

# GRAPEVINE



## Candidate meeting

Economic development, transportation and taxes are expected to be the dominant topics at the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce municipal all-candidates meeting at the Civic Centre on November 7.

Invitations have been sent to Chamber members and although seating is limited, area business owners can attend to question the candidates.

## Food drive readiness

When you're shopping this week, don't forget the 10th annual Scout-Guide-Cadet Food Drive is next Saturday - November 4.

Food donated during the drive will help stock the shelves of Acton's FoodShare food bank which helped feed approximately 762 children and 838 adults last year.

A small army of Beavers, Cubs, Cadets, Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders, Venturers and Calvinist Cadets collected a record 9,225 pounds of food last year and then helped sort and box the groceries.

If you want to donate non-perishable food during next Saturday's food drive, leave it in a bag on the front porch where it will be picked up, beginning at 9 a.m.

## Book deals

Looking for great deals on used books? Check out the book sale on Wednesday (Nov. 1) at Robert Little School.

Money raised from the sale of used books will be used to buy new books for the library. The sale, organized by two parents - both avid readers - runs from noon to 6 p.m.

"Same as any school, Robert Little is in need of funds and

this isn't a school or a parent group fundraiser - it's just me and (friend) Ann Hamilton," said organizer Toni Loewen, adding they're accepting donated books until 6 p.m. tomorrow (Friday).

## Good deals

If you're ready to start holiday shopping, the annual Christmas ba-

zaar at St. Alban's Church always has unique handmade gifts and stocking stuffers. The tea and sale runs from 1 to 3 p.m. next Saturday (Nov. 4).

## Off to Africa

With a "willing heart and willing hands" Acton's Robin Peregrine is off to Kenya next month to do some short-term missions work for the Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle and to visit the Kauffeldt family, former Acton residents who now live in Kenya.

Peregrine has raised money to take with her to purchase supplies for a poor school in Kenya, and will also spend some of her time training workers for children's ministries.

## Shelter benefits

Halton Women's Shelter will receive the proceeds from the Halton Credit Union's fundraising efforts during Credit Union Week last week.

Staff at the Acton branch raised just over \$700 for the shelter through a barbecue, sale of pie and coffee, garage sale and bake sale last week.

"For the past eight or nine years the Credit Union staff pick a charity or group to help with the proceeds from the events we hold during Credit Union Week," said Acton branch administrator Fran Burton.

## Scholarships awarded

Kudos to five Acton District High School students who will receive Aiming for the Top scholarships to help pay for their post-secondary school education.

Students apply for the scholarships, which are awarded based on information students provide on their Ontario Student Award Program application. The money - up to \$3,500 a year for four years if a student's marks remain above 80 per cent - comes from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

The Acton students awarded scholarships are Nicole De Vireos, David Metcalfe, Stephanie McKay and Justin Patenaude.

In all, 95 Halton graduates will receive Aiming for the Top scholarship.



**GENEROUS DONATION:** The Halton Hills Speech Centre was presented a cheque for \$7,000 from the Royal City Ambassadors Barbershopper chorus from Guelph, representing the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. Representatives Bill Powers, Don Lindsay and Cam Duthie presented the cheque to Karen MacKenzie-Stepner at the Halton Hills Speech Centre office in Georgetown. This donation was used to purchase speech and language therapy materials which have been organized into kits. These kits will be available on a two week loan to anyone in North Halton. - Submitted photo

# Now we know what price ego

If you or I make an ego driven decision, we alone are responsible for the consequences. Wouldn't it be nice to be Prime Minister? We could indulge the capricious side of our nature, secure in the knowledge that someone else will pay the bill?

The P.M. confirmed the worst kept secret in history last Sunday Canadians will go to the polls on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Why? Because Jean Chretien's ego needs to be stroked. He wants a third majority government and is prepared to spend \$200 million to our money to secure what he sees as his rightful place in history.

Perhaps it's hard for the best. After this last exercise in naked ambition hopefully Madame Chretien will put her foot down and the P.M. will retire. Not before, unfortunately, he manoeuvres the party brass into denying Paul Martin the big chair. I think he would like to see Jane Stewart as his successor but the debacle in Human Resources have pretty well done her in. I don't think Brian Tobin is the anointed one. He's been brought in to control the hemorrhaging in the Maritimes. I think Alan Rock will get the imperial nod. Unless he screws up even more than he has in the past, which seems impossible.

We should be thinking about who will succeed Mr. Chretien because, should the Liberals form the next government, he or she will undoubtedly rule. I mean serve, the majority of the next term. There seems little disagreement on this point. To me, this defines the absolute depth of the arrogance of this man and this government.

