

GRAPEVINE



Ace athletes

Three Acton athletes, including Special Olympians Gordon Smith and Emily Boycott and synchronized skater Bronwyn Marshall, will be among those honoured by the Town at its municipal awards ceremony on Monday.

The awards are designed to publicly acknowledge those Halton Hills residents whose provincial, national and international accomplishments have brought recognition and honour to the town.

At the last Ontario Special Olympics, Boycott swam away with three Gold and two Silver medals in the pool. Smith and his teammates bowled to a Silver medal in the 5-pin competition. Marshall skated with Burlington Ice Image when they won seventh place at a world competition. She now skates with Black Ice, the second ranked synchro team in the world.

Careers Unlimited

Acton students wondering about their career options will be able to question people in various careers next week at the sixth annual Careers Unlimited day.

Halton students, parents, teachers and others interested in career and education options will be able to talk one-on-one with individuals from many professions, as well as representatives from colleges, universities, apprenticeships and other training institutions.

Careers Unlimited, a joint program of the Halton Industry Education Council - Career Centre and the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, takes places at Georgetown District High School from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m on Wednesday (Nov.29).

Brunch bunch

Acton Agricultural Society members will be flipping flapjacks, scrambling eggs and cooking all of the other delicious brunch offerings at the seventh Acton Community Brunch on Sunday.

In exchange for its members helping with the cooking, serving and cleaning at the popular brunch, the Society will share the proceeds.

The all-you-can-eat brunch is \$5 per person and preschoolers are free. The brunch runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Acton arena and community centre.

Diabetes month

It's not just federal candidates going door-to-door canvassing in Acton this month - the Canadian Diabetes Association is also holding its annual canvass for funds.

November is Diabetes Awareness Month and all money raised will be used to fund Canadian Diabetes Association goals of advocacy, services, education and research.

Diabetes is the leading cause of death by disease in Canada and one in every seven health care dollars is spent on treating people with the disease.

Christmas bazaar

Still looking, or haven't started looking, for that unique handmade Christmas gift? Check out the annual Acton Seniors Recreation Centre Christmas bazaar and luncheon on Saturday at the arena.

From 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., the main hall will be full of bake tables, handmade crafts, four or five vendor's tables. There will also be door prizes, draws, raffles and a tea, featuring sandwiches, "goodies" and beverages.

Bountiful bake sale

Generous shoppers helped raise \$585 for the Stuckey family of Acton at a bake sale last week at Robert Little School.

The family, including Nicole, a Robert Little student, recently lost their father, Christopher Stuckey, 34, in an accident that injured his wife and a second daughter.

Organizers thank the parents and staff who baked and donated all the tasty treats.



ANGEL, INDEED: Acton's Lauren Druif, 3, was a little tired after walking in the Santa Claus parade on Saturday with the Coffee Break group that meets at the Christian Reformed Church. - Frances Niblock photo

M-M-M-Muzzled Meanderings

Let me get this straight. This country does have a free press and mine is an opinion column - right? Therefore, with an important Federal election next Monday, you might expect me to have an opinion. Well, I do, but I'm not allowed to express it in this space. According to (and I'm not doubting them) Editor Coles and Chief Pooh-Bah Tyler (that would be Ted) the law says I can't print my opinion unless there is an opportunity to rebut it. Since there won't be another New Tanner between today and election day the only opinion you can hear from here is the sound of silence.

Editor Coles says we must be fair to politicians when they enact a law requiring them to be scrupulously ethical. Fat chance.

In this age of instant communications, the Internet and knowledgeable voters I am dumbfounded to learn that Parliament, the judiciary and the media have entered into an alliance aimed at silencing weekly newspaper columnists. All the major media get to take their shots right up to Saturday night. It's too bad, I had saved up some really good stuff for this week's big finish to the campaign. But all I can offer is a big fat nothing, nada, rien, zero. I haven't been this frustrated since my first date but that's a story for another day.

I think The New Tanner should publish every day of the week prior to a Federal Election. Who knows what the outcome would be were it not for the collusion of this alliance? If we published every day at least we weekly scrawlers could complete with the major news outlets. Perhaps community newspapers should form their own alliance to combat the government alliance which effectively silences us. I think such a cross Canada alliance would bring enough pressure to bear on the press barons that the law would be changed so our opinions could see the light of day right up to 24 hours before the vote. Fair, after all, is fair.

