

GRAPEVINE



LIFESAVER THANKED

Congrats to Acton's Linda Jean whose quick thinking and life-saving skills saved the life of a 10-year-old boy who was drowning at Wildwood Manor camp last August.

Although she was unable to attend last Thursday's ceremony at Halton police HQ, Jean will receive a Chief's Commendation Award for resuscitating the boy by performing CPR for five minutes until he regained consciousness. He was taken to hospital by ambulance and fully recovered.

Jean, who worked in the camp's lunchroom and learned CPR because she watches her grandchildren, said it was instinct that made her take charge when she saw the boy's lifeless body on the pool deck.

And, it's not the first time she's saved a life – "many years ago" she saved a baby who was choking.

SOBEYS RAFFLE

The sleek 16-foot canoe suspended above the aisle in Sobeys has made more than a few shoppers halt in their tracks as their minds wander from their shopping lists to perfect paddles.

The canoe, valued at \$1,200, and 34 other donated gifts will be raffled by Sobeys in its campaign – now at more than \$5,000 – to raise money for the Acton skateboard park.

Other prizes in the August first draw, sponsored by the Acton Knights of Columbus, include a Little Tyke toy box, carving sets, a locker and gym bags. Tickets will be on sale any day.

Speaking of the skateboard park...

Town staff are tweaking final designs for the \$204,000 facility and details of the very successful fundraising campaign should be revealed at the mid-June Town Council meeting, along with an ambitious construction schedule and hopeful fall opening.

On Friday, grateful ASAP members accepted a cheque for \$2,500 from Bank of Montreal officials at the Acton branch – Acton's five financial institutions bucked up big for the skateboard, blades and BMX park to be built beside the arena, donating and pledging a total of \$22,500.

ACTON INKED

Fat Cat Tattoo will open at 20 Mill Street East on June 17 during the BIA's Taste of Acton party when tattoo artists David and Sharon Coulson will introduce themselves to the town.

The Coulsons, who bought the building and have already moved to their Aurora tattoo shop, also known as Fat Cat Tattoo.

Coulson said they discovered Acton while visiting friends and decided this would be their home and business base.

The Taste of Acton runs from 12 to 4 p.m. on June 17, and will feature walking historical tours, a classic car show and restaurant food sampling.

COMMUNITY MUSIC

The great acoustics at Bethel Christian Reformed Church will showcase the music skills of a number of Acton residents on Sunday as the Acton Citizens' Band hosts a Community Musicians Making Music concert at 2 p.m.

Band members will perform a selection of favourites and feature soloists Joanna Kroezen and Carin Pelka.

The Area Code 519 barbershop quartet, featuring Acton's Don Lindsay will entertain with their dulcet tones and the Band's beginner band will show their potential.

The concert is a fundraiser for the Acton FoodShare foodbank and a free will offering is requested. Refreshments will be offered.

The Bands' last concert for FoodShare raised approximately \$200 and 99-pounds of nonperishable food.

JUMPSTART

Over half of the low-income Halton Hills kids able to take part in spring sports and recreation programs due to the JumpStart program are from Acton, an increase since the launch of the program in this area last year by the Canadian Tire Foundation for Families.

JumpStart, using \$8,847 in donations, has paid registration fees and equipment costs for 29 Acton kids (46 from Georgetown) to date.

Money is available for all children, five-to-18, who can register in two programs each year.

Forms are available at the Town office and at Canadian Tire.

HEALTH HINTS

Plagued by headaches, backaches, sore joints, digestion problems, or just not feeling up to snuff? If so, check out Knox Presbyterian Church on May 31, for a fun and informative talk with Acton's Margaret Aitken, a certified reflexologist.

The free evening begins at 7:30 p.m., and refreshments will be served.

GET FIT

Students and staff at Robert Little School are celebrating Canada's Fitweek this week with an agenda full of fun activities including SpecTAGular Day today, (Thursday) a national challenge involving students, teachers staff and parents who played a continuous game of tag for 30 minutes.

Tomorrow is Outrageous Friday and Crazy Sneaker Day when classes will challenge each other to perform the most outrageous physical activity will include a skip-a-thon, a walk-a-thon, a run-a-thon and cooperative games.

Canada's Fitweek began in 1983 as a way to motivate Canadians to become more physically active.

