

# GRAPEVINE



## Festive fiddling

The sounds of Maritime fiddling will fill Knox Presbyterian Church on Saturday night (November 27), as the Scott Woods Band delivers a two-hour Old Time Christmas show billed as an “energetic and uplifting” salute to music of Don Messer’s Jubilee.

Woods holds multiple Canadian fiddling medals, and earned the nickname Flippin’ Fiddler after winning the Canadian Novelty Championship title. The variety show is a fundraiser for Knox.

For more information call 519-856-9981.

## Experiential Learning

Mayor Rick Bonnette and Milton Mayor Gord Krantz co-hosted a Halton Industry Education Council breakfast meeting in Milton this morning (Thursday), an event designed to foster a relationship between Halton’s employers and its future workforce.

The Council is celebrating its inaugural Experiential Learning Week, and the meeting featured a panel of local students and employers who talked about the workforce of the future.

## Kettle time

The Acton Corps of the Salvation Army is looking for volunteers willing to donate two hours of their time to man The Army’s Christmas Kettles at several Acton locations, including Sobeys and Giant Tiger beginning tomorrow (Friday), and at the LCBO, beginning December 2.

High school students could use the time as part of their required community hours to graduate. If interested, call Reg Marsh at 519-853-0113.

## Grand opening

Elected officials, authors and artisans will be on hand next Thursday (December 2) for the grand opening of The Bergamot, Acton’s newest gift/art store on Mill Street. Opening ceremonies include a ribbon cutting, readings/book signings by several local authors and a meet-and-greet with several artists. Festivities begin at 10 a.m.

## Brunch time

The last Kinette Club of Acton Community Branch of the year is Sunday (November 26), at the Acton arena/community centre. The \$6, all-you-can-eat buffet brunch runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. In exchange for helping prep, cook, serve and clean up, the Acton Agricultural Society will share in the proceeds.

## Church fundraiser

Excerpts from Wager, Handel, Berg and others will be featured during an afternoon of song at

St. Alban’s Anglican Church on December 5 at 2 p.m. The concert – featuring a pianist and soprano – is a fundraiser for the Primate World relief and Development Fund.

## Audition call

The Acton Seniors Centre is looking for four young ladies – aged 23 to 35 – to appear in a production of “Waiting for the Parade.” Auditions for the play will be held on December 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the centre. No acting experience is necessary and plans call for the play to be staged this June at the Acton Town Hall Centre. For more information call Bev at 519-853-3054.

## FCM election

Congrats to Acton/Regional Councillor Clark Somerville who was elected vice-chair of the Rural forum of FCM – the Canadian Federation of Municipalities – at a weekend meeting. He said rural development, the need for investment in rural Canada and farming issues top the agenda. FCM members met in Ottawa with 90 MPs over three days to focus on issues facing Canadian municipalities.

## Light Up the Hills

Food, fun and festive frolicking are on the agenda for the December 1 Light Up the Hills “ignition” night when thousands of lights on the tree at the Acton arena/community centre will be turned on.

Santa Claus will arrive by horse-drawn carriage, and kids will be offered free rides. The Acton citizens Band will perform, along with the choirs from Robert Little and St. Joseph Catholic Schools that will entertain with Christmas carols. There will be hot chocolate, courtesy of McDonald’s, and gingerbread cookies, courtesy of Sobeys. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m.

## Dear Santa

More than 125 happy kids had their pictures taken with Santa Claus at the Roxy, prior to Saturday’s Acton Santa Claus parade.

Acton’s Zoe Nelligan, who told Santa that she’d been very good this year, asked for a Wii. The event was hosted by the Acton BIA.



Zoe Nelligan



**CANCER CASH:** The Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society was this year’s grateful recipient of \$53,000 from the 27th annual Paul Murr Memorial Golf Tournament. On behalf of the Cancer Society Cathy Gerrow accepted the cheque, on Wednesday, joined by Nadine Eaton (centre) and Shirley Dyc (right), from tournament committee members, from left: Wade Vickery, Councillor Jon Hurst, Allan Hall and John McNabb. – Denise Paulsen photo

# Senate’s “kill bill” a blow to Canadian democracy

By David Suzuki  
with Faisal Moola

On November 16, Canadian senators killed Bill C-311, the Climate Change Accountability Act, with a surprise vote. The way the vote was carried out is an insult to Canadians and democracy. It’s also further evidence that Canada will go to the UN Climate Change negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, on November 29, with nothing to offer but empty words and an unwillingness to tackle what leading scientists say is the most serious crisis facing Canada and the world.

Even though the bill had been delivered to the Senate 193 days before, after being passed by the House of Commons, the vote was called without notice and without debate, when at least 15 Liberal senators and several independent senators were absent. This law, which would have put our country on track to be an environmental leader, was killed by only 11 votes (43 to 32).

The Act would have committed Canada to an 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a 25 per cent reduction by 2020. Many international scientists agree that these reductions are the least required to prevent dangerous climate change.

But in a near-unprecedented move that flies in the face of democratic traditions and government accountability, Conservative senators killed this modest piece of legislation. At nearly 75 years old, I am sickened to see people

## Science Matters

By David Suzuki



my age making such a reckless decision that will affect the lives of today’s young people and generations to come when many of the senators won’t even be around to face the most serious consequences.

When his government was first elected in 2006, Prime Minister Harper told Canadians that “Restoring accountability will be one of the major priorities of our new government. Accountability is what ordinary Canadians, working Canadians, those people who pay their bills, pay their taxes, expect from their political leaders.”

It appears that was just empty rhetoric – especially when it comes to climate change. Our government has dismissed its obligation under the Kyoto Protocol, an international climate change agreement that Canada and 186 countries ratified. Our government has not implemented any substantial policies aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions and helping Canada join the emerging clean-energy economy, even though Canada is probably more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than any other industrialized country.

The government claims the cost of reducing emissions will be economically devastating yet continues to heavily subsidize and support the polluting fossil

fuel industry, especially in the environmentally destructive tar sands. Canada has even earned itself the shameful reputation for obstructing progress at international negotiations on climate change.

Prime Minister Harper’s contention that the bill would have thrown “hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of people out of work” is simply false. In California, voters resisted attempts by out-of-state oil companies in the November 2 election to overturn the state’s Global Warming Solutions Act. Since the law was passed in 2006, California has attracted more investments in alternative energy start-up companies than anywhere in the world and has seen a boom in employment in the clean energy sector. Those investments tripled to US\$2.9 billion over the past year alone, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Canadians have seen far more leadership from municipal and provincial governments than from the federal government on environmental issues related to climate change. Ontario is phasing out coal power and has implemented incentives to attract clean-energy technologies. Vancouver is moving ahead with its ambitious green plans, and B.C. has implemented a carbon tax that increases over time.

As Canadians, we expect more of our leaders. At the very least, we expect them to remember that we still live in a democracy and that its rules must be respected.