

GRAPEVINE

Name change

Wonder why there's no "olde" in the name of what used to be the "Olde Hide House" anymore? Simple. The "olde" has been dropped in favour of the Hide House which is now in three locations – Acton, Toronto and Vaughan. One thing hasn't changed: it's still "worth the drive."

Christ in Christmas

The Acton Ministerial Association is again sponsoring the "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign initiated by St. Joseph Council of the Knights of Columbus last year. Signs are available at churches and the message is again being posted on the billboard at the railway tracks on Mill St. Signs are already being posted at homes around Acton and in the rural areas.

Two Georges

Whoops! Last weeks New Tanner carried a photo and a cut line from the Seniors Dinner at the Legion showing Bandmaster George Elliott conducting Acton Citizen Band in a Christmas medley. Unfortunately, the cut line said it was George Henderson who was conducting. Our mistake. It didn't even look like George Henderson who, as far as we know, has never been a conductor. Mea culpa, mea culpa.

Curling for Heart

Word is out. The Heart and Stroke Foundation is having their annual "Curl for Heart" event at the Acton Curling Club on Saturday, Feb. 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There'll be two six-end games, a catered lunch, silent auction and door prize draws in addition to the curling. Every dollar goes towards research in the fight against heart disease.

Books available

Dave and Kelly Dills have published a limited number of the revised edition of Acton's Early Days just in time for the Christmas season. Demand for the book last year exceeded expectations and some were unable to acquire a book so the Dills decided to print another 100. The book is an unusual history of Acton following street patterns and houses which forged the identity of the community in the northwest corner of Halton County. The couple also have their "Marching Down Mill Street," a history of Acton bands and "Lest We Forget," the military history of Acton published by the Legion available. To get copies call the Dills at 519-853-0405 or email: daviddills29@sympatico.ca.

Delivery service

Having a problem with getting deliveries? Maybe the new delivery service serving the Rockwood and Acton areas may be able to fulfil your needs. Called "Gopher's Shopping and Delivering Service" it is staffed by bondable staff members. They'll do your grocery shopping and take care of other tasks such as picking up prescriptions or obtaining auto licence renewal stickers. Simply call Sharon at 519-856-2317 or email: sporterfield@sympatico.ca

Deck the halls

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and school concerts and other events are on top. McKenzie-Smith Bennett public school at 69 Acton Blvd., is staging a Holiday Family Craft and Concert Night on Tuesday, Dec. 18. Family Craft Time is from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. while the concert starts at 7:30 p.m. with the primary choir and the Grades 7&8 bands taking part.

Generous donations

Retired teachers just never retire. The Lydia Snow Branch of the Retired Teachers of North Halton have been donating books to all the elementary schools in this part of Halton over the last few weeks. A note from the Halton Elementary Teacher Librarians to The New Tanner expresses their gratitude for the gifts. "These books will provide hours of reading pleasure for many students," the librarians note.

Handel's 'Messiah'

Love choral music and especially Handel's "Messiah"? Guelph Chamber Choir with guest soloist and Music Viva Orchestra (on period instruments) will perform Handel's great works at the River Run Centre in Guelph on December 22 at 8 p.m. Tickets can be obtained at River Run or from members of the Guelph Chamber Choir.

Bazaar gifts

Need some different Christmas gifts? You might be able to find them at a Christmas fundraising bazaar at 19 Turtle Lake Drive this Friday, Dec. 7. Over 15 vendors will be at the open house from 3-9 p.m. Proceeds go to the fight against breast cancer.

Culprits caught

Halton Police have finally apprehended three 17-year-olds suspected of setting eleven dumpster fires in the Town of Milton, dating back to November 2006. Ten of the fires were at three elementary schools with Robert Baldwin the main target, followed by W.I. Dick and St. Peter's. Another was at the plaza at Woodward Ave. and Wilson Drive. The break came when a uniformed officer responded to a report of a fire in a dumpster and caught a 17-year-old male fleeing. Investigation led to the arrest of two other 17-year-olds.

School Awards Night

Halton District School Board held an awards night at Milton District High School on November 28 at 7 p.m.

Among the awards given were Award of Merit to Jackie Fairthorne from McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School, Award of Merit to Robert Little Public School for their Gold level Ecoschool Certification, Award of Excellence to Nils Olav-Stockinger & Ryan Martin from Acton District High School and Award of Merit to Bev Bradgley of Brookeville Public School.

The awards night is held yearly and recognizes many different aspects of excellence throughout the school system.



TOYS FOR TOTS: Prosperity ONE donated gifts to the Salvation Army's 7th Annual Toys for Tots drive on Tuesday, Nov. 27. Back row left to right: Constable Jennifer Grosvenor, Halton Regional Police, Fran Fryters, Lorraine Vaughan, Pam Farrant, Barb Robertson, Sandy Churchmach, and John Barrett. Front left to right: Joanne Lewis and Zeny Yumul. - Submitted photo

Much ado about nothing!

