

GRAPEVINE



Top store

Kudos to Acton Subway owner/operators, Gus and Maria Galimanas, who brought home a slew of awards – including Franchise of the Year – from a recent Subway convention in cottage country.

“We were surprised with the Franchise of the Year – we didn’t expect that,” Gus Galimanas said on Friday, adding they also won awards for cleanest store, highest customer satisfaction and highest level of compliance with Subway rules.

“Acton Subway is pretty close to perfect,” said Subway field consultant Bob Smith, adding the Galimanas’ store beat out 146 other locations for the top annual award.

Gus and Maria remain modest, despite a wall full of awards, adding they don’t know any other way to do business.

Hockey heaven

Sixteen Acton House League Tyke hockey players had the thrill of their (short) hockey careers at the Air Canada Centre last (Wednesday) night.

Thanks to Tim Hortons Children’s Foundation and Acton owner/operators John and Sarah Malinosky, each Tim Hortons Tyke team member and a parent, and the coaches, were bused to the Leafs-Senators game.

The Acton squad was dressed in Leafs home and away jerseys – which they got to keep – and between the first and second periods, took to the ice for a four-minute scrimmage.

The team then watched the rest of the Toronto-Ottawa game in comfort, and was bused back home, tired, but ready for their second exhibition game on Saturday.

Lookin’ good

Open just two weeks, the new Tanners Restaurant (the old TimBri, now owned by the Olde Hide House) got top marks from some ladies who lunched there recently.

One visitor, Catherine Marinaro of Fort Erie, was on a swing through southern Ontario with three friends when they arrived in Acton on Friday.

She raved about the food, service and décor at Tanners and said they’d been shopping at the Olde Hide House, the Olde Book House and Wetherby’s.

Marinaro had heard the slogan “It’s Worth the Drive to Acton,” and although one friend wanted to stop at White Rock Ostrich Farm, the other three voted for Acton.

“We’re impressed. There’s much more here than we expected,” Marinaro said, adding she likes the tartan décor in the Tanners.

The new chef, Rob Watkinson, likes that tartan too – he’s recently immigrated from Scotland, and feels right at home with the plaid, antique golden blue decor and goal of providing good, fresh food in a restaurant with no “airs or pretensions.”

Watkinson, who already known for his honey-ginger seared salmon, plans to add more game to the menu, while his wife, Jenny Watkinson, develops the catering side of the business.

Last week, Tanners got great reviews from (notorious finicky) sales reps from across Canada who were in Acton for meetings at Purity Life, Canada’s largest natural supplement distributor. (Mrs. Watkinson was Purity owner Dave Chapman’s nanny.)

Career fair

Acton teens and parents will want to check out the career fair next week at Georgetown High School.

It’s part of the events planned for Small Business Month in Ontario and the focus is on technology.

Organizer Susan Cox of Limehouse, said the career fair is designed for students Grade 8 and up, to give them an idea of what courses they may need in high school and post secondary study to have the career they want.

“Although you will have probably five careers in your lifetime because of changes in jobs and industry, this, at least, will get the kids thinking,” Cox said.

Along with displays from post secondary institutions and apprenticeship programs, various trade associations, including those for accounting, auto parts and land surveyors, will set information booths at the fair on October 12 and 13.

One of the teen entrepreneurs who will talk to students at the career fair is Acton’s Sarah Kobsa, who, with the help of a federal summer job program, opened and is operating Déjà vu, a consignment gift shop on Mill Street.

Sarah, a member of the Junior Achievement program at Acton High School, was one of six Halton students who were honoured for their entrepreneurial skills at a “Salute to Small Business Month” breakfast with top Halton officials on Monday.

Gifts of life

Following the World Trade Centre tragedy, blood collection agencies, the Canadian Blood Service, have found themselves swamped with donors, and Acton clinic officials are preparing for a heavier than usual turnout at the next clinic, October 11, at the Legion.

“Some clinics have had tons of donors,” so we’ll be ready,” said Acton clinic chair Julia Roehrig, adding the clinic runs from 4 to 8 p.m.

Ban bursts balloons

It will be noisy, but fun, at Scotiabank on Mill Street next Thursday (October 11,) as the branch kicks off the United Way of Halton Hills fundraising drive with a balloon pop.

Inside some of the balloons will be prize claims and campaign co-organizer Pat Curtis said Acton merchants and citizens have been very generous in donating everything from pictures, cans of motor oil, restaurant gift certificates and cash as prizes.

“Depending on the prize, people will pay either \$2 or \$5 to pop a balloon ... is there’s a prize inside, you get it. If there’s not, we’ll say, “Sorry, try again and thank you for supporting the United Way,” Curtis said, adding they could have more than 300 balloons.

Thanksgiving at Trinity

The Thanksgiving service at Trinity United Church on Sunday at 10 a.m. will be a homecoming for the guest speaker, the Reverend Chuck Beaton, a former Trinity minister.

As Trinity searches for a new minister, they’ve invited the Reverend Cathy Ellarby from Brampton to be the guest for the next two weeks.

Another former Trinity minister, the Reverend Dwight Engel, will be the guest speaker at Trinity’s anniversary service on October 28.



