

GRAPEVINE



Hockey moms

Inspired by the successful Men of Acton fundraising calendar, a group of hockey moms are producing a calendar to raise money for Acton House League and Select Hockey.

Organizers have booked a photographer and arranged for a hair stylist and makeup artist, and invited moms with moxy to come to the arena for a photo shoot today (Thursday).

"We were wracking our brains to come up with some way to raise money and we thought the Men of Acton calendar was just screaming out for an answer from the ladies," organizer Judith Kirkness said, adding the money will be shared by the league's four select and house teams.

"We hope we'll get different shots from around the arena featuring our mom volunteers."

Friends forever

The Friends of Fairy Lake is going formal - as an organization that is. The dedicated group of lake lovers - who spent last Saturday morning planting shrubs along the shore - is planning to develop a mission statement and more formal organization. Part of that will include a contest to design a Friends of Fairy Lake photo.

Although the group is most active in the good weather, it is planning several late-winter seminars with guest speakers.

Stock those shelves

Kudos to everyone who made Saturday's annual Scout-Guide-Cadet food drive a great success. Ever generous Acton residents donated \$521.06 as well as 9671-pounds of food to help stock the shelves of Acton FoodShare, the local food bank.

A small army of Guiding, Scouting and Calvinist Cadets - and their parent drivers - canvassed Acton and the outlying areas to collect the food, about one-third of the approximately 30,000 pounds of food distributed each year by FoodShare.

Noted speaker

The local environmental group POWER is thrilled it was able to get renowned activist, author and policy critic, Maude Barlow, as guest speaker at its annual general meeting next Thursday - November 16.

Barlow is volunteer chair of The Council of Canadians, a government watchdog, critic of corporate crime and catalyst for grassroots organizing, and the author or co-author of 11 books.

Barlow - known as a spelling binding orator with a firm grip on the facts - will speak on Blue Gold: The global water crisis and the commoditization of the world's water supply.

Tickets are \$10 and available at the Credit Union and Halton Hills Community Support and Information on Mill Street.

Brunch bunch?

Two Acton service clubs will decide this week if they have the manpower to take over running the wildly successful Acton Community Brunches that drew large crowds of people to mingle and eat once a month at the community centre.

Organizers started the brunches as a millennium project and the seven so far have proved very popular with the guests and the local groups who have helped with the cooking, serving and cleaning, in exchange for the proceeds.

The Acton Kinettes and Kinsmen would like to keep the brunches going - there are six service groups and local organizations already lined up to help - and are trying to work out the details.

Shoebox Samaritans

This Christmas a child in war-torn Africa will open a Christmas present - a shoe box filled with gifts by members of St. Alban's Church, taking part in the Christmas Child Program.

Churches, service clubs and schools helped fill 30 million shoe boxes last year. Canada is one of five countries participating in the program.

"For some children this shoebox, filled with things like small toys, toiletries and candy, is the first and only Christmas present they'll get," said church member Chris Miller, adding the boxes will be blessed on Sunday, and trucked to warehouses to be containerized for overseas shipping.

St. Alban's is mourning the death of Mary Van Dinter who spearheaded shoebox program at the church. In Mary's name, friends donated \$240 to the Samaritan's Purse following her funeral last week.

Collecting letters

Santa Parade organizers are reminding parents to bring along their kids' letters to Santa when they come out for the parade on Nov. 18.

Letter carriers will be picking them up before the parade starts.

And if you're thinking of putting a float in the Santa Claus parade, get that call in to Bill Spielvogel at 853-2924 to get yourself registered.



MAKING IT A LITTLE BETTER: It was a little cold and rainy on Saturday, but that didn't stop the Friends of Fairy Lake from planting a few trees. Helping out were, left to right, Celeste Slater, 6, Kelly Beardall, 14 and Dylan Slater, 12. - Angela Tyler photo

Way to go Wally!

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



It must be fall. Once again, teacher strikes, work to rule activities, lock-outs and other job actions are in the news. Students are angry. Teachers are angry. Parents are angry. The rest of us are mostly fed-up and turning a deaf ear.

There is no doubt that teachers have legitimate concerns. I fear they are never going to be addressed if teachers continue the strategies they have been using for the past two years. I find it incredible that a group of well educated people would allow such an inept campaign to be conducted on their behalf. Their public relations are terrible. No matter how real the teachers problems are, the perception that they are overpaid whiners with great holidays continues. Are there some great teachers out there? You bet there are but they seldom, if ever, get the same coverage as the constantly bitching teacher's union heads. I think it's time we started to focus on the attitude of teachers who go above and beyond regular duties to encourage our children.

