

LETTERS

The views expressed in these published letters are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The New Tanner Publishing Ltd.



Annual youth food drive approaching

To the Editor

Saturday, April 7 is the date of the next Annual Food Drive conducted by the Scouts/Guides/Bethel Youth Groups for Acton Foodshare. This Annual Food Drive has been going on since the Food Bank opened in 1990. The youth groups have been active from the very be-

ginning. They are looking forward to picking up donations from the community. Donations of food will be picked up in Acton on the Saturday morning starting about 9 a.m. Cash donations will also be accepted—charitable donation tax receipts will be given for donations of \$20 and over after the

event—donors are requested to supply their name and address.

You can find your donation bag enclosed in this newspaper. Please leave your bag containing your donation on your doorstep before 9 a.m. An up-to-date list of most needed items can be found on the Food Bank's web-

site—www.actonfoodshare.com

If your donation is not picked up by 1 p.m., please call the Food Bank at 519-853-0457 to make arrangements for pick-up or to drop off at the Food Bank. Or your donation can be brought into the Food Bank on Tuesday, April 10 between 8:30

a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

It would be appreciated if donors would check the best before dates on food items before donating.

Thank you to the community for always being so generous and supportive in this annual event.

Acton
Foodshare

SPORTS TALK

Hockey in the middle of April

With the Maple Leafs currently locked into the top three position for the Atlantic

By
Michael Oke

long. Add this to the fact that their tickets are some of the most expen-

sive of any sports franchise in North America despite a win ratio consistently lower than the league's average. That's what loyal fans look like. As a matter of fact, in a 2014 survey, the Leafs were ranked last out of the 122 professional teams in the major sports leagues in north America—Major League Baseball, NBA, NFL and NHL—in terms of “bang for the buck” especially when it came to ticket affordability. While top seed in the division is still technically possible, with about five games remaining in the regular season, it's more likely they will finish third and face the Boston Bruins in the first round. Let's hope the team has a better outing this time around.

It really looks like good times are back at the Air Canada Centre, same can't be said about their Highway 401 neighbors—Montreal Canadiens—who seemed to have engaged the reverse gear since the P.K. Subban trade. Let's go Leafs!

While top seed in the division is still technically possible, with about five games remaining in the regular season, it's more likely they will finish third and face the Boston Bruins in the first round. Let's hope the team has a better outing this time around.

It really looks like good times are back at the Air Canada Centre, same can't be said about their Highway 401 neighbors—Montreal Canadiens—who seemed to have engaged the reverse gear since the P.K. Subban trade. Let's go Leafs!

It really looks like good times are back at the Air Canada Centre, same can't be said about their Highway 401 neighbors—Montreal Canadiens—who seemed to have engaged the reverse gear since the P.K. Subban trade. Let's go Leafs!

JUST A THOUGHT

Choices, choices



By
Trish Bell

This weekend marks the symbolic start of Spring for many as we usher in Easter and Earth Month all in one big green-thumbed, chocolate covered hurrah! There will be egg hunts and food drives, church services and yard sales, clean ups and tree plantings, all in an effort to show how much we care, especially about our big blue and green home. But, as our steadily declining fascination with movements like Earth hour shows, we only seem to care about the environment as a kind of casual nuance. When it comes down to a real commitment to reduce-reuse-recycle, frankly, one wonders if we actually care at all.

When the bunny visited my childhood home, many eons ago, we were certainly spoiled but the bi-product of our indulges were not over flowingly evident in our garbage cans for weeks to come. Easter—like so many holidays now—has become big business. According to the National Retail Federation, last year alone Americans spent \$18.2 billion on Easter; from clothes and décor to sweets and meals, our desire to mark the holiday seems entwined with an ever-increasing issue of overabundance. Some might argue—especially after a meager 37 per cent of Catholics referred to Easter as Jesus' resurrection in a recent survey—the true meaning of holidays such as these seem lost in a murky pastel haze of never-ending throwaway items we likely neither needed or wanted, but we'll save our bunny versus resurrection debate for another day.

Dollar stores, like the one coming soon to the Sobey's plaza here in our little town, are popping up everywhere, testaments to our new consumer normal. Such businesses know that consumers are embracing a newfound lifestyle of disposable, fast-paced convenience that has actually hurt

our recycling programs, making them both less effective and more-costly than ever before. Recycling bins are now stuffed to the brim with all the rubbish these choices and treasures produce. Plastic containers, clamshell packaging, take out boxes—all have become more common than the cans, bottles and newspapers our original recycling programs were meant to deal with and this flip has both environmental and economic consequences. First, the items themselves are thought of as disposable, making them—and their packaging—temporary. Yet, the impact of the materials, waste and fuel used just to get the products into our hands—let alone after we toss it out—are all incredibly less temporary. Furthermore, we are getting less efficient at recycling. Items that aren't recyclable, contamination and just plain laziness have jammed recycling operations, leaving them less effective and costlier. Add to this the fact plastics, now the most common recyclables, are far more difficult and expensive to collect, sort and recycle and worth far less when resold—remember recyclables are sold by weight and cargo containers fill up fast with all those lightweight plastic shapes—it becomes increasingly obvious why our municipal coffers are actually losing money on this once effective and profitable environmental protection. It has actually gotten so bad that nations like China, one of the world's leaders in actually paying for the recycled materials of other nations, stopped taking almost all recyclable items from Canada in January. Such markets drying up means we are instead paying more to either

bury or burn items we believe recycled. In Ontario, the cost of recycling has actually more than doubled in less than two decades, while the amount we have recycled has actually decreased. And the carbon tax—along with other ill-conceived government induced environmental protection ideas—will only make it more expensive to take care of our one and only environment.

But governments aren't entirely to blame. While we all heard the same three-R program agenda for over 30 years now it appears it has had little impact on the mass market hysteria that has since swept the globe. Now instead of reaping the rewards of decades of sober second thought—we've instead opened the floodgates and assumed recycling alone can atone for our want it-need it spending sins. And while we chuckle at those who seem to never throw away anything or continue to live with furniture clearly dated, there was something to be said for the way our predecessors chose to reduce, reuse and recycle—without being nagged—and the more permanent nature of many of their purchases. Still, there is perhaps hope we can once again be proactive in our environmental idealism. After all, for a society that loves to buy disposable things—and after years of watching our recycling blow around neighbourhoods on many a windy Wednesday—kudos must go to our local recycling program that, as of April 2, will finally accept our items in recyclable “blue” bags, along with all those shopping bags we don't know what to do with. All in all, let's hope that despite being the day after April Fool's Day, this marks us getting a bit more serious about our part in this never-ending environmental joke. After all, nature doesn't care why you celebrate Easter, only how you clean up afterwards.

The New Tanner welcomes your LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, but, please keep in mind that letters must include the author's name, address and phone number in order for us to contact you if needed. Letters that are sent in anonymously will not be published. They may be edited for content or length. They are published as a first come first serve basis and we do not guarantee publication due to space availability.