

Column 080313

Welcome to Verona, Andy & Rick Sawany, the new owners of Toppers Convenience and Gas Bar. Andy took a short break from stocking shelves the other day to chat with us, saying that the two brothers and their families are looking forward to moving to Verona as soon as their new digs are ready. They want their three pre-school aged kids to go to school here, and are hoping to stay a long time. "We love the people in Verona," Andy enthused. With their previous experience running the Napanee Gas Bar, the brothers should have a grand time serving our village. They'll be adding new products – more groceries and lots more frozen items "at reasonable prices" Andy assures us. "And we're looking for suggestions, too." In fact, as we were leaving the store, we met Kim Perry of Local Family Farms heading inside with a stock of ground beef and prepared foods (tourtieres and meat pies). So with any luck, if you're passing through after Kim's store is closed up for the day, you'll be able to pick up some of her local product at Toppers. Andy wanted to be sure that people know one important fact: "Tell them Kelly's still here!" - which brought a hearty laugh from longtime staff member Kelly Kellar. "Everybody's asking," says Andy. "That's all they want to know." Previous Toppers' owner Lloyd White is happily retiring from his long career, and these young, enthusiastic entrepreneurs are set to carry on his long tradition. "We want to be here for thirty years!" grins Andy. "Just like Lloyd!"

Melissa Elliott reminds us that South Frontenac Soccer registration is under way from Mar 1-31 for kids from four to seventeen. Following on last year's success, you can register on line at [www.frontenacsoccer.com](http://www.frontenacsoccer.com). If you're desperately not computer oriented, there is a hotline at 530-4250 where you can leave a message. Got no young-uns in the house? How about volunteering? Coaches and other volunteers are always needed.

Nicki Gowdy of the Prince Charles P.S. Parent council tells us that they're gearing up for their Ham Bingo fundraiser Tuesday, March 18 at the school. Proceeds will go to grade eight graduation expenses. The Council is delighted with the success of their school wide spaghetti luncheon, followed by skating at the arena on Thursday, the last day before the March Break. Be sure to thank the hardworking committee members when you see them – Nicki, Patti Black, Laura Sweet, Shannon Moore, Laina Lees, Angie Grey, Mary Jo Dowker, Tracy Peters, Nicki Van Camp and community rep Don Cox.

Got your ticket for the Lions' Pirate Rendezvous Night? They're going fast, so don't wait too long. A Caribbean style meal of spiced pulled pork, herbed yams and sides begins an evening of games, shenanigans, and music from the great Bauder Road. Lions Theme Nights are renowned for their inventive wit and good community humour. Don't miss this one. March 29 at the Lions Hall. Tickets \$25 per person at Verona Hardware. Oh, and dress up like a pirate, eh?