

GRAPEVINE



UP IN SMOKE?

No word if an alleged sign inviting Acton Legion members to ignore the Town's smoking bylaw and light up was burned – no one will 'fess up, at least on the record, to seeing the sign, let alone allowing smoking illegally.

When asked if he'd seen a sign or any illegal smoking, Acton Councillor and Legion member Dobbie Frizzell first said "not really, no," but then said he hadn't, adding he would not tell a veteran to butt out, even if it was before 9 p.m., and not in the Legion's club room.

"Will you walk in there and tell a veteran he can't have a cigarette? I will not do it," Frizzell said, saying bylaws don't apply to people who fought for their country.

'HOT POTATO'

In the midst of a municipal election campaign, Acton candidate and St. Alban's Anglican Church official Michael Roy has a "hot potato" on his hands.

Roy, a deputy-warden at St. Alban's who is challenging for one of two Acton seats on Town Council, said there is nothing political about a "get together with the mayor," on October 25 at the church.

"It was never meant to be a political issue," Roy said recently.

"We don't want (Mayor) Kathy (Gastle) to talk about her political statements. We want her to basically come in and talk about the community...and business programs and new growth," Roy said, adding the timing of get together, part of a church open house that includes a silent auction and dance, is "pretty poor," but the date was set several months ago as a community outreach program.

GOOD LOOKIN' DOCS ONLY

Acton needs good-looking doctors according to incumbent Acton Councillor Dobbie Frizzell whose election campaign brochure says he supports "new incentives to attractive (sic) doctors for the urgent needs in the Acton area."

"George, (Gastle) the mayor's husband pointed it (the error) out to me last week. It's just one of those things that happen," Frizzell said on Tuesday, adding his daughter produced the campaign brochure for him.

The one-term councillor said he would correct the error on the "couple of thousand" brochures he has yet to deliver to voters.

WONDER WOOL

You can look and feel good in one of the European wool sweaters on sale at Headwater Wool, Acton's newest fibre store.

Owned by husband and wife, Igor Pustylnick and Larisa Vilensky of Hillsburgh, the store, which opened last Wednesday, offers 100 per cent European-spun yarns for those who love to knit with a quality product, and finished sweaters in both pure wool and a wool/cotton blend.

Pustylnick said they promote natural fibres as much as possible – like hard wool because it's "very good for muscle pain – it's like a natural warmer and is biodegrad-

able," he said, adding they do carry acrylic yarn for babies and those who can't wear wool.

Pustylnick and his wife both worked in the software industry and lived in Georgetown before opening their first retail business at 11 Main St., South.

He said they chose Acton because of its location, and because it is a growing community with shoppers who want quality goods.

FLU FIGHTER

Halton will give free "flu shots" to Acton area residents on Wednesday, (Oct. 22) in the community hall at Acton arena.

Influenza can be serious for some people and an annual vaccination is between 70 and 90 per cent effective in preventing flu in adults.

Flu shots are available to those at least six months old, and are especially important for people with medical conditions, chronic illnesses, health care and emergency services workers and those over 65.

The Acton clinic runs from 1 to 7 p.m., and no appointment is necessary.

CANINE CAPERS

Kudos to Pet Valu owner Rhonda Fox who not only agreed to accept membership fees for HH-DOG (Halton Hills Dog Owners Association) in support of the new leash-free dog exercise zone, but has also donated \$100 to the new facility in Prospect Park.

Dog owners are flocking to the fenced area between the tennis courts and Black Creek to let their pets romp with wild abandon. Thanks to the Town and HH-DOG, there are containers of bags to stoop and scoop, a water bowl for panting pooches and a picnic table for socializing owners.

BRUNCH TIME

Just a reminder the monthly Kinette Club of Acton brunch takes place October 26 at Acton arena from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The St. Joseph school council will share proceeds from the all-you-can-eat \$5 brunch in exchange for cooking, serving and cleaning at the brunch.

The brunches began as a mix and mingle, good fresh food event designed to foster community spirit and have evolved into a popular fundraiser and tasty feast, including homemade desserts.

HISTORICAL WALK

Costumed guides will reveal some of Acton's rich heritage on four guided historical walks, scheduled for this Sunday, (October 19) as a fundraiser for Halton Hills Community Support and Information, (HHCSI) and the United Way of Halton Hills.

There are 46 places of historical interest on the Acton walking tours that begin at the HHCSI office at 47 Main Street at 12 p.m., and will continue on the hour until 3 p.m.

People are asked to pre-register and pick up pledge sheets at 47 Main Street, or by calling the United Way at 905-873-6502.1

The tour is \$10 per person, \$20 per family, with proceeds benefitting community support and youth programs.



HERITAGE WALKS: Halton Hills Community Support and Information (HHCSI) worker Joanne McKee gets into the period mood for historical walks in Acton and Georgetown on Sunday. The walking tours are fundraisers for HHCSI and the United Way of Halton Hills. —Submitted photo

From Paradise to Hades

Last weekend had to be one of the warmest in recent memory. Like many, I took the opportunity to drive up north and close our trailer for the season. The unusually warm weather gave me an opportunity to do some maintenance that I had put off during the summer.

