

GRAPEVINE



Sign help needed

Got a steady hand and a little time to volunteer? The Acton branch of the Red Cross needs someone to letter and paint four signs that it puts up around Acton in advance of its blood donor clinics. The existing signs are about 10 years old and are fading and hard to read.

The branch will supply the signs. Call Frits at 853-2965 if you can help.

Fish tales

A 3 lb.5 oz. Smallmouth Bass, caught by Stepheno Citton of Acton, was the largest bass caught during the Acton Fishing Tackle fishing derby at Fairy Lake on Saturday.

The second annual derby drew 57 hopeful anglers to Prospect Park and produced a number of prize-winning fish, including a 1 lb. 8oz. 22-inch Pike caught by Derek Cormier and a 6 oz., 10-inch Catfish caught by Robbie Rolfe.

Amanda Popp's 0.6 lb. 12-inch Crappie captured first prize, as did a 7 1/4-inch Sunfish caught by Ryan Bell.

Each participant received a lure, donated by Blackfly Lures of Acton. Halton Flour Milling also donated two fishing rods that were awarded as prizes.

Strikes & spares

Four young Acton bowlers are off to bowling camp in Hamilton next week for lectures, instruction and fun.

The four - Kylie Kruk, Holly Wiscombe, Kyle Harding and Brianna Mooney - are all members of the YBC (Young Bowlers Council) at Acton Bowling Lanes, and were selected for their skills.

"Bowling is 20 per cent skills and 80 per cent mental and this will help them lean how to handle pressure and how to visualize winning," said Acton Bowling owner Gord Labombard, who with wife Darlene, will be an instructor at the camp.

Acton ambassador

Tourists visiting Acton may be greeted by Acton's Emma Douglas, 19, who was hired by the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) to act as a public service

ambassador this summer.

The Georgian College student - who hopes to be a cop - spends half her time in the BIA office helping with promotions and BIA businesses, and the other half on the streets, helping with inquiries.

Douglas was hired with the help of a federal government employment program for students. The feds pay her minimum wage and the BIA tops her hourly rate up to \$9.

"I really like meeting new people and it will be a good experience for me," Douglas, who also works security at Mohawk, said on Friday, adding now that she has her BIA uniform, she's looking forward to getting out on the streets and promoting Acton.

So sorry

That's the apology offered to Acton cable subscribers by Cogeco after keeping customers on hold for up to an hour last Wednesday night when cable service was disrupted.

A "sudden and severe" storm knocked out cable for up to eight hours for some customers, and if that wasn't bad enough, those who called Cogeco to complain or inquire waited inordinately long times to reach a customer rep. Cogeco's recorded message said the delay would be three to five minutes, but one tenacious customer waited an hour on hold before speaking with a human.

"We did put on as many people as possible (to take customers' calls) but the volume was so crazy, sudden and quick, we had a huge peak in calls," said Cogeco spokesperson Maureen Tilson Dymet, adding, "we sincerely apologize to our customers."

Stitch contest

Check out the Needle Gnome before the end of the month if you want to see some beautiful stitching handiwork and help pick winners.

The Mill Street store is holding the fifth annual Viewer's Choice Contest and its customers have submitted 65 entries that the public is invited to judge.

Prizes will be awarded based on the number of votes each entry receives.

Residential Campaign raises \$35,000 for fight against cancer



To the editor,

I am very pleased to report once again the Residential Campaign for the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society was very successful.

Many generous Actonites were responsible for the \$35,000 raised, those who donated monetarily and others who donated their time, to make it all possible.

Special thanks to Clark Somerville who bravely went where not many dare to venture - voluntary baldness. His challenges certainly made this year's campaign an interesting one. He undoubtedly is a good sport and many dollars were raised specifically for this event.

There were a few areas that we were unable to recruit canvassers for. If you didn't get the opportunity to give during the campaign, it's not too late to donate. Just give me a call at 853-0585.

Once again, a huge thank you to all who helped to make Campaign 2001 such a success!

Sincerely,
Liz Bailey
Campaign Chair
Acton Branch



ACE STUDENTS: These McKenzie-Smith Bennett School students received A-OK awards for their acts of kindness and helpfulness towards other students and staff. - Angela Tyler photo

These make life better

Like most families, our house is full of appliances and machines which make our busy lives a little easier. I was thinking how wonderful my mother would think all of today's labour-saving equipment would be, as opposed to the tools she had at her disposal. That led me to remember a conversation I had with "the bride's" grandfather who recalled "cord roads" in his youth, he saw the first cars and the first planes then sat in his living room and watched the first man land on the moon. All in one lifetime.

