

GRAPEVINE



Goodbye Majors

Members of the Acton Salvation Army Corps said goodbye to Majors Dean and Margaret Locke on Friday at a reception in their honour. The Lockes, in Acton for five years, have been transferred to a Corps in Picton – Major Locke delivered his last sermon on Sunday.

The Lockes said one of their main accomplishments in Acton was to move and expand the Thrift Store. Locke also said he enjoyed the fellowship of the Acton Ministerial Association that made working in Acton all the more enriching.

The Lockes are trading places with Majors Sam and Shirley Roberts, who currently are based in Picton.

Unsafe swimming

For the second week in a row, high bacteria levels forced Halton to close the Old Beach at Prospect Park. Five water samples taken last Monday contained too much E.coli that can cause intestinal and respiratory infections.

Last year, the Old Beach was only closed for two seven-day periods because of contamination. In 2008 it closed six times – for almost half the swimming season – for a total of 42 days.

The Old Beach is one of seven recreational water areas tested weekly by Halton. Beach water quality information is available by calling 311, or 1-866-442-5866.

Fire hazard

The Maytag repairman just got busy. Maytag is recalling seven dishwasher models because of a serious fire risk due to a potential electrical failure in the heating element that has started 12 fires to date, one which did extensive damage to a kitchen.

If you have a Maytag, Amana, Jenn-Air, Admiral, Magic Chef, Performa or Crosely – stop using it, and call 1-800-544-5513 or www.repair.maytag.com to verify if your dishwasher, bought between February 2006 and April 2010, is included in the recall.

MS pedal power

Like any good summer guests, reps of the Multiple Sclerosis Society gave Acton business owners, lots of advance notice of a planned August visit to Acton, and back.

At a MS-hosted breakfast at Roxy Coffee yesterday (Wednesday) officials announced that Prospect Park would be the start/finish of the RONAMS Bike Tour, slated for August 14 and 15.

Earlier, MS spokesperson Laura Franklin said, “600 cyclists will descend” on Acton for the tour to Waterloo and back, and she welcomes getting local merchants and groups involved so they can enjoy and benefit from the tour, expected to raise \$370,000 in pledges and donations.

Spish splash

The Town’s new half-million dollar Superior Glove splash pad facility in Prospect Park will officially open on Monday, July 19. The state-of-the-art water park facility will replace the wading pool.

Fade to black

There are some great deals for movies and games at Acton’s Movie Gallery, which began selling all of its stock at a discount on Saturday – part of liquidation sales at 131 stores across Canada, 29 of them in Ontario.

Movie Gallery officials blame strong competition from cable providers, Internet, kiosk operators and subscription-based mail delivery services for the decline in at-home video rentals. All of the stores will be closed within six weeks. No word from company officials what happens to the existing staff.

With the planned July 31 closure of Acton’s only other video rental store – Video 99 – in mid-July when the lease is up, Acton residents will only be able to rent movies and games at several local variety stores.

Santa’s elves never sleep

Organizers of the annual Acton Santa Claus parade want you to mark Saturday, November 20 on your calendar so you don’t miss the 26th edition of the parade, sponsored by the Acton Firefighters Association.

Head elf, Bill Spielvogel, said letters have already been sent to several anonymous companies that make donations each year to the parade, and shortly he will be lining up the bands that help make the parade a success. The theme this year is “A Comic Book Christmas.”

Youth Clinic

Acton area youths applying for their first social insurance card can use a Service Canada mobile outreach program on July 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Acton Hub at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School. A lack of space forced Service Canada out of its weekly location at Links2Care on Mill Street, but services are still available with the outreach programming.

On July 12, Service Canada will be back in Acton offering a youth clinic to provide job search help and resume critiques, along with first time only social insurance card processing. At that clinic, which runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the wheelchair accessible Christian Reformed Church, staff will also hold a Canada Pension Plan/Old Age Security clinic to help people who want to apply for those benefits.

Skateboard anniversary

The Town will mark the third anniversary of the opening of the Three Musketeers Skatepark on Monday, June 21 with a party at the facility.

Local politicians, members of the ASAP (Acton Sports Action Park) committee and members of the Three Musketeers group will be on hand as a DJ, give-aways and a scavenger-type event are held.

