

GRAPEVINE



Campaign Kick-off

Acton Branch Canadian Cancer Society Campaign Kickoff and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held Wednesday, March 26, at 6 p.m. All canvassers, volunteers, including drivers, knitters, daffodil salespersons, etc. are invited to attend dinner and meet their fellow canvassers at Knox Presbyterian Church, 44 Main Street North, Acton. The mayor and local councillors have been invited to attend. Door prizes and entertainment are part of the fun evening. Anyone wishing to join in as a volunteer can call Elaine Thomas at (905)702-8564

New Location

Rumors that Rob Charette of Alexanian Carpet is closing its doors have been refuted by Charette who acknowledges the FOR LEASE sign on the door has some meaning. The business is moving to another undisclosed location in Acton, in newly renovated premises. Expect a grand opening in June.

Whoops an error

Blastball (T-Ball) registration in the Acton Minor Baseball (AMB) Registration advertisement in last week's Tanner should have read \$115 instead of \$155. The New Tanner regrets the error and apologizes to the AMB

Benefit for Samaritan

Friends and former schoolmates are among those holding a benefit for Kyle Payne at Leathertown Tavern at 8pm on Saturday, March 8. Seventeen year old Kyle was struck by a vehicle on the Fourth Line on Feb. 10 while helping to shovel out an elderly couple in another vehicle out of a snow drift. He suffered serious head injuries and was taken to Sunnybrook Hospital. The benefit includes a D.J., a band, other entertainment and a raffle. Anyone who can't attend can make a donation at Acton Scotiabank to Acct. No. 70102

Car break ins

Crimestoppers is again highlighting the importance of not leaving your valuable in your vehicles following thefts from two vehicles at the carpool lot at Trafalgar Rd and Hwy 401, sometime overnight Feb 18. A suspect(s) smashed the rear window and took a stereo system valued at \$900 from one. The second vehicle had two windows smashed and a Sirius unit stolen along with a Braun cordless razor and a black leather wallet containing membership cards

Police pleased

Halton Regional Police Association (HRPA) is pleased with the recent federal budget, specifically the commitment of 2,500 more front line officers for the streets in Canadian Communities.

President Robert Waller says the Canadian Police Association has been advocating more front line officers for years. By placing the matter in the budget the feds has recognized provincial and municipal police services are "severely underhanded and outstretched." The HRPA also support Chief Crowell and the Halton Police Services Board is asking the Province for a share of the front line officers to address changing demographics.

Library programs

It's time to register for Halton Hills Public Library's preschool programs! Baby Tales is a one-on-one program for infants 6-23 months and their grownups. Tales for Twos features songs, stories and fun for 2 years-olds and their grownups. Tales for Twos features songs, stories and fun for 2 year-olds and their grownups. Library Lion Tales is for children 3-5 years old and they attend the program on their own.

Acton competitor

Heather McIsaac of Acton, a member of the Orangeville Big Tyme Boxing Club who is the Cadet C National Champion, will be among 69 of Boxing Ontario's best Cadets attending the Ontario Winter Games in Collingwood Township this Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8.

Students vs. teachers

For the past two years, Vice Principal Paul Vanderhelm and a group of teachers from MacKenzie-Smith-Bennett Public School have been facing off at centre ice with athletes at Acton Arena from 4-5pm. Most Fridays during the fall and winter months. "It's a great way for students and teachers to have some fun, get cardiovascular exercise and build relationships during the busy school year" says Melissa Secord, PR rep of the school council.

Annual Show

The Royal City Ambassadors barbershop chorus is presenting its annual show at the Guelph River Run Theatre on April 4 and 5. The show is popular among local people and includes participants from town and area including Don Lindsay whom you can get tickets from by phoning 519-853-2057.

Dinner Theatre

Acton Old Town Hall Dinner Theatre's spring production. Karaoke Killer, will be held on Saturday, April 5 at the Acton Town Hall Centre, 19 Willow St. N. at 6:30p.m. The evening includes a buffet dinner and a murder mystery performance. Tickets (\$40.00 each) are for sale at Acton Home Hardware, Dollar Stretcher Daze and Halton Hills Furniture & Appliances. The 'early bird' deadline for tickets is March 22 and the final deadline is March 29.



