

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

## 'Society's glue'

**"Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."**

*Anonymous*

Volunteers - people with no agenda except to help the community - were out in full force in Acton this past weekend.

Saturday morning, it was the Scouts/Guides and Cadets - and their parents and leaders - who canvassed Acton, collecting much needed food to help fill the empty shelves at FoodShare.

Saturday afternoon, it was a Canadian Cancer Society volunteer going door-to-door to raise money to help fund research towards finding a cure for cancer.

Early Sunday morning, the knock at the door was Acton High School students doing a bottle drive to raise money for this year's prom.

These are just three examples of volunteers - aptly called the "glue that holds society together" - who willingly gave up their time and talents to help others.

Too often these volunteers don't get the public praise that they deserve (most don't want it, but are happy to work quietly behind the scenes). But, they will be honoured next week during National Volunteer Week.

Locally, it is a time to honour the one in three residents of Halton Hills who are formally volunteering with essential community services including health care, heritage and arts, conservation, recreation, mentoring, volunteer firefighting and minor sports, to name a few.

On April 19, Halton will hold a Volunteers Recognition Breakfast at the Regional HQ. Among the recipients of the 2010 Community Volunteer Awards is Felice Butterfield, a parent at Limehouse Public School who runs the Healthy Snack Program. Another Limehouse School parent volunteer, Angela Pohl, who also helps with the Snack Program, is one of the 2010 Cheers for Volunteers Awards recipients for her work with the school's Healthy Snack Program.

On April 21, some 200 people who help with a myriad of social programs offered by Links2Care will be feted at a Volunteer Appreciation event at the Ballinafad Community Centre. Without their help, many of these programs would not be successful in delivering the programs and help needed.

On April 30, Acton's citizen of the Year, Ivan Kilby, will be honoured for his quarter-century of volunteering as a Canadian Cancer Society volunteer. Like most volunteers, Kilby was embarrassed by the recognition and felt that someone else deserved it more.

What is the value of volunteering? Here are some suggestions:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." *Margaret Mead*

"Service to others is the payment you make for your space here on earth." *Mohammed Ali*

"Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare." *Japanese Proverb*

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." *Winston Churchill*



**ROTARY SUPPORTS SOCCER:** The Rotary Club of Acton recently presented a \$500 cheque to the Acton Villa Soccer Club. Rotarian Robert Bedard, the in-coming president, presented the cheque to club registrar Tania Spill. - Submitted photo

## On the road to reduced fuel use

By David Suzuki  
with Faisal Moola

Cars and trucks are among the biggest contributors to the heat-trapping emissions that cause global warming. About 12 per cent of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions come from private automobiles, and up to a quarter come from road transportation in general. That makes driving a good place to start in confronting one of the most serious challenges humans face.

Canada and the U.S. just announced plans to enact fuel-efficiency standards for new cars and light trucks manufactured in the two countries. Canada is expected to match the U.S. standards, which will require all cars and trucks built by a company to get an average of about 35 miles per gallon, or six litres per 100 kilometres, by 2016. Canada's government estimates that will lead to a 25 per cent reduction in vehicle emissions in 2016 compared to 2008. The government's next step should be to require more zero-emission vehicles powered by clean-energy sources.

The best way to reduce fuel consumption is to get out of your car. Walking, cycling, or using public transit mean fewer cars spewing emissions and less gridlock, which

**Science Matters**  
By David Suzuki



causes pollution as cars waste fuel while idling.

Getting out of the car isn't always possible, though, especially in rural areas not served by public transit, where travel distances and weather often make walking and cycling impractical. Designing communities around people instead of cars by investing more in public transit and less on roads and freeways is important in the long term, but for now drivers can reduce their current gas consumption by as much as 20 per cent with a few eco-driving tips

As with the new government fuel standards, adopting better driving habits demonstrates that doing what's right for the environment also makes good economic sense. Beyond saving money on gas, drivers can reduce wear on their cars, saving on maintenance and car-replacement costs.

One of the first things you can do is make your transportation more efficient through planning. Instead of making separate trips to get to work and the store, combine the journeys. Joining a car pool is also a great idea.

Keeping your vehicle properly maintained, with regular tune-ups, including air-filter and oil changes, and tires in good shape and properly inflated will allow you to go further on less gas.

Driving habits also help. Avoiding rush hour and driving defensively can help ensure that the fuel you burn will get you to your destination more quickly and efficiently. Shutting off the engine if your car is stopped for more than a minute makes sense too. Slowing down also helps. Going over the speed limit won't get you to your destination much faster, but it will burn more fuel.

As fossil fuels become scarce, and as our knowledge of the impacts of pollution and global warming increases, the benefits of doing all we can to use less gas just keep adding up. For the new fuel standards, savings at the gas pump will even offset the higher costs of the new fuel-efficient vehicles. The new standards will also lead to more jobs, as new technologies are developed.

We have a long way to go in resolving the issues around our love affair with the car and environmental destruction, but at least we're getting started.

Learn more at [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org).



**THE NEW TANNER**  
PUBLISHING LTD.

373 Queen Street East, Unit 1  
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2  
email: [thenewtanner@on.aibn.com](mailto:thenewtanner@on.aibn.com)

(519) 853-0051 Fax: (519) 853-0052

**Publisher**  
Ted Tyler

**Editor**  
Frances Niblock

**Editorial Contributors**  
Mike O'Leary Angela Tyler Denise Paulsen

**Advertising and Circulation**  
Marie Shadbolt

**Composing** Ken Baker

Distributed to every home in Acton and area,  
as well as adjoining communities.

Every effort will be made to see advertising copy, neatly presented, is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur provided a claim is made within five days of publication.

All articles, advertisements and graphic artwork appearing in The New Tanner is copyrighted. Any usage, reproduction or publication of these items, in whole or in part, without the express written consent of the publisher of The New Tanner is a copyright infringement and subject to legal action.