

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Bath Salts warning

As if there aren't enough things for today's parents to worry about, what with teenage pregnancy, bullying, lurking Internet freaks and a wide array of readily available drugs, comes news reports of people ripping off their fingernails, and one notorious case of a face-eater in Florida – by users of so-called bath salts. The drug got its name because it resembles harmless bath salts used in soothing tubs.

The so-far legal product resembles Epson salts, but in fact contains MDPV (methylene dioxypyrovaleron) which produces hallucinations, paranoia, suicides and assaults. Toronto health officials report the drug has found its way to Toronto's nightclub scene, but no hospitalizations or deaths have been attributed to its use. The story is much different in rural Nova Scotia where officials said use the bath salts has "exploded" with 17 users visiting an emergency room in the last two months.

With names like "Ivory Wave," "Purple Wave," "Vanilla Sky," and "Bliss across the U.S. over the last year, manufacturers get around drug laws by stamping "not for human consumption" on the packages which are readily available in convenience stores and head shops. In Canada, there is also not a lot police can do because MDPV is legal.

On Tuesday, Canada's Health Minister announced MDPV will be regulated under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, putting in on par with heroin and cocaine.

Not a minute too soon.



Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

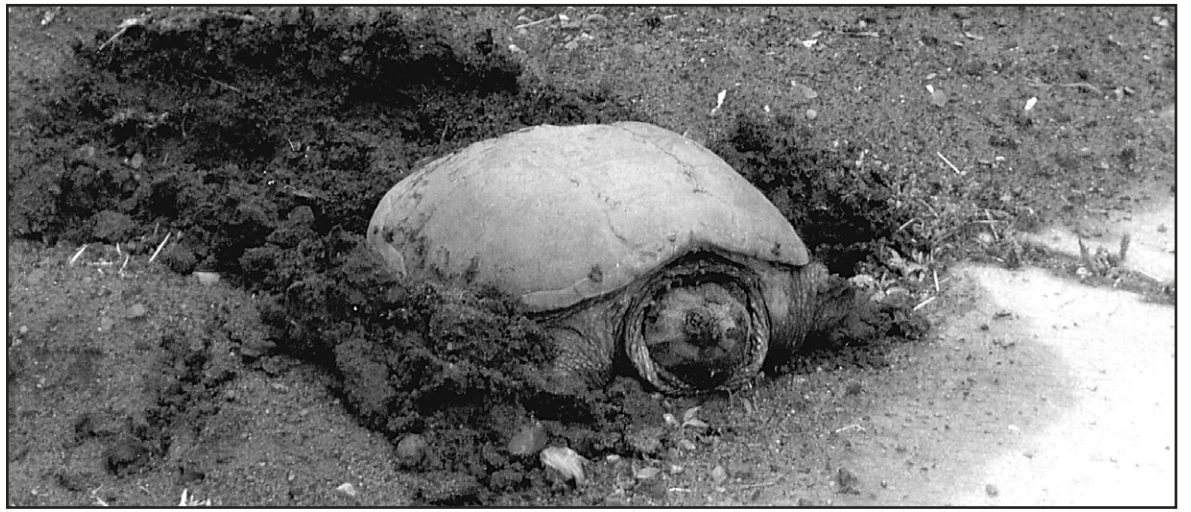
• A "backlog" in the Town's bylaw enforcement department that at least one vicious dog, identified as a Pit Bull, ran free in Acton after biting one person and charging at another.

• After 18 years in business in Acton, dance instructor Suzanne Keith announced her retirement and closure of the Acton School of Dance, which operated out of St. Alban's church.

Five Years Ago

• Flags at many Halton schools were at half-staff to honour former Acton teacher and school board chair/trustee Ethel Gardiner who lost her battle with lung cancer.

• Eight minutes, 25 seconds – nine times out of 10. Halton figures show that's how fast an ambulance gets to an Acton call, better than the Halton-wide rural/urban response time of just under 10 minutes.



TURTLE TREATS: Like a vegan at an all-you-can-eat salad bar, this Snapping Turtle ate its way through an Acton vegetable garden on Saturday, leaving behind a muddy trail and an annoyed homeowner who was forced to replant. – Submitted photo

Letters



Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, I would like to thank all those people who supported our recent fundraising events. At the end of March we sold our fresh daffodils and our daffodil pins at the Acton Sobeys and we greatly appreciate their support. Daffodil pin boxes were displayed in many local businesses during April and we would like to thank those businesses for providing space for the daffodil pins.

In the month of April, volunteers went door to door to canvass for financial donations, and we held our "Step Into Spring Fashion Show" at the Acton Legion. Thanks to Elizabeth's Fashions in Georgetown for such a wonderful show and

to the Acton Legion for their ongoing support. Thanks so much to the local vendors who brought their merchandise to display and sell and for donating amazing door prizes. A large selection of plants from Red's Garden Centre made the stage look beautiful and we would like to thank them for setting up the display. The Acton Tim Hortons store provided refreshments and we greatly appreciate their support. Thanks so much to The New Tanner and the Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press, which provided excellent promotions and coverage for all our events.

In May, the Paul Murr Memorial Golf Tournament raised an impressive \$50,000 for our Branch and we are so very

grateful for the tremendous effort that goes into organizing such a large event. The committee is to be congratulated for all their efforts and we would like to thank all the golfers who continue to come out each year and support the work of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The funds that are raised through events and donations help the Canadian Cancer Society achieve our mission to eradicate cancer and enhance the quality of life of people living with cancer. Thank you so much for supporting our events and for making our fundraising efforts a success.

Sincerely,
Cathy Gerrow
Acton Branch, Canadian Cancer Society

Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills says thanks

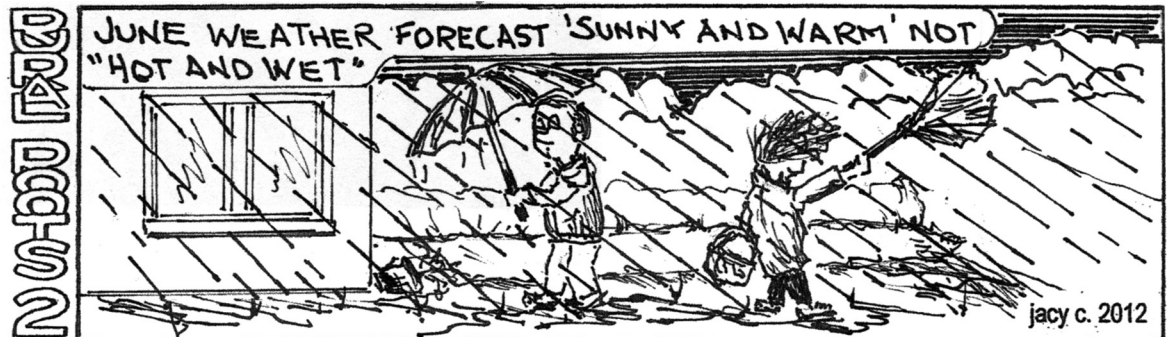
I want to express how proud I am of each and every one of you living in Halton Hills, especially those of you who relentlessly walked the streets knocking on doors and/or leaving literature; those of you who happily worked together to help with campaign preparations; and, of course, that would all

be for not if it wasn't for the donations. We raised \$104,572. Be proud that your community is a leader of a non-profit organization that does what it says it'll do; that is take care of cancer patients who need practical care.

Remember once again this campaign doesn't just raise

money to help cancer patients, but also awareness. More and more people learn what we can do for them, and let us help. Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills is successful and dependable because you need us. This is proven every day.

Anna Mae Moore
Campaign Manager



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