

GRAPEVINE



Campaign kick-off

Kick-off dinner for the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society's annual fund raising campaign is on Tuesday, March 31 at 6:30pm at Knox Presbyterian Church at the corner of Main St. N. and Knox Ave. All canvassers, volunteers, including drivers, knitters, daffodil salespeople are invited to attend the dinner, meet some local councillors who have been invited to attend. Door prizes and entertainment are part of the fun. Anyone wishing to join in as a volunteer can call Elaine Thomas at 905-702-8564.

Food drive soon

Don't forget the annual food drive by the Scouts, Guides, and Calvinist Cadets is coming on Saturday, April 4. Residents are being asked to place their non-perishable food donations in plastic bags at their front door by 8:30am on April 4. Needed is canned meat, fish, fruit, stew, vegetables, tomatoes, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jam, ketchup, rice, macaroni and cheese, cereal, side dishes and snacks suitable for school children.

New GO Trains

Commuters who use the Milton GO Train service will be glad to know GO Transit will soon be adding two new weekday trains on the Milton line. One train will be added in the morning, arriving at Union Station shortly after 9am. The second train will be added in the evening, departing Union Station just after 5:30pm. The new trips will be in service as early as June, Regional Chair Gary Carr reports.

Quilters meet

Halton Hills Quilters Guild is meeting at the Halton Hills

Cultural Centre, 9 Church St. (at Main), Georgetown on Monday, March 23 at 7:15pm. It's vendor night and Sew Sisters will have product demonstrations and Grantham Books. New members are welcome. Contact Marion Baldaeff, President at 905-702-1162.

Singing Seniors

Inspired by the movie, *Young at Heart*, in which a group of feisty seniors belt out rock and roll tunes, Enid Acton has been busily rounding up other local music lovers to form Erin's own singing seniors. She's inviting everyone to come out to the kick-off meeting in the Wellington Room, Centre 2000, March 23, at 10:30am to chat about Erin's newest singing seniors. Local singer, Kim Pearson has signed on to lead the group and help them hit the right notes as they learn pop tunes from the 50's, 60's and 70's --- all with an emphasis on having fun. Call Enid Acton at 519-853-0301.

Community Brunch

Sunday, March 22 is the date for the next Community Brunch at the Acton Community Centre Arena from 9:30am to 1pm for an "all-you-can-eat buffet" for \$6.00. Pre-schoolers are free. The monthly buffets are sponsored by the Kinette Club of Acton to promote community spirit and help raise funds for local service groups, schools and clubs.

Wants comment

Regional Chair Gary Carr wants Halton residents to comment on whether they agree or disagree on a tax freeze for the Region's 2010 budget, as he has proposed. More on www.halton.ca.

Author fascinates...

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In Hill's novel, Diallo appears set to end her days in London and is writing her memoirs, primarily because she must — the world has to know that the slave has a name — and to aid abolitionist benefactors who have brought her from Freetown, Sierra Leone; existence in Nova Scotia proved a marginal, brutal betrayal for the Black Loyalists, and ten years later 1200 of them writes Hill, "From the shores of Halifax... the first major 'back to Africa' exodus in the History of the Americas, sailing to found the colony of Freetown in Sierra Leone."

Lawrence Hill "discovered" the fictional Aminata in a work on the Black Loyalists by University of Waterloo history professor Dr. James Walker, containing the names of the returnees. She emerged from the list as a woman, born in Africa. What were her thoughts? What was her voice like? Had she loved someone? Did she have children?

Hill said slave narratives (he read many during five years' research

and writing), were the first form of literature to emerge from the Africans' American and Canadian experiences. Nowadays, he said, "Any enterprising 15-year-old could find the Book of Negroes online within five minutes;" he hopes for a day when high-school students will be following his own path, begun over three decades ago in the Don Mills home of a father, Daniel, himself descended from slaves and mother Donna, a white U.S. civil-rights activist.

Having dared much with this work, Hill is reaping a corresponding reward. What is more, his timely emergence as an authoritative and popular Canadian accomplished in both literature and academia, is as healthy a boost to genuine Canadian culture as we've seen for many years and bodes well for the ongoing "history wars."

