

GRAPEVINE



Earth Hour a success

"Once again, the Town, residents, business, schools and other organizations collaborated to make Earth Hour a resounding success! Town-wide, our energy consumption dropped by 13.5%, a significant increase from last year's 9.4% reduction. Our collaboration continues to show our commitment to fighting climate change and helping to implement the Town's Green Plan. Well done!" says Mayor Rick Bonnette.

This is the second time that Halton Hills participated in the global Earth Hour event. The 13% consumption reduction represents nearly 8,000 kWh or enough electricity to power about 6,500 homes for an hour. It can also be translated into 1,426 kilograms in greenhouse gas savings or the equivalent of not driving 4,755 kilometers.

To make every hour Earth Hour and to conserve all year, join The Good Life, an initiative of WWF-Canada. Go to www.thegoodlife.wwf.ca. Click on the "Groups" tab, then "Groups Directory." Look for the Town of Halton hills group and join.

Spring Water

With this winter push, over the past few days we could experience high water levels in our waterways as we warm up into this weekend.

Credit Valley Conservation and Conservation Halton have issued high water bulletins for this week. Due to the recent precipitation and the melting of accumulated snow, we could see higher flows and water levels with the warmer temperatures predicted for the end of the week. Caution should be exercised when in and around waterways.

Fun with telemarketers...

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there for years confirmed they did get the books however, they hadn't seen them for ages, maybe even years. Okay, the telemarketer was right... sort of. Either way, I never got a call back from her.

Just when I thought I had the best way of ridding my life of telemarketers, the telephone rang at home and the Dude answered. It was one of the Toronto newspapers trying to sell a subscription.

You could tell they were asking his name and trying to confirm our whereabouts. "Yes, I am but no, that isn't our address." The Dude told them. For some odd reason he was getting way to much enjoyment with this phone call.

Eavesdropping on one side of the conversation suddenly got really interesting. "No, that isn't... we don't have a street address..." What on earth was he trying to pull off? Of course we have a street address. "No, we actually live on a private island in Georgian Bay and I don't think you can

Strong Kids

On Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 4pm, Acton YMCA Child Care Centre will raise awareness and funds for the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign by holding its annual community walkathon. The Acton YMCA is inviting members of the community to come out and support the annual walkathon by making a donation or volunteering your time to help out. Children, staff and volunteers will hit the streets starting at MSB school on Acton Blvd, and going around the block. Refreshments of cookies and Juice will be served upon return to the centre.

The YMCA Strong Kids Campaign is focused on raising much needed financial support for children, teens and families who are unable to afford the full cost of participation in a YMCA program or activity.

Deadline for murder

This Saturday, April 11, is the deadline for tickets for the April 18 murder mystery dinner, "Trial by Error," at the Acton Town Hall Centre. Tickets are available at Acton Home Hardware, Dollar Stretcher Daze and Halton Hills Furniture & Appliances.

It is always a good performance and a great evening out. It's certainly a 'don't miss' event.

Festival on Main

Downtown Georgetown BIA is holding the annual Festival on Main on Saturday, June 20 from 8 to 5pm. If you are a charitable or service group we are looking for you! The festival is a wonderful way to raise money for your organization by holding an entertaining fundraiser, such as a Charity Casino, Penny Auction, Raffle or Silent Auction. Need ideas or have an idea? Call us at 905-873-4970.

deliver here...we've been frozen in for months" he continued.

By then he was fully enthralled and I was rolling my eyes in disgust at the same time as giving him heck in the background for leading the caller on. "What are you doing? Stop it..." I grumped at him.

Before I knew it the Dude and the caller were in a great conversation. "Yeah, the snow has been really bad up here this year" he answered. "Well, the number is an Acton number, but we have it forwarded to here in the winter while we stay here" I could feel God getting the lightning bolt ready to strike him down with every sentence he spoke. "Yeah, it's been a great year up here for snowmobiling..."

After about five minutes, the Dude smirking from ear to ear ended the call with his newfound friend who was convinced he was talking to someone in the middle of Georgian Bay. Needless to say we didn't subscribe.



PRIVATE AUDIENCE: Dr. David Vanderbent was happy to share the recognition and tributes at the evening for him with members of his staff at the Acton Medical Centre at the Meet and Greet session before and after dinner. Left to right are: Patricia Dorscht, Colleen Venema, the doctor and Ann Adema. - submitted photo

End of an era

Friends, I'm sorry to have to tell you but I've had a traumatic, tragic event happen in my life. No, my dog did not die, not withstanding the fact I don't even have a dog. Friends, this tragedy will be devastating for the entire boomer generation who grew up in and around Toronto.

1050 CHUM AM has gone, gasp, all news. No more hits from the golden age of radio. No more CHUM Charts; Gone forever the CHUM Bugs. I am overcome with emotion and feel a sense of betrayal. I'm sure those of us who grew up in the 60's feel the same.

I can vividly remember switching stations on my dad's car radio when he was putting gas in the car. My dad, of course, listened to CFRB when they played music. At least, my dad and mom thought it was music, to my ear it was boring melodies from the war and just after.

My minor victory didn't last long because as soon as dad got behind the wheel he'd turn the dial back to the old fogey's station. I would then get a mild lecture about keeping my paws off his radio, along with his opinion of that screeching and scratching he called Rock and Roll.

The funny thing is that in my middle age I found myself listening to CFRB. I justified it by saying I only listened to 'RB because they had better traffic reports. Truth be told, I did originally enjoy the banter between the hosts and the people calling in.

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



Over the years that became tiresome and the talk show hosts came and went like a revolving door. No just the on air personalities but the whole character of the station seemed to move way to the left politically. Before that, there was a rather interesting mix.

Meanwhile I had always kept good old CHUM AM tuned into one of my buttons. When I tired of the whining a fast flick of a finger took me back to the times when I was carefree and actually had hair.

Had the powers that be turned CHUM into another talk radio station I might have understood that. But the new owners, CTV, have chosen to simulcast their all news TV station CP24 on the 1050 dial. This absolutely doesn't work, mostly because TV is, of course, a visual medium. So you're likely to hear the announcer say, "As you can see traffic on the 400 North is jam packed."

That might help if you were actually on the 400 North but when you're on the 401 East at Oshawa, who cares? It's obvious that the new management doesn't give a damn about the generations of loyal listeners. I still keep one button on 1050, but switch back to 1150 Hamilton after a few words - 1460 Guelph is another

mostly oldies station but doesn't have much eastbound reach.

All of my children know most of the melodies and words to the oldies. While each one has her own musical taste, one of our bonds is the music of Mary's and my youth. She and I would often dance around our kitchen, much to the delight of our children.

How do you dance to today's music - if you call it that. Oh God, I'm really starting to sound like my father now. This isn't the first time either, but when one of my kids observes that, I take it as a compliment.

I suppose some of you may think I'm making much ado about nothing. But 1050 CHUM has been a constant in my life for over 50 years. The music brings a smile to my face and a lift to my soul. I remember school days, old friends, triumphs and tragedies. In a way, it's the end of an era and I think that's sad.

Old CHUM on air DJs, like Jungle Jay Nelson, Bob Macadory, and Al Boliska must be disgusted or spinning in their graves. I can hear them saying "Whoda thunkit?"

The good news is that I've managed to record a good bit of my favourite music on CD's. The bad news is that my van only has a tape player.

Anyone want to buy a car?

PS. - Thank you to the anonymous person who returned my coat to the Legion after Dr. Vanderbent's soiree last Friday night. I appreciated its return.