

# EDITORIAL

with Traci Gardner

## Autumn is here

I enjoy Spring – being able to open windows, watching the trees and flowers as they begin to bloom and come to life.

I look forward to summer – the kids being home from school, enjoying lazy days lounging by the pool, camping trips, amusement parks, longer days, and beautiful sunsets.

And winter, well, my mother always told me if I can't say anything nice, then don't say anything at all.

So that leaves (no pun intended) Autumn! The Fall is my favorite time of year. Come late September, or early October, the air feels fresher, cleaner. My head feels clearer, beginning to relish the thought of some refreshing rain to wash away the dust of summer.

I look forward to the steaming mugs of tea or hot chocolate on those crisp rainy weekends. And of course, watching the leaves turn, seeing the different hues of browns, yellows, and reds, as pleasing as the late summer sunsets. Taking those long scenic drives to the country side, stopping to take photo after photo of the beautiful array of bright colours, and contrasting blue skies.

The heartier meals - my tastes turn from salads and BBQ to the comfort foods. Smells that bring you right back to your childhood – cinnamon, spice and of course – apple pie. Soups, stews, and pot roasts. Those meals that bring the family back together around the table.

My sleeping experience is almost guaranteed to be better in the fall. Everyone knows how difficult it is to fall asleep when it is hot and muggy in your bedroom. Throw on your favorite sweats that you haven't seen since February and cuddle up underneath your comforter that you can finally take out of storage.

This is the one time of the year that everyone comes together with their families to celebrate in unison. Not everyone is fortunate enough to see their relatives multiple times a year, but Thanksgiving is a holiday that brings everyone back together again. Not to mention the leftovers for days.

While many are holding onto the hope of summer weather. I am welcoming the fall with open arms.

## PAST PAGES



### 10 YEARS AGO

- A 41-year-old long time Acton resident was behind bars, charged with the attempted drug robbery at Sobeys pharmacy, after being initially arrested in Belleville in connection with the robbery of a Pharma Plus.
- Concrete gets poured for the development of Habitat for Humanity's Acton project on Crescent Street that would be home for the Parker/Hepburn family, in hopes to be completed before Christmas.

### 5 YEARS AGO

- Ontario's ban on using handheld devices while driving took effect, making it illegal to talk, text, type or dial on a communication or entertainment device while behind the wheel.
- Acton's Carly Livingston was presented with the Best Actress Award at the Young Cuts Film Festival in Montreal for her lead role of Autumn in the film *Scarecrow*.



**PAVING PARADISE:** Jamie Jacome, Jason Inacio, Brian Coelho, George Moura, Andrew Correia, Michael DaCosta, and Sergio Coelho have been working hard this past week enlarging and resurfacing the LCBO parking lot and putting in a new sidewalk. There are future plans to remodel the inside as well, although the details of when and how much have not yet been finalized. – Kate Hendry photo

## Busy schedule

There are a lot of changes going on since the start of this school year for us. I know we aren't the first to experience changes as children go off to school, yet, it's a lot to keep up with and it is a bit overwhelming at times.

For the past few years, I've actually bought a 'student' agenda book. Although I consider myself fairly automated with my smart phone and tablet and use of emails and so forth, I still rely on my paper calendar on our fridge and the agenda book with its calendars.

With Little J in school every day, and the little guy in nursery school three times a week, the agenda book has become even more of a necessity. At first, it had days marked in like the first day of school for her or which days were his full or half days. Now with their activities on top of it and even noting a day here or there for their babysitter and such, the monthly calendar is getting a bit much.

As they are both young, I think it is important for them not to have too many activities. We need a good balance of ac-



By Angela Tyler

tivities, school, play time and family time. We have dance for her and swim lessons for both of them and maybe later this season we will delve into skating lessons when we take our seasonal break from swimming before resuming again in the spring.

The calendar started filling in with a nice pace of those things, until the memos and the emails started coming from both schools and from church for Sunday School upcoming events. Soon we added in pizza days, school open houses and family Hallowe'en parades, orange and black clothing days, picture days, scholastic book order due dates, library book return dates, youth services at church, volunteer times at their schools, birthday party invites and the endless list continued. By the time these were done I think we had two days in October that didn't have anything marked on them and that didn't

even include things that we the parents had going on.

I take a look at us with two kids and limited extra-curricular activities and I think about families with more kids and more activities or those who are involved in competitive sports then combined with homework, which we will be entering next year, and then toss in the fact that neither of us commute out of town for work and I wonder how families do it. How do they even find time to go grocery shopping?

It is one month into us having two kids in school, one only part-time, and I am already finding myself ready to go to bed at 9:30 p.m. We have at least another almost 15 years of elementary and secondary school days, and I know every year there will be more things... more activities, more homework, more school stuff, more school friends stuff. By the time that the little guy graduates high school I will be legally eligible for Canada Pension. I'm going to have to go to bed even earlier because I'm getting more tired just thinking about it all.



# THE NEW Tanner PUBLISHING LTD.

373 Queen Street East, Unit 1  
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2

email: [thenewtanner@on.aibn.com](mailto:thenewtanner@on.aibn.com)

(519) 853-0051 Fax: (519) 853-0052

**PUBLISHER/EDITOR** Ted Tyler  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR** Traci Gardner

**EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS**  
Goretti Almada, Dawn Brown, Jane Dougan,  
Mike Hedley, Kate Hendry, Angela Tyler

**ADVERTISING AND CIRCULATION**  
Marie Shadbolt

**PRODUCTION:** Iain Brennan  
**TYPESETTING:** Melissa Paul

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