

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

## Destination shopping in Hornby, not Buffalo

Final planning approval this week for an upscale mall on the south east corner of Trafalgar Road and Steeles Avenue is expected to be a financial bonanza for almost everyone.

With hundreds of construction jobs for the proposed 14-month build, and thousands of permanent jobs once the mall opens, the 350,000-square-foot facility, with 90 to 100 stores, will pay \$10-million in Development Charges, and generate annual property taxes in the range of \$2 to \$2.5-million.

The luxury goods mall – names like Coach, Kenneth Cole and Saks 5th Avenue – are bandied about as potential tenants by land owner Calloway REIT officials, who in partnership with SmartCentres, want to attract Golden Horseshoe area customers looking for value-priced high-end goods, without having to cross a boarder. A recent survey found 75 per cent of Canadian consumers spent more time shopping around for better prices last year than the year before, and 86 per cent reported buying a deal.

Good quality, high-end, value priced goods not currently available in Canada within a short drive. Talk about a good news story, marred only slightly by competitor RioCan, which wants to build an outlet mall at Steeles and James Snow Parkway, and accused the Town of acting in bad faith on the Calloway application. The Town's lawyer said RioCan's legal concerns were not an impediment to final planning approval. Calloway plans to break ground within months. Can't wait.

### Looking Back



#### Ten Years Ago

- During Town budget debate, councillors said the Town needed to lose its bedroom community image to attract more industry to share the tax load with homeowners.

- Halton Liberals select Georgetown Councillor John Day to carry the banner in the upcoming provincial election.

- Dr. Nather Alshakarji, who came to Acton from Milton to help care for patients of the late Dr. Brian Moore, will expand his Acton office hours to meet the need.

#### Five Years Ago

- Acton businesses cleaned up at the Chamber of Commerce awards. Superior Glove was name Business of the Year, Acton Optical owner Nancy Wilkes was the Entrepreneur of the Year, and MacKinnon Family Funeral Home earned the Civic Pride Award.

- Acton's John Hunter and his badminton partner earned Gold and Silver medals at the men's senior open championship in Florida.

- Acton hosted the 37th annual Peewee hockey tournament – billed as the oldest Peewee tourney in Ontario.



**FOX FRIENDS:** The many years of support and participation by Acton Prosperity One staff in the local Terry Fox Run was recognised recently when Acton Run organizer Jon Hurst (third from right) reframed a Terry Fox print he had earlier given to the branch. Hurst also framed the branch's participation certificates which were displayed by Prosperity One staff Gail Charette (centre left), Victoria Cosulich, Tracey Jubinville and Genny DaCruz. Hurst was joined by Mike Knight and Nancy Thompsom. – Frances Niblock photo

# Storage Wars

Have you ever watched that television show Storage Wars? There is even a knock-off of the original, called Storage Wars Texas. If you haven't, the basic concept is that storage lockers rented by people who haven't paid their rent are auctioned off to the highest bidder.

You can't go into the locker when deciding whether to bid, and in the end, if successful, you hope to find something valuable that you can cash in, like winning a lottery.

The Dude likes watching these shows. He's even been to a few of these auctions locally with nothing happening except him enjoying the entertainment of going to one of these auctions. Usually on the television show however, just as the successful bidder is about to open a safe or a box or a something that looks like it could be nothing but trash, there is the big cliff hanger – "wow...look what we have here?" before they cut to a commercial.

Of course the show always shows the best and the worst, never just the in between stuff. Sometimes, you see one of the bidders find an antique so valuable it's almost unbelievable. Other times, there's nothing more than trash in



By  
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the storage unit.

The other day I was reading a newspaper online and a headline captured my attention. It was something about storage wars and an unusual find. That's the thing about headlines...it only takes one or two key specific words to entice the reader. Here I was thinking of a 16th century antique or a masterpiece painting that was missing from the Louvre for 100 years. Instead the locker had something way more interesting in it.

The locker contents were scheduled for auction, and as required by law, the owners notified again about the unpaid bill. They proclaimed the contents couldn't be auctioned off because their grandmother was in the locker. The storage unit company thought about an urn of ashes, but no, it was Gramma in a bright blue casket had been in the storage unit since 1995.

It gets even more bizarre. A

family member made the casket and it was painted her favourite colour. Gramma was all done up by the local funeral home and her family planned to transport her themselves to her home town several states away. They rented a Ford Econoline van and her daughter was about to undertake (sorry, no pun intended) the trip, but bad weather and vehicle issues ended the road trip.

The daughter put Gramma in self-storage instead of the ground. Some family members claim the daughter was a hoarder, and others that she actually visited her mom and looked at her. Others claim they knew nothing about Gramma's real whereabouts until the daughter was on her own death bed.

Three things came to me while reading this story. First, I wondered if anybody else felt a bit like Norman Bates from the movie *Psycho* with the mother kept in the house at the Bates Motel? Second, I had an urge to do more cleaning to avoid any risk of becoming a hoarder and this happening. Third, I wondered if the family knew about Gramma and which storage unit they put the daughter in?



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