

EDITORIAL

with Iain Brennan

Discovering your own town - How much do you know about where you live?

A recent conversation with a relative new comer to Acton, revealed her surprise at finding a used book store in town. Acton has welcomed so many new people over the last few years it begs the question: Are they all familiar with everything the town has to offer? Are you?

Busy lives can mean that something as common as meeting our neighbours is harder to do than ever before. This also means that taking time to explore the town is also lost to many people. This is really a shame, as Acton offers so much to enhance the lives of all who call it home.

Service clubs and associations like the Heritage Acton, Optimist Club, Rotary Club, Scouts & Guides, Air Cadets, Navy Cadets, and the local B.I.A. are all active members of our community. They offer various opportunities for local residents to participate in their groups or their local activities.

Speaking of activities, there is something for everyone in town. School plays, the Speakers Series, Wine and Cheese nights, Dinner theatre, Church Bazaars, Community Dinners, Farmers' Market, Leathertown Festival to name but a few.

If your desires lay in a more active lifestyle, check out the jewel of Acton: Prospect Park and Fairy Lake. All our parks offer outdoor spaces to enjoy and share from soccer to softball. Our sports facilities: Hockey Arena, Curling Rink, Indoor swimming pool, Splash pad, an Indoor soccer field and a Skate park give local residents ample opportunities to share their passions for activities with others.

Acton residents are luck to be served not only by name branded stores, whose employees are our friends and neighbours, but also by various local businesses. Book stores, Craft stores, Furniture stores, etc., with amazing selections and offering home town service. Unique gifts, quality products and services are all available locally and well worth exploring.

Restaurants and bars of all sorts are in abundance in town. From fast-food, sandwich shops, pizza and wings, to ethnic specialties and taverns. Our town offers some amazing food, from our local merchants, which are worth your time to investigate and enjoy.

Better weather means that we can all get out and walk around town to explore, meet new people and see all that Acton has to offer.



GRAND OPENING: Regional Councillor Clark Somerville, Mayor Rick Bonnette, Town Councillor Michael Albano (far right) were all on hand to congratulate Brent Martin (centre) on the Grand Opening of their new Acton store – Martin Pool Service and Supply located at 119 Mill Street. – Submitted photo

Sophie's wrong choice



By Angela Tyler

Sometimes the best of intentions can be absolutely trashed with the choice of an ill-thought-out action or a few words that probably in hindsight weren't the best choice. Enter Sophie Trudeau.

It started in January when during a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration the wife of our Prime Minister Justin Trudeau broke out in an impromptu song. In 1976, her husband's mother and ex-wife of the former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau decided to also share her vocal talents during a state dinner. Following the reviews of Sophie's public debut, it was clear that she should not have followed in mother in-laws footsteps.

Earlier this month during a newspaper interview, Mrs. Trudeau expressed to the world that she wanted to take on more public roles and expand her "First Lady" duties, however, with three children and only one assistant she just wasn't able to. Actually she said "I have three children and a husband who is prime minister. I need help. I need a team to help me serve

the people."

Last fall, the media jumped on the Sophie bandwagon in a not so supportive way when it was discovered she has two publically funded nannies and a cook. To "serve the people" she also has one full-time assistant and is requesting another to bring her "wish list" total to five publically funded staff. Michelle Obama, wife of American President Barack Obama has a full-time staff of 24 people just as a slight comparison.

Is Sophie's request that unrealistic? I don't know if it is. It's not too often that we hear of mom's staying home after their maternity leave and benefits are over. Most return to the work force. In doing this (again in a generally speaking manner) most families enlist the help of daycare for their children whether it be a daycare centre, a private provider or a relative.

Beyond daycare it's not uncommon for moms to enlist the help of a "cleaning lady" or someone to help with yard work or household maintenance especially if both parents commute to work.

Is it really that horrible that the wife of our Prime Minister, who although is not paid for her public engagements needs a little help to be our "First Lady"? She is expected to go on visits to other countries with her husband, our Prime Minister. She is expected to be there for celebrations, political dinners, meeting dignitaries from other countries, go to speaking engagements, etc and at the same time she still is just like many of us moms doing her best to be a mom and a wife and sometimes we all need to ask for help.

I don't think Sophie's mistake is asking for extra help. I think her big mistake was how she said it in her interview... "I need a team to help me serve the people". It just sounds wrong. Her job is to "serve the people" but how it came out was just not the right way.



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