

ACTON Travel

with

*Bruce
Hood*



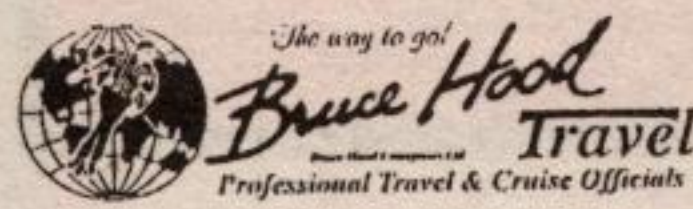
IN FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY TWO... COLUMBUS SAILED THE OCEAN BLUE...

The Bahamas Islands was the first point of land Columbus is supposed to have arrived at when he set sail from Europe to find the new land according to history, and claimed the land for Spain. The particular piece of land he reached was actually called **Guanahani** by the island people of the time, but Columbus named it **San Salvador** which is one of the easternmost islands of the some **700 islands that make up the Bahamas!** Many changes have taken place in the 500 years since with British rule the last empire they were under (since the 1600s) until they received their independence in 1973.

Nassau and **Freeport** are the places we know best when we Canadians think of the Bahamas as they are the destinations we head to mostly for sun, sea and sand! But with so many other 'out islands' as they are referred to, there are many other exciting places to visit, such as **Abaco, Andros, Great Exuma** Islands, just to name a few. Each one has a feature all its own, with the water, the sand and sun as a common denominator. **Paradise Island**, right at Nassau, is also readily identified and the many resorts there are popular destinations for tourists, none more than the **Atlantis**, which features the **largest open-air aquarium in the world!** It is a definite must-see. We have visited aquariums in many cities throughout the world and this takes the cake. You walk right through their habitat and they are all around you - different sized sharks, schools of all kinds of fish, turtles, you name it, it is something to see.

Duty free shopping, casinos, golf, local entertainment such as the **Junkanoo**, are just some of the 'other features' in the **Bahama Islands**. But mostly the water - described as 'the tropical seas in shades of blue, indigo, cobalt, and royal' is what brings people to this tropical paradise. One of the oldest destinations for tourists from Canada - some of whom have taken up residence for reasons other than the sun and good climate - the 418 banking and trust institutions offer democracy, stability, and confidentiality, so it is a good haven for finances too. A short two and one half hour flight from Toronto, the same time zone as here, the Bahamian dollar on par with the US dollar too so it is easy to compare it to ours (which is getting better in value, plus they have ATMs, one dollar bills, and even three dollar bills), is generally regarded as safe for tourists, and with generally good weather, not sunbaked as further south but generally OK, makes for a popular destination to 'get away' even for a three/four day weekend! (The weather we had this past week was not typical - our golf game was held up by rain, our outdoor cocktail party had to move indoors because of rain, and we spent too much time, and money, in the Casino due to rain - nuff said!)

The **Radisson Cable Beach Resort**, where we stayed and participated in their first annual golf tournament, has done a marvellous job of refurbishing what had become a tired property. It had been known as the **Marriott Crystal Palace** on start-up and was originally a glitzy purple colour. Thank goodness that colour has gone, the pools, the waterfalls, the entire decor in the courtyard is the waterscape to see. The rooms have been done over, the dining facilities (they are very relaxing with good food and service) are state of the art, and they are not finished yet. Their all-inclusive package offered by many suppliers at your local travel professionals is a good offering, especially for families and golfers.



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LEARNING SOME MOVES: The 2nd Acton Girl Guides took a line dancing class last Thursday night at Robert Little school, but the girls, including Amanda Williams, left, and Lindsey Dunn preferred dancing the Macarena. (Karen Wetmore photo)

Safety patrols needed: mom

Continued from Front Page
police told me he was dragged a distance by the van and that it would have been much worse had he been hit by a car instead of the van that was higher off the ground," Wilson said.

Instituting school patrols - older students who help younger ones cross safely -

is done at the discretion of school principals. Training for the safety patrols is done by the Halton police school safety officer. MSB principal Nancy Johnston said they are re-evaluating safety at the crossing in light of the accident, but she does not favour use of students patrols.

"There were some issues

about how well the patrols that were at the school several years ago were working. There were problems with some kids not showing up for their patrols," Johnston said on Monday. "I don't think that it's safe to have student helpers and I think that the student patrols can put other students in jeopardy."

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NEWSSHORTS

Drugs found, charges laid

Halton Regional Police have laid charges against a Rockwood woman after she was spotted driving in what police call a suspicious manner.

Police report that a 1988 Ford Bronco was stopped at 11:50 pm last Thursday at Mill and Willow Streets after it seemed the driver was trying to avoid police.

When constables approached the vehicle, they smelled a strong odour of what seemed to be narcotics. A search of the vehicle turned up what police believe is a quantity of marijuana.

A 31-year-old Rockwood woman is due to appear in court Mar. 10 to answer charges of possession of a controlled substance.

Help with 3 R's offered

The North Halton Literacy Guild is starting a new group for adults in Acton.

Adults can get help with reading, writing, spelling, basic math and job skills. The group will start up in February.

Contact Acton Support Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) at 853-3310 or 873-2200 for more details or to sign up.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I think if this local Council gets sucked into self destruction we are fools."

—Norm Elliott, Acton Councillor, Front Page

DID YOU KNOW?

Table tennis balls have been known to travel off the paddle at speeds up to 105.6 miles per hour.



**ACTON
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SCHOOL**

The Halton Board of Education

EXAM RETURN DAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1997
9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

**FINAL REPORTS will be sent
home with students on
Monday, February 3, 1997**

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