

GRAPEVINE



Cello star

Kudos to Nassagaweya's Desta Frey, 14, who will be one of the "young people making magnificent music" tomorrow (Friday) at Guelph's River Run Centre as part of the 21st annual Festival Concert, sponsored by the Kiwanis Music Festival.

Desta, a Grade 8 French Immersion student at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School, was named an Alice Sloan Memorial Prize winner for her three cello performances during the festival, and was asked to perform Hungarian Rhapsody by concert organizers.



Desta Frey

Sloan prizewinners are students, 15-and-under, who are recognized for their promising musical and performing talents well as stage presence. The prize includes a substantial cash award.

Desta, who began playing the cello when she was four with the Suzuki method, practises more than an hour a day. Her teacher notes it's unusual for a 14-year-old to be playing from the Royal Conservatory Grade 10 repertoire.

Water info

Saving water, saving water costs and saving Halton Hills from Lake Ontario water are on the agenda on Tuesday as the Town's Environmental Advisory Committee (TEAC) hosts its second water seminar.

Featuring a biologist, water conservation educator and technical advisor, the seminar in the Civic Centre Council Chambers aims to gather views from local residents about water issues.

The free seminar on March 26 runs from 7 to 9 p.m.

Paid training

Want to work with your hands, get paid for class and work placement time and have a guaranteed job at the end of your training?

If you're under 30, physically fit and mobile, you might be eligible for one of 20 spots in a new skilled trades pre-apprenticeship program in Halton offered by the centre for Skills Development and Training.

Applications are now being accepted for the heavy construction carpenter program, a trade facing large worker shortages. Graduates

are guaranteed a job with North American Construction or one of its subsidiaries. Applicants are required to purchase \$500 worth of tools, which they keep.

Brunch time

Students at Robert Little School will benefit from this Sunday's Acton Community Brunch at the arena/community centre.

In exchange for helping the Kinette Club of Acton feed the usually large crowd at the popular brunch, the Robert Little Parent Group will share in profits from the event and will use the money in the classrooms.

Thanks to the brunch originators who wanted good food with home baking, Robert Little parents are whipping up their favourite desserts to add to the \$5, all-you-can-eat buffet.

Acton's Mary Ann Austin spearheaded the Acton brunches as a Millennium project to promote community spirit and said the original committee is really pleased the Kinettes have continued and are attracting new people.

"They're getting a good crowd and people are happy - it's great for Acton," Austin said.

Sunday's brunch runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

BIA AGM

The Region's role in Acton's economic development and Policing in Acton are on the agenda at the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) annual general meeting next Thursday at the Legion.

Halton Chair (and admitted Acton lover) Joyce Savoline will discuss the Region's role in developing Acton's industrial/commercial base.

Acton's Village Constable Gary George will review his first year on the beat in Acton and discuss Acton policing issues.

The BIA is an organization of businesses and merchants within a specific geographic area that must pay a levy, or special tax, to help beautify and promote the area.

K.S. Variety

There have been some major changes at the Smoke Shoppe following the sale of the Mill Street variety store earlier this month to Mike Arora of Mississauga.

Along with adding "K.S. Variety" to the sign, Arora has installed new lighting and displays and was installing a second door, opening onto Mill Street.

Arora said he heard that the business was for sale through a family member who is a salesman serving Acton and chose to buy a business here because he likes the small town community.

Arora said regular customers would find he's held down prices on many items and continues to add new stock and expanded the items he offers for sale.

My friend Mike...

Continued from Page 6.

Trunk Sale withdrawals after six months of non-Trunk Sale Saturdays. They headed off to the Mustard Flea Market. It was a true flea market with used furniture, antiques, wannabe antiques and all sorts of stuff.

Upon their return, my sister asked me, "Guess what I saw at the market?" It was hard to guess with her because in the past she has come home with many unique things, once even with a caponizer. She had discovered an enema kit for \$1. Horrid thoughts conjured in my head. The

question I had was why anyone would buy such a thing at a flea market? To me this ranked up with the other thing I could never see buying at a flea market... underwear.

When I told a friend about this she told me that at Value Village they sell used underwear. Neither one of us could figure it out. Let's face it, most people either wear their underwear out at Value Village, then throw it out. Of course, there are those people who insist worn-out underwear makes great dusters. Which leads to more oddities... seeing your underwear or maybe family member's old undies wiping the dust off the coffee table.



SPRING'S COMING: Beavers on the Black Creek at Dolly Varden, near the junction of the Third Line with Glen Lawson Rd., are already busy patching up a dam they've engineered between the road and the CN tracks. The dam has weathered the spring like freshet on the floodplain, evidence that the vernal equinox (March 21) is on its way.

Elvis has left the building

It comes as no surprise that Elvis Stojko has announced his retirement. It's sad but at 29, Elvis is over the hill for competitive skating. It's been obvious the past two years that his determination to succeed was not backed-up by his body's ability to respond.

