

# GRAPEVINE



## Joy in Mudville?

Town councillors will suit up against Milton Council tonight (Thursday) for their annual challenge baseball game, won for the past few years by Milton (and its ringers.)

Halton Hills has been the "winner" of the Turkey Trophy for four years straight - suggesting the team is ready to peak.

The Town's team faces another formidable opponent - the team from the Glen - on Monday during the annual Canada Day celebrations in Glen Williams.

## Music and fireworks

The Acton Citizens' Band will set the scene for this community's traditional Canada Day celebration with an outdoor concert on the Legion on Monday.

The Band will play from approximately 8 to 9 p.m. - a selection of marches and musicals according to bandmaster George Elliott - before the Acton Firefighters' Association lights up the night sky over Fairy Lake with its annual fireworks display.

That \$9,000 show, featuring ordinances from Hand's Fireworks in Milton, will last about 20 minutes and will include a Canada flag, blasted about 140-feet in the air by some pretty powerful explosives.

Members of the Knights of Columbus and Acton Kinsmen, along with those firefighters not setting off the fireworks, will pass the hat in the crowd during the show to recover some of the costs.

## Garbage fight

The fight against illegal dumping, garbage and vandalism continues in Acton with installation of six new signs this week in the downtown area, courtesy of the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area.)

"Dumping illegally is contrary to the (Town) bylaw and that fact that you're dumping is basically causing vandalism to the community," said Halton Sergeant Lee-Ann Ansell, co-ordinator of the Crime Stoppers program. The new signs urge people to help fight illegal dumping and vandalism, and earn cash rewards, with anonymous tips to Crime Stoppers of Halton.

"If you know something, hear something, see something, then say something," the signs read, telling people to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS with information leading to illegal dumpers or vandals.

BIA co-ordinator Josey Bonnette said she hopes the signs will act as a deterrent, adding the first one to be installed with Town help, will be a "hot spot" for illegal dumping behind Re/Max on Main Street south.

## Church inquiry

Initial interest by an anonymous developer in the Acton's Christian Reformed Church property never advanced to an actual offer, but the congregation was informed of the inquiry.

Operating through a local real estate agent, the developer was attempting to assemble land in the area and asked about buying the church, surrounding property and manse with a plan to rebuild the church on another property.

Church council chair Nick Kuiper said "no concrete" offer was made, and "we never thought about relocating until he

called."

"We couldn't improve on this location, but it (the interest) was kind of cool," Kuiper said on Friday.

## Church changes

"Keep growing in grace," was the goodbye message from Pastor Shawn Brix on Sunday as he preached his last sermon at Acton's Christian Reformed Church.

After wrestling with an offer from a Burlington congregation for several months, Brix and his family are relocating to Burlington after seven years in Acton.

"I just really feel that God is doing some really neat things here and it's been a real privilege to be part of what He's been doing," Brix said, adding he'll regret not being in Acton to be part of what happens.

A church search committee is in the process of locating and calling a pastor. Guest pastors and neighbouring CRC pastors will take their turn filling the pulpit.

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Searching for a new minister at Trinity United Church is expected to be on the agenda after a new church board is elected at Sunday's annual meeting.

A committee struck to find a new minister has been inactive, according to church member Neil Miller, since the Reverend Bob Matton resigned.

"We can't get enough people coming to church to pay the minister," Miller said on Monday, adding they can't pay \$120,000 annually for salaries and maintenance, when, like on Sunday, only 20 people were in church and one in Sunday School.

In July, the Trinity congregation worships at Churchill Community Church and in August, both congregations attend Trinity with a guest minister from Georgetown.

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At the neighbouring Evangelical Pentecostal Tabernacle, the new pastor, Will Sloos, 29, and wife Rene are settling in nicely after moving into the parsonage on Acton Boulevard on the weekend.

Sloos replaces Pastor Jamie Shepherd who relocated to Fergus/Elora over a year ago.

Sloos was a youth and young married couple pastor at a church in Barrie for seven years before being interviewed and selected for the Acton job.

## Heritage display

Check out the windows at the old pharmacy at Mill and Main Streets if you are interested in Acton history.

Thanks to Heritage Halton Hills, the storefront now showcases photos of heritage designations with information and photos outlining their historical signage program for buildings built before 1939. Heritage Acton presents a pictorial history of the old Town Hall.

Nice to see a new business in town, PharmaPlus, making space available to help remember and celebrate Acton's history and heritage and have something other than an empty store at the main intersection.

## Thanks, Acton

Local blood donor officials have issued a big thanks to the 78 people who gave the gift of life at last week's clinic at the Legion.

Sixty-three units of blood were accepted and at a time of increased need for blood, clinic chair Julia Roehrig said the donations were very much appreciated.

The next blood donor clinic is August 15.



**GUARD OF HONOUR:** Halton Hills firefighters provided the pallbearers and a guard of honour for the funeral of former Fire Chief Mick Holmes at Knox Church last Thursday morning. Hundreds crowded the church for the funeral, which was conducted by Rev. Pieter Van Harten. Photo- Ted Tyler

## A bit o' this, a bit o' that

Yep, it's clean out the ol' clipping file again. We have a lot to cover in this limited space so read fast, you don't want to miss anything.