Lest you think I am bitter, I have calmed down since the day when Editor Coles told me about the rules laid down by the government alliance. I suppose I will have to apolo-

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



gize to him for subtly, inferring he and Publisher Tyler were one step short of being fascist dictators. OK, so perhaps that was a tad harsh. But I honestly never thought I would see the day when the government could engineer an alliance with the major media to stifle free speech in any form.

I hope this column will find it's way to the community newspaper association. I look forward to the day when a truly Canadian alliance of columnists dedicated to free speech will loose our pencils from bondage and let freedom carry the day to our inevitable victory. 'Tis a result greatly to be anticipated.

To those who turned to this space expecting some biting political commentary - my apologies. As you can see, it's none of my doing. I suppose I, and you, will have to make do with some observations of other things that have happened in our Town day after day. And I will accept my censoring with grace and without rancour.

★★★★

Our local election turned out to be a bit of an upset. Although I supported here, I didn't really expect Mayor-elect Gastle to defeat Marilyn Serjeantson. I was quite surprised that the race was as close as it was here in town. I thought Gastle would take Acton in a walk. Equally surprising was the vote in South Georgetown. So now we have a new mayor and we shall see if our lot improves or not. Already I have heard that the new mayor may not see Acton as the centre of her universe. Silly goose.

As I said to a friend last weekend, "It's easier to turf a one term mayor than a three term one." Congratulations Kathy on your win but you "dis" us at your peril. Three years from now isn't that far away and by then we should have several thousand new voters.

Congratulations to those who won

and thank you to all who campaigned for office but came up short. It takes a lot of courage to put your name out there. It is, however, one of the benefits of our democracy. Everyone who participated brought honour to themselves, out town and our country.

Rob Heaton deserves an award for losing with class. That would be baggage class, not first class. In his comments, quoted after the election, he insinuated that he was behind all the other mayoral candidate's good ideas. Kathy Gastle was hiding behind you Rob? Only if she got stuck behind your ego which could obfuscate both the entire town council and Niagara Falls at the same time. Earth to Rob; earth to Rob. Go away Rob. Earth out.

★★★★

I heard, by way of Jay Leno, that disgraced figure skater Tanya Harding is considering a reconciliation with the boyfriend. This is the same guy that Harding was convicted of assaulting by bouncing a hubcap off his head during a fight in front of the trailer they shared. It's not that she loves and forgives him. She want's the hubcap back which she refers to as "my good dishes." Hmmm. Must be a set.

★★★★

I can say this about Monday's election. Be sure you vote. In the municipal election more than 60 per cent of eligible voters didn't cast a ballot. That's pathetic. We know who you are and don't you complain when the snowplow dumps a huge load in your driveway. It serves you right. Oh, how I wish we could organize that.

Your vote does count. Look at the USA presidential election race in Florida. In a democracy every vote counts. Even if you candidate doesn't win your vote tells them they have been heard and their efforts are appreciated. It also tells the victor that they should work harder to convince more Canadians that they are properly conducting the business of the country.

If you ever lived in a country where you were denied a vote you would never miss one. Exercise your franchise. As the Irish say "Vote early! - and often."



Use sticker to deter unwelcome visitors

Dear Editor,
Re: "Unwelcome visitors" letter, Nov. 16 concerning Jehovah's Witnesses calling at your door, we say "BRAVO!" to you, "Annoyed rural resident." Their invasion of privacy is tactless.

We recently met a family where unexpected JW's intruded their village home (Door was unlocked). With the parents absent, they proceeded with a Bible study with the two children, aged 9 and 12. Even though the parents had studied with one of the two ladies previously, discussing their faith, the parents were taken aback by their audacious, presumptuous behavior.

Of late, this couple decided to discontinue their involvement, and af-

fixed a door sticker. Even so, they totally ignored it and walked right in! Further action is now necessary to drive home the fact that they are no longer welcome!

So, in order to counteract, BE PREPARED with a sticker and "antidote" tract (free for the asking).

If they do still call once, after the sticker is up, hand them the tract. They won't be back.

We can all be grateful that we live in a free country, and that the choice is ours. We CAN try to stop their systematic, militant approach. Why should we tolerate disrespectful door-knockers.

Rural residents,
Bert and Karen
(905) 873-8745

More letters on Pg. 12



WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.