

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Money well spent

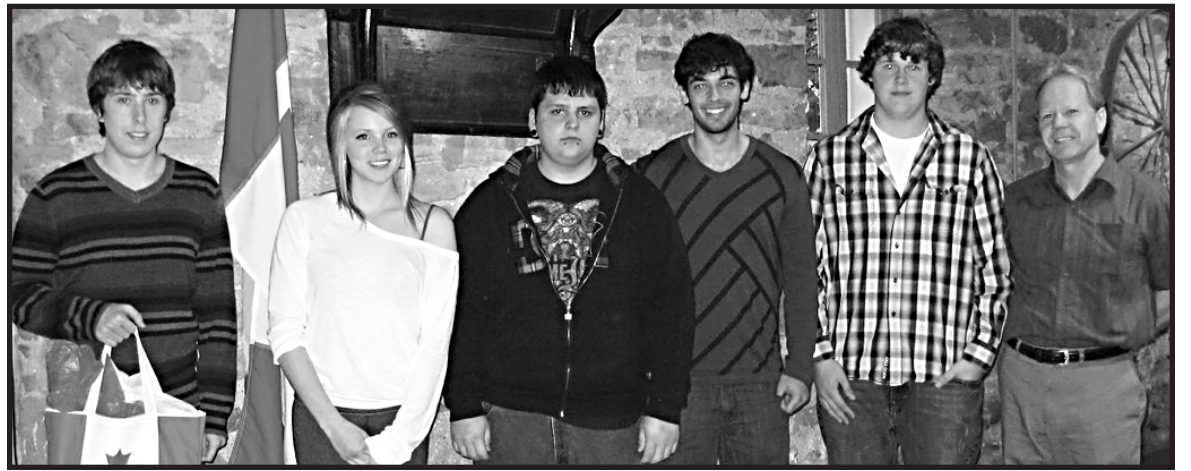
A \$2.6-million shot in the arm from Town Council is just what the doctor ordered to help Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) pay for a much-needed CT Scanner, and expanded emergency and diagnostic imaging at Georgetown Hospital.

The infusion of cash is not the \$4.5-million HHS asked for in January to help fund its proposed \$12.1-million project, which includes the scanner, consolidated diagnostic imaging services and an expanded emergency department.

With a very ambitious \$5-million fundraising campaign and \$250,000 promised by the Georgetown Hospital Volunteer Association, that still leaves a shortfall of \$1.8-million.

Town officials hope its financial support will encourage the Minister of Health to kick in the \$1.8-million – they are still waiting for a response from the Minister. The need for the project was well documented at earlier public meetings with physicians concerned that patient safety may suffer because patients needing CT scans had to be sent to other hospitals – a waste of valuable life-saving time. A one per cent dedicated tax levy to pay for the scanner and expansions will cost the “average” taxpayer with a property assessed at \$350,000, an extra \$13.63 cents in each of the next 10 years.

Money well spent.



TOP TECHS: This group of Acton High School technical design students were recently honoured by Halton and the Halton Region Museum for their computer aided design of affordable housing. The students picked up the Our Canada Award last Tuesday at the Halton Museum. They are, from left: Kevin Lawrence, Loren German, Bailey Rolfer, Angelo Meogrossi, Trent Regular, and Teacher Norbert Axtmann. Absent: Dylan Jubinville, Scott Olsen and Jesse Voelkner.

– Submitted photo

Angela's gender bender

Every day I try to find time to read a few newspapers online. Before life as “Momma,” my online newspaper reading was more extent. These days, precious moments, here and there, allow for selective reading.

On Saturday, while Little J mucked about with her current breakfast favourite, Cheerios and blueberries carefully scattered on her high chair tray where she can independently control the situation while not tossing me into a cleaning frenzy, I took the time to peruse the Toronto Star website.

There, almost glaring at me, was a story about how a couple was choosing to raise their young baby genderless. The baby had nothing wrong with it medically or any conditions that required this secret. The parents had decided that they “decided not to share Storm’s sex for now — a tribute to freedom and choice in place of limitation, a stand up to what the world could become in Storm’s lifetime (a more progressive place? ...).” Storm is the name of their child that they are raising genderless.

