

GRAPEVINE



Camp Day

Fourteen thousand kids will experience the fun and friendships of camp this summer, thanks to the generosity of customers and Tim Hortons restaurants who helped raise thousands of dollars during yesterday's (Wednesday) Camp Day.

The annual event, when all proceeds from coffee sales, special events and donations go to the Tim Hortons Foundation, means needy kids will be able to attend – for free – one of the six Tim Hortons camps this summer.

Where's the beef?

Beef on a bun, baked beans and desserts are on the menu for the annual Limehouse Presbyterian Church beef dinner on June 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. Proceeds will be used for church programs and maintenance. For tickets call Pam at 519-853-0347.

Literacy thanks

The achievements of Literacy North Halton students and the hard work of its volunteers will be celebrated on June 22 at the annual volunteer recognition and annual general meeting at the Maple Baptist Church in Georgetown.

Literacy North Halton offers free instruction to people needing help with reading, writing, math and basic computer skills. The event runs from 7 to 9 p.m.

Achievement awards

Students who picked up their socks, helped without being asked and made Acton High School a nicer place will be honoured at an Achievement Breakfast tomorrow (Friday) at the school.

Although the sports teams and ace students are usually the ones to receive recognition, this event allows teachers and staff to say a public thanks to students who are good citizens, peer helpers and hard workers.

ALS Walk

Family and friends of the late Don Lindsay of Acton – the so-called "Poppa's Posse" – will be raising fund by taking part in the second annual ALS Walk on Saturday. It begins and ends at the Gellert Centre in Georgetown South.

Registration opens at 9:30 a.m., and the walk begins at 11 a.m. to raise money for and awareness of ALS, a progressive neuromuscular disease.

Lindsay, a former Acton business owner and member of the 519 barbershop group, died from the disease in March of 2009. Last year, organizers were overwhelmed with the response when between 1,500 and 2,000

people turned out – they were expecting 800 at the most – and raised \$230,000, the most of any ALS walk in Canada.

Trinity sale

You can buy plants to spruce up your yard, get your car cleaned and shop for good deals on Saturday as Trinity United Church stages a yard and plant sale and car wash from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stress buster

Need help dealing with daily stress? Emotions Anonymous (EA) can help with a free 12-stage program that runs Sundays at 7:30 p.m., at 39 John Street, beside St. Joseph Church parking lot.

For information call Robert or Donna at 519-853-2972.

Boomerangs booked

The Boomerangs – a local band that plays music from the 50s and 60s – will take the stage on June 26 at the Acton Legion for the third annual Bommerang dance to raise money for the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The event includes a silent auction, door prizes and a buffet. Tickets are available at Links-2Care on Mill Street, RBC, and Giant Tiger or by calling 519-853-1424.

Kiln celebration

The Limehouse Kiln Society will proudly show off some of its recent achievements on June 26 at the partially restored kilns in the village. New signage has been erected telling the story of the kilns, enhancements have been made to the trails and you can see what progress has been made on a draw kiln.

The event, centred at the Limehouse Memorial Hall, runs from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parking is available at Limehouse Public School and along 22 Side Road.

Calling all dads

Acton area dads, grandfathers and uncles are invited to a special Father's Day storytime at the Acton Branch of the library on June 16 at 6:30 p.m. There will be stories, songs, and crafts to celebrate Father's Day. You can register in person at the branch or by calling 519-853-0301.

Typhoon inspection

Uniforms will be pressed and shoes shined for Sunday's 26th annual inspection and ceremonial review of the 197 Royal Canadian Air Cadets Typhoon Squadron at the Acton Legion.

Cadets will demonstrate their marching skills and the Cadet Band will play as proud parents and guests help the Cadets celebrate another year. There will be a barbecue following the ceremonies.



BRUNCH CLUB: The Kinette Club of Acton's monthly community brunch partnered with the Acton Seniors Centre on Sunday morning. Cooking up a storm were Seniors Centre members Julie Conroy, Sylvia Mitchell and Marj Lane. – Denise Paulsen photo

Enough to drive you to drink

The Canadian economy is firing on all cylinders. After the first quarter we are growing at double the rate of our U.S. neighbours. That's the good news. Inflation is up 1.8 per cent in April, due mostly to the increase in gasoline prices. Those greedy little blue-eyed Arabs in Alberta, and I suppose now Newfoundland, have to lock in their profits before July 1 and gasoline prices go through the roof.

Now the Bank of Canada is talking about raising interest rates to slow the pace of inflation. Here's a better idea; tell the government to get off their duffs and do something, anything, about stabilizing gasoline prices. That would negate the need for an interest rate jump because inflation would level out or fall.

The Governor of the Bank of Canada is considering a rate increase, which will affect your bank interest rate and mortgage, because runaway inflation would be disastrous for Canada right now. As soon as you hear some senior government official or bureaucrat is going to take action to help you or the country, grab your wallet and lock up the sheep.

My point is simple. Since the feds know what is causing the inflation; namely, energy prices, why not attack the cause of the problem instead of us? Obviously, we're an easier target. One of these days, friends, I hope we're going to wake-up from our lethargy and punish those responsible at the polls. I hope I live that long.

By now most everyone has the message that drinking and driving is illegal and socially unacceptable. Yes, yes, I know

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



there are still idiots who persist. I said "most everyone." Other than during Christmas and New Year's the next most popular period for spot checks is during summer long weekends. Announcements are on the radio and in newspapers for days before telling us the police will be out in force.

It came as no surprise then that I was pulled over on the Friday of the May two-four weekend. What was a surprise was where it happened. I had just exited the 401 near Trenton came around a blind corner and nearly ran into a stopped car. Luckily, I was going slow enough to stop without locking the wheels.

This is an exit I am very familiar with, perhaps too familiar. There are seldom more than two or three cars at a time that use it. That's one reason the line of cars surprised me. The other is that in the 42 years, I've taken that exit this is the first time I've seen a spot check there. In fact, my first reaction was that there must have been a terrible accident at the corner.

As we crept forward it became obvious that other drivers were just as surprised and I started to become concerned that someone might plough into me. As I watched in the rear view mirrors, the line behind me stretched out until it was backed up onto the 401.

Nice guy that I am, after answering the usual questions, I mentioned to the officer (OPP)

that traffic was now backed up onto the 401 and a very dangerous situation was developing. The exit, you see, is halfway down a hill after making a blind right turn. I didn't bother explaining that last part to the officer.

He didn't thank me for the concern for my fellow motorists, didn't bother to turn his head to see what was developing with following traffic, just gave me a dirty look and said, "move on" which is exactly what I did.

There is no doubt that being a police officer is often a dangerous and thankless job. I don't know, perhaps this guy was angry because he'd been standing there for hours and hadn't caught anyone. Possibly he was silently cursing his boss who had assigned him to this dry hole. He was waving the truckers through, so maybe he has a thing against cottagers and/or tourists.

I could understand the tourist thing. Prince Edward County is lousy with them, all driving 50 km/hr while rubber necking the sights. I'm behind screaming "Whassamatter Claude, never seen a barn before?" but I digress.

My point is that instead of a curt "move on," smile and a "thank you" would have accomplished the same thing and I would have left without a bad taste in my mouth.

At least I didn't do my smart mouth act. Usually, when I'm stopped and the cop asks "Had anything to drink today?" I answer "No sir/ma'am I'm driving, but if you're offering, I'll gladly take a few with me. That's very kind, thank you."

He probably would have put six in my chest!