

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Something in the water?

How is it that Acton continues to produce people who bring us such glory and bragging rights? The latest accomplishments – on international and provincial sporting levels – make us all look good and give us something to be truly grateful for.

It was a treat this week to hear from two Acton area mothers whose grown children make them very proud. Debbie Boycott's daughter Emily, 29, captured the World Championship title at the Down Syndrome World Gymnastics in England. Emily took the win in stride – but her thrilled family teared up when the Canadian flag was raised, and O Canada played, during the podium ceremony.

There was just as much elation on Monday night when Acton's Bradley Kri, 20, was drafted by the Toronto Rock – its top pick, 14th over-all, in the National lacrosse League draft. Mom Christine Kri – who shepherded her son to arenas all over Ontario since he was six, reported Bradley was "proud of himself, but still very humble..." What Acton ambassadors.



FALL SPLENDOR: Mother Nature created a beautiful tableau of Fairy Lake in Prospect Park on Monday, setting the scene for Thanksgiving. –Jack Carpenter photo

Broken safety belts rile local mother

I've got a "mommy-beef." In other words, as a mom I'm a tad irritated. You know that expression "seat belts save lives"? Well in this mommy's world, outside of my SUV and the world of car seats and seat belts, safety belts are the equivalent of a seat belt and they saved my life.



By **Angela Tyler**

The safety belts I am referring to are the ones on high chairs in restaurants, changing tables in public areas like malls, restaurants and shopping carts. I realize unless you are a mom of a young child these mean nothing to you other than the ones on a shopping cart get tangled and can be a nuisance. Yet for people like me they are a necessity or even more with the little guy. We used them for his sister out of caution, however for him it is a necessity.

he climbs on top of the kitchen table to see if he can touch the ceiling fan; he tumbles and gets right back up; he bounces on furniture and the thing he loves most is realizing that when a safety belt on a grocery cart or high chair doesn't work properly or doesn't work at all. Then it is game on to see how many times he can and how many different ways he can stand up, twist, lean over the edge or if all other forms of entertainment fail he is quite capable of getting appendages trapped while trying to take off shoes and socks. Properly working safety belts are essential to keep him safe.

work properly. This is not good. Here are two thoughts about shopping carts with belts that don't work properly. First, if the safety belt is there and not functioning properly and something happens to the child, the business could be impacted. Second, if I can keep my child secure I will probably spend more time in your establishment than if I spend most of my time trying to keep him in his seat and getting frustrated.

When the little guy was born and for a few months after, I thought he was the quiet kid who would analyze, ponder and be a strong silent one. Boy, was I wrong. I was so wrong. One of our friends noticed from almost day one a devilish look he has which I didn't notice until probably last spring. Since then, he is a handful and a climber who has no fear. He walks; he runs;

This brings me to my "mommy-beef." There are several businesses in town with shopping carts available for their customers to use. I can think of five for sure, however, there maybe more. Out of the five I am thinking of, two of them have carts where the safety belts either are broken, removed or don't

About a week ago, I went into one of these stores in town and as I put the little guy into the shopping cart seat I reached for the ends of the belt and not a big surprise, one of the ends was completely missing. This time I mentioned something to the clerk who was near the front door. She said they got them fixed but they keep breaking so, "oh well." "Oh well"? Noooooo, that is not a good enough response for this mommy. Hey, I got a great idea. Since you still charge me five cents for any plastic shopping bag I need for things I buy in that store, and there is no longer a bag tax, maybe you could put some of that money towards fixing the shopping carts. Just a thought...

Looking Back

Ten Years Ago

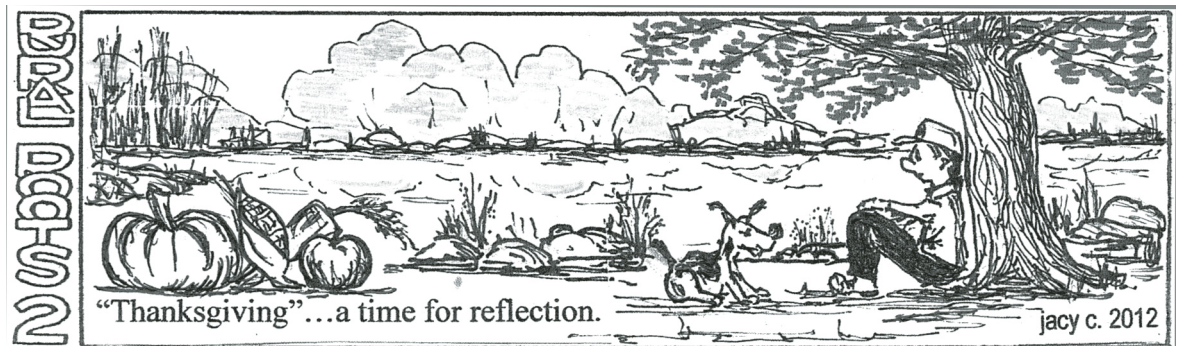
• Acton's Joanne Haughie accepted the Miss Acton crown, relinquished by Erin resident Rachel Wallace who abdicated in what Acton Agricultural Society officials called disappointing and unusual circumstances.

• Hard work, dogged determination and skill earned Acton's Gord Bollert a berth on Canada's national sledge hockey team.

Five Years Ago

• Almost all of the 560 students at Acton High students participated in a Terry Fox Run on the school track – some donated their lunch money to cancer research.

• Thieves abandoned a \$60,000 Caterpillar loader under nine feet of water at the west end of Fairy Lake after stealing it from a Mill Street West construction site.



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