

# GRAPEVINE



## Woodworking safety

When Acton area woodworker Henrik Varju asks for a show of hands from people who know woodworkers who have been injured by table saws, many of the hands that are raised are missing fingers – injured or lost to woodworking accidents.

Varju believes that most table saw accidents are avoidable and presses his point in a new instructional DVD that includes information on proper techniques for table saw safety.

For more information visit [www.passionforwood.com/dvds.htm](http://www.passionforwood.com/dvds.htm) or call 519-853-2027.

## Curl for Heart

Curlers will take to the ice sheets at Acton Curling Club on February 28 in aid of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. All levels of curlers are invited to the Curling for Heart fundraiser that includes great food, two six-end games and prizes.

The goal is to have each participant raise a minimum of \$100 in pledges for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The bonspiel is open to teams, men, women, mixed and junior players.

Registration is \$120 per team, but early birds who sign up before December 19 pay just \$100. To register e-mail the Heart and Stroke Foundation at [nmackneson@hsf.on.ca](mailto:nmackneson@hsf.on.ca) or call 905-451-0021.

## Talent Time

From stand-up comics, to bands, to dancers, the talented students at Acton High School will strut their stuff at a school-wide talent/variety show on December 19. Students are honing their acts to prep for auditions that run next week.

"I'm very impressed with the quality and diversity of our students," said organizer, teacher Jen Ross who said last years show was so well received that they decided to hold a show in each semester.

## Window wonders

Acton shoppers can help win \$100 in BIA (Business Improvement Area) bucks for the downtown merchant with the best decorated store window for the holidays.

In past years, the BIA has sponsored a "best wreath" contest amongst its members, but this year decided to expand the program, and so, far a number of merchants have gotten into the holiday spirit with colourful and seasonal decorations.

Shoppers can fill out a ballot for their favourite window and the winning merchant will select a name from the ballots left at their store for

someone to win an additional \$100 BIA bucks.

The Acton BIA celebrates the holiday season with an Old Fashioned Christmas on Saturday (December 6). There will be a carol sing, led by members of the Acton Citizens Band, beginning at 1 p.m., and a tree lighting ceremony.

There will be hot chocolate and hot cider and free horse-drawn carriage rides – with Santa – through the downtown area.

## Library Fun

A holiday classic – "The Grinch that Stole Christmas" – will be screened tomorrow (Friday) at a free movie event at the Acton library for school kids enjoying a PD day.

Everyone is invited to bring their own lunch – and popcorn – for the Dr. Seuss favourite.

Seating is limited – call the library at 519-853-0301 for more details.

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There's still time to register for Saturday craft time at the River Street library. Kids six and up will make and take some Christmas crafts, beginning at 10 a.m. call the library to register.

## Volunteers needed

The Heart and Stroke Foundation is looking for volunteers willing to go to-to-door in February to canvass for the organization's annual fundraising drive.

Volunteers are asked to "put their heart" into the campaign and donate approximately four hours of their time.

Call the Heart and Stroke office at 905-451-0021 for details.

## Rockwood pivot

When the University of Western Ontario Mustangs played Laval University for the Vanier Cup on Saturday, Nov. 22 the quarterback for the Mustangs was Michael Faulds, a native of Rockwood, former Actonian, as sports writer Denis Gibbons informs *The New Tanner*. Denis now lives in Burlington with wife Chris, but he keeps in touch with the old town and the area. Oh, Laval won the Vanier Cup but the Mustangs were no easy pickings.

## Snow Belt

What a difference an escarpment makes in the weather. While this this area was dumped on by a generous snowfall on Sunday night, Milton and area got only a few flakes. The difference can be easily observed on Regional Rd 25 as one climbs up or coasts down the Niagara Escarpment at Speyside.

# Our house...

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restless then.

I still think the lady or her husband have some attachment to our digs. I really think there is a reason why the doorbell goes on when nobody is around besides a wiring problem. And, I think there is a reason why the dogs bark and roam around for no reason.

Am I scared? Nope. Do I

think people might think I have 'issues'...perhaps. I just think this house has tales to tell and somebody needs to listen. Maybe I need to contact that medium I heard on the radio.

Good thing I hung the cross, just in case. I am not worried for some real reason. After all, they say the Amityville Horror is a true story.