Right off the top, I must apologize to the many readers who showed up for my warehouse sale last week. I can unequivocally confirm that Tanner classifieds work. Unfortunately, it rained and since our sale is outside we had to postpone it. I am closing my warehouse, so next weekend I intend to run the sale all three days. Hope you will drop by for some great gift buys.

On Monday July 1, the Acton Firefighters will be holding their annual Canada Day Fireworks Show. The "ooohs and aaahs" will star around dusk. Prime viewing spots are Prospect Park, the Legion and St Joseph's school. For those of you new to town, the show is fantastic.

Acton is fortunate to have a dedicated Firefighters' Association to put on the extravaganza. This is an entirely volunteer effort. Firefighters and their helpers will be at all the venues collecting donations. Please be very generous. Those big rockets are very expensive. The firefighters can't carry this alone: There's no town money involved. If everyone pitched in \$5 or \$10 or more, the fireworks costs would be covered. The show lasts approximately 30 minutes. If you check out the prices for fireworks at the store you'll find that \$50 won't buy you much. By pooling all our money we get a great show.

A toonie won't even buy you a beer these days, so please help the firefighters put on this exciting event for the kids, young and old alike. Check out the ad in this week's paper for more details. See you there.

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By the time you read this, the G-8 summit at the Kananaskis Village will be over. Calgary, the closest city, is girding itself for the usual idiots who regularly congregate to "protest" at these events. Hopefully, Calgary is still standing and no one has been killed.

Eight years ago, the G-8 summit in Halifax cost us \$25 million. This year's two-day meeting is expected to cost over \$500 million. Friends, this is way too much money for a photo-op for the leaders. And that's all it is.

All the negotiations were concluded by the lower echelon types long before the "leaders" sit down for their bunfest. A 6.5 km exclu-

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



sion zone around the resort has been established to protect the heads of state. As host country, it is our obligation to protect the visiting dignitaries. But for obvious reasons, today's security demands make these events too expensive for the little bit accomplished.

Our leaders continually tell us that life has changed since last Sept. 11. It's time they started listening to their own advice. I couldn't care less if the "protesters" claim a victory because future G-8 meetings will be held via tele-conferencing or some other medium. Granted, puffed-up paltrons like our beloved leader will have to invent a new way to get their picture in the paper. But I'm not concerned. They're inventive if nothing else.

There is some concern that some of the demonstrators will try to penetrate the "exclusion zone." This is serious because there are wild grizzlies in the area. Who knows what those poor bears will pick up if they eat a few anarchists. If you see a picture of a smiling grizzly in this weekend's paper, you'll know there could be health risks for those unsuspecting beasts. Where are "People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals" (PETA) when you need them?

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Did you see the cost of the top 100 film romances in the papers? The No. 1 ranked romantic film was "Casablanca" (Here's looking at you, kid). But wait - "The Quiet Man" with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara was ranked 76<sup>th</sup>. Seventy Sixth? You've got to be kidding. "Love Story" a movie so sickeningly sweet you have to see the dentist after watching it rates as No. 9? "Last Tango in Paris," a movie about anonymous sex, rates 48<sup>th</sup>? Get real.

Can you see the bias here? Wayne's movies have no nudity, no obscene language and the good guy always gets the girl. By Hollywood standards (if standards is the right word) how can you have a romance without filth? Wayne's other great romance flicks such as "The Horse Soldiers," "Donovan's Reef" and "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" didn't even make the list. Outrageous!

Now listen pilgrim, and listen good: John Wayne was one of the great romantic leads of the golden age of Hollywood. If he didn't get the girl, he at least got the best-looking horse. While some may consider that kind of kinky, it's no reason to ignore him on the list of top 100 romantic films. Enough said.

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We've had an epidemic of carjackings lately. The thugs are after debit cards and PIN numbers. The violence involved has been alarming. Many of our young people go into clubs in Toronto or Mississauga where the thieves have been operating.

The usual precautions have been in all the Toronto papers. Be aware, park in a lighted space etc. etc. Many people are demanding banks institute a "Crisis Code" which, when punched in, alerts the bank to a robbery in progress and limits the amount which can be withdrawn. Not a bad idea, but why do we have to look to hi-tech gadgetry to solve the problem? There is a simpler way.

Leave your ATM card at home. Now I'm sure the 20-something crowd will view this as blasphemy and will also suffer separation anxiety when more than 30 feet from their beloved cards. Our youngest daughter thinks nothing about heading out with \$3 and her card for a night on the town. But with all this carjacking going on it's time for drastic action. Carry cash.

This strategy achieves two goals. Firstly, if robbed, your loss is limited to the amount of cash you carry. You won't be putting yourself in a position where some lowlife is tempted to pistol whip you for your PIN number.

The additional benefit is that you are limited to how much you spend. It's much easier to keep to your budget that way. I know this is a radical concept but desperate times require desperate measures.

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I note the ranks of Canadian opinion columnists has risen by one. Baywatch babe Pamela Anderson will be writing for "Jane," a US magazine. I hope publisher Tyler won't try to recruit her as my replacement. If he does, I'll fight to keep my modest space. I won't mind dying my hair blonde (do they sell half-bottles of hair dye?) but if it comes down to Botox injections and silicone implants, I'm outta here.

One must have some standards, after all.