

GRAPEVINE



Community leadership

Applications for the 2009 4-H Greenbelt Youth Forum are being accepted until March 1, 2009.

The program brings together rural and urban high school students from within the Greenbelt for discussion, workshops, guest speakers and tours, exploring issues such as environmental stewardship, preservation, land use planning, and local food.

Applications are available at www.4-hontario.ca/greenbelt.aspx or by calling (519) 824-0101. A \$75 fee covers cost of rooms, food, resources, and bus tours.

Youth in agriculture

There's still time to apply for the Canadian International Farm Show 2009 Youth in Agriculture Bursaries.

Two deserving students will be presented with \$2500 bursaries. The students must be currently in their first year of an agricultural related program at an accredited Canadian university or college and must show academic achievement, give reason for their financial need, and be under the age of 30 on Jan. 1, 2009.

For more info go to www.jfao.on.ca/scholarships. Applications will be received until March 6.

Solar fair

On Saturday, March 7, the Halton Residential Solar Project will host a Solar Fair at the Halton Regional Centre. From 9am to 10am, speakers will give an overview of residential solar energy applications as well as the costs and benefits. Between 10am and 12pm, homeowners will be able to speak with vendors of solar energy technologies, view vendors' displays, and talk to a financial advisor about the financial strategies and incentives that are associated with installing solar energy equipment.

All are welcome and free to attend. For more information, visit <http://halton.ourpower.ca> or call 905-901-3501.

Tutors needed.

Volunteer tutors are urgently

needed to assist adults with their reading, comprehension, writing, math, or basic computer skills. Would you like to give something back to your community? Can you volunteer 3hrs per week for six months?

No experience needed – training provided. For more information visit www.literacynh.org or call 905-873-2200.

Free tax clinics

You may be eligible to have a Chartered Accountant fill out your tax return for free. This offer is open to low-income people with a total household income less than \$25,000 with dependents or less than \$17,000 without dependents. To find out about open clinic locations, please visit the Institute website at www.icao.on.ca and look under "Serving the Public" for "Free CA Tax Clinics."

Clear meters

Remember to regularly check you natural gas meter, pressure regulator and appliance exhaust vents to ensure they are clear of snow and ice. If necessary use a broom or car brush to gently clear snow or ice around the meter, regulator or vents.

Do not use sharp objects or force, such as kicking or hitting, to remove the snow or ice.

If snow or ice build-up on natural gas meters and regulators cannot be gently removed with a broom or car brush, call your gas company for assistance.

Three weeks

Three weeks and a day until the first day of spring! But who's counting.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of lent is again holding ecumenical services at non each Wednesday. Each year the service swings to a different church. This year the services will be held at St. Joseph's Patron of Canada Catholic Church on Church St. The churches take turn providing a noon hour lunch each week during lent. There is a free will collectio which goes to the Acton Miniserial Association which sponsors the lenten services. Everyone is welcome.

T.T.C. and Lord help me if I was ever on Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader because with today's education standards I don't know if I could do it.

I think I'm fairly smart, but I'm sure my exiting line would be, "I am Angela Tyler. I know a lot, but I am not smarter than a fifth grader...now a days" Hopefully though I would be going home with at least \$25,000.



BRUNCH BUFFET: The Kinette Club of Acton hosted their monthly brunch at the Acton Community Centre last Sunday. The brunch is held the last Sunday of every month and a portion of the proceeds from each Brunch is given to the participating volunteer group, this brunch helped support the Acton Scouts. - Traci Gardner photo.

MYAC Rocks

I had a very enjoyable afternoon last Sunday.

MYAC (Mayor's Youth Action Committee) put on a variety show for a packed house at the Starlight Café downtown. Judging from what I saw and heard we have a lot of very talented young people in our town.

So by now you might be asking yourself "So what is MYAC" and what is an old fogey like me doing hanging out with a bunch of teenagers?

The Mayor's Youth Action Committee was formed 12 years ago, it's a volunteer group for young people between 13 and 18. Their goal is to support and recognize their peers and to ensure that young voices are heard in town. They act as an advocate for youth issues with Town Council and staff.

Being a town committee gives them access to a whole host of decision makers who can influence town recreational policies. Along the way, from what I saw and heard, they have a substantial amount of fun and, for the most part, enjoy each others company.

Regular readers will know that I have always maintained that 99% of the kids in our town are great. Unfortunately it's often the 1% who get all the publicity. As adults we may not appreciate their music, may not like the way they dress or interact with each other, or may be intimidated as they wander through town in groups large and small.

As a child of the 60's, I remember many people thought Rock and Roll was going to be the end of Society as they knew it. I vividly remember the looks

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



adults gave me when I proudly strolled the streets of Etobicoke in jeans. My mother was horrified when I bought them.

"Only motorcycle gangs or farmers wear those things," she huffed.

We hung out with friends just like the kids do today. We were probably too loud when we met in restaurants. I do remember that I laughed out loud a lot more back then than I did as I got older. Believe it or not I even had shoulder length hair when I was at Ryerson. Somewhere I think I have a picture, but my Mom burnt most of them. So what's really changed? Not much.

MYAC is a group of approx 25 kids from both Acton and Georgetown. They meet once a month at the Civic Centre not only to discuss concerns specific to young people but also to plan future activities.

The coffee house afternoon last Sunday is but one example. There were, I think, 10 separate acts ranging from vocals, to piano, guitar solos and duets and even a magic act by a young man names Ibthijah who is in grade 7. For obvious reasons I can't use last names with minors.

In a way, last Sunday was a nostalgic trip for me. I can still remember hanging out in the coffee houses of Yorkville and listening to unknown acts like Ian and Sylvia and Gordon Lightfoot.

The only real difference is that today's kids clap at the end of each act while we would snap our fingers to show appreciation. To be honest, I always thought snapping fingers was a stupid way to show appreciation, but, it was the "cool thing to do." So I followed the crowd – sound familiar?

The Starlight Café entertainment and bookings were all organized by MYAC member Kat, a delightful young lady who is obviously full of energy. Another MYAC member Zula'a acted as MC. They both did a superb job as did all the performers. I was thinking at the time how difficult it had to be to perform for an audience of your peers with them being up close and personal. Congratulations to all.

I would be remiss if I didn't make special mention of a young lady, Amanda, who performed a Beatles song which made me feel a bit included. To those seated around me, I apologize for attempting to sing along. Also, the talent and stage presence of Robin was enjoyable. The only thing missing was a motorized twirly on top of your beanie! Good job buddy!

So friends the next time your kid is whining that there's nothing to do in this town, tell them about MYAC. In fact, don't wait, tell them tonight.

For more information on all MYAC has to offer, Call Adam at 905-873-2601 – Local 2285. There's lots to do in Halton Hills, it just takes the courage to volunteer your time.

Take the first step – Call Adam.

Game shows....

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math mean you knew what factors of math were?

I am fairly confident that I don't have to 'phone a friend' to find the answers for Family Feud or if they had a new version of the Newlywed Game even though we are now a few years beyond newlywed but I know for certain if I was in the Cash Cab I would be taking the