

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Kudos to Heritage Acton

Almost torn down to make way for a parking lot, the Acton Town Hall is now a "majestic addition to the Province's stock of heritage properties," thanks to a lot of hard work by a lot of people dedicated to preserving Acton's rich history.

That history, and the successful efforts by Heritage Acton to preserve and enhance it, were the focus of celebrations on Sunday at the official opening of the expanded Willow Street building, which now includes a Citizens' Hall and elevator.

In his remarks on Sunday – which he repeated in the Ontario Legislature on Tuesday – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott praised the grass roots efforts, based on community spirit and partnership, that saved the 19th century Town Hall from demolition, and then lovingly restored it to again become a community social centre.

Acton is indebted to Heritage Acton for its vision, dedication and fundraising to not just save, but enhance, an Acton landmark.



THUMBS UP

• To those Halton Hills residents who took part in the Town's recent spring cleanup events – over 50-tonnes of garbage was collected from roads, creeks and parks, an increase from last year.

• To all mothers, for their ceaseless love.

PAST PAGES



TEN YEARS AGO

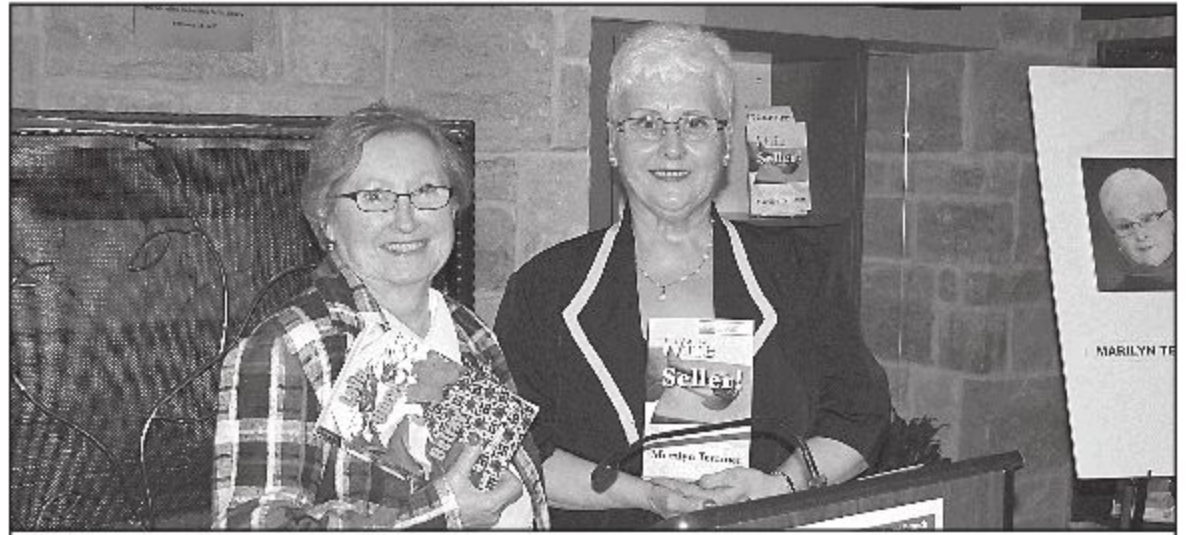
• A source said that for months, as canny thieves stole government cheques, credit cards and goods from rural mailboxes in the Acton area, post office officials told mail carriers not to talk about the thefts so people "didn't get paranoid."

• From Dixieland to Mozart, the Acton Citizens Band played all the favourites at a ceremony honouring the band as the recipients of the Rotary Citizen of the Year award.

FIVE YEARS AGO

• Last season's gruelling hard work paid off in spades for Acton rhythmic gymnast Emily Boycott who was named Female Athlete of the Year with a Disability at the Ontario Sport Awards.

• Final planning approvals are in place for Halton Green, an estate subdivision north of Acton on Highway 25 at 32 Side Road, where Legend Homes will offer houses, starting in the mid-\$700,000s, to "people who want some space."



LOCAL AUTHORS: Acton natives Maggie Petru (formerly The New Tanner reporter Maggie Petrushevsky) and Marilyn Temmer (right) read from their novels and then signed books at the Acton library branch last Thursday. – Ted Tyler photo

Candlelight Tribute honours the ultimate sacrifice

Tonight (Thursday) the Acton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion continues a tradition started not too long ago; a Candlelight Walk to honour veterans.

Near the end of World War II, Canadians were the main force behind the liberation of the Netherlands and the end of Nazi occupation. Following this, to show their gratefulness the Netherlands, every five years, celebrated Liberation Day.

On May 4, they remember those who fought and died in wars. The day following, May 5 would be a celebration of freedom and include parades, festivals, music, praise for veterans and, of course, two minutes of silence at 8 p.m. out of respect for those who had passed. In 1990, the celebration was changed to a National holiday and became an annual event.

Decades later after the liberation, the Netherlands



By **Angela Tyler**

have not forgotten our veterans and Canadian veterans were invited to return to the Netherlands by their government to help commemorate VE Day. They were treated with the utmost honour and respect.

That is the abbreviated background. With mutual admiration, our Legion Branch decided to host a Candlelight Walk to honour all veterans. Some might ask, with Remembrance Day, why we need this event. I personally think another day annually to reflect on sacrifice of others for a few brief moments is hardly enough to say thank you for our freedom.

Two groups will walk to the Acton Cenotaph – one from St. Albans Church, and one

from the GO Train parking lot. Organizers ask participants to be there at 6:30 p.m. The processions will walk in silence to the Cenotaph for a service, after which all are invited to the Legion for refreshments. The candles then continue to light the Cenotaph, while fallen comrades look down from above.

It is such a simple token of thanks and gratefulness for what we have, why wouldn't we want to participate? A walk in silence, a thank you, a reaffirmation of our loyalty to our country with our National Anthem, and the flickering flame to remind all those who drive by the Cenotaph later that evening. It truly sounds peaceful which is what they fought for...peace.

We hope to see you there, and if you can't make it out for the procession, you can still thank a veteran that day and any/every day for their service.



Publisher Ted Tyler
Editor Frances Learment
Editorial Contributors Angela Tyler
Advertising and Circulation Marie Shadbolt
Composing Traci Gardner, Iain Brennan
Typesetting Melissa Paul

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THE NEW TANNER
PUBLISHING LTD.

373 Queen Street East, Unit 1
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2
email: thenewtanner@on.aibn.com

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