

New tools for small business

Each year, the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade promotes Salute to Small Business to recognize the contributions of small enterprises to the Ontario economy. Halton Region, which provides small business resources as part of the Ministry's Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) network, supports Salute to Small Business month by offering unique learning and networking opportunities to business owners across Halton. And this year, for the first time, small and medium-sized businesses can connect with Halton Region's Small Business Centre using social media tools.

"Small and medium-sized businesses power our economy," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr. "In fact, nine out of 10 Halton businesses have fewer than 10 employees. That's why it's so important to use new communication tools to improve our connections to our small business community."

Halton Region enterprises can now access the Small Business Centre and connect with each other in a new online environment for relevant and frequent small business news, tips, expert advice, information about the Centre's services, resources, upcoming events, and more. Launched in August on a pilot basis, the Small Business Centre's social media program includes Facebook, Twitter and a blog.

"We've had a very positive response to date," said John Davidson, Director of Economic Development for Halton Region. "Local businesses are increasingly using social media tools to stay on top of news, tips and event information. Our social media program is one more way we are reaching out to our clients, offering information they can use and listening to what they have to say."

Businesses can view or subscribe to the new tools at www.halton.ca/business. The Small Business Centre holds a monthly draw from tips and suggestions posted by followers for a chance to win a voucher for an upcoming seminar (value \$20.)



PUMPKIN CRAFTS:

Turning a pumpkin into a Halloween decoration was a lot of fun for creative kids at the Farmers' Market last Thursday.

— Submitted photo

Acton Scouts celebrate a rich local history

The 1910 visit by Lord Baden-Powell to the CNE in Toronto sparked a Scouting movement in Acton that is celebrating its 100th anniversary with an open house at the Scout Hall, and the unveiling of two commemorative badges, on Saturday (October 16.)

Based on military traditions of manliness,

truthfulness and patriotism, Scouts uses a value system to "to help build self-fulfilled people who will play a constructive role in society," with programs for five to 26 year olds. While the popularity of the program has ebbed and flowed over the past 100 years, veteran Acton Scouter George Henderson said the recent years, their numbers have grown in Acton, and across Canada. Henderson, who joined Scouting as a boy, has held many positions over the years is now the Acton Group Commissioner.

"Our goal is to reach 100 per cent of membership from last year when we had 38 kids in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. I think we'll exceed that once registrations wrap up after

the open house," Henderson said on Friday, adding the Venturers program in Acton had been reactivated by some older Scouts. Worldwide there are 28-million youth enrolled in the Scouting movement in 155 countries.

Although some things have changed, many Scouting program traditions continue. "I imagine for the first 25 years or so, there was a lot of marching and drilling because many leaders were ex-military men," Henderson said, adding the main attraction for many is the outdoor activities – the camping, swimming, crafts and survival skills. "The O, U and T in Scouting – the "out" in Scouting, is still very important in the program."

"A lot of parents want to have their kids inter-

act with other kids other than at school, sports or church situation. The values that Baden-Powell installed in the first Scouts are still pertinent today – the sportsmanship, good citizenship and generally getting along with each other," Henderson said.

Saturday morning, 1st Acton Scouting will hold its annual Apple Day when donations are accepted for apples, with proceeds earmarked for Scouting programs. The public is invited to the Scout Hall on School Lane at 1 p.m. when the various levels of Scouting will stage demonstrations and play games, and there will be an official ceremony to unveil the 100th anniversary crests, one to wear on uniforms and the other to put on their camp blankets.

Plain Savory



OPEN SUNDAYS 11AM - 5PM



310 Guelph St., Unit 5,
Georgetown ON
905-873-4405

ELLE

CLOSE TO HOME
FAR FROM
ORDINARY

Acton Tire Stop

Tires + Wheels - New, Used, Repairs and Service

\$10 SNOW TIRE
CHANGE OVER

PER TIRE
BALANCING INCLUDED
MOST CARS
Mon. to Fri. only

1,000's OF NEW AND USED SNOW TIRES IN STOCK!

853-8530 • 1km South of Acton on Hwy 25 • www.besttiredeals.ca