**CANCER FIGHTERS:** The Paul Murr Memorial Golf tournament committee presented Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society with a cheque for \$60,000 last Wednesday evening, proceeds from their 24th annual tournament held at the Blue Springs Golf Club in May. The \$60,000 brings the total donated to the cancer society, over 24 years, to \$718,000. Holding the oversized cheque in front are Cathy Gerrow and Liz Bailey of the Cancer Society and John McNabb and Wade Vickery of the Paul Murr committee. Standing, left to right, are: George McPhail, Bill Manes, Susan Rauwerda, Lucas Vandermeer, Allan Hall, and Fred Reinders of the committee and Rena Arbic, Linda Neary, Shirley Dyc and Pat Kentner of the cancer society. – Submitted photo

# They're at it again!

Things are near normal up at Disneyland on the Rideau. Plotting, scheming, back-stabbing; yep, things haven't changed much in the last 60 years. Of course, all the players claim they are conducting themselves in the interests of all Canadians and that their party has the one true strategy to lead us out of the darkness. I think that in these perilous economic times they should all stop the nonsense and get back to work.

The catalyst for this latest debacle was the Conservative Government's recent economic statement. In it the Tories planned to eliminate the funding for political parties which comes out of the public purse. In the overall scheme of Ottawa financing the amount wasn't large. Political parties of all stripes combined collect some \$30 million per year.

The opposition went nuts. You'd have thought the government was proposing to steal the food out of their mouths. In a way I suppose they were. Some of these parties couldn't raise enough money to purchase even one attack ad. Personally, I like the idea. Why should our tax dollars go towards financially supporting the separatists? If they need money, let them hold a bake sale.

The opposition parties claimed there was no concrete economic stimulus package included in the economic statement. I suppose the money the Finance Minister has poured into the banks to stabilize mortgages didn't really count. The big stumbling block appeared to be that there was no proposed bail-out package for the

## The Way I See It

with  
Mike O'Leary



big three auto makers.

It appeared as if Prime Minister Harper was waiting for some indication from President-Elect Obama as to what the U.S. Government was going to do. IF Obama tied U.S. autoworkers' jobs to his economic stimulus package then a substantially different policy would have to be adopted here.

Any bail-out package for Canadian big three auto manufacturers is still a contentious issue. While many, myself included, think it's a necessity but want long term job guarantees included, others are resisting a taxpayer bailout. They ask why our tax dollars should prop up three companies who stubbornly continued making vehicles that the marketplace didn't want.

Still others point out that Toyota and Honda plants here remain busy and aren't looking for a financial lifesaver. Could it be because those plants aren't unionized? Is that what this is all about, saving union jobs? That explains some of the doctrines behind this coalition poised to take-over the government.

Speaking about this coalition there's several things that bother me. The first, and most obvious, is the fact that the Bloc, also known as traitors, is involved. You can bet the mortgage that, in return for voting with the Liberals and NDP to force legislation through parliament, Duceppe has been promised huge pork barrel playoffs for Que-

bec. He certainly isn't in this because of his love for Canada or any democratic ideals.

The NDP has been promised six seats in the 24 member Liberal cabinet. The NDP could only garner 18.27% of Canadian votes in the recent election and yet they get 25% of plum cabinet posts. Jack Layton must be absolutely salivating at getting this close to governing. It's the only chance he'll ever get. His party finished fourth in the recent election, beaten by the Bloc who only ran in one province. For that he deserves one-quarter of the seats at the cabinet table?

The leaderless Liberals will lead the coalition with Mr. Dion as PM. One of the coalition policies I noticed was a "cap and trade" market for greenhouse gas emissions. Excuse me but wasn't that one reason why Canadians rejected the Liberal platform in the last election? So are you ready for the green shaft – Part Doux?

I could go on and on but my 50 gallon drum of blood pressure pills is almost gone. I blame PM Harper for precipitating this mess. His partisan plan to cut opposition funding, while not the whole reason, certainly drove these unholy three to attempt a bloodless coup.

By the time you read this we should know what the PM plans to do to save his government. No matter the outcome, there is one thing we should all keep in mind. The denizens of Disneyland on the Rideau are acting solely to save their political skins and perks. They could care less about our country and our problems. It's said we get the government we deserve.

We deserve better.