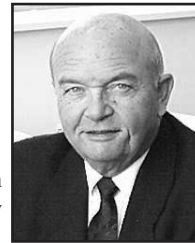


BLOSSOMS GALORE: Home owners anxious to keep driveways clean as trees everywhere dropped multitude of seeds, and other stuff had to deal with more than they bargained for. In this instance a well known woodsman on Elizabeth Drive ran for shelter as the yellow stuff red maples dropped triggered allergies he hadn't known since 2005. He left only a plaintive note for help.

2 + 2 = 90 million

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



Sheila Fraser must have the patience of Job. Either that or Canada's Auditor General must have a great sense of humour and permission to expense scotch. The woman is obviously brilliant but year after year she goes through the mental masturbation exercise of issuing her report to parliament.

Most bean counters, er, accountants I know would have given up in frustration and run screaming from the building by now. Every year the federal government flushes billions and billions of taxpayers' money down the drain. Just as predictably, every year parliament, and their bureaucratic accomplices, continue to fund their nefarious pet projects confident in the knowledge they won't spend one day in the Crowbar Hilton for their fraudulent schemes.

I realize that there are a few small fish looking at jail time in Quebec. The Tories are also making noises about going after the whole \$200 million the Liberals are suspected of embezzling from we serfs. But does anyone with the brainpower of a toaster really think the top brass will ever get charged? As an example: why aren't messieurs Chretien and Martin playing pick-up-the-soap with the assorted inmates in Kingston. Like that will ever happen.

This year's Auditor General's report covers a broad spectrum of mismanagement. The department of Indian and Northern Affairs, for instance, our generous politicians bestowed over \$6 billion with only one teensy problem. The denizens of Disneyland-on-the-Rideau failed to conduct a proper audit of their largesse. Probably didn't want to insult anyone by asking the hard questions.

Here's one that amazed me. The kindly folks at Revenue Canada are not doing enough to collect more than \$18 billion in tax debts. Excuse me – these cer-

tainly aren't the same sharks I had to deal with at Revenue Canada. Like most small businessmen I was often cash poor. Most of my sales occurred between September and December.

The nice people at RevCan were happy to work out a payment plan for me. After, of course, I paid a significant penalty and usurious interest rates, of course. You know that commercial "hands in your pocket?" That's the Revenue Canada anthem.

Imagine my surprise when Ms. Fraser disclosed that the RevCan folks have a kinder, gentler side. The folks at Revenue Canada can't offer any explanation why the uncollectable taxes increased by 88% while taxes brought in rose by 48% in the last nine years. Perhaps the latter fact goes a long way to explaining the former.

This column has long been a supporter of Canada's military. One of the first columns I wrote 13 years ago was in support of our soldiers. But obviously the defence department needs people who can seal the deal.

In the latest reporting year the military recruited over 20,000 applicants. But they only signed slightly more than 700. That's a pretty low percentage of successful enlistments. If the military is to have any chance of meeting the enlistment targets that trend has to be reversed.

To be fair there's a big gap between application and a successful enlistment. In today's modern military a soldier, sailor or airman must have an interest in technology. Like most specialized occupations there is probably a higher level of education needed.

Yesterday's soldiers would be hard pressed to meet the demands put on today's troops. That's no slight on the "old sweats" but just a sign of our times.

We all mourn the loss of Capt. Nichola Goddard in Afghanistan. The mere fact she was there is another sign of the changing face of soldiering. Some will say that "women warriors" are a good thing. Others will disagree. I think the decision to have women participating in the military was inevitable.

The bottom line is that Canadian forces are spending a bundle trying to recruit new members. Whether it's better pre-screening, better salaries or better equipment the answer has to be found. The pitiful rate of successful recruiting must improve.

Regular readers will know I have opposed the long gun registration since it was first passed into law in 1985. Of course, it didn't get off until '97 or '98. This should have been the first clue the program was doomed for failure.

This year the Auditor General found \$61 million in costs that the previous government had hidden in different departments. Had that fraud occurred in private business heads would roll. But the fed's attitude is "Hey! Look what she found. Now who could have put that \$60 million there?" I dunknow.

Computers are wonderful; Right? The firearms centre's new system costs us \$90 million, is overbudget (what a shock) is three years late and best of all – they're not using them yet.

But what can you expect from a program that the feds said in 1985 would only cost \$2 million per year. This year's budget? Close to \$90 million or so. The total cost so far? Over a billion dollars and counting.

How do you spell boondoggle? Cha-Ching!