HORTICULTURAL HEROES: Members of the Acton Horticulture Society presented their fellow gardening lover Steve Palichuk (right with plaque) with an Ontario Horticultural Association service award at a recent meeting. The members, who keep Acton looking good, include, from left, front: Susan Allen, Phyllis Patrick, Max MacSween, Palichuk, Doreen Blackie and Shirley Alden. Back: Debbie Anderson, Anne Thorpe, Diane Evans, John Creasey, Karen Bozic, Audrey Lee and Sandy Blackie. – Submitted photo

Fear of flying!

I think we all need to calm down a bit before we hand the terrorists a victory by default. The object of their attack was to disrupt and eventually destroy our way of life. If they manage to throw our economy into a tailspin they would consider that a triumph. Every laid-off worker is seen as a skirmish won in their mission to destroy our democracy.

The Way I See It

with Mike O’Leary



Our federal government has said that the best way to spit in these terrorists’ eyes is to carry on with our routine. We should hit the shops and buy something in order to give the economy a shot in the arm. The Feds are following their own advice. They just gave themselves a big raise which should mean that M.P.s, at least, will have several more buckets of toonies to toss around. All kidding aside, these next three months are make or break time for most retailers. Now is not the time to stash the family fortune under the mattress.

Polls show that almost 50% of Canadians are nervous about flying and would avoid travelling by air. Fear, by definition, is often irrational. To be more concerned about taking a plane because of the events of September 11th falls into that area. Let’s consider the facts. Airport security these days is probably as high as it’s been since the hijacking epidemic in the 70s. The World Trade Center tragedy has made us all more conscious of fellow travellers. The chances of hijacking a plane today is much more remote than it was a month ago.

Many of the members of the world-wide terrorist conspiracy are on the run. It’s difficult to plan, let alone execute, a hijacking when all of your efforts are aimed at saving your sorry butt. The more pressure the major powers apply the less chance of any repeat attacks.

Canadians, historically, have had little problems with hijackings. I can recall only one attempt which ended when the Air Canada purser whacked the guy in the head with an axe while over the prairies. This was back in the 70s when I travelled extensively. The black humour at the time was that when the hijacker demanded to go to Cuba, the captain laughed and said they’d be lucky to have enough gas to get to Vancouver. Shades of the “Gimli Glider.”

Much was made of an Air Canada

flight from L.A. to Toronto where a passenger, who was caught smoking, threw a rang and threatened Americans. The plane returned to L.A. under fighter jet escort. No one was hurt. Friends, had this happened a month ago the entire episode would have merited four lines on Page 23 of the newspapers. Just another example of “air rage.” It doesn’t mean the skies are more dangerous. Au contraire, it shows that enhanced security procedures are in effect, and they are working. Ditto for the silly Australian who made a bomb joke at Toronto airport. He got 60 days in maximum security for his pathetic attempt at stand-up comedy. Again, a month ago he would have only received a \$29.68 fine and a severe tongue lashing.

I repeat, you’re safer in the air now than you have been in years. Wasn’t it President Roosevelt who said: “The only thing to fear is fear itself”? These words stand the test of time.

Actually, you are in some real danger when flying. Not in the air, mind you, but on the highways between home and the airport. One only has to drive the 401 at anytime of day or night to know that the spirits of the kamikaze are alive and well.

One of our daughters flew out on holiday last weekend and I have no concerns for her safety in the air. At the resort, that’s another matter.

It would be interesting to know how many of the 50% polled to be afraid to fly were ever comfortable in the air. Last weekend I listened to a lady go on for 20 minutes how anyone who flew these days was crazy. Closer questioning determined that this person had flown only once in her life, on her honeymoon. No offence, but I wouldn’t doubt that in those days her pilot was possibly Wilbur Wright with Orville in the right seat. So take all these polls with a grain of salt. John Diefenbaker was right (for possibly the only time) when he said: “Polls are for dogs.”

So let’s all take a deep breath, relax, and get on with our day-to-day activities. The sooner we return to normal the sooner we show the world that our democracy may be bloodied but we shall prevail.

★★★★★★

I note the Halton District School Board has jumped on the politically correct conundrum. Even though there have been no reported incidents relating to the events of September 11th, the Board has sent a letter to parents and students to watch for any signs of inappropriate behaviour and reprisals against others based on faith or ethnicity. (Remember the last part.)

Now obviously, after you cut through the baffleleg and eduspeak, the Board is attempting to ensure that no Halton children of Muslim and/or Middle Eastern descent are hassled or abused because of the terrorist attacks. Fair enough, we must all support that.

Evidently, the letter goes on to emphasize the negative impact (can’t these people speak plain English?) of hate related activities. I assume that would also cover any student who expresses any support for the terrorist activities, it’s leader bin Laden or their protectors, the Taliban. Would the same not be true of any student who says that the Americans deserved this attack because of their foreign policies? There have been reports of students in other jurisdictions expressing such beliefs. If hasn’t happened in Halton, but then, there haven’t been any racial incidents, which would justify this letter either.

Let’s get back to the “faith and ethnicity” part. I’m glad the Board has come to their senses. I assume now that if a group of students want to erect a Christmas tree, with angels, or a nativity scene, the Board will defend their right to do so. The politically correct sword is often double edged.

As far as the “ethnicity” question; if I had a child in the system I would expect students over 19, of Irish descent, to be able to buy green beer in the school cafeteria on St. Patrick’s Day. That also qualifies as a semi-religious observation.

I’m confident the Board will be consistent in protecting ALL our children’s religious and cultural sensibilities.