

# EDITORIAL

with Traci Gardner

## Do you put an age limit on Hallowe'en?

Though Halloween was always considered, up until the last few decades, as primarily a children's holiday, in more recent years, activities such as costume parties, decorating to the extreme, and even trick-or-treating have grown increasingly popular with adults as well, which makes Halloween a celebration for all ages to enjoy.

If you were a child raised in Canada or North America for that matter, chances are that you have been out as a kid 'trick-or-treating' on October 31. Many memories are made as children running door to door in busy neighbourhoods and chanting the traditional greeting of 'trick-or-treat' with the expectation of receiving chocolate, candy, or chips. Or, if you hit the right house, being lucky enough to get a full sized chocolate bar, or a can of pop.

But, the biggest part of the excitement is of course, the costumes. Sometimes, weeks, or even months go into the planning and preparations of scary, morbid, or creative costumes. It seems the older they get, the more elaborate, and thought provoking costumes become, which in turn, begs the question, how old is too old for 'trick-or-treating'? The answer to that has always remained a matter of personal opinion, but there used to be some common ground amongst adults – once children hit their early teens they are getting close to the point of being too old to go 'trick-or-treating'. That doesn't mean that teenagers, and sometimes college students don't still run the streets in costumes knocking on a few doors to get some candy. But, do you open your door and hand-out candy to "older kids" or do you reserve that right for younger kids? Or, are you of the opinion that as long as some effort has been put into creating a costumes, and they are partaking in the thrill of the holiday, then there is no age limit to 'trick-or-treat'?

Considering that many adults rank Halloween up there with Christmas as one of the best holidays of the year, and spend countless hours making their costumes to be the most original, the most thought provoking, and as we have all seen, the most scandalous. Adults will spend months planning parties, and get-togethers, and bars go all out with costume contests and such. Or, those parents who can't wait to get home after trick or treating so they can dig through their child's wares to pick out their favourites. So, in all reality, how can we put an age limit on fun?



**BLAZIN' BLUEGRASS:** As part of the line-up of this year's Acton Town Hall 'Absolutely Acton Speakers' Series, Toronto's Foggy Hogtown Boys rolled into town Friday night. They play bluegrass and have performed together since 2001. - Ted Tyler photo

## There is lots to do in Acton

On Saturday, while at the Speakers Series at the Town Hall, listening and thoroughly enjoying the music of the Foggy Hogtown Boys. It was a great evening with a full audience and the place was hopping. The Town Hall, which at one point was set for the wreckers ball has had a rebirth and it was certainly alive that night.

It got me thinking that during the Fall and the days before Christmas are a great time for Acton and the surrounding area. Our Fall Fair seems to be the kick off of the season of events. There is a lot to see and do and participate together in our community.

As I said the Absolutely Acton Speakers Series is just one of the happenings. We've enjoyed one and there is another one in November, this time being a speaker, local Mark Engstrom who is the interim Director of the ROM is on board to tell more fabulous stories. Quite a few other establishments in the area have live bands and once a month the Roxy has open mic night too.

The Town Hall has a lot of goings on between the Acton Town Hall Players with their interactive dinner theatre next week to the Christmas Market and more. The "Acton Town Hall



By **Angela Tyler**

Centre" hosts a lot of events and checking out their website is definitely worthwhile.

One of my most favourite things to do this time of year is all the church and Christmas bazaars. I love to stock up on baking and knitted items. You can get some fabulous finds at these bazaars. Many of the bazaars also have costume jewelry and trinkets for sale – some new and some "new to me".

Want to see a great hockey game? The Acton Women's League plays every Friday night at the arena or if you want to catch a possible up and coming future NHL star there are games almost hourly at the arena all weekend long. Grab a box of popcorn and a drink, find a seat in the stands and enjoy the action.

This coming weekend with Halloween there is the obvious trick or treating yet a lot of homes in town have haunted houses set up. If you drive, a few miles out of town at the Radial Railway Museum they have the last ride of the season on Sunday. They

reopen for two days in December for special Christmas rides.

On November 7 and 11, Acton has it's Remembrance Day Services as well there are ones in surrounding hamlets and Rockwood also hold theirs on November 7. It's always moving to see in Acton the Scouts, Guides, Air Cadets, Sea Cadets, Legion members and veterans participate along with the Acton Citizen's Band and sometimes others as well.

Following that the Christmas parade season commences. I'm looking forward to seeing this year's parade in town with its new parade chairman. In December, the Acton Citizen's Band will tour the town one evening bringing old time carols to store fronts and street corners. More information on their upcoming gigs is available on their website as well.

Acton BIA has a downtown Christmas Holiday Magic at the end of November which sounds like lots of fun. And finally if you think Christmas is just for kids, next month there is a free "Seniors" Christmas dinner at the Acton Legion. Watch the New Tanner for more information. There's lots to do in town – shop and play local – it's a great thing.



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