

# GRAPEVINE

## SCOOBY DOO!

Acton BIA is looking for a life size Scooby Doo to use as a prop for the Halloween Haunted House. If you have one and are willing to loan it to us please call 519-853-9555. The Halloween Haunted House is on Saturday, October 27 from 1-3 p.m. at Off The Wall Youth Centre 45 Mill Street East followed by a Ghost Walk to receive treats from the downtown Merchants.

## Knitting, Crochet

Banish the grey November skies with an explosion of colour and texture at Halton Hands in Motion Knitting and Crocheting Guild hosts a display of both decorative and functional items at the Marjorie Nazer Gallery of the Georgetown Library and Cultural Centre, 9 Church St., Georgetown. The free event runs from October 30 – November 11 and is open during regular library hours. This year guild members were challenged to 'push the boundaries' of knitting and crocheting by using unconventional materials, techniques, and/or subject matter in their creations. For more information, contact (905) 877-1521

## Book Sale

Eden Mills is a tiny little village, well known for its Writers' Festival. Now it may become known for another reason – The Really Big Book Sale Plus! On Sunday, Nov. 4 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community Hall.

Anyone with books to donate, can take them to the Community Centre on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 9 a.m. and they will be included in the sale. Tables are available if you would like to come and sell your own books with half the profits

yours. Donate 25% to the Eden Mills Community Centre and 25% to the Eden Mills Mill Pond Association, specifically the Carbon Neutral Project.

Contact Brian Skerrett (856-0128) or Kit Bresnahan (856-1188) for further information or to donate items.

## Childcare Lessons

Cherish Private Home Childcare is presenting "How to become a Licensed Childcare Provider" on Wednesday, Oct. 24 from 5-6 p.m. at the acton Employment Centre at 45 Mill St. E. Call 519-853-5014 to register.

## Identify gulls

Guelph University's Arboretum is offering a Gull workshop on Friday, Nov. 6 which will enable participants to develop their skills on identifying interesting gulls in the area. The unique workshop will show how gull plumage, size difference, bill shapes and behaviours of 13 different gull species identifies them.

A one day field trip to the Niagara River and Niagara Falls follows on Saturday, Nov. 17. It's one of the best places in the world to see large numbers of gulls of many different species. Register by Friday, Nov. 2 by calling the Arboretum at 519-824-4120 ext. 5238.

## Quilters meet

Halton Hills Quilters Guild will meet at Halton Hills Cultural Centre, 9 Church St. (at Main) Georgetown, ON, Monday, Oct. 22 at 7:15 p.m. (Guild library at 7 p.m.) for the Lorraine Stangness Trunk Show. New members welcome. Contact Ann Totten, President at 905-877-6038.

# Salute to Canada...

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of it's sons and daughters as the rest of the world is completely unaware of them. The Canadians proudly say of themselves – and are unheard by anyone else – that 1% of the world's population has provided 10% of the worlds peacekeeping forces. Canadian soldiers in the past half century have been the greatest peacekeepers on Earth – in 39 missions in the UN mandates and six on the non-UN peacekeeping duties, from Vietnam to East Timor, from Sinai to Bosnia.

Yet the only foreign engagement that has entered the popular on-Canadian imagination was the sorry affair in Somalia, in which out-of-control paratroopers murdered two Somali infiltrators. There regiment was then disbanded in disgrace – a uniquely Canadian

act of self-abasement for which, naturally, the Canadians received no international credit.

So who today in the United States knows about the stoic and selfless friendship its northern neighbour has given it in Afghanistan? Rather like Cyrano de Bergerac, Canada repeatedly does honourable things for honourable motives, but instead of being thanked for it, it remains something of a figure of fun.

It is the Canadian way, for which Canadians should be proud, yet such honour comes at a high cost. This past year more grieving Canadian families knew that cost all too tragically well.



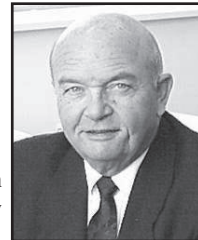
**SOLEMN PARADE:** Pipes skirled and drums beat as Legionnaires from the Fall Convention at Acton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion marched to the Cenotaph on Mill St. Sunday afternoon. The solemn service for those who paid the supreme sacrifice had Legionnaires from many parts of Southern Ontario signalled an end to the threeday convention at the Legion by the Lake. The Acton Branch was applauded for their hospitality over the length of the convention. - Photo by Jack Carpenter

# Think Green, Peace and Protect

I like to think I'm as much an environmentalist as the next guy. Like most people, I buy the occasional lottery ticket, dreaming of making the big score. The two things are linked, however obliquely.

