

# GRAPEVINE



## Calling Cadets

Want to fly? A cheap, albeit slow, way to earn your wings is to join the Royal Canadian Air Cadets – often called one of the best kept secrets for youth today.

The Acton Legion 197 Typhoon squadron is recruiting 12 to 18 year olds with positive attitudes who want to camp, play in a band, go gliding and flying, play sports and learn survival skills. There is no fee for training, uniforms or events and the squadron meets weekly, on Tuesdays, at the Legion. For kids under 12, the Acton Legion also hosts the Navy League, which meets at the Legion on Wednesdays.

For more information call 905-299-6343.

## Front of the Class

Six artpieces by Acton High School art teacher Stephen Fyfle are part of the mixed media Front of the Class art show hanging at Oakville Town Hall until October 7. The showcase event is open to all Halton secondary visual arts teachers and is run by ArtWorks, a non-profit arts booster group.

Fyfle's work includes lithographs and etchings of various subjects. Fyfle first taught at Acton High in 2003, moved to a Burlington school and then returned to Acton in 2004 to teach Grades nine through 12 art.

## Mother Goose

Although it began last Tuesday, there is still space in a Parent-Child Mother Goose program at the band hall on Wallace Street. Using rhymes, songs and stories, two trained staff will help foster a strong parent/baby bond during the free 10-week program at the Ontario Early Years Acton Satellite.

The program runs Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m., and at press time, there were seven of 20 adult spots.

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Parents/caregivers looking for a regular Saturday morning family activity, mark your calendar for October 2 when a Family Together drop-in begins in Acton at the Early Years centre. For more programming information call Jennifer at 905-873-2960.

## Welcome, fire department says

Acton Grade four students will be among the classes of students invited to visit one of the new Georgetown fire stations during Fire Prevention Week that runs from October 3 to 9.

The Halton Hills Fire Department will showcase its recently opened brand new HQ in Georgetown South and the Maple Avenue/EMS station where an open house will feature tours, demonstrations, displays, fire extinguisher training and visits to the Fire Safety House. Both stations will also be open for tours on October 4, from 5 to 8 p.m.

## Citizen Scientists

The Willow Park Ecology Centre wants help celebrating International Migratory Bird Day on October 3, and is inviting people to learn how to become "Citizen Scientists" and take part in the international study of birds.

Events also include fun and games, quizzes, bird crafts, and a bird scavenger hunt. For details call 905-702-9055.

## Good food and fellowship

Those 55-plus are invited to a luncheon and social hour on October 5 at the Salvation Army Community Church on Mill Street. Billed as "good food, fellowship and fun" the lunch begins at 11:45.

Please RSVP, for catering purposes, by tomorrow (Friday) at 519-853-1140. If the response is good, luncheons will be held monthly until Christmas.

## Victims' Volunteers needed

Halton police are looking for mature, sympathetic good listeners to volunteer with the Victim Services Unit that provides emotional support and community referrals to the victims of crime and tragedy in Halton.

Candidates should be compassionate, empathetic with a strong desire to help the community. Candidates should be at least 21, have a valid driver's license, be available for a minimum of 12 volunteer hours a month and make a two year commitment.

Applications are available at [www.haltonpolice.ca](http://www.haltonpolice.ca) at the "Join Us" link to the Victim Services Unit. For more information call 905-878-5511, ext. 5035.



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** One of the oldest shops in town, The Holland Shop, celebrated its 55th year in business last week, treating customers to a barbecue on Saturday. The Mill Street store opened in 1955, and over the years has had three owners, the Huismans, who sold it to Ralph Fledderus, who then sold it to the shop's current owner, Carolin Tolkamp. From left: Ralph Fledderus, owner Carolin Tolkamp, Samantha Tolkamp and Denise Sargent. – Denise Paulsen photo

# Let's dare to consider a national energy plan for Canada

By David Suzuki  
with Faisal Moola

## Science Matters

By David Suzuki



The National Energy Program was implemented by the federal Liberal government in 1980 partly in response to skyrocketing oil prices. When the Conservatives came to power in 1984, they dismantled the divisive plan. Although the program did accomplish some of its goals, reducing foreign ownership of the oil industry as well as our dependence on oil, its most lasting legacy was to entrench a great divide between the oil-rich west and the federal government.

Since then, no one has dared to even mention the idea of an energy strategy for Canada. Canada is now one of the only developed nations without a coordinated energy plan. That doesn't bode well for us in light of the numerous energy challenges we face. We have no countrywide energy transmission system, and many communities, including four of our capital cities, are not connected to the continental energy grid. Some provinces have stronger ties to U.S. energy systems than to those of neighbouring provinces, and jurisdiction over energy matters is tangled up between the federal and provincial governments.

Canada is rich in resources, technology, and an educated and skilled population. But if we continue to rely too heavily on products such as coal and oil to fuel our energy systems and our economy, we risk being left behind in the emerging clean-energy economy. Our current use of fossil fuels pollutes the air, water, and land, which

affects all Canadians. It also contributes to climate change, which threatens all life on the planet. And although we have substantial reserves of oil, coal, and uranium, some resources are becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous to extract, and they won't last forever.

We need solutions. We can't let the failures of the past scare us from planning for the future. On the contrary, we must learn from the past to create an energy plan that benefits all Canadians. And if the federal government doesn't have the stomach for it, it's up to all of us to take the lead.

To get the process going, the David Suzuki Foundation has joined with the Canadian Academy of Engineering and the philanthropic Trottier Family Foundation to explore the possibilities. The Trottier Energy Futures Project will engage a wide range of Canadians over the next five years, from energy experts to citizens, to analyze our current and potential energy sources, systems, and needs and develop a sustainable energy plan for Canada.

A partnership between environmentalists and engineers may appear unusual, but we believe it has great potential. It will require us to base solutions on the best and most objective scientific information available, to identify solutions that can reduce the environmental impacts of our energy systems without jeopardizing the social and economic well-being of Canadians.

Our central goal is to identify energy strategies for Canada that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, and to make Canada a global role model in sustainable energy generation. And we know that to identify solutions that will work for the entire country, we will also need the participation of Canadians from all walks of life.

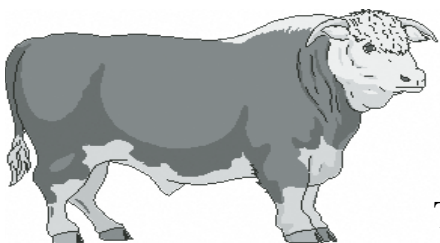
Every means of generating useful energy can be controversial, and all have some environmental impact. Extracting fossil fuels can be destructive to wilderness and agricultural lands, and burning them releases air pollutants and greenhouse gases. Nuclear power is slow and expensive to develop and comes with issues such as radioactive waste, the possibility of leaks, and the potential to increase the spread of nuclear weapons, as well as the impacts of uranium mining. Hydro, large- and small-scale, affects rivers and wildlife habitats. Wind power is opposed by people who worry about property values, noise, and possible harm to birds and bats. And while solar energy may itself be benign, those solar panels don't come out of thin air.

So, although we don't have the option of building a no-impact energy system, we certainly can identify ways for Canada to do what is required in the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change, while providing the most benefits for Canadians with the fewest environmental, social, and economic costs.

It won't be easy, but if we all pitch in, we can create a bright energy future for Canada.

## 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.