



LETTERS

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Thank-you for support

To the Editor

Thank You! The Friends of the Halton Hills Public Library would like to thank your readers for their support of the book sale held on 30 September this year to raise funds for the reading deck to be added to the Acton Public Library. We'd also like to thank The New Tanner for their coverage of the event.

The book sale was a resounding success, and the group of volunteers raised \$1,870.30 to add to the reading deck fund! The Friends would particularly like to thank volunteers Anne McIntyre, Carolyn Trenton, Mary Jane Lee,

Marilyn Patterson, Liz Bailey, the Staff of the Acton branch and all their helpers. Their hard work was rewarded with great weather and a great response.

The Friends of the Library have been setting aside money for the deck fund for years. We are hopeful that our efforts will be enough to convince the Town of Halton Hills to proceed with construction of the deck.

Sincerely,

John Mark Rowe
Chair
Friends of the Halton Hills
Public Library

Over 300 seniors enjoyed a Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings which is organized by the Acton Rotary Club and the Acton Legion, and held at the Acton Legion. - Les Schmidt photo

CHEERS: The Annual Rotary Wine and Cheese party was held at the Town Hall Centre recently. Guests commented on a younger crowd this year, a strong turnout, an excellent selection of wines and cheeses, and an even better time had by all. - Les Schmidt photo

JUST A THOUGHT

Compass heading...True North?

As our credit cards get their seasonal workout, 21st century globalization is apparent. Jet planes take us on whirlwind vacations and sites like Amazon make the farthest world markets merely a click away. Free shipping and too-good-to-be-true discounts have our mailboxes bursting with surprises that have indeed travelled the globe. But being as global as our purchases isn't so easy. Our seemingly universally-loved leader suffered this humiliating reality check, this week, as Chinese leaders reminded the Canadian boy-wonder that in their neck of the woods freedom is a dangerous commodity that they have no interest in importing. Not only was his ego bruised and his personal accomplishment agenda set back, his rather public humbling, well planned and executed by his Chinese hosts, was a clear message to those paying attention and proves China remains one of our most complex juxtapositions. Sure, an argument can be made that those that don't embrace this soon-to-be-number-one world economy may indeed be left in the dust, but I pray, countrymen, you might consider the following points as a cautionary tale reminiscent of a Dicken's classic.



By Trish Bell

And where does all this leave us today? Not that far ahead I'm afraid. Young Trudeau's well-orchestrated snubbing this week demonstrates not only his oblivious teenage-like crush on China, but also the true nature of what appears to be an abusive relationship. Sure, China sported a \$15 trillion GDP in 2016, including two-way trade with Canada of more than \$90 billion, but the current arrangement remains increasingly in China's favour by more than two to one, leaving us holding a huge trade deficit check. What's worse, China's use of huge state-owned companies to manipulate the playing field proves, as one Carleton University Professor puts it, "China isn't a country that plays by the rules." We can all remember a time of being white-washed by the actions of those close to us, so it is unclear why Trudeau would negotiate with those who openly oppose "good governance, human rights and the rule of law." Clearly, our relationship

is, and will remain, one way and nonnegotiable, something of which the Chinese government looked to be reminding our fearless leader via repeated posturing and nuance.

So, what of the ghost of China-Canada's future? Well, for one thing, do we really plan to hold all nations to the same standards as our own? Wooing nations that pay and handle their workers far below our standards means our industries will falter. Encouraging investment and ownership of our lands and businesses, despite caution and controversy, is reckless. Remaining idle while such nations attack us and our allies, be it through propaganda or control, will have consequences. If we are to be the beacon by which the world's aspirations are to be lit, then we must do better than to choose the fast, cheap, ever-disposable dollar of today over the wellbeing of our planet and fellow humans, and we must back up such convictions with actions not just words. China has indeed flourished since our first arrangements, but many of these gains have been made at the expense of the labourers, environments, and democracy we value. According to Trudeau, "a strong relationship with China is essential to growing our economy." If that is true, will such necessity absolve us of a less than principled moral standing? Perhaps since our federal government has deemed 2018 the Canada-China Year of Tourism—an obvious attempt to encourage China's favour—it seems the ideal year we redeem ourselves and stand up to our bully, reminding our glossy leader that we do indeed hold a moral compass and only Canadians should decide Canada's fate.

SPORTS TALK

FIFA Soccer World Cup

In case you missed it, the draws for the preliminary rounds of the FIFA Soccer World Cup taking place in Russia next year was held last Friday.

This marks the official countdown to the opening ceremony and first game of the competition between hosts Russia and Saudi Arabia on June 14 next year in Moscow at approximately 11 a.m. Eastern Time.

Interesting times for soccer—or football as the game is known in most parts of the world—enthusiasts. There will be some notable absentees, though—the big one for our region being the United States Men's National Team, as well as traditional soccer heavyweights like Italy, Holland and Ireland.

Canadian towns and cities will once again be turned to a sea of flags, and it may be a good idea to start making travel arrangements if watching the World Cup in person is something you are keen on.

By Michael Oke

Looking at the table, I would say all groups seem evenly matched, although

many have observed that England seems to have a much easier draw than expected. However, judging by their last performance in the Euros, I wouldn't be so sure.

As far as my predictions go, based on the history of a European team almost always winning the World Cup tournaments held in Europe—the exception being the 1958 Championship hosted by Sweden and won by Brazil—it seems all is set for a German win—I wouldn't put money on it, though.

I'm looking forward to a really exciting tournament, and a more detailed analysis of some of the teams closer to the start of the competition.

It's also a good time to adopt a country if you have no allegiance or roots in any of the 32 countries participating.

GROUP A RUSSIA SAUDI ARABIA EGYPT URUGUAY	GROUP B PORTUGAL SPAIN MOROCCO IRAN	GROUP C FRANCE AUSTRALIA PERU DENMARK	GROUP D ARGENTINA ICELAND CROATIA NIGERIA
GROUP E BRAZIL SWITZERLAND COSTA RICA SERBIA	GROUP F GERMANY MEXICO SWEDEN KOREA REPUBLIC	GROUP G BELGIUM PANAMA TUNISIA ENGLAND	GROUP H POLAND SENEGAL COLOMBIA JAPAN