

GRAPEVINE



Pruning tips

While the ground is frozen solid, members of the Acton Horticultural Society are plotting and planning for the next growing season at monthly meetings – sharing mulch secrets and getting expert advice from guest speakers including Sean Fox who will demonstrate and discuss pruning skills at the January 19 meeting.

Fox is the assistant manager at the University of Guelph Arboretum and his talk will be timely as pruning can begin in late February and early March.

You don't have to be a member to enjoy the guest speakers, but the \$7 annual fee is a good deal as it includes discounts at local nurseries. The Society meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church. Local gardening guru Belinda Gallagher who works at the Royal Botanical Gardens will be the guest speaker in February.

CrossWheels available

This spring, Acton and area seniors who need rides to medical appointments will have another service to call on for help. The Canadian Red Cross is partnering with the Peel Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) and ESS Support Systems to provide a call system to link seniors who need rides in Halton and Mississauga to volunteer drivers.

Called CrossWheels, the service will allow seniors, unable to use existing transportation services because of disability issues, to call one number to schedule rides with volunteers to medical appointments, adult day programs, rehabilitation programs and shopping. Officials expect to have the system running by the end of April.

Volunteer drivers are needed

– if you can help call 416-255-5969.

Volunteers needed

Do you have an hour to spare weekly to visit a senior? Acclaim Health is looking for volunteers who can spend time with seniors- playing cards, going out for coffee, playing games, going for a drive or just chatting.

If you can help, call Joanne at 905-827-8800 ext. 2314.

Thanks, donors

Four first-timers were among the 49 people who gave the gift of life at the Canadian Blood Services blood donor clinic on Monday at Acton arena/community centre. Five people were deferred.

Breakfast meeting

Area businesswomen are invited to the next breakfast meeting of Women 2 Women, an organization that promotes networking, idea exchanges and raises the profile of local businesses.

The next meeting is January 11 at 9 a.m. at Heal Thyself Clinic at 13377 Fourth Line, Acton. You can confirm your attendance by visiting www.w2wnetworking.ca

Community Open House

Local non-profit and community organizations will showcase their services at the Community Open House on February 6 at the Georgetown Market Place.

Space is still available for groups to “rent” a table for the event that is designed to highlight the groups and organizations which provide services to the community, including sports groups, non-profits, service agencies, environmental groups, the Region and the Town.

For more information, or to download a registration form visit www.haltonhills.ca/events/OpenHouse.php

Travel easy...

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photo was accepted even though in my opinion she looked like a boy and I actually preferred the first photo with her tongue sticking out. I thought it would have been great going through customs.

Everybody I told the passport story to couldn't believe she had to have her own passport let alone with a photo considering even her health card doesn't have her photo.

My next worry was the flights. I don't know how we lucked out but she couldn't have been better. She seems to like flying more than she likes her picture being taken.

On our flight from Chicago we ended up having a seat change and were in a row of three. After we sat down, a lady with a dog

in a carrier sat in the aisle seat. As she looked at us, she had the same look on her face as I used to when I saw a baby on a plane. It was a look of terror. “I guess it's the five of us (implying us, her and her dog),” she said. I replied, “Well, we could be those people you hate or she might be as good as she was on our first segment.” The woman looked at me very skeptically.

About half way to Tampa as Little J snoozed 30,000 feet above the ground, the lady looked over to me and said, “she's been really good... what's her name?” The terror had left face and I realized that if we can overcome the passport office and a newborn on an airplane that we can pretty much overcome anything.



CALENDAR CONTEST WINNER: The artwork of Riane Masse, a student at Acton's St. Joseph Catholic School, was selected as the cover for Halton's 2010 waste management calendar, which will be available mid-January. – Submitted photo

Welcome to YK10

Seems hardly possible that 10 years ago the world waited with baited breath to see if all the computers would grind to a halt and airplanes would fall from the sky like hail. In the ensuing ten years we saw greed taken to a new level by corporate executives and, if you listen to the climateanotics, the sky will fall any day now.

What did happen is a close brush with a world wide recession that rivalled the great depression of the 1930's. Although Canada generally escaped the worst of the effects on our economy we aren't out of the woods yet. The acid test will be to see what happens when massive government spending comes to a halt at the end of this year and the cold reality of higher taxes and less service provided by government comes home.

Given the seriousness of the next year or two, senior government officials are probably making resolutions for YK10 or, at least, we should all hope they have a plan. At the very least they'd better have a plan to develop a plan. In the spirit of public service here are a few suggestions.

Stephen Harper: Do something about your eyes. Having watched the year end discussion between the P.M. and C.T.V. newscasters I found Harper's eyes distracting. I suggest contacts, heavy framed glasses or a blindfold. It's difficult to believe a P.M. whose eyes remind me of a shark lining up a seal. We won't talk about the smirk that poses as a smile.

As an aside, whatever happened to political leaders who looked and spoke in a manner that evoked public confidence? Where are the Kennedy's, the

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



Pearson's, the (I can't believe I'm writing this) Trudeau's of the world? These were men who could convince you that they were acting in your best interests when at the same time they were stealing your underwear while you were still wearing it. Yes, they lied to our faces, but they made you feel good about it. Politics shouldn't be about image but in this T.V. age it is.

Michael Ignatieff: Go back to Harvard. Your problem isn't that you are smarter than the common Canadian that you need to elect you. Your problem is that you believe you are smarter than the average Canadian, and it shows. You talk down to people and they resent it. Au revoir.

Jack Layton: Are you thinking about your next job Jack? You should be. The N-dippers may keep you around for one more run at the big job, but after that you're toast. You had your chance to grasp a sliver of power but you were out manoeuvred by Mr. Charisma. Geez Jack, did your ego replace the need for research? Federal big league politics is a hardball game. You can't compete playing slo-pitch.

Elizabeth Green: Winner of the Barbara Hall Award for annoying whining. Don't go away, go far, far away.

Dalton McGuinty: Get the *#?:: out of politics. It's one thing to fib to the people but to outright misrepresent your policies going in is unforgivable. Your handling of the eHealth

and lottery scandals proves you don't have the managerial skills to organize a two car funeral. Your finance minister just announced a 1% tax cut on the first \$37,000 of income. Big wow. That should cover the extra 8% on gas purchases for July 2010. McGuinty's et al irresponsible taxation policies might tip the Ontario economy into a recession that will take other governments years to correct.

Tim Hudak: We all realize that political parties tend to keep their platforms close to the vest until the election is called lest other parties “borrow” their good ideas and attack the questionable ones. These days though it's suggested Tim baby that you start outlining what/how you would govern differently. It's not enough to be negative, you have to show how you would be different and effective. The last thing we need is another whining politician.

Andrea Horwath: Ms. Horwath has shown more chutzpah since taking over last March and is proving to be a thoughtful leader and smart politician. Unfortunately, she still carries the weight of the Bob Rae debacle around her neck. If this woman was leader of one of the two mainstream parties she could probably be Premier. The mainstream doesn't trust the N.D.P. Ed Broadbent in a skirt.

Twitter Twits: While not political, most politicians seem enamoured with this latest fad. Does anyone really care what any of the above think on a minute by minute basis? Besides being a total waste of time, can anyone explain why the mundane seems so fascinating? Twits should get a life.

New year, same cast. Happy New Year - - - bah!!