I'll start it off and look forward to hearing good news from you about teachers you have come in contact with. Please, no letter about how that miserable cur Harris has cut funding and is planning to shackle teachers to their desks and make them work 473 days a year. We've heard that tune before and most of us are tired of it. Let's keep this discussion positive, shall we?

My first tip of the hat goes to Acton resident Wally Selihar. Wally is the principal of Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School in Mississauga. I noticed an article about him in the Toronto Sun a few months ago and have been meaning to bring it to your attention.

If you think about it, your high school years were probably the best ones you've had. Mine were. We had little responsibilities, finally felt we were becoming adults, got our driver's licenses and so on. Not at Our lady of Mount Carmel though.

The "Sun" story concerned

Wally's four-year quest to bring football to his school. He was successful this fall and had 100 kids try out for the team. The whole school is excited about senior football being added to the variety of sports the school offers. Over 120 girls tried out for the cheerleading squad. To me, this proves that the kids do appreciate the extra work that goes into extra curricular activities. But there's more to this story.

Half the teachers in Wally's school signed up to coach sports: "There's not a sport we're not running," Selihar said. While Mount Carmel is fortunate to have a relatively young staff my experience is that this type of commitment is generated by an enthusiastic and dedicated leader. There is no doubt that this positive attitude is reflected in all the activities the school offers. I hope the students at that school recognize how fortunate they are. I'll bet their parents do.

The dark clouds on the horizon are the government and the teachers union. Either one of them could easily screw-up this and other good programs that many schools are running. That's why I'd like to hear from you about other success stories. The mainline press, TV and radio usually focus on the complainers. Good news, they say, doesn't sell. I disagree. I think we would all like to confirm that most teachers are out there doing a good job. The only proviso is that the teacher(s) should work or live in or around town. Stories like this always mean more when you can put a face to the name.

I'll leave the last thought for Wally Selihar. "The most popular teachers are the ones who give a little extra to kids," he said. "I think we're doing something special here (at Mount Carmel) and we want to keep it going."

From your lips to God's ear Wally. I would venture to say that many parents who are reading this wish they could send their children to your school. As an educator, that compliment is greater than anything I could compose.

Congratulations to Wally Solihar and the staff at Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School. Your efforts and dedication to the students are appreciated and applauded by parents everywhere.

I look forward to receiving other good news stories.

★★★

Next Saturday is Remembrance Day. The Legion Parade will leave the post office at around 10:30 a.m. and proceed to the cenotaph in front of Trinity United. You should be at the cenotaph by 10:45 to be present for the entire service.

I know, I know, it's Saturday and you're busy. There's kids to be driven, shopping to be done, leaves to be raked and a myriad of other chores. Well, my friends, the people who gave their lives so we could enjoy the mundane tasks or our bountiful lives would love to have those scheduling conflicts. In return for the supreme sacrifice they made, we are asked to give up 20 minutes a year to remember them. That doesn't sound unreasonable does it?

Bring the kids! This is a wonderful country. Part of our legacy was paid for in blood. That I.O.U. is still outstanding. Our parents and grandparents vowed we would never forget those who died for our freedom. That vow is a part of your heritage and one which you need to pass on to your children in the most solemn way. Otherwise, who will attend these ceremonies in 50 years?

Please, wear a poppy. A red one; not a counterfeit symbol that some misguided revisionists have tried to promote. The 11th day of the 11th month is scared to those who gave everything for you and yours. Honour their memory and maintain the trust to never forget. See you at the cenotaph.



FoodShare says thanks

To the Editor,

Last Saturday the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Sparks, Brownies, Guides, pathfinders and Calvinist Cadets from Acton, along with the Beavers and Cubs from Limehouse, went door-to-door for the 10th Annual Food Drive that they organized. They had a wonderful response! They collected 9,671 pounds of food along with \$521.06 in monetary donations.

When the food arrived at the Scout Hall the eager youngsters, their parents, and leaders pitched in to help sort the food and enjoy the refreshments supplied.

Once again our thanks go to many people; to Leathertown Lumber for supplying tape for the boxes, to Acton IGA for supplying bags.

The New Tanner's coverage lead-

ing up to the Food Drive was excellent; and the advertising supplied by Acton IGA in the newspaper, along with the advertising on signs by the community all helped to make people aware of the Food Drive. Many thanks to you all!

If anyone was missed and would like to make a donation please call the FoodShare at 853-0457 or drop in on Tuesday 9-2 or Saturday 10-12. We are located at 153 Perth Street (off Wallace). Donations can also be left in the donation box at the checkout of IGA, and monetary donations in the donation boxes at any of the Acton banks, pharmacies and other participating stores.

On behalf of the less fortunate in our town a big "Thank you Acton!"

Acton FoodShare



WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.