



IN APPRECIATION: Liz Bailey, centre, of the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society presents volunteers canvassers Barb Wilson, left, and Sharon Anderson, right, with mementos at the Acton branch's campaign kick-off dinner last year. She is retiring after this year's campaign.

Swim, and skate for free during 'March Break'

By Frances Niblock

Skating, swimming, watching videos, playing with friends and sleeping – those are some of the activities Acton youth – who aren't heading south for some fun in the sun –

list on their March Break calendars.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Rotary Club of Acton, everyone can skate for free all during March Break at the Acton arena.

Rotary will pick up the tab for the anticipated hundreds of people who will take advantage of the free public skate, afternoons from 1:30 to 2:50 p.m.

For those who would like to swim during March Break, once again, Tim Hortons will foot the bill and pay the entrance fees all week for the leisure swims scheduled from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

An illusionist and a LEGO contest top the calendar of March Break events at the River Street branch of the library where the magic word is Abracadabra and events have a magical theme.

Kids of all ages are invited to drop in to the branch every afternoon (except Monday) between 2 and 4 p.m., to do a craft, including pencil brooms, magic wand bookmarks and other magical crafts.

As well, entries will be accepted until March 15 for the library's annual LEGO contest. The public is invited to judge the entries and pick their favourite between March 16 and 23.

If the weather co-operates, staff hope to be producing maple syrup at Mountsberg Conservation Area, adjacent to the Glen Eden ski slope in Milton.

Mountsberg is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. dur-

ing March Break, and along with a tour of the sugar bush and syrup making demonstrations, activities include horse-drawn rides, a play barn, baby animal farm and bird of prey demonstrations daily at 12 and 2 p.m.

The hours have been extended and there's a new game to be played at Off The Wall, Acton's youth drop-in centre on Mill Street.

Wednesday is robot night for juniors (9 to 11-year-olds) at the centre, which is open from 4 to 7 p.m. The movie Robots will be shown and kids can make their own robot.

On Thursday, the centre invites senior teens (12 to 19) to check out the new Nintendo Wii game from 4 to 10:30 p.m., and on Friday, from 1 to 4:30 p.m., the centre will green things up for a St. Patrick's Day celebration for senior teens.

Cancer Society coordinator says it's time for new blood

By Frances Niblock

Enthusiastic, optimistic, somewhat organized and "committed to the cause" of raising money to fight cancer – those are the main skills needed to run a successful door-to-door canvass in Acton according to Liz Bailey, the Canadian Cancer Society volunteer who has done the job for 18 years.

The Acton branch is gearing up for April's annual campaign for funds that includes the residential canvass, and Bailey hopes her replacement can learn the ropes this year and take over next year.

"It's time for some new blood – fresh eyes with new ideas for getting new canvassers," Bailey said on Friday, adding she will remain a campaign zone captain, and hopes to take on another role within the Acton branch.

After almost two decades of organizing highly successful campaigns – \$33,000 was raised last year in Acton, putting the town in the top three of per capita givers in Ontario – Bailey said in many ways the well-oiled campaign "takes on a life of its own."

"You never feel that you are alone in the campaign, because everyone helps out," Bailey said, adding their successful system includes four zone captains who recruit captains who then recruit canvassers.

Many of the approximately 190 canvassers are repeat volunteers who are committed to the cause, and are able to donate three or four hours of their time to

go door-to-door on routes – usually 15 to 20 houses – asking for donations.

Bailey's involvement with the campaign began prior to the untimely death of a friend, who was the Acton campaign co-ordinator until killed in a freak accident.

Bailey had unofficially helped with the campaign for several years, and stepped in to help.

"I was the only one that really knew, to sort of pick it up and run with it. I agreed to do it for a year or two, and here we are 18 years later," Bailey said, adding the job has given her a lot of satisfaction. "There's lots of things that I could have given up, or have given up over the years, but I wouldn't give up the Cancer Society – the group is very cohesive and supportive and that's one of the major things – you want to do a good job because you've got their help."

Bailey said she's holding off putting together the canvasser kits in hopes that someone will come forward soon and be able to see how it all goes together.

"They could help me, or just watch how it works, and I would certainly be available for that person next year when they take it over," Bailey said.

Anyone interested in the campaign job should call the Acton branch president Kathy Gerrow at 519-853-1424.

The Acton branch holds its campaign kickoff and volunteer appreciation dinner on March 28, at Knox Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m.

Halton Police investigating three separate vehicle fires

Halton police are investigating three separate vehicle fires on the weekend in the Acton area.

Just before 1 a.m. on Sunday, Acton firefighters were called to the Mill Street/Dublin Line area where they found a cube van on fire in the ditch.

The 1995 Chevy van, valued at \$6,000, was fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived at the scene.

When firefighters arrived at the Acton Legion at 10:29 on Saturday morning, they found a Ford F150 pickup truck fully engulfed.

POLICE/FIRE REPORT

The truck was valued at \$12,000.

At 2:39 on Saturday afternoon, Acton firefighters called to 25 Side Road, west of Highway 25, found a 1992 Jeep TJ on fire in the ditch.

The vehicle, valued at \$6,000, was totally destroyed.

At press time, Halton police had no information to release about the ownership or circumstances of any of the vehicle fires.

Owner found

Almost a month after a Dodge Ram truck was found burning in the Third Line/22 Side Road area, Halton police have confirmed it belongs to a 50-year-old Acton woman.

Police said the licence plates had been taken and the heat of the fire melted the vehicle identification number, making identification difficult.

It's that time of year again!

Citizen of the Year Nominations

The Acton Rotary Club is seeking nominations for Acton's Citizen of the Year

Nominations with a supporting explanation to be mailed to:

Citizen of the Year, c/o Acton Rotary Club
Box 22, Acton, L7J 2M3
 Deadline: March 17, 2007

Bill and Donna Cripps are pleased to announce the marriage of their son Brad to Vanessa Coady, daughter of Pat Coady of Bolton on Oct. 21, 2006 in Acton. They are residing in Acton.

Bill & Donna Cripps are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Karilynne to Rob Cipolla son of Ralph & Carol of Orillia on Jan. 10/07 in Cozumel Mexico. They are residing in Lagoon City (Orillia)