I could probably fill this space just recounting his many victories. He has undoubtedly expanded the envelope of men's figure skating. His performances were the benchmark others aspired to.

Canada has been blessed with many formidable competitive skaters. From Don Jackson through Toller Cranston to Elvis. All have nudged the bar ever higher. For a small country, it's been a remarkable effort.

I will remember Elvis most for his strength of character and his generosity to the others in his sport. I can't ever remember not being proud of the way Elvis represented our country. There has never been a hint of scandal associated with him. We will all remember his gutsy performance in Nagano where he skated with a severe groin injury. I wager every man in Canada winced with every jump he landed. It was one of the most remarkable sporting performances I have seen.

Elvis is more than a fierce competitor, he is a genuinely nice guy. I saw this firsthand several years ago when some members of the Acton Figure Skating Club had the good fortune to spend an hour or so on the ice with him at a rink in Orangeville. The kids were absolutely in awe but Elvis put them at ease. He was all over the ice with a suggestion here, a word of support there. There were more than 50 kids on the ice but each one of them left feeling they had a personal lesson. Afterward, he was very obliging and posed for picture after picture. Elvis is a class act.

I'm sure he'll do well in whatever field he chooses to pursue. Personally, I hope he will have some time to continue working with kids. He has a rare talent in this area.

Thanks for the memories Elvis, you're a great champion.

★★★★

We all received the latest Ontario Government Newsletter last week. Before automatically consigning it to the blue box, it's worthwhile reading the section on the Hydro privatization project. Especially interesting is page eight,

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



which gives some guidelines as to what you should be asking an electricity retailer before you sign on the dotted line. I'm still confused as to what to do. There are so many pitfalls to be cautious about. The most important thing is not to allow anyone to scare or stampede you into making a decision. If you do nothing, your power will not be cut-off when the changeover occurs. Be an informed consumer.

★★★★

For those of you who think that kids today aren't learning enough in school here's some good news. Several young entrepreneurs at Milton District High were taken into Police Custody last month. It's alleged the computer whiz-kids were using the school's machines to counterfeit ten and 20-dollar bills. I guess that's one way to get around our \$0.62 dollar.

★★★★

Sources tell me one youth was arrested and others put into diversion programs. Around \$2,000 in counterfeit money was passed. The main problem the youths had was that they were using regular copy paper so the phoney bills were easy to spot. And people say today's youth have no ambition, no career goals.

★★★★

There was an excellent program on CBC's Marketplace recently. It outlined the long-term health problems today's kids face because of the loads they carry to school in backpacks. In a nutshell, packs should never weigh more than 10% of the child's gross body weight. Studies have shown some kids are trudging along with loads of up to 18% of gross body weight. This can lead to future muscular-skeletal problems. Anyone with a bad back or knees knows these are conditions to be avoided.

The tension on a child's back is 1.5 times the weight of the pack. These facts should be kept in mind when selecting a backpack especially for little ones. Go for quality and ignore the "cute factor!" Pack properly with the heaviest items on

top and closest to the child's back. For more information you can check out their website at cbc.ca/marketplace.

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Lastly, I would like to thank the multitudes who expressed their support after this paper printed a disparaging letter from a reader last week. The New Tanner, as that reader observed, does make every effort to conduct business in a fashion which would make Voltaire proud. We especially subscribe to his most famous dictum. "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Your faithful scribbler welcomes all letters to the editor. If my column promotes, or even provokes, debate, we are fulfilling our role in the community. I may be thin of hair but I am not thin-skinned.

That said, I thought the reference to my photo being culled from mortuary files was a cheap shot. So, too, did many others. Ian Pasmore, owner of Blue Springs Funeral Home, contacted me with his assurances that when the time comes, as it surely will for all of us, that my mortal remains are consigned to his professional care. I will look much better than I do in the photo mentioned. Thank you Ian, that was very - er - comforting.

I sought a second opinion from no less an authority than "The Bride." After a careful and detailed examination I am pleased to report she has declared me to be a "Corpus Delectable." If it can be arranged, I would dearly appreciate receiving a nasty letter on a regular basis. Not too often, mind you, we're both getting older and have to get up for work. At the risk of belabouring the point, thank you again for your letter and I really, really mean that.

As a resident of the thriving, sophisticated, cosmopolitan, metropolis of Acton I was confused by one reference in the letter. Perhaps a long time resident of town can shed some light on the issue. When I was called a "backwoods cracker" by a person who lives in the hinterlands beyond our borders a question arises. Is that meant to be an insult or high praise?

As for the rest of the letter, I will follow my mother's advice. When confronted with antipathy, she told me to "consider the source."

I shall, and this story's 15 minutes of fame are over. *Quod Erat Demonstrandum.*