

GRAPEVINE



Police Board Monthly Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Halton Regional Police Services will take place on Thursday, August 5, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Room, Halton Regional Police Headquarters, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville. Copies of the agenda are available from the Boar office, and will also be available at the meeting. Items for discussion are outlined on the attached agenda.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact the Board Office at 905-825-4815.

Bat Night

Don't miss your last chance to spend an evening with the bats this summer! Join the staff of the Mountsberg Conservation Area for our last Bat Night on Saturday, August 7 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Learn how bats are beautiful – and beneficial to humans. Watch as bats drop from their daytime roost to begin their nightly hunting for insects. Get up close and personal with a live bat! Bat Night also includes activities such as a puppet play, storytelling and games. Admission is by advance registration only, either online at www.conservationhalton.ca or call 905-854-2276 for information.

Giant Hogweed

Town staff have identified a number of areas within Halton Hills where Giant Hogweed is growing. Giant Hogweed is an invasive plant identifiable by its large size and its large white umbrella-like leaves. This plant produces a clear, toxic watery sap that can cause severe skin reactions commonly known as photosensitivity. It is important that residents do not touch or attempt to remove this plant without ensuring they are totally protected against contact with the sap.

Beach Still Closed

Once again Halton Region is reporting the Old Prospect Park Beach as closed due to high levels of bacteria. The beach remains unsafe for swimming. Thankfully the Superior Glove Splash Pad is open to cool down the kids.

Mary Lambert at Library

On Saturday, August 7, kids of all ages are invited to see Juno award nominee Mary Lambert perform at Halton Hills Public Library. Mary is an outstanding Canadian artist in the children's entertainment field. Her wonderful voice and colourful performances are filled with infectious music, sheer energy and lots of audience participation. Tickets are \$2! Mary will be performing at 10:30 a.m. in the Acton Branch, and at 2:00 p.m. in

the John Elliott theatre in Georgetown. For more information, visit www.hhpl.on.ca or call 905-873-2681 X 2520 or 519-853-0301.

Green Funding for Local Organizations

Earth Day Canada's Community Environment Fund is providing not-for-profits, charities and schools up to \$20,000 in funding to support environmental projects in communities across the province of Ontario.

Created by Earth Day Canada, in partnership with Sobers Ontario, the Fund recognizes and celebrates the tremendous impact of grassroots initiatives, and provides organization the opportunity to develop sustainable projects that educate and inspire action. Projects must benefit the local environment and community, and be open to the public.

Projects funded in previous rounds include community gardening initiatives, outdoor classrooms, youth and environmental engagement programs for schools, and restoration projects.

The deadline for applications is August 31, 2010. For more information or to apply, please visit www.earthday.ca.

Diversity Day

The North Halton Diversity Committee together with POSSE is hosting "Celebrating Diversity Day" Saturday, August 28 from 12 – 5 p.m. at the Milton Fairgrounds. The event includes cultural performances, speakers, local vendors and a children's area. It's a day to celebrate the rich diversity in our communities. Milton's first annual RibFest is happening the same day at the fairgrounds so there will be lot's to see and do.

Purple Pot Program

Have you wondered what to do with your un-recyclable plastic plant pots and cell trays that seem to collect up each spring and summer, or end up in the garbage?

Terra Greenhouses Ltd., located at 12800 Britannia Road at the corner of Trafalgar Road is one of the first retail garden centres to implement full scale recycling of all our pots and trays. The Purple Bin Program, created to recycle horticultural waste, has so far diverted over 11,300 kg of waste. That's something to be proud of.

Drop off at Terra can be done anytime during regular business hours, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday thru Sunday.

Blood Clinic

The people of Acton have always been good to the Blood Clinic and once again they are hoping for a great turnout on Thursday, August 19 at the Acton Legion from 2 – 7:30 p.m.



COMMUNITY CARE: As part of their volunteer hours, required to complete a high school diploma, Kyle and Ryan Alcorn spend at least two hours each per week watering the flowers on the Veterans graves at Fairview Cemetery. - Marie Shadbolt photo

Poof! Your green is gone

During my temporary hiatus a number of significant decisions were forced on us by senior levels of government. Now that I have calmed down, and cleaned up my language, here are a few after the fact observations regarding the government's latest screw-ups, all of which our grandchildren's grandchildren will be paying for. Provided, of course, that the whole economic house of cards doesn't collapse around us first.

Re the G20: A.K.A. the most expensive photo-op in our history. Whoever was responsible for scheduling this bunfest in downtown Toronto should be fired and possibly horse-whipped or, vice versa; whatever. The much ballyhooed tourism benefits never materialized.

Instead, the world saw a few hundred criminals, anarchists, northbound ends of a southbound horse running amuck breaking windows of honest business owners and setting police cars on fire. I sat watching this nonsense on TV and came to two conclusions.

1.) The combined IQ of the mob was 6. Only a truly ignorant person would believe that random violence could ever convince world leaders to rethink their economic or social policies. My only regret was that their vandalism got so much TV and press coverage that's all they were interested in – publicity.

2.) There were many protest groups who had a message that the G20 leaders should have heard. My brother was at the mass protest on Saturday. He was acting as a Marshall with the Amnesty International Group. Although we don't always agree on some of the causes Amnesty International

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



exposes, their voice deserved to be heard. Instead, they, and other like minded groups were upstaged by a mindless mob of drooling Neanderthals. To say he was frustrated would be a colossal understatement.

While I was away the H.S.T. came into effect. So, are you enjoying the second largest tax grab in Canadian history? I only hope the outrage we all felt around July 2 will be remembered when the election rolls around in 2011. We'll all get a vivid reminder come fall when our heating bills start coming in.

Are you enjoying the much ballyhooed price reductions? Part of the provincial lie was that some prices would come down due to the retail sales tax that wholesalers paid in the past but would get rebates for after July 1. The L.C.B.O. is a perfect example. They decided not to pass along any savings and they are, of course owned by the Province. Ontario's motto should be changed to "never give a sucker an even break."

Also coming in as a surprise on July 1 was the Eco Tax. This "green" movement is getting out of hand. The current provincial government seems to be of the mindset that they can screw us over anytime as long as they claim it's good for the environment.

The problem seems to be that their solutions are based on questionable science. Take the case of large solar panels that

the province contracted to buy solar electricity at highly inflated prices. Then, with 16,000 plus applications pending they reduced the rate substantially making future large solar arrays not profitable. Watch out for the government stepping into the void. Those guys can't run a 2 car funeral. For proof, see eco fee introduction.

Wind power is another questionable source of future power needs. The effects on some peoples health is still up in the air. Down in Prince Edward County (Picton) the plan is to put hundreds of windmills offshore. The problem is that this project has been rammed through with little or no studies on the long term environmental effects this massive project will cause.

The population of the County is split with farmers and other landowners looking to cash in on the rentals being paid. Other citizens are concerned about the impact wind farms will have on tourism, a major industry employing thousands, and lifestyle. There is also some question as to who will be responsible for dismantling the turbines at the end of their life cycle. Chances of these eco carpetbaggers being around then are slim and none.

If/when the eco fee comes back it will probably be buried in the price of goods at wholesale. Then the retailer will add their margin plus H.S.T. So, you get to pay the eco fee twice or more. Then, because you can't put these containers in the blue box, you get to drive it to special drop off centres. Hundred of thousands of cars making round trips to drop off containers and paying H.S.T. on all that gas. Cha-Ching!

Makes perfect environmental sense to me.