(Acton resident Charles Tysoe was an early manuscript reviewer for the novel, "The Book of Negroes.")



SPACE CRAFTS: Laek and Kylie Swain, Mitchell and Shauna Gardner and Alyssa Dowling came out to take part in the fun and crafts held at the Acton Branch of the Halton Hills Public Library on Tuesday afternoon. The theme this year is "Outer Space". Crafts will also be held on Thursday afternoon between 2 and 4pm and the Munch to the Movies is being held on Friday at noon. Bring your lunch and popcorn and enjoy the movie "Wall - E" - Traci Gardner photo.

Looney Tunes on TV

A minor irritation for me has always been Canadian TV stations who pirate, steal actually, the signals from American TV so they can run Canadian advertising commercials in place of American ones. I don't know how they get away with it and normally I just make a fridge run during those times.

I'm a loyal viewer of 60 Minutes, Sunday's at 7pm. 60 Minutes is simulcast in this area by SUN TV. It's certainly incongruous to be watching a serious interview, like the one last Sunday with U.S. Federal Chairman Ben Bernanke, one minute only to have Russell Oliver, A.K.A. "The Loan Arranger," howling at you the next. God, But I despise that man. Oliver, not Bernanke, that is.

It used to annoy me that we couldn't see the much touted American commercials during the Super Bowl but now — not so much. I seldom watch the Super Bowl from start to finish any more.

Likewise, when I worked for Hallmark and, I think it was CTV who pirated the Hallmark Hall of Fame telecast only to insert Canadian Commercials. Obviously I was vitally interested in the Hallmark commercials. I lived in fear that one of my American counterparts would ask me a question as to the latest Hallmark effort.

I believe the company first tried to settle the matter by invoking copyright regulations, and after some money may have changed hands. In the end Hallmark simply stopped selling the Canadian rights to Canadian media companies. To

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



this day it's only seen locally on a Buffalo station.

Perhaps I'm being un-Canadian by choosing to tune into an American channel. Perhaps the C.R.T.C. is only protecting my Canadian culture by permitting this piracy.

But Russell Oliver in a crummy cowboy costume. Thanks, but no thanks.

Speaking of the interview with Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke, I found it very interesting and not just because one seldom sees him outside congressional hearings. Bernanke sees the current economic recession starting to end in the last quarter of this year with recovery starting in the first quarter of 2010. All of that is depended upon the U.S. banking system having stabilized by that time.

That's certainly good news for Canadians since our economy is a mirror image of theirs, albeit usually three months behind. This announcement verifies what the Toronto Dominion chief Financial Analyst has been forecasting for some months now.

The market responded positively last Monday carrying on the growth trend of the previous week. Not that I'm suggesting in any way that the stock market has bottomed out and everyone should rush back

in. My crystal ball is as flawed as everyone else's.

Bernanke also broadly hinted at forthcoming regulations for American banks. One assumes he has in mind similar restrictions that Canadian banks have learned to operate under because they obviously work.

For instance, the T.D. Bank was the fifteenth largest bank in the world last year. This year they're in the top 5. That's not because they've grown through these difficult economic times worldwide.

Another interesting point Bernanke made was that he was angry at the way insurance giant American International Group (A.I.G) was distributing bonus money to managers and, in some cases, those same mortgage brokers who sold the high risk mortgages to A.I.G.

President Obama and the Governor of New York State are also angry. Both are promising to put a halt to this insanity. There's probably not much they can do however since the cheques have already gone out. Over \$167 million of U.S. taxpayers' money paid out to these greedy so and so's.

The only defence A.I.G. has put out so far is that they are bound by employment contracts to pay this money. The other lame excuse A.I.G. gave was that without paying out bonus money A.I.G. would not be able to keep or attract the talented individuals they need.

One would assume these are the same talented individuals that drove the once mighty A.I.G. to it's knees so they had to go begging to the federal reserve. I'd give them a bonus alright.

Severance Pay!!!