

italiatour!

**ROME GETAWAY
VALENTINE'S DAY
WEEK-END**

from \$839*
Offer Valid from Toronto

Spend Valentine's Day in a Captivating City that will Sweep You off Your Feet

Offer Includes:

- Round trip air transportation on Alitalia Airlines to Rome
- 3 Nights Accommodation at the Regency 4* Hotel or similar
- Round trip shuttle transfers from airport to hotel
- Rome by Night Sightseeing Tour with Dinner
- Hotel tax and Service Charges
- Luggage Tags and Document Holder

*Rate quoted in Canadian dollars. All prices based on double occupancy room. Subject to flight operation. Offer valid only for departure on February 11, 2000, return February 15, 2000. Single supplement available. Government taxes up to \$16 not included. Add-on from other cities available. Other restriction/conditions apply. Alitalia participates in the mileage programs of US Airways and Continental Airlines.



**Spring
Transatlantic
Crossing Cruises**

Choose from these 2
"Theme" Cruises:

**Sail from Aruba to Palma, Mallorca
on the Sunbird
April 22nd for a 14 night cruise on the**

**"Atlantic Appreciation Cruise"
from \$2,199**

**Sail from Calica, Cancun to Palma,
Mallorca on the Carousel
April 15th for a 21 night cruise on the**

**"Dancing Cruise"
from \$3,299**

First 30 passengers to book, either cruise, will receive complimentary Premier Class seating on the return portion of their flight from Palma. All cruises include round-trip air and transfers. Your cruise includes all usual entertainment and dining. See Winter or Summer cruise brochure for details.

Prices are per person, double occupancy from Toronto, based on an Inside Cabin (Outside Cabins and Sunbird Penthouses also available), and are subject to change without notice. Port charges and transportation taxes are additional. Call Cruise Reservations for full details.

**TED TYLER TRAVEL
SERVICE LTD.**

"Best Price, Best Service Since 1972"

853-1553 379 Queen St., Acton

Donated used items wind up in USA

**BYMAGGIE
PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner**

An Acton resident questions whether the public realizes used items donated to some health organizations wind up supporting an American business.

Melinda Brown called The New Tanner after receiving a telephone call soliciting donations of used items to the Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy.

"I worked with the Guelph United Way," Brown says, "and through them I learned how adversely these collections impact the community."

The reduction in donations of clothing and household items has drastically curtailed fundraising abilities for local community organizations like EWAG (East Wellington Advisory Group) and the Salvation Army, she says.

"People promise their discards to the telemarketers when they call without realizing the money raised goes to an American chain, not to the

local charities," Brown says. "They are happy to put their stuff out for collection because they think the charity is benefiting. They don't realize these charities sell everything to Value Village and that's an American firm so any profits are going right out of the country."

Diane Weston of Acton's Salvation Army Thrift Store does not see the collections interfering with their operation.

"Some people may be making donations," she says, "but I don't feel they are neglecting us because of it. We have people who donate to us on a regular basis. Most people are very supportive of our store."

Likewise, Kevin Conroy says the telephone solicitors have no impact on support for the local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

EWAG executive director Irene Smedly of Erin however, says their service definitely is suffering although it's "hard to tell" how much of a loss they experience because of

these collections.

Their volunteers are most upset at the reduced amount of merchandise available since sales through the Rockwood and Erin shops are a major source of funds to keep their service operating. EWAG receives very little grant funding.

"Our volunteers work very hard to help, sorting good from bad," she says.

Requests that the area be removed from cerebral palsy's telemarketing lists were rejected.

"They told us they can't make an exception," Smedly says.

Although efforts to reach a spokesperson for cerebral palsy were unsuccessful, Mary Lou Middleton, Central Western Ontario regional manager for the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA), says CDA has been using telemarketers and selling used items for 15 years.

The telemarketers, trucks and collection people are our employees," Middleton says.

Acton has always been a part of Hamilton's collection area since the Ontario program began about eight years ago. Collected items are usually off-loaded at Value Village the day they are picked up and tend to be on the store floor within 48 hours.

"We do it this way because it eliminates 99 per cent of our processing costs,"

Middleton says. "This area of fundraising is my focus. We run it as a business to be successful in creating revenue for CDA."

The funds support both CDA's educational promotions and research into diabetes, she says.

Telemarketers are expected to answer questions if asked about the program, she says but could not say whether donors realize - or care - where their donations end up.

Don Draper, a very new manager at Value Village's Guelph outlet, says the chain is a for profit American company, with headquarters in Washington state. The chain is about 45 years old and has operated in Canada for about 25 years, mainly in the west, moving east around 1992.

"We deal with different North American charities," he says. "Here it's CDA and the Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy but it might be other charities in another community."

The charities solicit the donations from the community and Value Village pays "by the volume" for whatever the charities bring them "whether it's saleable or not." What can't be put on the store shelves will be recycled some other way, including shipping it to other countries but definitely avoiding the local landfill, he says.

dublin improvements



**kitchens & baths
and so much more!!!
FREE ESTIMATES**

**Dave Dawkins 853-2887
isn't it time for a change?**



It's time...to register for
KINDERGARTEN

with the Halton District School Board



The Halton District School Board is committed to providing quality learning opportunities for students enrolled in the Kindergarten program.

There's a public elementary school close to your home with caring people waiting to help you and your child with this important step.

Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2000 to register for the Kindergarten program for the 2000-2001 school year. Students must also reside within the boundaries of the school offering the program, and parents/guardians must be public school supporters.

Please be sure to bring the following original documents with you:

- ◆ proof of your child's age (birth certificate or passport)
- ◆ your child's immunization record
- ◆ your child's Ontario Health Card
- ◆ proof of address

If you are not the child's parent, please bring proof of custody (court order).

Please drop by your local elementary school and register today for the Halton District School Board's Kindergarten program.

**We are ready to become a partner with you
in your child's education**



HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

D.L. Papke, Ed.D. Director of Education

Ethel Gardiner, Chair



Job Bank:

Are you looking for a job? The HRDC Job Bank is now located at the Acton office of Halton Hills Community Sup-

port and Information. Our office is located at 45 Mill Street east and we are open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Preschool Screening:

Is your child under five? Do you have questions about your preschooler's development? A screening clinic will be held at the Acton Children's Corner on Tuesday, Feb. 1 from 9:30 to 11:30. The Acton Children's Corner is located in the basement of the Salvation Army Church, 114 Mill Street East.

The clinic will assess your preschooler's development in the areas of learning, hearing, speech/language, behaviour and motor skills. Trained staff from Milton District Hospital and the Preschool Assessment and Training in Halton program (PATH) will be on hand to answer your questions. There is no charge for the screening clinic.

NEW BABY

At your house?

It's time to call your
**Welcome Wagon
Hostess.**

She will bring
**congratulations and
gifts for the family and
the NEW BABY!**

Call Betty Ann
853-1944

**WELCOME
WAGON**
Since 1930