

# GRAPEVINE

## RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Do you believe you can answer your community's call for help? Be part of a group of dedicated individuals working to protect and save the lives of people in your community.

As a part-time fire fighter with the Halton Hills Fire Department you will face new and challenging situations unlike any other job. You will fight fires, perform rescues, administer first aid, deal with hazardous materials, protect property, and possibly be instrumental in saving lives.

Due to the expanding growth of our community and fire department attrition, the need for additional part-time personnel has become necessary. The additional staff will complement the current staffing at all Halton Hills Fire Stations—Head Quarters Station and the Maple Avenue Station in Georgetown and the Churchill Road Station in Acton.

Commissioner and Fire Chief John deHooge said, "Many assume that firefighting is traditionally a male dominated profession. Today's modern fire services reflect the diversity of their communities, so whether you are male, female, from different cultures or faiths, we would ask you to consider joining our Halton Hills Fire Department team."

"We are looking to hire part-time firefighters, from all backgrounds, with a variety of skills, to be part of our team," said Deputy Chief Bruce Morrison. "Interested candidates can attend one of two information sessions; September 12 in Georgetown at the 53 Maple Avenue Fire Station and September 13 at the Acton Fire Station located at 21 Churchill Road South. Station tours begin at 6:30 p.m. and sessions begin at 7 p.m. Any questions people

have about the hiring process or part-time firefighting in general, will be answered at these sessions. Applications are available online and can be submitted up to 4 p.m. on September 18."

## FREE RESUME AND JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE AT THE ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Get personalized help with resume writing, cover letters, interviews, Second Career funding and more at the Halton Hills Public Library, Acton Branch on 17 River Street on Tuesdays between 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by appointment only. To reserve your appointment time call Tina Pickett at 905-693-8458 ext. 116 or send an email to [pickettc@thecentre.on.ca](mailto:pickettc@thecentre.on.ca)

For more information, visit: [www.thecentre.on.ca](http://www.thecentre.on.ca)

## PREPARING FOR SCHOOL TRAFFIC

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are reminding everyone to be mindful of the increased student related traffic, including pedestrians, cyclists, busses and student drop off traffic.

They are also asking everyone to be mindful of school zones, cross walks and bus pickup routes, and to take extra caution in these areas, slow down, obey traffic control devices. As well, they are asking families to go over and refresh themselves on street safety, to prepare a designated route to and from school, and to identify safe street crossing locations.

Parents dropping off children should know the school drop off procedure. If you have a high school in your area, remember you may have less experienced drivers around and increased congestion.



**DIVISION CHAMPS:** The U13B Rockwood FC soccer team resoundingly won their division championship and had a great undefeated season with 148 goals scored, 12 shut outs, one tournament won, and runners up in their other two tournaments. Coached by Aaron 'Azza' Kerr and Julian Ross. - Submitted photo

# JUST A THOUGHT

## Take them back!

No matter how many books you read or classes you take, there is simply no way to truly be prepared to be a parent. Sure, we all think we know what it's about; after all we were kids once and we survived, so how hard could it be? Yet, once the nurse plops that sweet little bundle into your arms and unceremoniously strolls away, the realization of how little you know creeps upon you like a high-speed freight train. Let's be brutally honest, it seems asinine that society dictates the need for a licence for almost everything including owning a dog but there is nothing for being a parent. Not that I want to give the government another tax idea. Kids are like the anti-technology: forget mindboggling pages of technical jargon; instead there are zero instructions and a whole lot more trouble than a flashing 12:00 when you can't figure it out. And while the learning curve grows in direct correlation to the growth of your offspring, most of us either out of short sightedness or sheer tenacity still choose to take the gamble, hoping against hope that despite our own shortcomings, we will beat the odds and raise a respectful, hardworking and responsible member of tomorrow.

It seems no surprise then, that this intense trial by fire sees us doing things we all proudly claimed we would never do. Everything from cheering someone in the bathroom to volunteering to spend your day off with a bus full of loud, excited kids on a school trip, parenting has us performing like monkeys in a circus sideshow. And what insane antics you will undertake



By  
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all depends on the sucker—I mean parent—and child to which you are referring. Our most recent experiment concludes this week with the return to school of some recent houseguests that have been occupying my coffee table since the busses were parked for summer some two, dare I say not short enough, months ago. That's right: six houseplants, an energetic turtle—who looks startlingly like his namesake, Sir Winston Churchill—and a metre-long corn snake—who is currently watching me write this with an unnerving look in his red eyes—have all been crashing at my place like it's a freshman dorm. One plea for help and suddenly my kids portrayed our home as a "pet and plant paradise," despite the fact we already house a zoo and most plants, both in and outside get a stern lesson in survival of the fittest. I like science as much as the next guy but a freezer full of baby mice and live crickets???

All joking aside, I know this is how to have girls that love science, math and risk. In fact, according to the Carnegie Foundation commission conclusions of 2007, "the nation's capacity to innovate and thrive in the modern workforce depends on a foundation of math and science learning." So, while I quietly recite a soothing "I love snakes" mantra every morning - particularly after opening my freezer door—the truth is that my kids

are in fact learning—not only about biology and ecology but this time also about commitment, and responsibility. What's more, they are choosing to help others; a noble cause despite the smell of turtle wafting through my kitchen. In this fast-paced world of working moms and hockey games; dance recitals and dad's business trips, it is so easy for us to forget to make the moments of learning happen for our kids. We take for granted the apparent "grown upness" that stands before us but forget that, without moments of opportunity, they will never learn to respect, appreciate and discover. This generation gets what they want instantly, from information to the latest toys and yet learning, especially the deep rich meaningful lessons of life experience, are not so easily obtained. I'm not talking vacations or outings; I mean the little everyday lessons that we all took for granted. Kids need to be uncomfortable so they can learn to adapt. Kids need to be challenged so they can learn to overcome adversity. And kids need to learn that some lessons in life can't come from a classroom or a video game. Sometimes we need to bring the disaster upon ourselves so that our kids can build themselves up for the ever-increasing responsibility and determination they will need to survive high school, part-time jobs, first relationships and beyond. So, pardon the mice thawing on my counter and the turtle sliming his way across my floor; construction is underway here in the pursuit of raising self-sufficient, productive members of our future society.

*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.