

GRAPEVINE



New business

Rockwood's loss will be Acton's gain when Tanya Orton relocates her gift shop/art gallery this fall. Orton is worried that the reconstruction of Highway 7 through Rockwood next spring and summer will ruin her business, so she decided to relocate to Acton when her lease runs out at the end of October.

She'll move her business – Bergamot – to the former Acton BIA office on Mill Street.

Volunteers needed

SAVIS - the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton - is looking for volunteers to help with a wide range of services including the crisis line, community events and the Board of Directors.

A volunteer orientation will be held on September 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and 32 hours of training begins October 14. For details call Natalie at 905-825-3622.

Missing canes

Have you seen wooden canes anywhere in Acton? An elderly resident has lost two canes in the past month and would dearly love to get them back. One antique cane with a metal extension on the end has sentimental value. The other cane has the initials "JRH" inscribed inside the crook. If you find either of these canes, please take them to the Halton police sub-station on Queen Street.

Library fun

Kids have until September 3 to enter the library's second annual Ink Writing Project - a creative writing and illustration contest for kids in Grades four through 12. Submission forms are available at the River Street branch, or visit www.hhpl.on.ca and click on "Kids." For more information call 519-853-0301. There are 12 \$50 prizes to be awarded.

Kids signed up for the Summer Reading Club also have until September 3 to bring in their calendars and to collect their prizes for reading over the summer.

Beach safe

The water at the Old Beach in Prospect Park was safe for swimming last week as samples

taken on August 17 showed acceptable levels of bacteria. To find out which Halton beaches are unsafe due to poor water quality call 1-866-442-5866.

Literacy help

Want to upgrade your computer skills? Literacy North Halton is offering several skills training programs for adults who are looking for jobs. Daytime and evening classes will be offered in Acton.

Literacy North Halton is also looking for volunteer tutors to help adults with reading, comprehension, writing, math and basic computer skills. Volunteers are asked to commit to three hours per week for minimum of six months.

For details call 905-873-2200 or visit www.literacynh.org

HERE! Tour

HERE! - the Halton Enablers of Renewable Energy - is hosting a renewable energy tour in Acton on August 29 from 1 to 4 p.m. Pole-mounted and roof-mounted photovoltaic installations, which are generating income under the MicroFIT program, and a geothermal system are on the tour. Experts will be available to explain how efficient the systems are at heating and cooling homes. For information call 905-299-2327.

Equi-Challenge

Famed Thoroughbred racing legend Sandy Hawley will navigate a show jumping ring – instead of the backstretch – on August 26 at Halton Place, the equestrian centre in rural Acton. Hawley will compete in the Equi-Challenge which will showcase high profile names in the equestrian world competing in a team-style competition featuring jockeys, polo players, show jumpers and western barrel racers. For details call 905-880-8053.

Dunk cash

Thanks to the willingness of two Acton Baptist church members to get wet – repeatedly - Acton's FoodShare food bank is \$225 richer. People made donations as church members Clarence and Stephanie Gooding were repeatedly dropped into water in a dunk tank during the recent Leathertown Festival.



CHILDS PLAY: Climbing the dragon was the name of the game Wednesday for 3-year-old Sebastian (left) and 4 1/2-year-old Gabriel, both of Acton. - Marie Shadbolt photo

Changes in attitude

Some people have commented that I seem to be more irritable lately. In thinking about it, I am tempted to write off the change in attitude to old age. Upon further contemplation however, I have to agree that I am becoming more crabby. There are good reasons though.

Number one on my hit parade is Dalton McDither, but not for the reason you may think. I'm still angry about the financial mismanagement that is the hallmark of his government. Don't get me going on the HST, eco fee or online gambling. What upsets me each and every morning and night is his ban on herbicides. My lawn has been taken over by crabgrass.

I'm not an avid gardener, as my neighbours can attest to, but for over 25 years our lawn had always been thick and healthy. Not this year. Crabgrass has taken over. Please don't write in to suggest pulling the *#%&% stuff out – see the first line in this paragraph. Nor do I want to poison the earth. We're not looking to liberally apply Agent Orange or 2-4D.

All I need is some weed and feed, but my landscaper tells me I can't get it. Golf courses can, but the rest of us can't because of Dalton's regulations. Can't use it for "cosmetic applications" to control weeds in our grass. So, every time I leave the house I am reminded that Dalton's nanny state regulations wrecked my lawn.

Luckily, I have a large lot. Maybe I should paint a few flagsticks and declare it to be a golf course. Then I could get rid of the crabgrass.

I spend quite a bit of time on Highway 401 during the summer. The fools who change over three lanes of traffic then back again in order to pick up one or two car lengths just make me wonder how

The Way I See It

with
Mike O'Leary



anyone so juvenile can be allowed to drive. They're a menace – plain and simple. We're talking about being in heavy, heavy traffic here.

I have the same disgust for drivers who think they are in the Indy 500. Why drive 30 or 40 kilometres faster than the traffic flow? Is the object of the exercise to get to the next traffic jam first? These types are really dangerous and is one reason why I support the racing law. I would take things a little further though. I think in addition to heavy fines and losing the car, I would kneecap them and leave them bleeding in the ditch.

I have great respect for truckers. It's hard not to when you're in a car and they're behind the wheel of a 10-ton behemoth. One thing they do however that upsets me is when one rig overtakes another by going five kilometres an hour faster. Usually this happens when going uphill. Rush hour traffic stacks up behind up behind them until the way is clear for cars to pass. I realize trucks pay big time road taxes, but that doesn't give them the right to screw up traffic flow.

Car insurance is in the news again. Coverage is going down and rates are going up. I don't mind paying for value received, but when these same companies try to weasel out of paying claims after an accident and then cry poor, I get crabby. When they reduce coverage while raising premiums, I become crabbiier.

MPP Frank Klees suggests there are between 400,000 and 800,000

uninsured drivers in Ontario. If that is true, and those illegal drivers had paid insurance premiums, then perhaps the insurance companies would give the rest of us a break. Don't count on that last part.

I read where a golfer hit not one, but three holes-in-one over a six-week period. Not only that, but he had another three over the last 20 years. I've been playing golf for over 50 years. In youth, I was regarded as a pretty good golfer, the result of working at a golf course, caddying in grade school through university. During all that time, I've never had a hole-in-one. Non-golfers just won't understand.

I've hit countless pins, had shots drop centimetres from the cup, had many spin out of the cup, but never had one drop. No wonder I'm crabby.

It was just a matter of time. A young man is challenging the new zero tolerance law for young drivers in the courts. He's claiming his charter rights are being infringed upon because of his age. This is no slam dunk case for the Crown. Ever since the Constitution was repatriated and the Charter was proclaimed, lawyers and judges have been making the law on important issues of the day.

I remember when we were the Dominion of Canada. Repatriating the Constitution didn't make my life better or worse. Other than a make work instrument for lawyers, neither did the Charter.

Lately, the news has been full of the plight of a boat load of "refugees" from Sri Lanka. Most Canadians don't realize that from the time they sailed into Canadian waters, they received the same Charter rights that we enjoy. That makes me crabby.

No wonder I'm turning into a curmudgeon. It's not just age.

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