

Ash Wednesday ushers in Acton Lenten observances

Yesterday (Feb. 21) was Ash Wednesday which ushered in the 40 days of Lent. It was observed not only in individual church services but also at the first Acton Ministerial Association's

ecumenical service held during noon hour on each Wednesday of Lent.

The churches of Acton take turns hosting the Lenten service which is being held at St. Alban's Anglican Church

this year. The brief service is followed by a light luncheon in the church hall.

The name Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient, but still widely practised, tradition in which ashes are placed on the foreheads of Christians as a sign of humility and a symbol of mourning and sorrow for the death sin brings into the world. However, those who observe Lent find it is also a time to recharge spiritual batteries to combat intense secular pressure to conform to society's norms which are often at odds with Church teachings.

Originally, Lent was a time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of fasting, study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil. It was also a time for those separated from the Church to "come home."

Today Lent is marked mainly by prayer and preparation for Easter. The practice of "giving up" alcohol, candy, meat and other types of food is still practiced but it's a voluntary discipline. More emphasis is placed on alms - giving and other charitable works.

Lent has been observed in liturgical churches since the fourth century. However much of it was rejected by "Evangelical Christianity" as being too "big church." Now many of those who rejected more formal and deliberate liturgy are now coming back to the practice of Lent as a means of refocusing on spirituality.

Church planned for Reg. Rd. 25

St. Mathew's Mar Thoma Church, an Indian Christian church with ties to the Anglican Church can build a 1,235-metre church on part of its 48-acre property on the west side of Highway 25, north of Campbellville Road.

Halton Council approved the necessary planning and zoning changes last week for the church, the spiritual home to approximately 300 people, or 140 families from Milton, Brampton, Burlington, Oakville, Guelph, London, Hamilton and Halton Hills.

Church uses serving the rural area are permitted by the Town's Official Plan, but because this congregation is drawn from outside the immediate rural area, Town planning and zoning changes were also required.

A staff report said the small area where the church and parking lot will be located, about four acres, has

Town Digest

not been in crop production for some time, and the remainder of the property will remain in agricultural use.

Welcome, Chief

Acing Halton Hills Fire Chief John Martin blushed fire engine red on Monday night as Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette praised him for his dedication and hard work as he stood in as Acting Chief for the past four months since the retirement of Bob Meads.

Bonnette also welcomed the new chief, Brent Marshal, an Acton resident and former District Chief who retired as Halton CAO to stage an unsuccessful campaign as Halton chair.

"Brent comes to us with 36 years experience (as a fire fighter)...we look forward to his leadership, as well," Bonnette said.



BEATING THE BLAHS: Debbie Barney, right, one of three winners in Acton BIA's Beat the February Blahs contest accepts her prize basket from Kelly Wilson of Blooms Away on Tuesday afternoon. There were over 1500 entries for the contest with prizes valued at over \$1200 in products and services in downtown Acton. Debbie Barney entered at Bronze Salon. Other winners were Shirley Dye who entered at Blue Springs Spa and Gloria McMillan who entered at Andy's Family Restaurant.

- Submitted photo

World Day of Prayer service at Knox March 2

The small land-locked country of Paraguay, the "heart" of South America, is the focus of this year's World Day of Prayer celebration being held at Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton on Friday, March 2 at 7:30p.m. The speaker will be Major Margaret Locke of the Salvation Army.

Women from Paraguay have written the services for the 2007 World Day of Prayer on the theme "United

Under God's Tent."

Wars and a long dictatorship have taken their toll on Paraguay. It lost its sea access and 80 per cent of its male population following the Triple Alliance War in the 1800s. The 35-year dictatorship, which ended in 1989, left scars of poverty, environmental destruction and repression.

Despite their poverty and struggle to survive, Paraguayans are a caring

and musical people, known around the world for folk music - and, of course, their Olympic medal-winning soccer team.

Christians in more than 170 countries around the world gather on the World Day of Prayer, to pray and act in solidarity with the people of Paraguay. More information on the Acton service can be obtained from Inez Brennan at 519-853-4757.

6 ONLY
USED SNOWBLOWERS
23" UP TO 32"
THE PRICE IS RIGHT
JIM'S REPAIR SHOP
105 ALMA ST. ROCKWOOD
TEL: 519-856-2564
FAX: 519-856-9657

Classes Ages 5 to Adult Now Enrolling!
Absolute Martial Arts & Classic Karate
Enroll this month and pay only your registration fee!
WE'LL PAY FOR THE BALANCE OF FEBRUARY!
Age appropriate teaching in a safe respectful environment.
We work with Students, Teacher and Parents to aid in life successes.
519-853-9967 145 Mill St. E. Acton

*For Thrifty Bargains
Come to the*



Second Hand Shop

- Antiques
- Collectables & Oddities
- Furniture & Household Items
- Books, treasures & trash

OUR CUSTOMERS SAY WE'RE THE MOST INTERESTING STORE OF ITS KIND

Open Tuesday - Saturday 11-5
CASH OR CHEQUES ONLY PLEASE.
132 Main St. S. (Hwy 7) Rockwood

Help rub out joint pain!!



Walking hand-in-hand with your grandchildren or opening a jar of jam to give them a special treat. Or, perhaps playing your best game of tennis. These are just some of the joys of life that you may be missing out on if you suffer from joint pain.

NUTRI-FLEX cream is an effective, fast absorbing topical joint care formula that can help you ease joint and muscle pain. Simply rub on some **NUTRI-FLEX** cream and its superior formula will go to work to help rub out your pain, plus ease swelling, stiffness and inflammation.

NUTRI-FLEX cream features the beneficial properties of the following ingredients:
MSM - a natural pain reliever
Glucosamine Sulfate - helps to relieve pain, stiffness and swelling
Arnica Flower - pain relief aid with anti-inflammatory and anti-biotic benefits

When you come in and purchase a bottle of **NUTRI-FLEX** cream, also check out our **NUTRI-FLEX** capsules and liquid for internal use to combat joint problems.

Visit us every last Wednesday of the month for our customer appreciation day. A 10% discount applies to all in-store, regular priced items!



Willow Lane Natural Foods
15 Willow St. S.
Acton, ON L7J 1Z9
(519) 853-3051
Vitamins, Herbs, Spices and Cosmetics