

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Not just a slogan

Thanks to the almost three decades of fundraising by organizers of the Acton Paul Murr Memorial Golf Tournament, for the first time, survivors of cancer are in the majority. 64 per cent of people diagnosed with cancer will live because of cutting-edge research paid for, in part, with the \$883,000 raised by the tournament since its inception 27 years ago.

This year, tournament organizers handed over a \$52,000 cheque to the Acton (Wellington) Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, and \$4,250 to CASHh – Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills.

Cancer Society officials could not be more grateful for the considerable, on-going cash raised by the Acton tournament, and were so impressed by the well-run event that they asked organizers to share their expertise with others staging cancer fundraising events.

As one original committee member said, Paul Murr who helped start the tournament and knew the event was being renamed in his honour before he passed away from pancreatic cancer, would be “pleased, but not surprised,” by the on-going success of the event – truly a labour of love by organizers, many touched by cancer, who know that “cancer can be beaten” is not just a marketing slogan, but a reality, in part due to their on-going hard work.

Looking Back



10 Years Ago

- Years of frugality caught up with the Halton Hills library, where the antiquated computers were reportedly on the verge of “total system failure.”
- The number of drunk drivers arrested in One District – Acton, Georgetown and Milton – was “dramatically reduced” from the previous year with just two impaired driving charges laid.
- Halton continued to search for the source of discoloured and bad tasting water in the Lakeview subdivision; two weeks after water lines were swabbed in routine maintenance.

Five years Ago

- The Town processed a revised plan for 23 adult condominium townhouses on Dr. Moore Court. The original plan called for a 63-unit condo apartment building.
- Town staff and Acton politicians investigate extending school crossing guard hours and installing additional signs to alleviate on-going traffic safety concerns on Churchill Road North.
- The Town’s proposed operating budget includes a \$22.3-million tax levy, resulting in a 5.3 per cent tax increase for a Town tax bill of \$979 on a house assessed at \$300,000.



LUCKY WINNER: Acton’s Victor Bissonnette was the lucky winner of a print, donated to local artist Marie Sallay to the Acton Seniors centre. He received his prize on Monday from Centre fundraising chair Sylvia Mitchell. – Julie Conroy photo

All the news that fits

One of the things I like to do when we are away from home is to read the local papers. One of my favourite papers is, or should I say, was the St. Petersburg Times. I say was because as of January 1 this year, it became the Tampa Bay Times. On the last day of 2011, it was the last day of a newspaper that survived over 12 decades. The next day was a new start with a new name, even though the trend is to read “newspapers” electronically.

Normally, the end of the year paper is filled with unique ways to review the year, such as, going through the obscure headlines with dumb criminals or political goof ups, etc. This issue had that, however, it also had a couple other things.

It was hard not to notice the story about the brother who hid his brother’s body in a garbage bag, wrapped it with packing tape and took it to a different mobile home park to dump it, because he didn’t want to get blamed for killing his brother.



By
Angela Tyler

Another one that caught my eye was the story about the man who had been beaten up by four others. Instead of trying to get medical help by calling 9-1-1, he instead stole an ambulance on another call nearby. He then drove himself to the hospital. He also used the ambulance’s lights and sirens during his run.

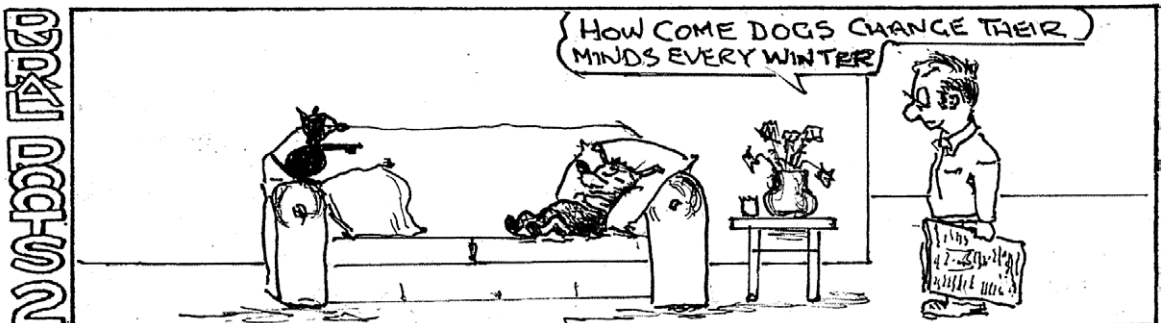
Just when I was starting to think I was reading “newspapers” like the National Examiner, I remembered why I liked this particular newspaper so much. I liked it because it had all aspects of human interest stories from the ambulance stealing injured man to Margaret McAlister.

Margaret is 88 years young. For 65 years she was the organist at First Presbyterian Church. She still passes her driving tests and prefers to drive “stick shift.”

She plays organ at one of the few churches in the area and can play Handel’s Messiah in full. She is retiring from playing because “the whole attitude about church has changed,” and her children insist on driving her everywhere. This is just part of her story and she seems amazing.

A few pages later were the story of John and Beatrice Baker. They can’t agree on the year. It was either 1955 or 1954. One night they danced at the Manhattan Casino. It was the night that set forward their life together. It was an era where couples went to dance halls and danced. Recently, the Baker’s danced again at the Manhattan Casino during its grand re-opening.

It is easy to get caught up with the “headlines” of the front page of a newspaper like the political nonsense or the endless goings on with a certain Toronto paper and Mayor Ford. However, if you dig a bit into the back pages, every paper has stories like Margaret’s and the Baker’s that make you feel good.



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