

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

## Happy Mother Day and McHappy Day

To mothers, and, really, anyone who nurtures - Happy Mothers Day. Thanks for the many selfless acts that build decent human beings.

Even moms who are often told how much they are loved and needed deserve special recognition, along with a suitable gesture of love and respect.

Celebrating Mother's Day began in the United States in the early 20th century, unrelated to the Greek and Roman celebrations of mothers and motherhood throughout the world over thousands of years, or to Christian Mothering Sunday celebrations which began as a celebration of the mother church, not motherhood.

What ever the history, anyone with a mother - treat her especially well on Sunday. Honour those no longer here with a prayer or loving thought.

Mothers - treat yourself especially well on Sunday.

### McHappy Day

Families of hospitalized kids will benefit from the multi-million of dollars raised yesterday (Wednesday) across Canada for McHappy Day when partial proceeds from several best-sellers were donated to Ronald McDonald Houses and children's charities.

Thanks to the small army of willing volunteers - politicians, business owners, police and emergency services - who gave their time at the Acton McDonald's.



**HAMBURGER UNIVERSITY:** Halton Hills Firefighter, Captain Steve McKnight (left) Acton Optical owner Nancy Wilkes and Acton Councillor Clark Somerville took a quick course in presenting orders from McDonald's employees Joy Bartels and Virginia Seiler (front) during McHappy Day in Acton on Wednesday. - Frances Learment photo



**DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT:** Four Acton/Rockwood public school students had the experience of their young lives yesterday (Wednesday) when they flew to Disney World as part of the Rotary Club's "Dreams Take Flight" program. Their expenses in the Magic Kingdom will be covered by the Rotary Club of Acton. At a pre-flight party last week were, back, from left: Rotarians Dick Crane, Ron Birrell and Bill Vanderyt. Front: Caitlyn Stricker-Ogurian, Rockwood, and Acton students Jaiden Kriticos, Jacob Vienneau and Ryan Treasure. - Submitted photo

## Hugs, not hardware

One hundred years ago, Anna Jarvis of Grafton, West Virginia, was finally successful after trying for six years, in having Mother's Day recognized as a "holiday" in the United States.

She trademarked the phrases Mother's Day and second Sunday in May and created an International Mother's Day Association noting that Mother's Day should be singular, not plural, so that each family could honour its mother.

Jarvis was not impressed with the commercialization of Mother's Day which really took off during the 1920's. She wanted Mom to be truly appreciated in an uncluttered manner.

Commercialism seems to have overtaken the day. Over the weekend, the newspaper/inserts/ flyers included page after page of things to get mom. I think I've always done pretty well in that category for my mom. I always try to think of something that is special for her. It has to be something that pampers her, whether it is new attire or maybe a nice outdoor flower basket she can enjoy all summer, or even just taking her out for dinner. After all, my mom has always told me "any meal I don't have to cook is a good



By Angela Tyler

meal," which I can't help but agree.

However, some stores seem to think what mom really wants to show how much you honour her is a vacuum, or skillet or even a deep fryer. Yes, nothing says I love you mom more than giving her a vacuum. What we are really saying to mom when we give her appliances? Here mom, here's a skillet...can you make me breakfast now?

What do moms really want? I can't speak for all of them, but I know for many, we want the simple things. We want to sleep in. We don't want breakfast in bed though. Eating in bed isn't fun or easy. We want our kids to hug us and tell us they love us and not argue, roll their eyes at us or ask for anything, including money. We want those handmade kid gifts and cards. We love them and we keep every single one of them. Of course, we love jewellery but it isn't necessary. However, don't ever assume unnecessary says we don't want it.

We do not want to wipe bums, noses or do laundry on Mother's Day. We want to be able to pee in privacy and shower for more than three minutes without someone bothering us with a problem, crying, fighting or telling us they need the wash-room more. We want to watch a TV show we choose and too bad if it is a chick-flick. We want to be able to sit down and read a book or have an afternoon nap. We don't want to have to cook, and flowers are never a waste of money on any day, especially Mother's Day.

Every day mom is the facilitator, the problem solver, the chef, the cleaning lady, the chauffer, the financial advisor (mom can I borrow \$10 sound familiar?), the nurse maid, the gardener, the garbage man, the personal shopper for the family, the teacher and the bearer of hugs and kisses that fix all owies and boo-boo's.

Once a year, for 24-hours, all we moms ever want is to know that our husbands and our kids remember that list too. Words to the wise...husbands if you were thinking about giving her a new frying pan, don't. Instead give her a hug and say thanks...we appreciate that so much more.



"Mothers' Day" advice from the past!!

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