

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

The ultimate gift

Curiosity lead Acton's John Hughson to make his first blood donation in 1977 as a 17-year-old. The "good feeling" he gets from donating blood led him to make his milestone 100th donation on Monday at the Canadian Blood Services clinic at Acton arena/community centre.

It is people like Hughson who are the backbone of blood collections services in Canada – 880,000 units of blood are collected in Canada annually at 20,000 clinics.

Hughson said it is such an easy and rewarding experience that he wishes more people would give blood. "In 45 minutes to an hour, you can help save the lives of three people," he said, adding that he's gotten to know the Acton clinic staff who make donating blood quick and easy.

Canadian Blood Services officials praise Acton's "loyal donor base" and report they collected 41 units of blood at Monday's clinic. They said the 30 no-shows may be attributed to the colds and flu making the rounds, or possibly the weather.

Hughson, who said donating blood is one way that he really can make a difference in someone's life, has already booked an appointment to make his 101st donation at the March 7 clinic at the arena/community centre and he'd like to see you there.

There is also a blood donor clinic on February 10 at the Acton Legion. To book an appointment to donate blood (walk-ins will be accommodated if possible) call 1-888-2DONATE (1-888- 236-6283.)

As Canadian Blood Services says – it's in you to give.

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

- A surprise retirement notice ended the 31-year firefighting career of Bill Cunningham, who was Chief of the Halton Hills fire department for 18 years.
- Magna International's plans to build a 700-job car parts plant in Acton were detailed at a public meeting. Acton is one site the company is considering for a new plant.
- The first residents of the new Acto Valley subdivision – Bayfield Home's development north of McDonald Boulevard, between Division Street and Churchill Road – moved into their new homes.

Five Years Ago

- Although they were "long, hard sells," three industrial buildings in Acton changed hands – a mini-boom for the Town that is trying to attract more industrial development.
- Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary urges Town staff to "massage" the budget so "intolerable" conditions on Main Street South can be fixed sooner.
- Closure of the charity bingo hall in Milton clipped the wings of the Acton Air Cadets who counted on proceeds from their work at the hall to pay for Acton cadet programs.

Halton REGION

2011 Waste Management Guide & Collection Calendar

for houses in **Halton Hills**

For more information on Waste Collection: **Dial 311** or visit us at www.halton.ca

ACE ARTIST: This artwork, created by Limehouse resident Michael Matesic, 12, was selected for the cover of Halton's waste management calendar. Matesic is a Grade seven student at St. Joseph Catholic School. – Submitted graphic

Trouble making connections

I've been having computer issues lately. Rural life and computers, moreover, the Internet are a challenge even though we are barely five kilometres out of town.



By **Angela Tyler**

When we moved, I inquired with "Mother Bell" if we would still have high speed internet because, after all, if I had to be rural, I still needed to be in contact with civilization without dealing with stupid dial up Internet again as I did when I first got Internet. I was told I could rest easy because our house would be within the prescribed area for high speed. Two massive rain storms later, a few days of waiting and hours on the phone with our "service provider," I discovered we were actually on the border of high speed. High speed it seemed was good within a five kilometre radius, and we were apparently 4.8 kilometres. Who knew that could cause havoc when "Mother Nature" met "Mother Bell".

because he did solve our Internet issues and I was happy again.

Last winter, during our trip to the sunny south, my Netbook fell victim to changes in temperature and cabin pressure changes on the airplane and when we returned, although we traveled with it quite carefully, the screen had a big crack in the view. I lived with it until this fall when I discovered Netbooks, and a certain little person who was trying to walk, really don't mix well. I watched almost in slow motion, like on television, as it went off the foot stool onto the floor and the formerly cracked screen turn black. Another repair person and we were up and running again. My life was turning into one computer fix after another.

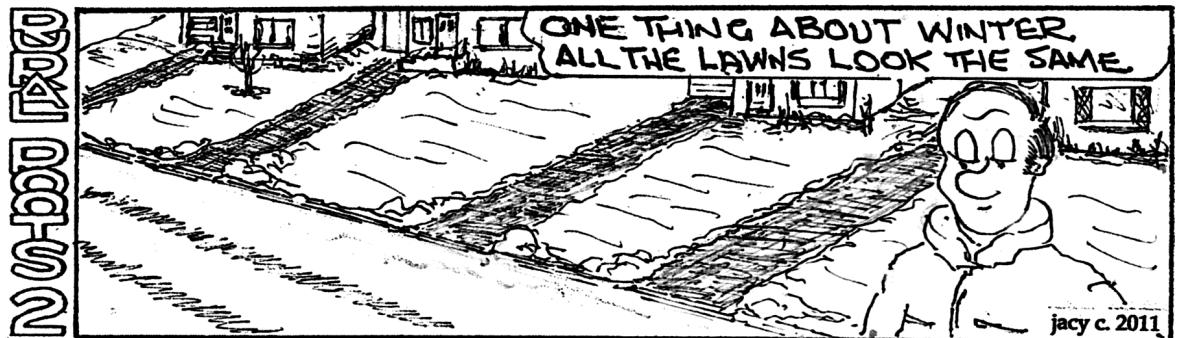
Finally, now with everything working well, I decided that I had enough of trying to figure out why our desktop computer kept being piggish and being slow with response. Luckily, the computer guru at our office offered to take a peak at it. Of course, it worked well for him when I took it to him, and when

it returned, I assumed it just didn't like rural living because it was back to boldly stating at the top of any Internet search "not responding."

My luck would change with the discovery of an out of service computer that needed a new home. It was a bit too "dated" for what the office needed, so I became it's new owner. I soon found out the pig only had 500 something or other, and that was the problem. I was lost at that point. I just knew 500 wasn't good. The out-dated one was more than 500, and was guaranteed to solve my final computer issue, or so I thought.

Another visit with the guru and some more questions I couldn't answer, he quickly resolved my issue and I was headed home, minus the pig, and now with a retired pony that needed a new pasture.

That's what I've decided this computer is...a retired race horse. You know, those ones that are still good, but newer, younger ones came along and were quicker for the big race. The only problem now is the version of office is different. It looks different and I am lost. I'm sure I'll figure it out at some point, but I tell you, I'm starting to feel like a retired race horse myself when it comes to computers.



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373 Queen Street East, Unit 1
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2
email: thenewtanner@on.aibn.com

(519) 853-0051 Fax: (519) 853-0052

Publisher
Ted Tyler

Editor
Frances Niblock

Editorial Contributors
Mike O'Leary Angela Tyler Denise Paulsen

Advertising and Circulation
Marie Shadbolt

Composing Ken Baker

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