Here then, in no particular order, are the changes I have seen in my lifetime that have made our lives easier and/or better. If I miss any, please drop me a line at the paper.

We have made fantastic progress in medical science. I remember, as a boy, my mom being very afraid we might get polio. I remember talk of TB sanatoriums and houses being quarantined; for smallpox I think. I remember there were big red "Quarantine" signs on the front of the house. Today, those diseases are mostly eradicated and we aren't concerned if someone has the flu. The advances in drug therapy, CAT scans, MRIs, surgical techniques etc. are mind-boggling. It's hard to believe that antibiotics have only had widespread distribution since the war.

Medicare is often touted as a program that makes us Canadian although I think England had socialized medicine before we did. I can remember my mom paying Dr. Knowlton for treating me for a mastoid infection. Specialists were few and far between. There was no schedule of fees. I remember Charlie Knowlton charging my mom a dollar or two for a visit. When she objected that the sum seemed low (my mother was very proud and didn't want to take any kind of charity) Dr. Knowlton explained; "I check-out everyone's purse and charge more to the fat purses." Medicare has been a boon to us all.

The silicon chip changed our world exponentially it wasn't that long ago that the Canadian Tire here in town had a "tube tester" so we could fix our own TVs. Now

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



personal computers, palm pilots, cell phones, etc. are an integral part of our lives. Today's laptop computers are more powerful, and can do more tasks, than the IBM 360-90 mainframe that Procter and Gamble had when I worked for them in 1966. That machine filled a room the size of an average bedroom. Remember punch-cards?

Microwave technology has changed everything from the way we communicate to the way we cook our food. As a boy, I remember it was a big deal to make or receive a long distance phone call. You had to speak up to be heard and the line was often full of static. Now, of course, you can call almost anywhere in the world in the blink of an eye and the person sounds like they're sitting next to you. I realize that some of this is due to the even newer technology of fibre optics.

How would we function without being able to "nuke" leftovers? Restaurants and coffee shops would be lost without a trusty microwave oven. Some people prepare whole meals in them. I must admit, we use ours to re-heat or keep food warm. I still prefer the good old oven.

Possibly the biggest sociological change was brought about by "the Pill." Birth control pills allowed women to finally have some reliable control over their reproductive function. Would feminism have come as far if not for the Pill? I think not. The jury is still out in the long term collateral health implications of taking the Pill, especially for the women who took the original ones. Still, it can be argued that the Pill changed our society, our morality, and directly led to the advent of the nuclear family. Whether this was a good or bad thing for our species is still a matter of some contention.

Home entertainment centres, TVs, VCRs, Stereos, CDs, DVDs and the like have changed the way we

spend our leisure time. What's left of it that is. I remember, as a boy, our family gathering around the radio to listen to the Lone Ranger, Foster Hewitt in the Gondola, The Shadow, Amos and Andy and many others. I remember a kid on the next block getting a TV. It was a big deal and we would all angle for an invitation to watch "Howdy Doody" on Saturday mornings. Now, thanks to Sesame Street, my kids knew their alphabets shortly after they could walk. We don't need to go to the theatre for new movies. Symphonic quality sound is at our fingertips.

To me, the most exciting happening in my lifetime (other than "the bride" saying yes to my proposal, of course) was space exploration and the moon landings. When I first started to travel, propeller planes were the norm. Viscounts and Vikings were Air Canada's workhorses. I remember the first 707s and DC 9s. Those first pictures from Apollo of our Earth were awe inspiring. It's hard to look at today's space shuttle and remember that the Wright brothers first flight was only 80 or some years ago. That's a mere heartbeat in the history of mankind. That first flight, by the way, could be made inside of one of today's 747.

Some other advances in my lifetime are: the expanded use of natural gas for heating, shopping malls - enclosed and air conditioned. I remember Yorkdale opening. Recycling in an effort to control our use of natural resources. Environmentalism and the recognition that we're going to poison our earth if we don't wake-up.

Having had four girls I came to love disposable diapers and plastic baby bottles. I remember clotheslines full of diapers and daily sterilizing of glass baby bottles. Contact lenses let us see while retaining our vanity and even change the colour of our eyes at will. The list goes on and on.

I look back at how far we've come in the last 50 years and wish I could be around in 2051. Science has only begun. "Beam me up, Scotty" may well be a prophecy. Next week: things that, in my opinion, have not improved our lives or society.

WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?



Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.