The event is funded by a donation from the Three Musketeers golf tournament, an annual event in the name of three Acton teens that died in a train/car accident. Golf tournament organizers donated \$30,000 to help get the skate park built.



FEATHERED FRIENDS: Acton’s Arianna McGill, 2, ate a lot of the bread meant for four ducks that have taken up residence on the front lawns on Danville Avenue for the past month.

– Frances Niblock photo

Taxation or simply robbery?

So, I received my first, of two, H.S.T. rebates (A.K.A Dalton’s bribe) last week. A hundred bucks, Wahoo!!! A case of beer and four tanks of gas should pretty well take care of that after July 01, when the H.S.T. kicks in. After that’s gone we’re on our own to figure out how to pay for little things like heating our houses and keeping the lights on next winter.

A number of people have been wondering why Dalton (No new taxes) McBandit chose July 1st as the date to institute this massive tax grab. At first blush, it seemed like a cruel Canada Day joke. It occurs to me though that he chose Canada Day because we aren’t heating our homes and the longer days mean less electricity consumption for lighting.

It’s amazing that people in Ontario have still not reacted like the people in B.C. have. On the west coast there have been large public protests and it looks like the current government will fall in the next election. Here in Ontario it’s ho-hum, what can you do? Governments will do what they want anyway. Friends, it’s attitudes like this, that plant the seeds of dictatorship.

In Canada, the definition of dictatorship is a political party elected with a majority. Once in power, they can ram through any legislation they choose unless they offend the sensibilities of backbenchers. Witness Mulroney and the G.S.T., which was opposed by almost 90 per cent of the general public. Now Dalton and his dummies are making a bad situation worse with the H.S.T.

I for one am outraged at the intense advertising blitz being conducted this month. The only good thing about it is that if they

The Way I See It

with
Mike O’Leary



ran it next month, it would cost us 8 percent more. My particular beef is with the waiter who aspires to be an actor/waiter in Hollywood. No wonder. There’s no H.S.T. in California. I’d move there too if the government gave me enough money to drive my V.W. Bus down there.

The woman who brags about her kid and sweet tooth that only Gummy Bears can satisfy also irritates me. She’s on the radio so often her residuals will keep her in Gummy Bears until she weighs 350 pounds. Either that or she and her fictional rug rat will have to live on stinking Gummy Bears when next winter rolls around.

The thing I resent most is that Dalton and his doofuses assume the rest of us are naïve enough to believe this garbage. A few hundred dollars will not offset the effects of the H.S.T. To those who believe that business will reduce prices voluntarily, I have one question. What colour is the sky in your world? Business has gone through several difficult years. I’m not looking for any big deals coming our way.

I only hope that people will remember the arrogant attitude of the McGuinty government when the provincial election is held next year, as well as the eHealth blown billion, the mess at the lottery corporation, bureaucrat’s expenses, the \$250-million for P.S.T. auditors who did not lose their jobs and on and on.

The federal Tories are partners in this theft. They may not be holding the gun on us but they have the getaway car idling at the curb. The feds have been lobbying the provinces to combine the G.S.T. and provincial P.S.T. for years. The G.S.T. now is one of the primary sources of revenue for the feds. With the huge federal deficit no wonder Finance Minister Flaherty is misty eyed with anticipation.

My hope is that the people of Ontario exact their revenge on the McGuinty government next year the same as Canadians did on the Mulroney conservatives. Take them from a majority to two seats.

I suspect that if McGuinty sees a sustained anger in people as the election draws near, he’ll pull a Mulroney and quit. It didn’t save the federal Tories but Lyin Brian managed to save face and let poor Kim Campbell suffer the humiliation.

Don’t expect a Hudack government to dismantle the H.S.T. if elected next year. A conservative government will realize what a cash cow the H.S.T. will be and they will inherit a large deficit. Remember Chretien promised at one time to revoke the G.S.T. in his first term. I’m afraid that after July 2 this year we’ll be stuck with the H.S.T. forever.

Probably the best we can hope for is that a provincial conservative government will reduce the H.S.T. rate and cut taxes through other methods. We all know we have to pay taxes. No tax is popular. We simply expect government to spend our money wisely and not extort it from us.

McGuinty has gone too far this time.