

GRAPEVINE



BBQ fundraiser

Halton Hills Community Support and Information will benefit from a grand opening barbecue at the new Acton M&M Meat Shop on Saturday.

A minimum donation of \$1.50 gets you a burger or a hot dog and something to wash it down with all proceeds earmarked for the social services agency.

The joint M&M/Mac's store is the first in Canada - a pilot project combining a new updated Mac's store with M&M specialty frozen foods.

Volleyball volunteer

Kudos to Acton's Christine Craig, 46, whose volunteer efforts for amateur sport earned her a Special Achievement Award from the Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation at a ceremony in Toronto on Friday.

Craig is president and co-founder of the Peel Selects Volleyball Club and has been an official with the Ontario Volleyball Association and coached the provincial team from 1991 to 1993.

It was quite an impressive ceremony at the Skydome - as they read my biography, it brought back a lot of memories which was great," Craig said after the ceremony in which she received a medal and a frame certificate.

Craig, vice-principal at a Peel high school, was named to the Mission Staff for the 2001 Canada Games in London, Ontario next summer.

Bulldog bite

Congratulations to Spencer Morrison, 12, a striker for the Burlington Bulldogs who powered their way to an 2-1 overtime win against Glen Shields Sun Devils to take the Ontario Cup Under-12 boys championship recently.

The Grade 7 student at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School played for a number of rep teams before joining the Bulldogs this season.

Literacy training

Are you interested in helping an

adult learn to read or write or improve on their existing skills, or are you interested in serving on a volunteer board?

The North Halton Literacy Guild, which often has a waiting list of students to be matched with local tutors, is holding an orientation and training workshop mid-October. The session will introduce potential tutors to the Guild's Read, Spell, Write program. For details call 873-2200.

Paramedics honoured

In the midst of the Region's takeover of land ambulance services from the Province, Halton Hills will offer a public thank you to the volunteer ambulance staff who has manned depots in Acton and Georgetown on Monday.

The Town will hold a dinner and for the volunteer paramedics, followed by a special ceremony in the Council Chambers.

Sign inquiries

An alert reader (gotta love 'em) wondered if the For Lease sign on the old Eagle Ottawa building on McDonald Boulevard meant a closure, but it doesn't.

Building co-owner, Acton developer Fred Dawkins explained when Eagle Ottawa sold out to Premiere Leather, they down sized the operation and until now Premiere didn't know what space it needs.

"They've just settled in on a figure recently, so we do have part of the building empty and that's why we're offering it for lease," Dawkins said, adding his companies, Premiere and Monarch Silk and Trading Ltd. share half of the building.

Another alert reader questioned if houses were planned for a 50-acre property that recently sold on the east side of Churchill Road just north of Lasby Lane.

A check with the realtor found the property has been sold by the Acri family, who own property on the west side of Churchill, to a man from Ballinacree who plans to build a house and move to the property.



BURGER ANYONE? These volunteers (mainly teachers) braved grill smoke and hungry crowds at the Robert Little School family barbecue/meet the teacher night recently. The chefs include, from left: Doug Long, Pat Pope, Ron Vande Kemp, Paul Hynds, Janet Clevely, Janet McCluskey and Maureen Flynn. - Frances Niblock photo

AUTUMN REFLECTIONS

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



The kids are back to school, cottages are being closed, the Jays are battling for a wild card spot in the playoffs, the Fall Fair is over and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Face it, summer, such as it was, is over. Here are some observations on the season just past.

What a great Fair we had. Mostly, the weather cooperated with only a few sprinkles on Friday afternoon. This was, I think the 15th year the Acton Knights of Columbus have provided security for the fair so I thought I would answer a few of the questions that come up year after year.

A few folks, when hearing that there is an admission charge ask "How do you sleep at night?" Usually, on my side - thanks for asking. Perhaps someone out there thinks that it costs nothing to put on the Fair. They're wrong. The Fair board tries to make a modest profit on the fair which is immediately re-invested in next year's event. The last two years' profits have been earmarked for the building fund. The Agricultural Society has to erect a building to replace the old arena with certain Georgetown fools ripped down.

To the "gentleman" who asked "Are you nuts? I won't pay four-f... dollars to park here." (a) I don't set the rates. (b) I have full use of my faculties - thanks for asking (c) park on the street and take the chance you'll get a ticket and your car towed. I couldn't care less. You *@#?* jerk. (I feel better now). It never fails to amaze me that we have more grief with people driving \$50,000 cars than anyone else.

To the many, many people who think they should get into the Fair for free I offer the following observation. Use of the f-word as an adjective, adverb, noun, verb and preposition in the same sentence neither impresses us or causes the volunteers to kindly consider your point of view. And just to set the record straight - my parents were properly married and I have the paperwork to prove it.

Lest you think we are all masochists to do this year after year, let me assure you the good far outweighs the bad. The look of anticipation on the children as they enter and the smiles as they leave, goldfish or plush in hand, leave us memories which last all winter. To the lady who came up to us on Sun-

day to say how much she enjoyed the Fair, and slipped us \$5 for the building fund, bless you. You brought a roomful of smiles to the Ag. Society members when we told them of your kindness.

Nest year's Fair will be Sept. 15, 16, 17. Mark it on your calendars. It's a great time to meet old friends. I think this town owes a hearty "congratulations and well done" to the Agricultural Society members who work so hard all year to pull off the Fair. As so many said to us as they left the grounds "Great Fair - See you next year."

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I didn't just rest on my laurels all summer, I tackled some of the great mysteries of mankind and the universe.

For instance: I determined that the correct way to hang toilet paper is with the roll positioned as to unroll down the wall. This way, one little spin gives you enough of the necessary supplies.

