

# GRAPEVINE



## No swimming in Acton

For the sixth week this summer, high bacteria levels mean it is not safe to swim or play in the water at the Old Beach in Prospect Park. The most recent of weekly water quality testing found unacceptable levels of bacteria. To find out which beaches are open or closed, call the beach hotline at 1-866-442-5866.

## Water safety

With the recent spate of tragic drownings in Ontario, and to mark National Drowning Prevention Week from July 19 to July 25, a Lifejacket Clinic is scheduled as part of the ceremonies at the grand opening of the new Acton Splash Pad.

The safety clinic – co-sponsored by the Lifesaving Society and Georgetown Canadian Tire – will run from 2:30-5 p.m. on July 19. The clinic will focus on how to fit a lifejacket, why it should be worn and where to buy one to help prevent drownings.

## Movie night

Bring a comfortable lawn chair and bug spray to fully enjoy a free movie in Prospect Park on Saturday night. The movie Avatar will be played on a 40-foot screen.

Items of non-perishable food will be gladly accepted at the free screening offered by Party Cinemas as a fundraiser for Acton's FoodShare food bank. The movie begins at dusk.

## Yoga workshops

The first Yoga in the Park session last Thursday was a huge hit – despite the sweltering heat. Fifty-eight people showed up for the first of the seven-week workshops and they donated \$352 and pet food items for the Upper Credit Humane Society.

Staying Alive Fitness owner Leanne Monaghan was thrilled with the crowd – the largest ever – and with the mix of people, including four in their 80s that were on hand for the “restorative, slow, quiet yoga.” The only draw back was the huge amount of goose droppings that spoiled the grass and made it difficult for people to find a clean place to lay down their yoga mat.

The sessions run on Thursday at the Rotary Bandshell at 7 p.m.

## Youth golf

Registration is now open for the annual Youth Charity golf tournament at Golf North – formerly Acton Meadows. Proceeds from the August 21 tourney will benefit Acton's Off The Wall youth centre and the

youth centre in Georgetown. The event also includes a raffle and silent auction. For details call 519-853-9825 or visit [www.theyouthcentres.com](http://www.theyouthcentres.com)

## Hard rock show

Check out the Roxy on July 24 if you're in for a medal, hard rock show – on the bill are the Dimensions, making their inaugural performance – and the Thunderhawks, Annaliese and the Mercenaries. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

## Clifford visits the library

Clifford, the big red dog, will visit the Acton library for a Clifford Preschool Party on July 22 from 1 to 2 p.m. Following the party, Clifford will visit his fans in the library from 2 to 4 p.m.

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Registrations are now being accepted for the Acton library's creative writing workshop that will be offered on July 29 at 2 p.m. for Grade four to eight students, and at 3 p.m. for grades nine to 12. For information about both programs or to register call 519-853-0301 or visit [www.hhpl.on.ca](http://www.hhpl.on.ca).

## MY Camp

Halton police is offering a community initiative called MY Camp – Mentoring Youth (leadership) camp. The camp is designed to foster understanding, respect and personal growth in a fun camp-style environment for Halton youth entering Grades seven and eight.

Space is available for up to 40 youths in the free camp that will be offered at St. Catherine of Alexandria School in Georgetown South. For more information call Halton police at 905-878-5511.

## Great PR

Halton Hills got some nice ink in the glossy Summer Dreams edition of *Arabella* magazine. The mayors of six Ontario cities/towns were asked to contribute to the issue – touting the uniqueness of their communities.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette wrote that the town is much more than just a pretty place with historic hamlets and “stunning rural landscapes” as he championed the quality of life, a long list of community events and a vibrant business community.

Also featured in the magazine is a spread about Halton Place, the equestrian centre on 10 Side Road that hosts world class competitions and is a training ground for future Canadian Olympic athletes.



**BUSKER SIBLINGS:** Georgetown's Henry, 9, and Rhiannon Carter, 11, helped entertain the crowd at last Thursday's Farmers' Market in Acton. – Marie Shadbolt photo

## Protecting planet a sacred and scientific duty

### Science Matters

By David Suzuki



By David Suzuki with Faisal Moola

If we were to judge our priorities by the amount of space devoted to stories in the news, we'd have to figure that the World Cup, controversy at a hot-dog-eating contest, and the shenanigans of Paris and Lindsay were the most important issues. Meanwhile, news about vanishing species, climate change, and loss of topsoil appears briefly, often buried in the B section of the newspaper, before vanishing.

It's been this way for a while. Back in 1992, some of the world's most prominent scientists issued an urgent warning about imminent ecological collapse. The World Scientists' Warning to Humanity, signed by 1,700 top scientists from 71 countries, including 104 Nobel laureates, began with the statement: “Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course.” Major television networks and newspapers ignored the warning. Yet the same news media continue to play up the pronouncements of economic pundits who weren't even able to anticipate the 2008 economic meltdown.

I have long maintained that what distinguishes us from other animals is our ability to use our accumulated knowledge, experience, and insight to look ahead, to see where the dangers and opportunities lie, and to choose a path that allows us to avoid the hazards and exploit the opportunities. Foresight has been the key to our enormous success as a species. Yet today, we are turning our backs on this great survival attribute as we ignore the perilous warnings of scientists while focusing on the latest shift in the Dow Jones average, the value of the Canadian dollar (to four decimal points), and the activities of Donald Trump, Jim Balsillie, and Steve Jobs.

Two years before the World Scientists' Warning, astronomer Carl Sagan presented a remarkable appeal from scientists to religious leaders at the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival in Moscow. It was signed by 32 Nobel Prize-winning and other scientists and is well worth quoting at length:

“The Earth is the birthplace of our species and,

as far as we know, our only home. When our numbers were small and our technology feeble, we were powerless to influence the environment of our world. But today, suddenly...our numbers have become immense and our technology has achieved vast, even awesome, powers. Intentionally or inadvertently, we are now able to make devastating changes in the global environment, an environment to which we and all other beings with which we share the Earth are meticulously and exquisitely adapted.”

The appeal listed numerous threats, including “depletion of the protective ozone layer; a global warming unprecedented in the last 150 millennia; the obliteration of an acre of forest every second; the rapid-fire extinction of species; and the prospect of a global nuclear war which would put at risk most of the population of the Earth.”

It also called on spiritual leaders to view the situation as a common cause: “Problems of such magnitude, and solutions demanding so broad a perspective, must be recognized from the outset as having a religious as well as a scientific dimension. Mindful of our common responsibility, we scientists, many of us long engaged in combating the environmental crisis, urgently appeal to the world religious community to commit, in word and deed, and as boldly as is required, to preserve the environment of the Earth.”

This remarkable document ends with a moving statement about an underlying congruence of science and religion: “As scientists, many of us have had profound experiences of awe and reverence before the universe. We understand that what is regarded as sacred is more likely to be treated with care and respect. Our planetary home should be so regarded. Efforts to safeguard and cherish the environment need to be infused with a vision of the sacred. At the same time, a much wider and deeper understanding of science and technology is needed. If we do not understand the problem, it is unlikely we will be able to fix it. Thus, there is a vital role for both religion and science.”

At the conference, 271 spiritual leaders from 83 countries – patriarchs, lamas, chief rabbis, cardinals, mullahs, archbishops, and professors of theology – added their names to the document. Now, 20 years later, we must regain our foresight and remember these powerful warnings from scientific and religious leaders. They're even more relevant today.

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