

GRAPEVINE



Breakfast for Haiti

Proceeds from a fundraising breakfast on Saturday at St. Alban's Anglican Church are earmarked for Haitian relief efforts. The breakfast, organized with the help of Church parishioner Cindy Blades, St. Alban's rep on the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, and members of Beta Sigma Phi, runs from 8 to 11 a.m.

Tickets for the Breakfast of Hope and Relief for Haiti are available by calling the church at 519-853-2711 or Cindy at 519-853-0133.

Dance party

Kids aged seven to 14 can boogie at a video dance party tomorrow (Friday) night at the Acton Town Hall Centre from 7 to 10 p.m.

The adult chaperoned event features two screens – content of the music and video is edited for age – along with a light show, contests and prizes. Tickets are available at the door or online at videodanceparty.ca

Family Day fun

Making plans for Family Day on February 15? The Town's Recreation and Parks department has a fun schedule of events scheduled at the Acton arena/community centre including family zumba (a Latin-based cardio dance class) from 1 to 2 p.m., face painting from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and crafts and games from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

At the Acton pool there's a leisure swim from 1 to 2:30 p.m., and a family swim from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thanks to the Royal Bank, skating is free at the Acton arena from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Family drop-in

Families with kids aged birth to six are invited to a free, informal Family Day program on Saturday at the band hall on Wallace Street. From 9 to 11 a.m. there will be family activities including art projects, sensory play, active play and storytime. For details call Jennifer at 905-873-2960.

Spring is coming

While faced with drifting and frozen ground, it's not too soon to think about gardening, and the Acton Horticultural Society can help. All gardeners and aspiring green thumbs are invited to the Society's next meeting on February 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church. For details call Ruth at 519-853-0009.

Literacy help

Do you have three hours a week to spare to help someone with his or her basic literacy skills? Literacy North Halton (LNH) is looking for volunteers

to train to help people with basic reading, writing and math.

LNH also has tuition-free college prep classes in English, math and biology. The part-time classes are held Monday to Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. in Georgetown. Call 905-873-2200 for more information.

Green competition

Halton students who hope to help the environment are invited to earn tuition money by submitting an entry in the annual Regional Chair's Environmental Awards – an honour that aims to inspire youth by promoting leadership and celebrating environmental initiatives.

Sponsored by Bell Canada and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the awards are presented for Environmental Excellence – \$500 to the winner's school – and for Environmental Scholarship – \$1,000 for post-secondary environmental education.

Complete award entry details, including an application form, are available at www.halton.ca.

Restaurant request

Local restaurants are being asked to donate a portion of their Valentine's Day proceeds to SAVIS - the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton, formerly known as the Halton Rape Crises Centre.

While SAVIS gets 75 per cent of its funding from the province, it needs help to provide services to youth, men, seniors and marginalized women.

The third-party fundraiser is dubbed "Dining to Make A Difference; Have a Heart this Valentine's Day and Support SAVIS of Halton."

Canadian pride

Congrats to Acton's Danielle Cooper who, along with her Orangeville Tigers girl's hockey team, captured first place at a recent hockey tournament in California.

The Tigers won three of their five games and tied two to make it to the finals, a "pretty exciting" experience Cooper said.

"Maybe it was Canadian pride, but we played better than we have all season," Cooper said, adding that they had several decisive wins after going into the tourney as the perceived underdogs.

The Tigers defeated a team from Vancouver for the championship. and Cooper, a 16-year-old Grade 12 student at Christ the King high school in Georgetown, had a point in every game.



BEHIND THE SCENES: It was a busy morning for the Kinette Club and T.O.P.S. on Sunday morning as they co-hosted the Community Brunch at the Acton arena/community centre. Some of the cooks included, from left: Fern Jory, Rose Luoma, and Marie Gamble. - Nancy McLelland photo

Sharing a few memories

I first met Harley Coles over 20 years ago through St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus where we were both members. I remember thinking, here was a quiet fellow, very dignified, a consummate gentleman. He seemed to take an interest in everything that was going on around him, but preferred to stay on the edges of discussions, seldom preferring an opinion. My first reaction was that he must have been shy.

In those early years, I would see him at Church and various social functions. Gradually, I learned that he was in the newspaper business and others told me he was very good at what he did. Once he retired from the Metroland Publishing Group it wasn't long before he was back in harness.

Hartley was a much sought after consultant to several small newspapers in Southern Ontario. To this day, I'm not certain exactly what he did for these businesses. When asked he would only say he was "helping out" in various areas of the business. I wish now I had probed a bit more.

Hartley was a curious man. By that I mean he was curious about the world around him and especially about other people. He was also a great listener. Those traits helped make him a successful newspaperman. For someone in the public eye it also made him somewhat unique. Many people with a high public profile, which he surely had, tend to be more "type A" personalities. Perhaps it was his years spent as a journalist that caused him to hone this particular skill. The art of listening is a skill, something to be practiced and learned. Hartley was a master listener.

I got to see the professional side of the man when he began

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



to "help out" when the Acton Tanner was in its infancy. He would pay particular attention to the editorial content of the paper and gave much needed advice to its founding publisher. Almost immediately the contents of the paper began to improve. It wasn't until several years later, when I began to work more closely with Hartley, that I realized – it was his touch, his way with words that had made the improvements to the original product.

Hartley was the consummate journalist. Never one to use sharp words with me, he was quick to point out if he thought I was dancing too close to the ethical line. Hartley, for instance, never really approved of columns I have written in the past endorsing Federal or Provincial candidates.

His opinion was that a newspaper should present all sides of the issue(s) fairly and dispassionately. The voters should then be left to consider their options and cast their votes for the person they thought most accurately represented their view. But then, he would say that mine was an opinion column, not news. That seemed to satisfy his need to stay true to his ethical considerations while allowing me free rein to express my views.

But, in the interests of fairness he would not let me publish anything partisan unless dissenters had an opportunity to rebut my opinions. He would always stipulate that my opin-

ion column had to appear at least one publishing week before any vote, preferably a week and a half. I never could come up with any logical reason to refute his prohibition. Believe me, I tried.

Will Rogers Jr. is credited with the saying "I never met a man I didn't like." In all the years I've known him, I've never heard Hartley say anything derogatory about any other person. If we were talking about someone I was sure he dislike the most he would do was set his jaw in a determined way and shake his head. If he was really angry he would heave a huge sigh. A series of sighs was tantamount to an Irish curse.

I don't want to claim that Hartley and I were close personal friends. Besides the generational differences, we had different social interest. Hartley and his wife enjoyed travelling with friends ever since I've known him. An itinerary of the trips they took would make a travel agent drool. They had a great time judging by the few pictures I saw. He will be greatly missed – by his family and, his travelling friends as well. Hartley was always excited as a kid when one of his trips was pending.

Hartley was a dedicated family man. He maintained close ties to his children, grandchildren, and great grandchild. When my youngest daughter graduated high school Hartley was there taking pictures of his grandson, the gang of kids and the stretch limo they had hired to go to the prom. He was beaming with pride as he showed them to me. He was a kid himself at heart.

When I think of Hartley I'll remember his love of family, loyalty to friends, joy of living everyday and his wonderful smile.

Fond memories indeed.