

GRAPEVINE

Plaza plans

Looks like there are some major changes in the works that will affect both the old and new IGA plazas in Acton.

Kentucky Fried Chicken is reportedly moving to the new plaza in Acton East, to the last existing vacant unit, and another plaza tenant may relocate to KFC's current store.

A video store, a national hairdressing chain and women's exercise business - Curves for Women - have also inked deals and will move into the units now under construction in Acton East.

The plaza developer hopes to have those seven units open by spring, depending on the weather.

Numbers growing

Acton assessment fighter Lou Bonnette sure struck a chord with some local property owners with his questions, concerns and complaints about the most recent province-wide property re-assessment and its possible impact on tax bills.

After a recent editorial and story in The New Tanner about some huge assessment increases in Acton, Bonnette has heard from about 25 people with similar concerns.

"I hope to have a meeting and get someone a little brighter and more capable to carry the mantle. We would also like to get a Web site going and want volunteers," Bonnette said, adding he hopes a non-political support group will evolve from the contacts.

"There are some hard luck stories out there - I've spoken to five or six old age pensioners who see this as a threat - they feel scared and are so relieved that a group is forming," Bonnette said, inviting people to call him at 853-1816.

Blah beaters

Although at this point it doesn't look like there will be an orchestrated Acton celebration for Lighten Up Canada Day next month, many people, including Acton's Jack Carpenter, will be wearing red noses in an attempt to stave off the February blahs.

More than a decade ago, Carpenter's comment on his radio show about the need to lighten up on February 6 - the day to honour St. Jacques, the patron saint of humour, led to a silly campaign of people wearing red noses, and in fact in the early 1990s, Acton had the longest line of people wearing red noses in Canada. Carpenter hopes the Town

will run its Lighten Up Canada Day flag up the flagpole at the Civic Centre for February 6 and he plans to celebrate with "a joke, an eggnog and brandy and a red nose."

Champion saved

Congrats to the Rotary Club of Acton which has agreed to takeover the Acton Community Champion program, designed to give public thanks and recognition to those who make Acton a nicer place to live.

Although the program has been dormant since last spring, when the Rotary Club of Acton learned the initial organizers were looking for someone, or a group, to take over, it unanimously decided to offer its help.

"I suggested that it would be a good fit with (Rotary's) Citizen of the Year, because we get an awful lot of nominations for Citizens who don't get recognized and maybe some of the nominated people would fit in well with the Community Champion," Rotarian Doug Fread said on Friday.

Caregiver services

The focus is on home childcare providers this month at both branches of the Halton Hills library.

At the Acton library staff has set up displays of materials - books and videos - that the library has to offer caregivers.

In the past, the library has offered services to caregivers, showing them how to run programs like the library's popular story time sessions, in their own home.

Peewee tourney

Organizers are hoping as many as 24 Peewee hockey teams from across the province will register to play in the 33rd annual Acton House League Hockey Peewee tourney, slated for Acton arena on the first weekend of February.

Billed as the oldest Peewee tournament in Ontario, the event will feature fast-paced hockey played in three divisions with championship trophies, skill competitions, a bake sale, Toonie toss and sales of hockey memorabilia.

Garden Parody

David Hobson is on tap as the first guest speaker of the new year for Acton Horticultural Society's January 21st meeting. Hobson's topic is "Tips and Tails," a humorous parody on gardening.

The meeting is being held at Knox Presbyterian Church, 44 Main St. N. at 7:30pm. Everyone's welcome.



TOLL TAKES TOLL: Two transposed letters on his licence plate caused Acton resident Robert Keating months of frustration and aggravation as he tried to convince operators of the 407 that it wasn't his car using the highway and wracking up unpaid fees. Keating's threat of legal action against 407 ETR finally stopped the bills. - Frances Niblock photo

407 bills drive Acton man to threat

A letter demanding a \$30 late payment fee for an unpaid Highway 407 toll charge that he did not owe was the end for Acton's Robert Keating.

When yet another 407 toll bill arrived, after Keating had been told seven times that the error had been fixed, he threatened legal action, and that apparently did the trick.

Keating's fight with 407 officials began in October when a bill for \$8.14 arrived at his Brock Street home, charging him for a for a trip on the 407 that he did not take.

An investigation by 407 officials determined the last two letters of his truck's licence plate had been transposed and he was being billed in error.

"I was told numerous times that the error had been taken off the computer, yet the bills kept coming," Keating said on Friday, adding even after he received a letter apologizing for how long it had taken to remedy the error, another bill arrived.

"I phoned them, I e-mailed them and the bills kept coming so I finally said if I got one more bill I was going to a lawyer and charge them with harassment," Keating said, wondering how many other people had similar problems and couldn't get them resolved.

"They even sent me a picture of the licence plate on a Dodge pickup truck, so I went out with my digital camera and took a picture of my licence plate on my Chev truck and sent it to them, but the bills kept coming," Keating said, including one that said his account was being sent to a collection agency and he would be

charged an additional \$30 late fee.

"It was just ridiculous. I wasted a lot of time and energy to get this straightened

out and the 407 people wasted a lot of time and money sending me bills and harassing me to pay", Keating said, adding if the

bills hadn't stopped, he would have contacted a lawyer to file a class action suit against the 407 over the \$30 late payment fee.

St. Joe's look for alumni

St. Joseph Catholic School celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and a community Open House is being planned for Wednesday, March 19.

If you have photos or memories of being a student, parent or staff member at St. Joe's, you can help! Jot your memories down or put your name and address on the back of photos and send them to: Anniversary Committee, St. Joseph Catholic School, 147 Mill Street West, Acton, L7J 1G7. Or drop them by. We'll be glad to see you!

Further details will be available closer to the date.

Christians of Acton

(whatever church you belong to or don't belong to)
You are invited to the annual meeting of the "Clans"

It is the Acton Ministerial Association's tenth annual gathering at the Canadian Legion

(yes we're turning the Legion into a Church)
to Pray for Christian Unity ,
this Sunday, January 19, 2003
at 10:30 am.



The Children are invited to a Special Celebration at the nearby St. Joseph's School at 10:15 a.m.



for puppets, games, music, fun, stories etc. with (of all people) The Rubber Chicken Company.



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