Soon we will be seeing Mr. Chretien's face plastered all over the television and print medias. Vote for "Dat Liddle Guy" we'll be told. In reality, though, he's just a Trojan Horse. We're being asked to vote for a yet to be named Prime Minister, one who will be anointed in the murky back rooms of Liberal headquarters, and acclaimed by the trained seals in the Commons.

No, my friends, we are not picking our prime minister for the next four or five years. What we are doing is spending 200 million dollars to stroke the ego of Jean

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



Chretien. The fact he will retire in the next year or so is as big a secret as the date of the election was. If the Liberals respected democracy, and Canadians, they would hold a leadership convention before calling the election. Then we would know who we were really voting for.

Over the next few weeks we'll have plenty of opportunities to get into the issues. I would encourage you to make use of the Letters to the Editor section to make your views known. Politics is a participatory not a spectator sport.

On a final note, can we all agree that government does not create wealth or generate income? Whatever money they have they take from us. It's never their money. It's always our money albeit in their care. On that basis, how come Paul Martin's budget where he is going to cut taxes (give us our money back) is hailed as a model of fiscal prudence and a boon to we peasants? At the same time Mike Harris is being demonized as the heartless offspring of unmarried parents for mailing out rebate cheques of up to \$200 (giving us our money back)? Just wondering.

★★★★

An answer has to be found for situations that the residents of Etobicoke found themselves in last week. A serial pedophile has been released and was living their neighbourhood. The people were outraged. Who can blame them?

We live in a world where you can no longer defend your home or your children. Suppose someone caught this pervert talking to children in a schoolyard. A shouting match ensues which escalates into shoving. John Q. Public decks the guy. Even though the pervert is breaking parole, poor John Q. would also be under arrest for assault. The police may not want to press the issue but do you doubt for one moment that his Legal

Aid lawyer wouldn't insist that charges be laid?

The powers that be tell us we have to let the police handle situations like this. My friends, the police can't. In Toronto alone there are around 30 pedophiles released into the community. Just to monitor them would require the commitment of over 200 officers plus attending equipment and support staff. That's not going to happen. So, what can we do?

The federal government has to change the rules regarding dangerous offender designations. Perhaps a special section of laws regarding offences against children needs to be enacted. I really don't want to hear about the rights of these child molesters. I want to hear more about the rights of children to maintain their innocence and live free from fear of molestations. Is that too much to ask?

Last I heard, Halton has no policy on how to handle these issues. Each case is considered individually. Sorry, that doesn't make me feel any better. What if the police brass make a mistake. Who suffers? The child. That's who. Several years ago we did have a repeat child molester placed in town. Although the police knew, the public was not informed. My information is that this individual subsequently re-offended in another jurisdiction. The best thing that can be said is that our town dodged the bullet that time.

Pedophilia can't be cured. We need a provision for long term, incarceration. Maybe a special facility needs to be built. I know where we could have found \$200 million which seemed to be laying around. If we keep releasing these guys sooner or later one of them is going to be hurt. Maybe even killed. I don't condone vigilante justice but I fear it's inevitable. One only had to see the fear and anger of those parents last week to realize there is a danger of emotions boiling over. And then the hand wringing will begin in earnest.

I hope each candidate in the federal election will tell us what their party will do to protect our children. What other issue could be as important?



# Salvation Army always ready with free clothes

To the editor:

I recently read an article in your paper regarding the collection of clothing to assist the 'Chill Out Program' at Robert Little School and how these donations are then taken to Toronto for sorting.

The Salvation Army would like our community to be aware that for the past 21 years of its history in Acton, we have been helping people in need with both food and clothing without any cost to the individual.

It's great that there are other agencies who can help, however when

there is an agency within the community, why should clothing donations leave the community? Why should an individual have to wait for a coat to come from Toronto when in can be supplied immediately from within the community?

Remember the focus is Need! The Salvation Army Family Services Office is willing to support the schools in whatever program they have to assist where and how necessary.

Sincerely,  
Lyndon Hale, Captain  
Corps Officer

# Reunion....

Cont. from Pg. 6

Saturday night dances, afternoon school tours, parades, websites, etc.

It was near the end of the first group's spiel when I had an awful feeling. The mention of the Acton High School events or groups that were unique to this school was the source. Words like the 'Toilet Bowl,' the tra-

ditional teacher/student football game. The Outers Club and the Bear Pit. These words and thoughts were tucked far back in my memory. It was at that point that I knew I was old enough to be a part of a reunion. Then on Saturday, the kid bagging my groceries called me 'Ma'am.'

**More letters on Pages 8 & 10**