by getting rid of all water-filled containers and objects, where possible. Change the water in bird baths at least once per week.

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY BOARD

There is still time to apply to become a member of the Public Art Advisory Board—the deadline for applications is July 31. The Council for the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills is inviting applications from the public who are interested in serving on the Halton Hills Public Art Advisory Board. This newly created body will initially support the development and implementation of the Town of Halton Hills Public Art Master Plan in coordination with consultants and Town staff.

The three citizen members who are chosen must be able to dedicate a minimum of four hours per month to Public Art Advisory Board activities. To be eligible, applicants must be over 18 years old, not employed by the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills, and be prepared to serve a term to expire in June 2020. Applicant qualifications include: Practicing artist, arts professional, or arts patron with demonstrated training, skill and experience; strong connections to the local arts and culture sector; demonstrable history of giving public presentations; Experience on a team, ideally community-based; Jurying experience an asset; Previous experience with public art projects an asset

For more information and an application form, visit: haltonhills.ca/culture/index.php#PublicArt



TALENT ABOUND: Inspire Halton held a Talent Bash on Thursday night at the Red Harp. The entertainment included singer Brynn Swenarchuk (left), Rapper Trill (centre) and Natalie on guitar (right). — Les Schmidt photos

JUST A THOUGHT

Citizenship: Right or Privilege

Being a citizen of any nation brings with it a gauntlet: honour or shame; admiration or contempt; advantage or demerit. Born and raised here, most of us don't give much thought to it, usually feeling the pride of being Canadian during the Olympics, anniversaries or when we travel abroad. Yet, what are the actual rights and responsibilities of a Canadian? Unlike our southern cousins, Canucks do not recite an oath at school (although we do have one) nor do we learn more than the increasingly edited Coles Notes of our history and geography. Even the national anthem seems to be optional these days, and you'd be hard pressed to find many who even know the words to God Save the Queen anymore. So, does it matter that Trudeau's Liberals plan to change the citizenship guide and test for new Canadians? You decide.

According to the Canadian Press, the new version will break up responsibilities into voluntary and mandatory, with respecting the human rights of others and participating in the political process now clearly marked as voluntary—yes, you read that right. When, you boldly ask, did we decide the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was optional? Not sure; I thought we aspired to be the human rights beacon of the world, we certainly bragged such to the UN, but maybe I missed a memo. In addition, the entire section on “barbaric cultural practices”—spousal abuse, honour killing, female genital mutilation, forced marriages and other gender-based violence—is gone, despite a recent Canada Board Services Agency report that states people are “almost certainly” entering Canada to perform such procedures and thousands more are being taken



By
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out of country for such acts while on “vacation.” Both are specifically identified as illegal according to Canadian Law, so perhaps we should think twice about making human rights voluntary. In Ontario alone, at least 308 corrective operations were completed in just the last seven years, and UNICEF estimates that 200 million women worldwide are affected. So why would we shy away from standing against such barbarism? In Australia, a fellow commonwealth nation, the citizenship rules are actually getting tougher, demanding a commitment to integrate into society. By contrast, our new edits have deliberately omitted mention of even getting a job. That's right, folks: drop that sledge hammer and close up that laptop; working isn't mandatory anymore. Perhaps, we have forgotten why we invite would-be Canadians to our shores. I mean it is a wonderful gesture to help the world, but at the end of the day, someone is still paying for all that goodwill. A 2011 Fraser Institute report showed that the average cost per immigrant is around \$6,000 per year, so wanting some return on investment makes sense—especially since we are borrowing money faster than we can make it. But apparently, revoking citizenship is a tough act too. This past week, the Federal Court rescinded attempts to withdraw 312 citizenships that had been obtained through fraud. Apparently, circumstances notwithstanding, these people had acquired Can-

adian citizenship and therefore were entitled to the rights therein. I thought lying to obtain the citizenship in the first place kinda screamed “not gonna follow the rules” in big neon letters. As do the citizenship by default crowd. Being born here on vacation is one thing; your parents vacationing here to ensure you can sponsor your whole family to come here when you turn 18 seems like abusing the system. I appreciate that the Canadian image is turn the other cheek, but just like hockey, you will need an enforcer at some point or we'll all end up on our backs on the ice. Being willing to retract the citizenship of those who don't deserve the privilege isn't really punishment—it's a statement that our citizenship has value and the idea that you must follow the rules, be honest and help Canada isn't such an outlandish requirement. Perhaps this new-found forgiveness stems from Trudeau's jealousy; after all, he said that “immigrants, rather than Canadians by default, have more of a stake in the country than others.” I personally resent the idea that being born here makes you care less about your country. I don't take my citizenship lightly; I know I owe a great debt to those who have bled and died for the freedoms I enjoy. And while I enjoy many rights, I am equally cognizant of the many responsibilities my citizenship entails. As one British politician stated, “at its most basic the democratic contract is a simple one; the right to vote comes with a responsibility to society, through citizenship.” Perhaps, we defaulters ought to show our governments how much we care about our country and our citizenship a bit more when we next exercise our voluntary right to vote.

The New Tanner welcomes your **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**, but, please keep in mind that letters must include the author's name, address and phone number in order for us to contact you if needed. Letters that are sent in anonymously will not be published. Letters may be edited for content or length. They are published as a first come first serve basis and we do not guarantee publication due to space availability.