

GRAPEVINE

SCHOOL'S IN

The new school year begins on Tuesday, September 5. Welcome back to all our local crossing guards. Drivers please remember to slow down and keep an eye out for youngest residents going to and from school.

ACTON BUSINESSES CAN WIN TOO

Local businesses are getting involved with the Decorate Your Home or Business with the Acton Fall Fair 2017 Canada Goose theme. While homes that are decorated using the Canada Goose theme and have their addresses registered at acton-fair@hotmail.com can win a family pass for day at the fair—including ride and meal tickets—businesses who enter can win a free half page ad in next year's fair book.

All displays must be visible from the road. The deadline to enter is September 8, and judging will take place on September 10.

LOCAL MUSICIAN HEADLINING AT THE FALL FAIR

Award winning singer-songwriter Wes Mason will be headlining this year's Acton Fall Fair at the Dufferin Centre on September 16 with a special two-hour performance featuring his leading singles "Worth It" and "Consequence" off his recently released self-titled EP album.

In 2016, Mason won 'Best Young Songwriter' at the 2016 Toronto Independ-

ent Music Awards and was named 'Top 20 Artists Under 20' in CBC's 2016 Searchlight Competition. He gained accolades in the 2016 UK Songwriting Competition under the Teen and Adult Contemporary category for his tracks Settle Down and Touch The Sky. Three of the songs off his EP are semi-finalists in the International Unsigned Only Music Competition under the Pop/Top 40 and Screen shot category.

Mason is excited to join his hometown friends and neighbours for a fun-filled evening on stage with great music and an even greater company.

MOVIE ON THE STREET

Bike, walk, roll or drive and bring a lawn chair or blanket to enjoy a movie under the stars tonight at the Acton Town Hall, 19 Willow St. N. The Acton BIA is hosting a free Bike In Movie Night. The family movie "Sing" will start at 8 p.m., but there will be games and activities beginning at 6 p.m.

LOCAL RESIDENT WINS

Congratulations to Acton's Tiina Duncanson who was the winner of the Prostock snowmobile class at the Virginia Motor Sports NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series this past weekend. Duncanson won a coveted Wally— named after NHRA founder Wally Parks—with a winning time of 8.26 at 156 mph.



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.



THINKS, THINKS, THINKS SAFETY: Katelyn Park shows off her safety certificate from School Bus Orientation Day held on Saturday at Acton High School. - Angela Tyler photo

JUST A THOUGHT

Sunny side up

Occasionally I find myself seriously wondering if Mother Nature is simply toying with us humans. While Italian officials are forced to turn off the water due to that region's awful record setting drought, an unprecedented monsoon season is affecting more than 24 million in Southern Asia. Australia disappears into yet another slow moving cloud of red dust while Sierra Leone loses thousands under fast moving mud. British Columbia is still burning as Texas now finds itself struggling to stay above water. Even Squall Valley in Northern California, which struggled from a lack of snow only two years ago, received over 60 feet this year ensuring skiing into July. July! I know there is a vast army of climate change believers waiting to pounce, but this column is not about our ever-changing planet or its wacky weather. True the weather has changed, but I surmise that our weather has been changing ever since this mighty rock took shape. Our time and understanding here is so incredibly brief that the only fact we can truly admit is that we still don't know much. Still, weather is a fascinating aspect of the human condition. We can't control it, yet it certainly controls us. It can be the difference between plenty and want; comfort and distress; life and death. And for Canadians at least, it is a fail-safe conversation topic. Yet, lately when I listen to all these stories of wild weather, there is something more than just bad news hiding in the heartache;



By **Trish Bell**

there is a glimmer of hope. Hope that perhaps, humans don't hate each other so much that they can't do right by each other. Hope that no matter what conditions we find ourselves, we can honestly lean on each other and know that someone will have our back when the rain gets the hardest. It is hard to hear it when so much hate and destruction seem to overshadow the stories we see, but if you look for it, that hope is there.

For instance, a month ago there was a brief piece out of Florida. Eighty people, who were otherwise enjoying a day at the beach, grasped the opportunity to do something and formed a human chain to save a family caught in a riptide. There is the January story out of Italy, where amidst heavy snow, rescuers worked endlessly to get to those trapped inside an avalanche buried hotel, saving 11. Or the story of the boater in B.C., who saw fire inland and tried to drown it out by using his propeller as a kind of water spray until fire crews could arrive. And in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey's fury, we have already begun to hear countless stories of people helping each other, volunteers going into the waters to ensure thousands of their fellow humans—and animals—survive. Just like the outpouring of sup-

port for those who have lost everything in the devastating B.C. and Fort McMurray wildfires, these people will also rise from the ashes of destruction. And while any of these everyday people could have just as easily sat safe and sound elsewhere and watched the horrors unfold, there is something eternally warming about the idea that they didn't.

Perhaps, Mother Nature has figured us humans out. Maybe she's thinking we need the chaos to set us straight, to realign our priorities. And she could be right, because despite our belief that times of crisis bring out the worst in us humans, the evidence points to the contrary. According to Author Rebecca Solnit, unlike the chaos movie scenario "the great majority of people are calm, resourceful, altruistic, and even beyond as they risk themselves for others in disaster situations." And according to researchers, the reasons for this are simple: continued existence demands it. So, while some of our stormiest members seem obsessed with destruction, it appears the vast majority of us aren't so far gone that we aren't worth another shot at survival. Hopefully, Mother Nature is watching us in our finest hour and feeling the underpinnings of real honest to goodness hope. Maybe she'll let us humans last just a little bit longer so that we can prove we deserve to inhabit her little sphere. If not, I fear she knows how to get her message across.