

GRAPEVINE



Unsafe swimming

High bacteria levels forced Halton officials to post the Old Beach in Prospect Park as unsafe for swimming last week. Since the weekly testing began of the beginning of June, the Old Beach has only been suitable for swimming or water play for one week.

To find out if a beach is safe for swimming, call the beach water quality hotline at 311 or 1-866-442-5866.

Sing and Spell

Polka Dot Door TV show performer Cindy Cook will bring puppets, songs, games, riddles and dancing to her Sing and Spell show at the Acton library at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. For more information, visit www.hhpl.on.ca or call 519-853-0301.

Quick thinking

The quick reflexes of the driver of the car carrying the mayor and his wife in the Canada Day parade in Glen Williams averted a potential accident.

The driver of the vintage convertible threw it into park when the brakes suddenly failed and the car came perilously close to one of the horses marching in front of it during the parade. Although the jolting stop startled Mayor Rick and Josey Bonnette, they managed to stay perched on the back of the car during the sudden stop.

Despite wide advance publicity, there was no grudge baseball game in the Glen between Town councillors and village residents – for years a Canada Day staple.

Seems Canada Day organizers left the scheduled game in the line-up of Canada Day events by mistake – unfortunately disappointing numerous citizens who arrived at the ball diamond early to cheer on their favourites.

Asked about the cancellation, Mayor Rick Bonnette noted that he is the second youngest member of council (Clark Somerville is the youngest) and fielding a Council team is tough with the demographics.

Foster kittens

Proceeds from a garage sale on Saturday at the Limehouse Memorial Hall will benefit the Upper Credit Humane Society's Kitten Foster program.

The sale includes a bake sale and lemonade stand, and runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For details call Frances at 905-877-9162.

Needle Gnome

The handiwork of members of the Guelph Embroidery Guild is on display all this month at the Needle Gnome in Acton. The show includes more than 30 samples of embroidery, including original fibre art, created by Guild members, many who live in the Acton area.

Soccer fans

Most of us can turn down the TV sound to stop the annoying drone from the vuvuzelas as we watch the FIFA soccer tournament in South Africa, but for Mabel Barkman the horn's noise coming over her telephone line was welcome.

The Eden House Care facility resident was thrilled when her grandson James Warren (son of former Robert Little School principal Don Warren) phoned her from South Africa during halftime of the Netherlands and Slovenia game last week.

Barkman, an avid soccer fan who hasn't missed a televised match, said hearing the distinctive sound over the phone was not as annoying as hearing it on the TV. Her grandson is on holiday in South Africa.

T'ai Chi offered

Ever wanted to try the ancient Eastern wellness discipline known as T'ai Chi? Acton fitness trainers Terri Robbins and Jason Fournier will share their expertise at four free T'ai Chi workshops being offered at the Rotary Bandshell in Prospect Park this summer.

Besides the physical benefits of T'ai Chi – which does not involve any bending over or lying down – T'ai chi allows people to relax and "stretch" their brains. Free T'ai Chi in the Park will be offered on July 11 and 25, and August 8 and 22. Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. and the 40-minute sessions begin at 10 a.m.



MSB SAYS "THANKS": McKenzie-Smith Bennett School thanked community members who helped the school in various ways over the past year at a recent ceremony. The awardees included, from left: Frances Niblock (The New Tanner), Samantha Dixon and Lesley Mansfield (Prosperity One Credit Union), Bethel Pastor Ray Vander Kooji, Enzo Bruce (Dufferin Aggregate) Alison Hilborn (Acton Hub) and Ted Brown (Independent and Free Press.). – Kelly Kennedy photo

Cheap people dampen fireworks fun

The Firefighters annual fireworks extravaganza came off without a hitch last week. Congratulations to all involved. Elsewhere in this issue will be more extensive coverage. There are a few points that bear special mention however.

As you are aware, our fire service is a blend of both full-time and part-time firefighters. The annual fireworks display is put on and financed by the Acton Fire Fighters Association and supported by donations from businesses, service groups, their own pockets and they rely heavily on donations from the public who attend the event. There is no tax dollars involved in putting on this great show.

Although the donation is freewill, I must admit to being disappointed in the obvious attitudes of some of the patrons. I was helping out the Firefighters collecting donations at St. Joe's school, along with several other members of the Knights of Columbus. We all had buckets that clearly identified that all donations would go to help defray the cost of the fireworks.

Many of the cars that came in were full of excited children. Most of the drivers were reasonable when they put their donations in the bucket. Some were surprised we were collecting, very few mind you, but when they learned what it was for they understood.

My problem, and it is my problem; the firefighters have no idea I'm writing this, nor do I in any way speak for or represent them, is with the few people who attend and figure a few pennies will defray the cost in any meaningful way. I think the minimum donation for a car

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



full of people and parking close to the event should be \$5. The cost of the fireworks alone this year was around \$15,000. Pennies just don't cut it.

I realize that some people in our town are having a financially difficult time. I also realize, as the father of four, that rug rats are expensive to feed and clothe. But when I see someone driving around in a \$30,000 or \$40,000 car throw a dollar into the pot or dump \$0.75 worth of change, I have to wonder what they're thinking.

I realize there is a merciful small portion of the population that figures everything should be free. "They" (meaning everyone else) will pay for it. Unfortunately, in the real world, all of these things have a cost. The Firefighters donate their time, talent and organization skills. I think the least we can do is support them with a few bucks for one of the best displays in Ontario.

It's not just people from Town who come to enjoy or Canada Day celebrations. Folks from all around and as far away as London, Ontario annually attend. These visitors help our little town's tourist image, which adds to our business community.

We are blessed to have a dedicated group such as our firefighters here in town. In addition to Canada Day fireworks, firefighters also plan and conduct

the Santa Claus Parade and are active in many other worthy causes. All of this, plus they willingly put their lives on the line to rescue you should your house ever catch fire – I don't think an extra few bucks to cover the cost of the fireworks is too much to expect. Do you?

Speaking of fireworks, a few thoughts on the G20 debacle of a few weeks ago. The police were complimented for their restraint the Saturday of the big march. The same day, they were criticized for not being able to protect the stores vandalized. I would remind everyone that was not their mandate.

My brother, who is with Amnesty International, was at the big protest march on Saturday acting as a Marshall. His observation was that many groups who had a legitimate human rights message for the G20 leaders were upstaged by a few hundred vandals.

The press tended to publicize the activities of the hoodlums and ignored the meaningful messages. Then on the Sunday when the police cracked down on protestors, they were criticized for being too tough. Damned if they do, damned if they don't.

The mistake was the federal governments. The meeting should never have been held in Downtown Toronto. Any fool could figure out that mayhem would rule and that, in the end, all symbols of authority would end up getting the brown end of the stick.

I'm just happy it's over. The next G20 is in Korea. Bet the black blockheads don't go there. If they do, bet they don't come back.