I must admit that I didn't watch the entire farce that was the parliamentary committee's inquest involving Karlheinz Schreiber last week. I did, however, watch and read enough to come to the opinion that Schreiber is conducting a massive con on Parliament and the Canadian people as a whole.

From the onset Schreiber made it known that he wouldn't answer questions until his own future was determined. Schreiber was due to be extradited back to Germany last Saturday where German authorities plan to put him on trial for bribery among other charges. He's been fighting extradition for several years.

Schreiber is being compelled to testify by a little used speaker's warrant. In fact the last time a speaker's warrant was issued was in 1913. By the time Schreiber finishes making the members of the Parliamentary Ethics Committee look like complete fools, I suggest it will be another 94 years before this archaic legal process will be dusted off again.

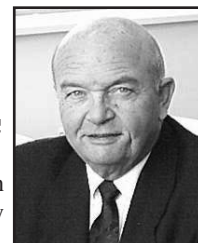
The law, especially Canadian law, is a complicated process. It was painful to watch MPs trying to craft questions which would lead them to their ultimate trophy: Brian Mulroney's head. It was embarrassing the way Schreiber easily deflected their transparent questioning.

Schreiber played the Ethics Committee members like a trout. And, like a good fisherman, he dangled a bit of juicy bait. Out of the blue the \$300,000 cash payment he allegedly gave to Brian Mulroney became \$500,000. Why pay him in cash? "The cash was available," answered Schreiber. I didn't hear any further questions regarding the origin of all this cash. Possibly the MPs were relying on the investigative prowess of CBC's the Fifth Estate for their background information.

On the other hand, perhaps MPs just couldn't be bothered with that little detail. The whole episode demonstrated just how petty and partisan this committee is. I got the distinct impression that determining if any laws had been broken by the former

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



PM was, at best, a background issue. What they really wanted was to nail Brian Mulroney's hide to the wall.

A perfect example of Schreiber's toying with the committee was the interplay between the "witness" and the Bloc MP. She asked why Schreiber had been so generous. With batting eyes Schreiber intimated that he might be generous with her if she asked for money. I'm not sure, but doesn't that come close to attempting to bribe a public official?

Looking at the Ethics Committee members perched around the committee table I was reminded of a flock of vultures roosting on a dead tree limb. I half expected one to say to the next one: patience my ass, I'm going to kill something. Unfortunately, Schreiber was the only prey in sight and he was far too clever to be snared by these Perry Mason wannabes.

The sooner the MPs decide to end this charade the better. Don't expect that to happen anytime soon. As long as there is TV time and a spotlight to hog, those folks will keep the organ grinder and monkey around. The only problem is that Schreiber has come across as the only one in that room qualified to be the organ grinder.

In the end, an end that I trust will come soon, I expect Schreiber to be shipped back to Germany. In the meantime, expect to be titillated by innuendoes of wrongdoing by politicians and others in high places. Wrongdoings that Canadians generally are too quick to rush to judgment on.

In the end, the questions of malfeasance will be settled where they belong. Investigated by the police and guilt or innocence decided by the

courts. This circus in Disneyland-by-the-Rideau is nothing more than a kangaroo court. The partisanship being demonstrated by the members of the Parliamentary Ethics Commission is unseemly. Canadians have a right to be judged by a jury of their peers.

Trial by media is nothing more than an absolute wrong not worthy of Canadian Parliamentarians.

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So Celine Dion cancelled a live concert in Halifax scheduled for next August. It seems the local papers and talk radio shows were fairly critical of the planned appearance. What I can't figure out is why the rest of the country could give a fiddler's fig about this issue. But they obviously do.

I'm not a big fan of Celine although I do enjoy some of her music. Obviously, Ms. Dion and her manager Rene Grandpere have the absolute right to schedule her concerts. I also believe that a planned concert in Quebec City the day before the now cancelled Halifax gig wasn't the reason for the change. Concerts today travel with more than one caravan of trucks carrying stage décor.

I doubt Ms. Dion is as thin-skinned as this incident suggests, the music world is as tough as it gets. So I doubt Ms. Dion's sensibilities could be hurt by a newspaper columnist and a couple of radio talk shows. The only thing I can think of was that sales for the Halifax show were lagging so they pulled the plug. Ms. Dion certainly doesn't need the money.

I think it was a mistake to blame the press for the cancellation. I don't think they expected the national attention it garnered. Next time Celine decides to visit the Maritimes they should add and advertise new songs to be included in her well-known repertoire.

"Bud the Spud" and "I's the b'y that builds the boat" should do the trick.