As of Labour Day, the Bride and I are empty nesters. Our youngest is off at University and the other three have left the old homestead. I men-

tioned to "The Bride" that this was the first time in 31 years we had no children at home and what would we do with all our spare time? Nudge nudge, wink, wink. It's hard to understand her when she speaks with that huge smile on her face but I got the clear message she has, and never will have, any intentions of traipsing down memory lane and pretending we're in our twenties again. Sigh! Maybe I should get a dog?

We personally ruined the summer for the other vacationers on our lake. Every time we went north the clouds rolled in and it rained. I don't think we had one good weekend. Last I heard, our northern neighbours were taking up a collection to try and buy us out before next spring. On top of everything, the fishing was lousy.

I have decided that anyone who used the term "24/7, so fun, you are off the island (or anything to do with islands), cool as awesome" need remedial training. I would suggest locking them in a room and making them listen to Richard Burton's rendition of Hamlet until they develop some vocabulary might be appropriate. O'Leary girls - please note.

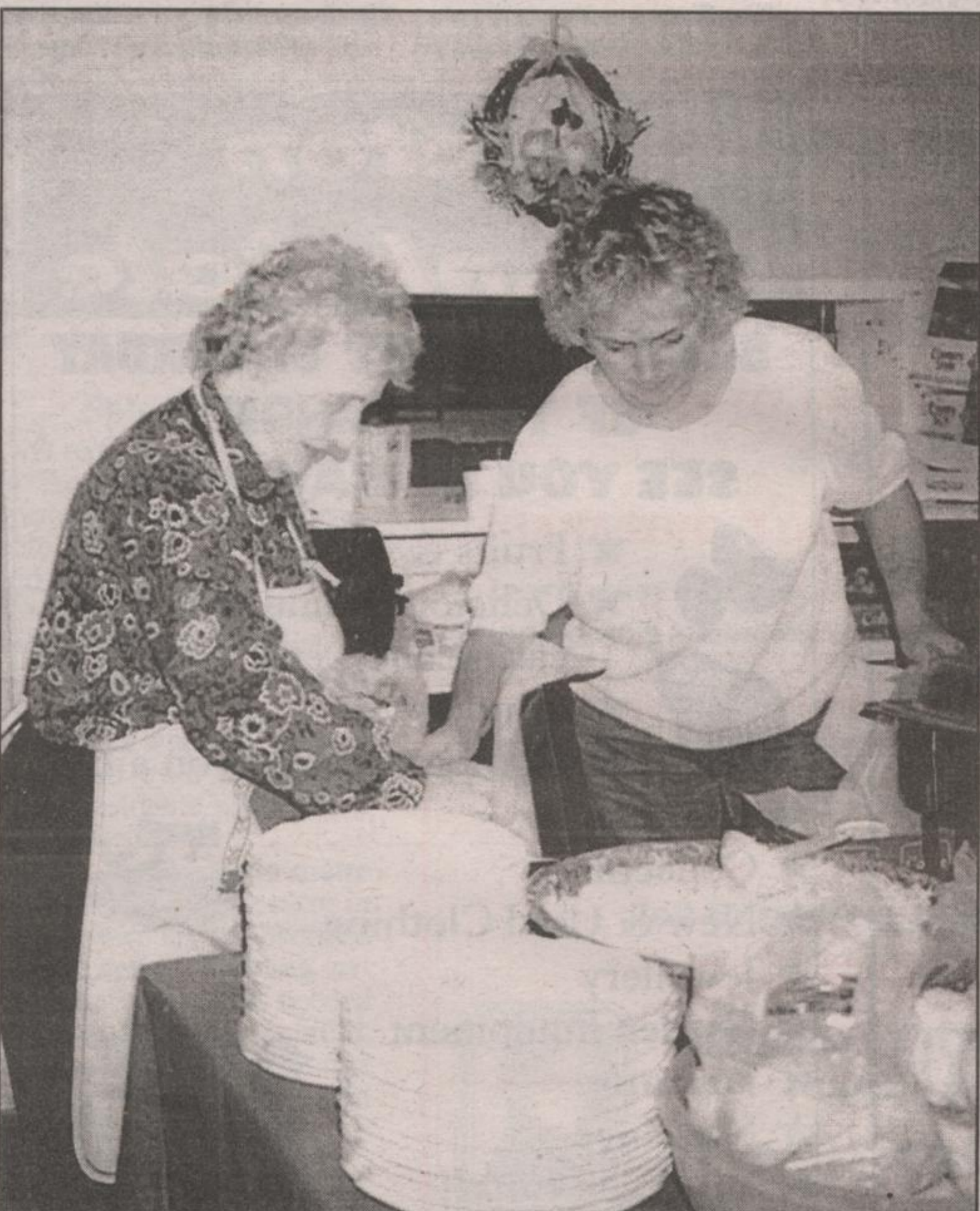
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I find it hard to believe that the decision of the Toronto School Trustees to demolish 170 school playground sets wasn't a continuation of their fifth column attempt to undermine the government. It has backfired. Parents are fed up with the educational establishment's ongoing campaign to use our children to promote their political agenda.

One only has to remember the outrage expressed by the majority in our town over the Halton Board's proposal to sell off part of the MSB playgrounds to see that parents have had enough.

Now parents in Barrie are objecting, and rightly so, that a teacher who sent more than 60 sexually suggestive letters to one of her minor students has been reinstated. The administrators insist there is no danger to their children. God help them if they're wrong.

Meanwhile, elections are coming up in six weeks or so. If you have kids in school, shouldn't you be aware of the issues and be sure to get out and vote? The kids deserve no less.



DISHING UP: Vera Denny, left, and Hanne Bacht filled containers for takeout at the Churchill United Church chicken barbecue Saturday evening. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo