

# GRAPEVINE

## Civic spruce up

Hopefully, all of Halton Hills that needs it will get a spit and polish clean up next Saturday in a Town-sponsored spring spruce up.

Residents, businesses and groups of all ages are being asked to pick an area, like parking lots, school yards, parks or roadsides, and clean up any garbage or debris they find.

If you register with the Town and tell them where you're working, staff will deliver garbage bags for your use and then pick them up.

In Acton, the Friends of Fairy Lake will once again put on their boots and work gloves to clean up the lake's shoreline on April 27.

Acton Agricultural Society volunteers, and hopefully lots of helpers, will clean up litter from the ditches and shoulders of Highway 25, south of Acton on Saturday morning. Meet at Tim Hortons at 8 a.m. if you'd like to help with the Adopt A Highway cleanup.

If you want to help, meet at the BoatHouse in Prospect Park at 8:30 a.m.

## Chicken tips

Looking for some new ways to whip chicken into a tasty treat?

You can get advice and hands-on tips from the experts on Tuesday (April 23) when Maple Lodge Farms brings its "Cooking with Chicken" seminar to Knox Presbyterian Church.

Invited by Knox Ladies Aid, Maple Lodge staff will demonstrate affordable and healthy recipes in the Knox kitchen, beginning at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$2, and refreshments will be available. Maple Lodge will take chicken orders to be delivered to the church.

## Still with food...

Thanks to generous donations from Acton IGA and its shoppers, the shelves at Acton FoodShare food bank are full.

For its Easter food drive, Acton IGA filled bags with non-perishable food, valued at over \$10 or \$5 and asked people to buy the bags which were then donated to FoodShare.

"I was very impressed with the generosity," said IGA manager John Van Dam who reported that 180 of the \$10 bags were purchased and donated to FoodShare, along with 140 of the \$5 bags - so much food that FoodShare stored some of it in the old IGA store until they could make room for it.

"We're going to hold the Easter drive again next year and for Christmas, we're going to ask people to purchase gift certificates for FoodShare," Van Dam said.

## R.A.D.

Back by wildly popular demand, the Acton Ministerial Association is hosting another R.A.D. (Radically Acton Difference) rally on Sunday (April 21) at Christian Reformed Church.

G geared to 14 to 25-year-olds, but open to all ages, the non-denominational community youth service is designed to provide youths and young adults with an opportunity to worship in a manner that appeals to them.

The event will feature a youth band and guest speaker talking about "Hanging out in Relationships."

The R.A.D. Rally is free, and begins at 7 p.m.

## India bound

Kudos to Glen Williams native, 21-year-old Matthew Rowe, who will travel to India next week on a Team Canada Trade Mission.

Travelling with Canada's International Minister of Trade, diplomats and businessmen, Rowe, a student at Mount Allison University, will visit Bombay and New Delhi.

Rowe recently participated in a Junior Team Canada, trade mission to Mexico and his performance on that trip earned him a spot on the senior mission.

Junior Team Canada is a non-profit organization providing youth "with the experience that matters," and is open to high school and university students, aged 16 to 25.

## Works crew praised

Kudos to a Regional works crew from a couple of Elmore Drive residents who were sure impressed after some emergency sewer repairs were done in front of their house last month.

The residents took the time to write to Halton chair Joyce Savoline to compliment the crew on their professionalism, writing they "worked from early morning until late, sometimes very late at night, in cold, wet and literally stinking conditions," but kept them informed and were helpful and were "incredibly uncomplaining" despite unexpected difficulties, including cave-ins and flooding.

Their letter said because they don't know any of the crew's names, they could only thank them for their help and courtesy through the chair's office.

## Book day

The Halton Hills public libraries want you to celebrate Canada Book Day on Tuesday (April 23) with a visit to the Acton branch.

The seventh annual Canada Book Day coincides with UNESCO-declared World Book Day on the 23rd, a symbolic date for world literature when prominent authors Shakespeare, Cervantes and Nabokov were either born or died.

## 50 and counting

Congrats to Acton's Lloyd and Shirley Broostad who are celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary on Saturday.

The happy couple will host family and friends at a reception at St. Alban's Church, from 1 to 5 p.m.

## Bargains opens

The second Bargains Bazaar opened in Acton today in the new plaza, but without all of the hoopla of a grand opening that will be held once they settle in.

Owner Mike Masroor said he's anxious to serve new customers at the new location and will keep the store at Main and Mill street open for the convenience of their loyal customers.



**LOVING SPOONFULS:**The Daughters of Knox held a bake sale on Saturday to raise funds to send needy children to camp. Helping out with selling the tempting treats were front row, left to right, Lorna Hodgson, Renee Watson, Faye Pink, Grace Graham, Back row, left to right, Joyce sprowl, Anne Moore, Inez Brennan and Mary Findlay. - Angela Tyler photo

# Join the revolution

The column on sexual predators being released into the community generated many comments. Several people felt helpless. They felt it futile to make their views known to our elected officials. "They won't listen to me," was a common complaint.

I can understand their frustration, but still contend that the surest way to ensure that the current, unsatisfactory, situation continues is to do nothing. We ended up with this mess because the social engineers lobbied the politicians while the rest of us sat on our laurels. If you think our elected officials will act in the best interests of Canadians without input from us, then simply consider the situation we find ourselves in. Voting once every 4 or 5 years, while important, doesn't do much to let your representative know where you stand. In this country the "silent majority" is pretty much ignored. A democracy takes a little work on all our parts but the end result is worth it.

