

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Fall fun

While the calendar shows the September is the ninth month, for many, it is the beginning of the year – and not just for students who head back to class. It is a time to get serious, to say farewell to summer silliness, and get down to the business of prepping for colder weather.

After a summer of slacker schedules, it is time to get back into routines, dig out sweaters and socks, and, if some retailers have it right – get ready for Hallowe'en. While many lament the end of summer, for others it is a time of revival, of fresh starts and anticipation of special events, including this weekend's Acton Fall Fair – the social event of the year.

Acton is at its best when it welcomes thousands of people to one of the best fairgrounds in the area – beautiful Prospect Park. For the past 99 years, the Fair has provided a glimpse of the agricultural way of life – for some kids, attending the free Education Day on Friday is their first up-close look – and touch – of farm animals.

For the price of admission - \$9 for adults, \$8 for youths and seniors, and free to those under-five – there is no better value for your entertainment dollar.

See you, hopefully, at the Fair.



Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

• Hot, humid weather exacerbated a nasty smell emanating from farmers' fields in the Acton area – the source was alleged to be from liquid hog manure, sprayed as fertilizer.

• Hot weather deterred many people from attending the annual Eden Mills Writers' festival, but organizers still said the event was "absolutely marvellous."

Five Years Ago

• David Chapman, President and co-founder of Acton's Purity Life, received a Canadian Health Food Association Hall of Fame Award for his contributions to the Canadian Natural Health Foods industry over 23 years.

• Crystal Boarder was charged with manslaughter in the death of her husband, Tony Boarder, at their Rockwood residence. Tony Boarder had a violent past including a conviction for manslaughter in connection with the death of a Rockwood teen in the early 1980s.



RED FLOWERS: The colourful watercolours of Acton resident Ann Hamilton – titled *Red Flowers* – is on display at the Halton Hills Civic Centre this month in the Mayor's Showcase. – Marie Shadbolt photo

Savvy moms - well dressed kids

When I became a mom, I discovered the world of mom2mom sales and soon learned the joys of hand-me-downs, as they are called. Being that I was the younger of two girls, and my sister was seven years older than me, I really don't remember a lot of hand-me-downs. I remember trying to wear high heel shoes or clothes that were too big for me but not a lot of recycled clothing.

When I say I discovered the joy, I really mean joy. I know sometimes people want new and aren't open to recycled items like clothes, yet for small children they grow before some clothes can be worn out. When Little J was very young, a friend of the Dude's gave us a massive container of clothes from his daughter and it was like Christmas. We had items she wore right until this past Easter, and I was very appreciative of them.

I have another friend who has a neighbour who just had a daughter this past winter after having two sons. Soon we were swapping girl items for boy items and it was Christmas all over again. I too have passed along clothes to friends and family when I can. I always ask them when they are done with them to "pay it forward" as I do with items given to me.

Mom2Mom sales are wonderful things too. We have one twice a year here in town at St. Albans Church, and I've been to ones in



By **Angela Tyler**

Milton and Georgetown as well. At these sales, moms have tables where they sell previously loved toys, clothes and other kids items. They are great. I've purchased many things at these sales, and another good thing is the money raised through the rental of tables to moms usually goes to charity.

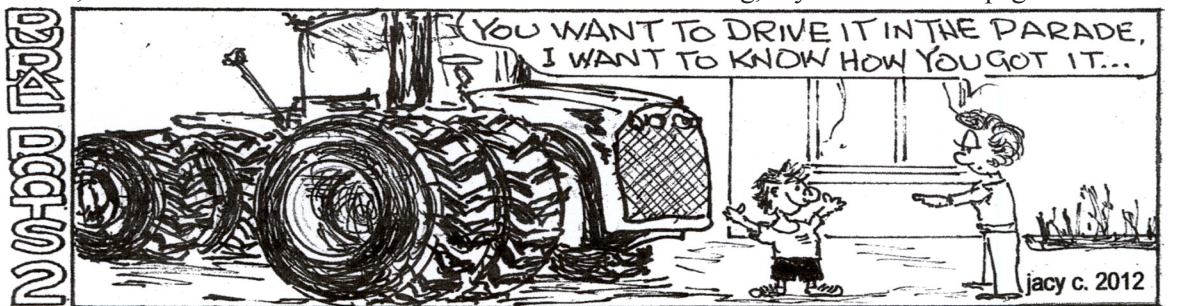
A few months ago, I found out that Mom2Mom and social media discovered one another. A single mom in Acton, Amanda Williams, felt there was a need for other moms to have an opportunity to buy and sell whether it to save money or to increase the household income. With this, she created a "page" on Facebook called Acton Mom-to-Mom Buy N Sell N Swap N Play.

On this page, "moms" (even dads and grandparents) are able to just as the title says buy, swap, sell and find events like play dates and more. It is a virtual Mom-2Mom sale with extras. There are opportunities to promote home businesses, events, garage sales and even give free things away. The buying and selling isn't limited to children's items either. There are places you can sell women's and men's clothing,

furniture, electronics, books and more. Items sold are only picked up in Acton or delivered by the seller, if the seller agrees.

Williams, along with a friend, Heather Grooms who helped Williams out when her father passed earlier this year, spend endless hours each week maintaining the page/group by ensuring items sold are removed to not confuse buyers and monitor it to keep the process a pleasant one – they do not allow any "drama." Williams and Grooms make absolutely no money from being the group administrators. They do all this work because they want to help other moms. As of this past weekend they had 343 members. That is quite impressive for a small town.

I know I've bought many items very successfully through this group and have sold quite a few and given a few things away as well. It really is a great thing and we are fortunate that these two ladies do what they do. As Williams says, "All of us moms should work together in helping a hand to each other in making Acton a community that comes together." Well said Amanda. If you're on Facebook and would like to join you can find them at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/310520032338169/> or search Acton Mom-to-Mom and you will find the page/link.



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