## The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



Have you noticed the new style of lottery tickets being issued? In response to the allegations of crooked lottery retailers, the best the rocket scientists at the lottery commission could come up with was a ticket almost twice the size, with a place for you to sign the slip on the front. And, of course, a remote device where you can check your own results.

My point is this: how many more forests have to be sacrificed to produce the paper for this new format ticket? Paper, I should add, that is usually ripped up and thrown in the garbage rather than being recycled as most newspapers and junk mail is.

My second problem is with the remote ticket checking devices. I don't think the world needs more plastic devices. Especially not ones who's sole purpose is to check tickets on a game with astronomical odds.

My oldest daughter did her master's thesis on the lottery. In it she proposed that the odds on winning were so slight that buying a lottery ticket was in fact a tax on the poor and middle class. I proved her wrong.

Right after witnessing her defend her thesis I bought a lottery ticket for spite. She ended up with her master's degree in Economics but I won ten bucks on that ticket. That'll teach her, I thought. But I digress.

I submit that, in these environmentally conscious days, that surely the Lottery Corporation can come up with a better solution to an internal theft problem. They appear to be reacting to the symptom of the problem rather than the problem itself. That being a few dishonest retailers.

While we're on an environmental theme, did you hear that Al Gore won the Nobel Peace Prize? Actually, I think he split it with another person.

Al Gore won a Nobel Peace Prize? How does that work? I mean, I know he popularized the environmental situation we find ourselves in because of greenhouse gases amongst other things.

Gore's winning the Nobel is a clear signal to me that the whole Nobel jury system has become way too politicized. That public relations and hype trump honourable achievements these days. A clear case of style over substance if you will.

There is no doubt Al Gore had had an impact, especially on western society. But the man is basically a polished newsreader, much the same as Lloyd Robertson or Peter Mansbridge are.

As opposed to doing anything for world peace I submit he's done more to create world panic. I haven't experienced this massive a reaction since the Y2K scare had everyone convinced the world's computers would dissolve into a mess of prime numbers and planes would be falling from the sky. We all know how that turned out and how many billions that were squandered world wide.

I guess, with a Nobel under his ample belt, that Gore's next temptation will be to run for president. If he does, Hilary is toast. That proves the old adage: every cloud has a silver lining.

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Also along environmental lines, did you hear that one of the coalitions against nuclear power down in the States has announced that a group of rock stars have come

out publicly as being opposed to building more nuclear generating stations? I wasn't familiar with many of the names, which is understandable. I'm sure my children might recognize most of them.

But one name stood out. They signed the Dixie Chicks. That would be the same group who, during a concert in London, England said they were ashamed George W. Bush was a Texan.. ~ Their careers nose-dived for some time after.

So why would anyone who can spell atom think the Dixie Chicks endorsement would have a positive effect on that same president? I would think the Dubya will either ignore the protest or triple the number of nuclear plants authorized to be built even after he leaves office.

Regular readers will know that I don't have a lot of patience with movie stars, or other entertainers, confusing public popularity with, well, brains. So many of these types think they have a delusional mission to profess their often hair-brained schemes in public. The really sad thing is that many fans follow every word, as if they're lemmings in full flight towards the cliffs of disaster.

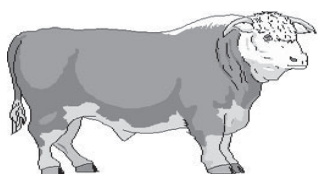
My prediction is that this public relations stunt will backfire and that it won't even come close to the president's desk.

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On a last note, I was up north closing up for the winter last weekend. A particularly sad time for me. On the drive back, I noticed that the yahoos on the 401 are still at it.

I was scooting along at a respectable 100 plus kph in the fast lane passing traffic. Sure enough, the speed demons were out weaving in and out of traffic. When I moved to the middle lane they passed me like I was standing still. The faster the OPP get these Indy 500 wannabes off the road the better. Keep up the good work, officers.

## What's Your Beef?



Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.