One lady asked me, "What can I say to these people that will make a difference?" Well, I would suggest you tell them your opinions on the issues of the day. Where possible, give them specific examples as to why their current direction is wrong. Watch your temper. Starting a letter "Dear Pinhead" (no matter how justified) is not a good strategy when trying to elicit support. I would also skip the "I'll never vote for you again!" ploy. Unless you're a card carrying member of the party (or even better, on the riding executive), idle threats are seen to be just that - idle. More than one person can sign the letter but individual letters carry more weight. Letters are seen as being indicative of the views of 100 constituents. Telephone calls are considered less weighty. E-mails probably count the same as a letter.

Since writing my column a ledger marketing survey revealed that 84% of respondents thought the criminal justice system is too lax on pedophiles and sexual deviants. 10% thought it was strict enough. These 10% are driving government policy. I say it's time the 84% were listened to. But first you have to speak up.

You can write to Federal MP Julian Reed at 904 Justice Bldg., House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 (no stamp necessary) or E-mail to reedj@parl.gc.ca. Local Tel: 875-3393. Provincial MPP Ted Chudleigh can be reached at 878-1729 (local call) or E-mailed at ted\_chudleigh@ontla.ola.org. Town Politicians can be called at 873-2600. I believe Councillor Day is our representative on the Police Services Board.

Last year there was concern about a child molester in Toronto. His pre-

## The Way I See It

with  
Milke O'Leary



liminary hearing was conducted under a publication ban. At the time, there were insinuations he came from a wealthy, influential family and that's why his name was withheld.

Now we find out he is in fact the son of a minor diplomat. His family is wealthy. Obviously, the family's wealth and influence helped keep his name out of the news. All this was done despite objections from Police officials and the media. The police feared other children were at risk.

This same individual has now been charged with molesting an eight-year-old girl whose mother he had befriended. The child was threatened to keep her silence. Big hero - molesting and threatening an eight-year-old baby. The fact that the weight of the law came down firmly on his side in the past, to protect his reputation, is enough to make any decent person ill. Or, at least, angry enough to do something to change the status quo.

I don't think I'm being alarmist. Our children are in danger. They are being told so often to beware of strangers that they are almost paranoid. We've allowed our government to steal an important element of childhood. The freedom to be carefree. It's time we demanded changes. For the children. Speak-up. If not you - who?

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While I have you in a protest mood, public opinion is finally registering regarding the privatization of Ontario Hydro. The deal is looking more and more like a bad one every day.

Polls show over 70% of Ontarians oppose privatization. After all is said and done, it looks like we may end up stuck with \$21 billion of debt which we will have to pay-off with a new tax. In addition, our Hydro rates will be going up.

I had the opportunity to talk to several local Hydro employees recently. I asked them, "Are rates going up?" They all laughed and said they were. How much? Who knows?

Several readers asked me for my advice on signing long-term contracts currently being offered by different companies. I must confess that I'm as much in the dark (no pun intended) as the next person. I will try to get some answers but time is running out. Unless new Premier Eves calls a halt to this whole mess, which is doubtful, we could be in a real pickle this time next

month.

I was furious when I read that Hydro One, the transmission half of old Ontario Hydro, paid their CEO a total compensation package of \$1.56 million in salary and bonus plus \$625,930 in 'other compensation.' That's just over \$2.18 million for one person. That's obscene.

That's how the government started to save us money on our Hydro Bills.

I wish I could trust Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty. In the back of my mind, however, I fear he is just playing politics. The NDP's Howard Hampton has no credibility with me. I have signed a petition against this madness at [www.electrictycoalition.org](http://www.electrictycoalition.org).

This petition is backed by the Electrical Workers Union but at least I know what their agenda is. I've also let MPP Chudleigh in on my concerns.

Brian Mulroney ignored public opinion Polls when 90% opposed the GST. The Federal PC's are still a rump party with 12 seats. Mulroney's Tories went from a majority government to 2 seats.

If Premier Eves wants any chance of re-election he'd better dump this nonsense and get back to common sense.

If not, the revolution coming will not be the one he has planned.

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Lastly, it was with sadness that I note the passing of Norm Shea last week. I worked with Norm for over 15 years at the Acton Fall Fair. For two days every year we had a love (hate) relationship over the two way radios. Norm would supervise the parking of horse and cattle trailers. That's not as easy as it sounds. Some of those trailers are 60ft long. The area down by the pump house isn't that big and accommodation is tight.

We at the gate wanted to get the transports in as fast as possible for the events. Without fail, every Sat. and Sun. morning of fair weekend, Norm would be on the radio "What the Hell are you doing? Where am I supposed to put this rig?" Invariably, I would answer, "In the lake for all I care!"

Norm's concern was that the exhibitors and animals were safely parked. He was, our "go to" guy. When you needed something done you called Norm and he got results. He had a wealth of knowledge about the fair and its many activities. He was a kind and generous gentleman and his presence will be greatly missed.

My sincere sympathies to his wife Judith and the family. He fought a courageous fight against an incidious disease. Norm contributed much to our town. May he rest in peace.

## LETTERS

To the Editor:

Re. \$30,000 Signs in Rockwood

The Guelph-Eramosa Township council was wrongly accused last week in a published Letter to the Editor on spending an exorbitant amount (\$30,000) on new, huge signage for the village of Rockwood. The Mayor's e-mail set the record straight on two fronts - the actual amount comes to less than \$2,000 per sign (three in total) and the money spent is not from taxpayer's pockets, but from interest earned on the Hydro fund that the township has set aside.

Apologies are expressed to the Council and Mayor.

Respectfully,  
M. Iutzi