

GRAPEVINE



Safe to swim

It was safe to swim at the Old Beach in Prospect Park last week according to Halton Health Department test results. It was only the second time this summer that bacteria levels have been acceptable, making it safe to swim.

Last year, the Old Beach was closed for almost half the swimming season – six times for a total of 42 days – because of unacceptable bacteria levels which could make people sick.

To find out if a Halton beach is safe for swimming call 1-866-442-5866.

Fox memories

Do you have a personal story about Terry Fox's 1980 run through Georgetown? To mark the 30th anniversary of Fox's epic run, the Ontario Office of the Terry Fox Foundation is asking people to share their memories of Fox's visit to this area on July 22, 1980.

This Grapevine writer – then a reporter driving the CKMW-CFNY-FM news cruiser behind Fox's support van – broadcast live during Fox's run from the Moore Park plaza in Georgetown to Brampton.

Your "I Remember Terry" story – maximum 500 words – should be emailed to ontario2@terryfoxrun.org or FAX to Jessica at 416-924-6597.

Rink raiser

Proceeds from the annual Three Musketeers Memorial Golf Tournament on August 28 will help pay for an out-door skating rink in memory of Acton's Raymond Getty, shot in the chest by a teen he played road hockey with.

The fun and lucrative tournament also raised over \$30,000 to help pay for Acton's Three Musketeers skatepark, named in memory of three Acton teens killed in a car-train crash south of Acton.

The scramble format tourney tees off at 8 a.m. at Acton Golf Club. For details call Kathy at 519-853-2151.

Artist's exhibition

The work of Acton artist Sonja Mortimer – altered, reinterpreted or transformed landscapes – has been mounted as a solo exhibition at the Alton Mill Gallery until September 12.

Mortimer will be at the Mill on Sunday (August 15) from 1:30 to 5 p.m. to talk about the

work, titled Summer Sojourn.

Cancer fundraiser

Acton's Lisa Gareau Booth is putting equal amounts of time into fundraising and training as she preps for the annual Weekend to End Women's Cancers, which includes a 60-kilometre walk in Toronto to raise money for the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Each participant must raise \$2,000, and Gareau Booth has held garage sales and draws to raise the money. She will co-host a silent auction and pub night on August 21, at St. George's Pub in Georgetown. For more information call Lisa at 519-853-8350.

Ace athlete

Congrats to rural Acton Special Olympian Emily Boycott who had a great showing at the recent National Summer Games in London, Ontario.

Competing in Rhythmic Gymnastics, Boycott, 27, placed second All-round and first in the Club final. She placed fourth in Hoop, first in Ribbon and second in Ball.

Performance cash

Congrats to Georgetown Hospital, which will receive \$611,000 in one-time Pay-for-Results performance money from the province for improving patient admission wait times to meet a Ministry of Health's goal time.

Halton Healthcare Services, which runs the Georgetown Hospital, was recently awarded an exceptional three-year full Accreditation with no conditions after a survey found the hospital met 97 per cent of the criteria for quality.

Volunteers wanted

Do you have a few hours to spare on Saturday or Sunday to help with the RONA MS Ride that starts and finishes in Prospect Park?

Organizers are expecting as many as 700 cyclists to descend on Acton, and they need help with everything from setting up route signs to handling luggage to preparing food.

Riders set off from Acton at 8 a.m. on Saturday and ride to the University of Waterloo where they will spend the night, returning to Acton on Sunday.

If you can help call Clarinda at 416-922-6600, ext: 3107 or Clarinda.brandao@mssociety.ca



LET'S ROLL: New Acton resident Tim Plinck, who is legally blind, is finding his way around town in the six-speed, pedal-powered ride that he built using recycled flooring, plumbing pipe and bicycle parts. – Ken Baker photo

Justice must be seen to be done

As this is written, the trial of Omar Khadr is beginning in Guantánamo Bay prison in Cuba. Khadr is accused of murdering an American soldier while involved in a gunfight in Afghanistan. Not to make assumptions, but one assumes Mr. Khadr wasn't fighting alongside N.A.T.O. troops, which include Canadian soldiers, trying to bring some sense of order to this poor country.

Khadr was 15 at the time of his capture. Some in the west are trying to characterize Khadr as a "child soldier." On the other hand in the Middle East countries boys are regarded as men by their society before the age of 10. So whose rules should we be observing? One way or the other, Khadr certainly knew right from wrong when he allegedly murdered the American medic.

There was some question as to whether or not Khadr would even show up for his "trial." He is being tried by a military tribunal that he disputes is neither legal nor unbiased. I submit he is more likely to receive a dispassionate trial in the west than he could ever hope for under Afghanistan's system or any form of Shari law, even if he would ever be charged for murdering a westerner.

There are some Canadians who think the Canadian government should have intervened and brought Mr. Khadr back to Canada. So far, the government has resisted the pressure even from the Canadian Supreme Court. I wonder what we would do with him? Give him a slap on the wrist and a stern lecture? Probably.

I for one have no desire to ever see Khadr on Canadian soil. Not just because of the crime he is accused of committing, if he is convicted, but because we have

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



enough problems with people who turn to violence as the solution to their problems.

Early settlers, for the most part, came here to escape either political or economic prosecution. During the mass immigration after World War II, the comment most often heard was that they came here to make a better life for themselves and their families. We still hear that today.

Canada, in most cases, has delivered. Generations of Canadians have prospered and live in peace with their neighbours. Sadly, a few refuse to leave behind the tendency to solve problems in their homeland with violence. Canada has no room for people who think this way. Personally, I have no time or pity for them when they run afoul of the authorities.

Omar Khadr has made it plain he prefers to live in the third world conditions he chose to fight for. I have one word for him. Bye!

The long drawn out saga of Robert Pickton has thankfully come to an end. B.C. Crown Attorneys last week announced that they would not be proceeding with 20 further murder charges. Pickton, you will remember, was accused of murdering 26 or more women most from the poor downtown eastside of Vancouver. Pickton is currently serving a life sentence after being convicted of murdering six

women.

I have always been dissatisfied that mass murderers in this country are sentenced to concurrent sentences. I know a life sentence is supposed to mean a life sentence but, to my mind, a concurrent sentence improves the chances of parole. If the sentences were consecutive, I would feel better that this monster would absolutely spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Pickton will probably be eligible for parole in 25 years. The fact he might not live that long is little consolation for the families of the victims. One assumes there will be vigorous opposition if he ever comes up for parole, but we can't be sure of what the political climate will be in 20 or 25 years. In addition, there's all the money Pickton's possible parole hearing will cost. Spending hundreds of thousands, or millions, of dollars on a lost cause makes little sense to me.

We have to feel sorry for the families of the 20 women who will never see any kind of justice. On the one hand, I understand that no matter how many more trials this murderer goes through, there is nothing more the justice system can do to him. On the other hand would you be satisfied if one of your daughters had been one of the 20? Wouldn't you feel your child's murder had been somehow diminished with the additional charges being stayed?

The only saving grace is that the additional families will not have to sit through gut wrenching trials like the first six did; and they were horrendous ordeals.

Pickton will now be transferred to a federal prison. Small consolation.

What's Your Beef?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!



It's better than just chewing your cud!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.