

# GRAPEVINE



## Hole-in-one

Congrats to Acton's Susan Hewitt who had a hole-in-one on the ninth hole on the Trillium course during Monday's Paul Murr Golf Tournament at Blue Springs.

"It was an absolute fluke. I played my usual sh...y game up until the final hole, and I used my five iron and had a nice hit that dropped and then rolled and rolled into the hole," Hewitt said, adding she is an absolute novice golfer who plays for fun.

It was the first ever hole-in-one during the tournament that has run for 26 years raising money for cancer research and patient services.

Hewitt was rewarded with \$100 from tourney organizers.

## European Holiday

There will be singing, yodeling, authentic European music and interactive entertaining at Trinity United Church tomorrow (Friday) when Deb Misener-Jones presents European Holiday.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30. Tickets are available by calling the church at 519-853-2090 or Arlene, 519-853-1267.

## Calling all green thumbs

Want to build a wall in your garden? Check out the next Acton Horticultural Society meeting on Tuesday when Matthew Ring will offer advice and information on "Dry Stone Walling."

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., at Knox Presbyterian Church on Main Street North. For details, call Ruth at 519-853-0009.

## Banner stolen

The 150th anniversary celebration at Robert Little School ended on a down note – someone stole the brand new banner the school had purchased to publicize the event.

The banner, valued at \$600, was carefully tied to the fencing near the Mill Street railroad tracks, and was gone when officials went to take it down. The banner featured removable letters and graphics that the school had planned to use for future events.

## Water Festival

Registration is now open for

the fifth annual Halton Children's Water Festival, co-hosted by Conservation Halton and Halton Region this fall.

The festival is designed to educate children about one of the world's most precious resources – water – and is held at the Kelso Conservation Area in Milton where students will learn about water in a fun and interactive way while covering Ontario curriculum requirements.

For details visit [www.hcwf.ca](http://www.hcwf.ca)

## Ticket sellers needed

The Georgetown Hospital Volunteer Association needs people to man an Acton ticket booth to sell ride vouchers to the Halton Hills Fireworks Festival – formerly Bang-O-Rama on the long-weekend in Georgetown.

Volunteers are needed for a booth that will be set up at the Acton Sobeys store on May 18 and 20. If you can help, call Ruth at 905-877-5305.

## CF BBQ

Proceeds from a barbecue on Saturday (May 15) in the parking lot of Prosperity One are earmarked for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The barbecue, sponsored by the Kinette Club of Acton, runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Acton Art

The artwork of 16 Acton District High School students is on display, along with hundreds of pieces of art from Halton secondary students, until tomorrow (Friday) at the fifth annual Secondary Art Show in Burlington.

The artwork, created by Grade 9 to 12 students, includes painting, pencil crayon, sketching, sculpture, photography and mixed media.

## Poetry Café

Poetry work of Grade seven students at McKenzie-Smith Bennett will be showcased today (Thursday) as the school celebrates with a Literacy and Numeracy Fair. For the third year in a row, students will share their poetry work on stage in front of their peers and visiting parents.

During the evening, visitors are invited to see an exhibit of stories, poems and poster board displays of students of all grades.



**TRILLIUM TREATS:** While hiking in the Limehouse area recently, members of the Acton Seniors Hiking Group were pleased to see that the Trilliums were in full bloom. – Eileen Dix photo

## Brace yourself, here comes the H.S.T.

The general population in Ontario does not appear to be angry about the McGuinty government's most recent tax grab, namely the H.S.T. Perhaps we're all too busy, but in less than two months I predict the howls of outrage will reverberate throughout the province. We've already had a taste of things to come as H.S.T. started being charged on some goods and services beginning May 1.

Perhaps the dozing population didn't believe the Premier when he announced this scheme. Let's face it, our Dalton doesn't have the best record when it comes to being truthful with us peons. He came in promising no new taxes. We've seen what came of that. He simply changed the name from tax to fee and carried on.

As much as it pains me to write this we have the Ontario N.D.P., and their newish leader Andrea Horvath in particular, to thank for finally uncovering just how much this new tax will cost the average person/family. The "average" family will pay an additional \$792 every year in additional new taxes starting July 1 this year, and, it will cost you more and more every year after that.

McGuinty first tried to con us by saying the new tax would be revenue neutral. I knew that was a lie because lyin' Brian Muldoon tried that with the G.S.T. We all know how that turned out.

His next strategy was to say that he, in his generosity, would send us all a cheque to offset some of the increases you will experience in, for instance, heating your home and putting gas in the family car. This will hit us all hard here because many of us commute to work.

## The Way I See It

with  
Mike O'Leary



The money for this rebate comes primarily from the federal government. The federal government gets its money from us. So Dalton's scheme takes one dollar out of your right pocket and sends sixty cents (after government expenses) to your left. Thanks a bunch Dalton. Quit doing us favours, we can't afford them.

At first I thought there might be some tax savings in staff costs if the G.S.T. & P.S.T were combined. Seemed reasonable, federal G.S.T. collectors would simply have to charge 13 percent instead of five percent. All the business numbers and other identifiers already exist. Silly me!

We now know how many government employees it takes to make a simple change in calculations. Hundreds! Not only is the federal government hiring all the P.S.T. collectors, the province, in its largesse, is paying them millions in severance even though they're not losing their jobs, just changing employers... sort of. They're still supposed to be working for us, (Insert guffaw here), and by the way, these poor displaced collectors will be getting a raise to bring them up to their federal cousins.

Last week Dalton tried to play the guilt card. He pontificated that previous generations tightened their belts and paid their fair share of taxes when asked. I missed some of what he said be-

cause I almost drove off the road while listening and was pre-occupied with trying to steer my car out of the ditch.

Let's get something straight. I can remember my parents, who lived through the war, bitching and complaining about post war governments and their insatiable appetite for growth. My dad especially, and he was a blue collar worker, constantly asked rhetorically, "What the hell are they sticking their noses in that situation for?"

My grandparents lived through the great depression. They didn't look to the government to solve all their problems. Yes, they lived through tough times, but the governments of their day provided only the basic necessities.

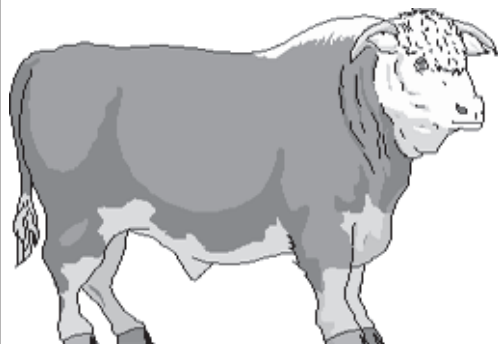
I don't remember asking the provincial government to blow over a billion dollars on eHealth. Did you? Why did they do that when there was an off the shelf computer program already developed by a university down the road? Because they can – and none of us raise a hue and cry or complain. I won't even bring up the mess with the Ontario Lottery Corp.

I suggest you look up the changes to the H.S.T. The list runs eight pages and will affect most areas of your life. It's available at the Canada Revenue Agency website [www.cra.gc.ca/harmonization](http://www.cra.gc.ca/harmonization) or call 1-800-959-5525.

Can this tax grab be stopped? It's doubtful, but possible. I suggest you take your revenge at the ballot box in 2011. After the G.S.T. went through the federal Conservatives went from a majority to two elected members.

That's a reasonable target – for us.

## What's Your Beef?



Put it in a  
letter to  
the Editor!  
Deadline is  
Tuesday at noon.