

GRAPEVINE



Food drive Saturday

Don't forget to leave those non-perishable food donations in plastic bags at your front door by 8:30am this Saturday morning April 4 in time for the Scouts, Guides, Calvinist Cadets annual fundraiser for Acton Foodshare. Items needed include canned meat, fish, fruit, stew, vegetables, tomatoes, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jam, ketchup, rice, macaroni, and cheese, cereal and side dishes such as Sidekicks, instants potatoes and stuffing, as well as snacks suitable for school children. Foodshare has a good supply of soup, baby food, canned pasta, baked beans, chickpeas, and kidney beans so the former items will help them feed the needy over the next few weeks. About 22 households need the help of the food bank each week and the number is rising.

Scrapbook workshop

Creative Memories consultant Tammy Somerville is donating part of the proceeds from her hands on National Scrapbook Day workshop on Saturday (April 4) at St. Alban's hall on Willow St. Somerville will provide instruction on safe photo and memory celebrations with both traditional and digital scrapbooking and assist participants in starting keepsake albums. There's a fee for the all day event. Contact Tammy at 519-853-4174.

"Elvis" appearing

"Elvis will be in the building" at Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton on Saturday, April 25 for a night of gospel music, for which Presley was famous. Tickets are available at the church office 519-853-2360 or 519-853-0318 or 519-853-0216

A taste of Spring

There's nothing quite like pancakes with good old fresh maple syrup, maple baked beans and maple sweets and it's all going to be served at Limehouse Memorial Hall this Saturday, April 4 from 9am till 1pm. There also a bake table for that other sweet tooth. Kids 5 and under are free.

Colon cancer seminar

Halton Healthcare is always working to educate people in Halton about cancer, its diagnosis, treatment and prevention. On Tuesday, April 21 they are having a free seminar on colon cancer at Milton District Hospital featuring surgeon Dr. Jeff Kolbasnik and Enterostomal Therapist Yvonne Van Impe from Acclaim Health. Colon cancer is one of the most deadly forms of the disease but early detection can stop it in its tracks. Milton Hospital is located at 30 Derry Rd in Milton.

Lauren's Locks for Cancer

Nine year-old McKenzie Smith Bennett Public school student Lauren Matsuo has decided to cut her hair and donate it to a com-

pany that makes wigs for cancer patients. She is also collecting pledges to be donated to the Cancer Assistance Services, Halton Hills. They provide free services to people touched by cancer. Lauren is hoping to challenge other students to make a goal and give back to the community. If you would like to make a donation on Lauren's behalf please call 519-853-1224. Tax receipts will be available for donations of \$10 or more.

Acton Connection

A note from Burlington sports scribe Denis Gibbons, a former Actonian, mentions that we probably missed the fact that one of the owners of the Toronto Maple Leafs of the Senior Intercounty Baseball League who died last November, was from Acton. Marilyn Mellor, who was Fred Mellor's daughter, was married to Jack Domenico and they were inducted into the Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame in 2000. The couple owned and operated the Leafs for 40 years at Christie Pits, well known for it's battles on the diamond.

Dr. Vanderbent honoured

There's still one or two tickets left for the evening to honour Dr. Vanderbent at the Royal Canadian Legion hall on Friday, April 3 but they are likely to go fast. The evening will not only have former patients, but Dr. David's peer to celebrate over 40 years of service in Acton and area. Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at Halton Hills Furniture and Links2Care

Church St work

Reconstruction of Church St. in Acton is scheduled to start again on Monday June 6 with a completion date about the end of July. Work had to be stopped from John St. to Main St. S. because of an early start to winter which effectively grounded construction machinery. Temporary repairs on the street allowed motorists to access but it was sure bumpy.

Petition signing

The McKenzie Smith Bennett (MSB) School Council is urging people to sign the petition they've been circulating opposing the sale of MSB land by the Halton District School Board. Local trustee Gerry Ockenden's motion to delay any sale of surplus property until the Board has a final report was passed by the Board at their March meeting.