At first I thought this was just



By
Angela Tyler

a story about letting a boy play with a Barbie or a girl play with a GI Joe, then I kept reading and my jaw started dropping lower and lower in disbelief.

I couldn’t help but stare at the picture of Storm and his brother who I was positive was a little girl until I read she is a he. With his braided hair, he could have been a she. Then I read how the parents practice unschooling, an untraditional form of home schooling for their children and the family of five all sleep together on two mattresses. The more I read about their home, the more I had this picture of a house that should be on the television show Hoarders.

The parents haven’t told the grandparents what Storm is – as in a boy or a girl, and they even flipped a coin on vacation to decide what to tell people who asked if their child was a boy or girl.

I just don’t get this. I know some people believe they are

born one gender but believe they really should have been the other gender. I know there are people with medical conditions where their anatomy gets mixed up. I get all that. I have no problem with this, however, I don’t understand what these parents can accomplish, except for maybe a child with a lot of issues ahead of them.

Being able to say to someone that I have a daughter is something to be proud of, not something to hide. Kids will be kids. Maybe being a girl they will play with a GI Joe or maybe that little boy likes to wear a dress when playing dress up. On the weekend, Little J was quite proud of herself, wearing a tu-tu she picked out while sitting on her little John Deere pedal tractor. It looked funny, but she was happy and that was all that mattered.

Storm is four months old. The child’s parents have stated, “Please can you just let Storm discover for him/herself what s (he) wants to be?” I don’t think it’s Storm that needs to discover what s(he) is...it’s the parents. I think they need to figure out what a parent is.

Looking Back



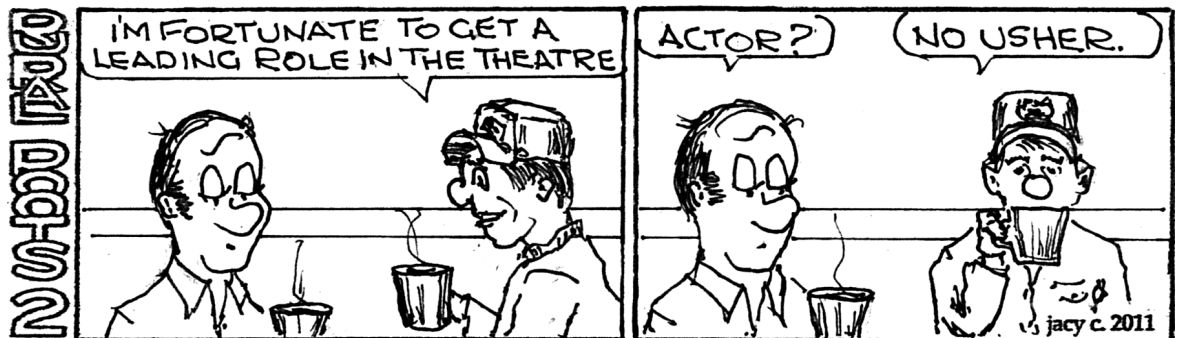
Ten Years Ago

- The long-awaited first model home in Acton East will be open for buyers within months in Acton East Housing Corporation’s subdivision, south of Highway 7, west of Forth Line.
- The search for a site for the Acton Agriculture Society’s fall fair building in Prospect Park is delayed by the need for further soil testing.
- Limehouse resident Adam Kemp, 16, was drafted by the Ontario Hockey League’s Ottawa 67’s. His career began on frozen ponds in the quarry

where he played, beginning as a toddler.

Five Years Ago

- Robert Little School teacher Ken Crozier was selected as one of 10 national finalists in the Earth Day Hometown Heroes award program.
- The first visible sign of the Acton Agricultural Society’s fall fair building was “mapped” out to show the foot print for the building in Prospect Park.
- Acton businessman John Goy – known for speaking his mind without making enemies – died after a heart attack. He was 59.



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