INFORMATION SESSION: Acton Employment Resource Centre hosted an information session last Friday, Feb 29, on becoming a home support worker. Coral Parker from Links2Care presented to those in attendance for the event and luncheon. - submitted photo

Drivers now a new breed

A few months ago this scribbler was notified by the Ministry of Transportation that they had been counting my birthdays and when I applied for a new driver's licence I would also have to take a written test to confirm my eligibility to drive a vehicle. I would also have to repeat this test every two years to ensure my abilities remained. Instructions were to phone one of three locations to confirm a date for my written test.

Since this was early in July of 2007 I immediately phoned to arrange a date at one of the locations noted in the instructions only to be informed I was 'way to early'. There's no openings now. Call us back in another couple of months, said the voice.

Two months passed and the licence expiry date (Oct 13) was getting closer, so I phoned again. Yep, we have an opening in Guelph on November 26, 2007, said the voice. In the meantime, said the pleasant voice, you will receive a temporary driver's licence until you pass your written test.

I was among the first of about a dozen "mature" drivers who attended the session in Guelph where a pleasant woman gave the test but not before she told us most of the "pick an answer" from three choices test. After months of worrying about the test I finished it in about five minutes. The lady beside me, 89 years old took only about two to finish and was off to get her licence pronto. I followed suit and I suspect the rest of the people did too.

So different from the days when my wife, Irma, tried her first driver's test. It brought back many memories of trying to be an instructor.

A few years ago a young friend, the matrimonial knot tied a scant three years or so, took me aside and announced he was going to teach his wife to drive.

I blanched-visibly.

"Wotsa madder," he asked, "didn't you teach your wife to

Coles' Slaw

with
Hartley Coles



drive?"

I whitened, as memories flooded back like it was only yesterday. I felt a little sick in my stomach.

"Don't bring it up" I said sadly. "I vividly remember the year B.D. (before drive). It was the year our marriage almost landed in a wrecking yard.

"If you're asking my advice about whether you should teach your wife to drive, I can only utter one word - don't. Unless you're a man in million it won't work. You might even end up not talking to each other.

It started out, I said, like a lark. Wife behind the wheel, beginner's licence in her purse, and a pleased smirk because she had answered 19 of the 20 questions on the form perfectly. (I had only got by on my test a few years before by the proverbial skin of my teeth. And she knew!)

She backed out of the driveway perfectly, aligned the car with the ditch and rammed the gas pedal to the floor. If you're familiar with passing gears you'll have some idea of how we took off. Like a jet.

Gravel flew, tires spun and we started down the road as if there was a squadron of dragons chasing us.

I hung on for dear life clutching my seat belt, and saying in the same breath, "slow down a little will ya?" It was an automatic response.

Five miles down the road she pulled up and in a terse voice answered, "If you're going to talk to me like that you can drive this thing yourself"

She got out of the car and it looked like she was going to march back into town on foot.

I managed to close my mouth, utter a quick apology for my atrocious manners. It took some urging but she got in behind the wheel and it wasn't long until we were once more merrily on our way.

I had virtually ceased trembling when she drove into the driveway at home. She was as pleased as Punch. I was shaken as Judy.

"How's I do?" she asked

"We got here didn't we?" I smiled back. Privately, I was concerned and consulted two of my neighbors, veterans who survived similar episodes under more trying circumstances.

The first one thought he had all the answers, "I" he pontificated, "leaned out the window and cleared the way by announcing in a loud voice that my wife was at the wheel. The road cleared miraculously."

Being slightly introverted, this type of advertising did not appeal to me. Later I learned his neighbor had to finish the job off.

The other, less cocky but equally sure of himself, merely said, "Send her to a driving school."

After several months and about three beginner's licences, fights, arguments and copious amounts of tears, however, I began to see another side of the picture. I made peace and we agreed she should go to a driving school and learn properly.

Driving instructors, it turns out, have a lot more patience, endurance and teaching ability than most husbands.

Now she's a better driver than me, less impatient, adjusts mirrors, seats, sun visors, seat belts and anything else she adjust before she even inserts a key in the ignition. Does everything right.

She corrected me when I slide into the driveway and unbelt before shifting into park.

The situation is reversed, I'm the student. She's the teacher. When I say don't try to teach