The MSB School Council would like to have 4,000 signatures for their petition to present to the Board. A delegation will take the petition to the school board at a meeting in May

Petitions can be found at both the Acton and Georgetown Home Hardwares, Royal Jug City, The Movie Gallery and Giant Tiger in Acton



SCOTIABANK PROMOTION: Acton branch of Scotiabank had a special promotion of mortgages last Friday to alloy fears of people alarmed at the mortgage mania which has enveloped North America. Bill McNally left of Johnson Associates there to assist Lorraine Bellizi-Hoare, branch manager and Ceclia Casalnuovo the senior personal banking officer at the branch - Ted Tyler photo

The sound of the other shoe falling

Last Monday President Obama spelled out in detailed terms the conditions that GM and Chrysler have to meet in order for the U.S. Government to continue loaning U.S. taxpayers money to those companies. Unlike past "investments" in this industry there are plenty of strings attached. Hours later both Canadians and Ontario's Finance and Industry Ministers issued their own set of conditions for GM and Chrysler Canada.

To say the gloves were off as both governments laid down the law to these once auto giants would be an understatement. The first casualty was GM's American CEO Rick Wagoner. But don't feel too bad for him, He's walking away with a reported +/- \$23 million. I understand the rest of GM's American Board of Directors resigned, or is planning to, in the aftermath. So far I haven't heard of any recent casualties amongst the most senior executives of GM or Chrysler Canada.

What surprised me is that one of Obama's main targets was the United Auto Workers (U.A.W) in the automotive industry stateside. Traditionally unions have been big Democratic Party supporters. I assume they're not happy with their man in the White House but it's hard to see what options they have. The alternative would probably be bankruptcy (Chapter 11 or worse in the States) which would immediately render those union contacts null and void.

The Canadian governments have sought assurances from the President that, as a condition of their continued

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



financial support, that 20% of North American Auto production will remain in Canada. That should be little comfort to GM and Chrysler workers because that 20% also includes Ford who has not asked for a bailout package....yet. Ford, in fact, is offering new car buyers 3 months protection on monthly car payments if the buyer loses their job in an effort to increase sales.

The problem here in Ontario, and in the States in not just the job losses at GM and Chrysler, not that these aren't important. The larger problem is that it is estimated that 500,000 workers are directly and indirectly tied to the auto industry here. That includes parts and raw material suppliers, many of whom are right here in Halton Hills. Add to that, restaurants, coffee shops, retail stores of all types and the situation is not encouraging unless governments act decisively and quickly.

In Canada, and in the United States, much of the taxpayer anger at these bailout packages is aimed at the autoworkers themselves and in particular their union. Many people think their salaries and benefits packages are excessive especially when compared to foreign manufacturing plants also located here.

So did the autoworkers wage packages bring these once giant

corporations to their knees? I think not, I think bad management is totally to blame. Anytime a company fails, 9 times out of 8 it's because of short-sighted, inattentive or greedy management. In the case of the 2 auto companies it's probably all 3.

Do the autoworkers make a high wage? It appears so, but then I've never worked on an assembly line so I can't comment on that. More than once during my business career I've thought that my family and I would have been better off had I worked at one of the car plants. But I had two personal problems that stopped me. I hated working shifts (I did it for 1 summer during my Ryerson days) and I enjoyed working on my own so I stuck with my sales.

In my opinion the Canadian Auto Worker's Union is making a mistake saying they won't re-open their contract with GM. My read of the situation is that none of the three levels of government is bluffing in their demands. You will notice they're demands, not suggestions.

If any of the Canadian car plants fold because of the CAW's intransigence the union will take the brunt of the criticism. My opinion is that there will be little sympathy for them even from other unions. Other unions might fuss and fume but silently they'll be thanking their lucky stars it's not their members.

No-one wants to take a step backwards when it comes to their wages. But the reality may be jobs and no wages.

If that happens - God help us all