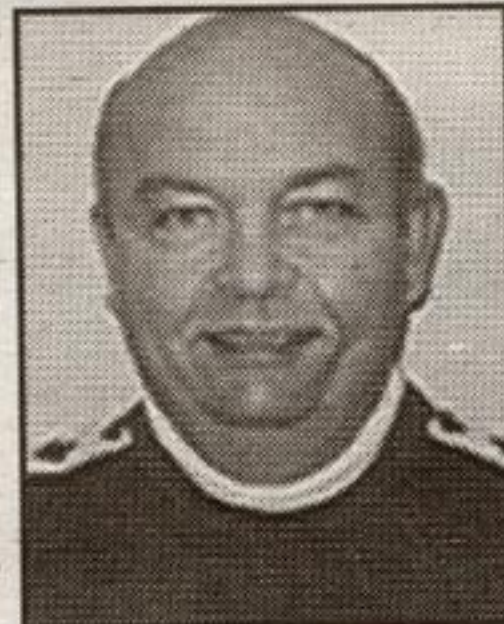
The colours this year are outstanding. On Saturday I was up on the roof; the lake was still as glass and the scenery literally took your breath away. I took some pictures but just knew that, no matter how good they turn out, mere photos can't do justice to nature at her finest. This year's leaves, although I thought there were less vibrant reds than years past, are God's paintbrush at work. If you haven't taken a drive through the country I encourage you to do so. Try to forget, for a moment, what nature's bounty promises us for the next six months. B-r-r-r-r-.

Historic Minaki Lodge, just outside Kenora, burned to the ground last Sunday morning. You may remember that this "white elephant of the north" was owned by Ontario taxpayers some years ago. During the time we owned it the government sunk tens of millions of dollars, in both upgrades and operating losses, into the resort. Finally, they sold the property, at a huge loss of course, and it's struggled along until meeting its fiery end last weekend.

The event is worth noting for two reasons. Firstly, the whole experience shows how foolhardy it is for government to get involved in commercial enterprises for political motives. Sometimes businesses should just be allowed to fail. I mention this because we have just elected what I think will be an interventionist government in Ontario. We'll have to be on guard so the public purse doesn't end up with another "jewel of the north". We can't afford more baubles if the money promised for health and education is going to be available.

Secondly, the circumstances surrounding the fire are somewhat suspicious. The lodge had been closed on Sept. 01, five weeks earlier than planned, and had obviously been losing

The Way I See It



Phil Archer

money. Angry employees trashed rooms and generally vandalized other parts of the building.

The owner also has a curious attitude. Phil Archer is described as a "real estate magnate." But, according to Archer, there was no insurance on the building. He's quoted as saying "There was nobody telling me to get it insured, so I didn't." Although I've never been described as a "magnate" of anything, it seems pretty basic to me that you would insure an asset that has a replacement value of approximately 23 million loonies. Especially a public facility mostly made of wood. Still, it's hard to see what benefit the fire would be for the owner.

The police and fire officials have deemed the cause of the conflagration to be suspicious. Investigators are on site. This could be a very interesting story as it unfolds. Stay tuned.

You'd think the United Nations would have enough on its plate these days. Afghanistan, Serbia, Iraq, Israel, Somalia, Nigeria. The list of immense problems goes on and on. So why are they commenting on how Canada treats her children?

Last week the U.N. waded into the spanking – no spanking of children debate that is ongoing here. No matter your stance on that particular subject, don't you find it odd that the U.N. has the time and resources to concern itself with this issue!

This week we got another broadside from the U.N. regarding our treatment of adopted children. Specifically, the concerned world citizens at Disneyland-on-the-Hudson tell us to make finding birth parents easier for adoptees. The reasoning is that adopted children have the right to know their genetic background for medical reasons. Not a bad point, but is this really something the U.N. should be addressing?

Last I heard, tens of thousands of children were being sold into slavery in parts of Africa. Two years ago Saudi-Arabian schoolgirls were forced by "religious police" to stay in a burning schoolhouse where they died. Why? Because they didn't have the proper headgear to cover their faces. The brothels in Thailand are filled with children forced into prostitution. How about female genital mutilation (circumcisions) still being performed – sometimes here in Canada?

I could probably, from memory, fill this paper with outrages against children that occur every day around the world. So why does the U.N. choose spanking and adoption records in Canada to put the spotlight on?

Then I remembered that Libya's whacky Khaddaffi is chairing the U.N.'s Human Rights Commission. That's fair, since Libya is such a children's paradise. Or could it be that Asian/African countries are looking to humiliate the west, in order to keep any investigation of real abuses in their homelands to a minimum? Khaddaffi doesn't dare to pick on the States for fear of another visit from F-16's to his tent. Canada is an easy second choice. Especially since our federal government regards the U.N. as the sole world moral authority.

This is not to say that there are not significant problems with how far too many Canadian children are treated. Why, for instance, didn't the U.N. demand our federal government immediately act on outlawing child pornography instead of dragging their feet?

Issues like this make me even more thankful to live in this country. For all our faults, it's a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Canadians are concerned about how our children are treated. We are working on the real problems and discussing solutions. That's one of the reasons the world beats a path to our door and not to the Libya's of this world.

I say we tell the U.N. to go to Hell. It's easy to find. Many of those who presume to criticize us keep their children there.