

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Where were the kids?

It seemed like the only kids at last week's Candlelight Tribute to mark WWII sacrifices were in uniform – they were Cadets, or members of the Acton Scouting/Guiding movement – but there were few “civilian” kids, at the Cenotaph.

That gives pause to the Legion's clarion call of “Lest We Forget,” and is ironic as the Candlelight Tributes were started by children in the Netherlands who put flowers on graves of liberating Canadian soldiers.

Ten years ago, the Acton ceremony was attended by hundreds of people – many of them children – the ones charged with remembering as the voices of aging veterans are silenced. With fewer first-hand voices to keep the stories of ultimate sacrifice and valour alive, the children of today must be exposed to events like the Candlelight Tribute.

*They were young, as we are young,
They served, giving freely of themselves.
To them, we pledge, amid the winds of time,
To carry their torch and never forget.
We will remember them.*



PAST PAGES



TEN YEARS AGO

- Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette and Georgetown Councillor John Day will challenge incumbent Mayor Kathy Gastle for the Town's top elected position in the upcoming municipal election
- The Town held a public meeting into Shopper's Drugmart plans to build a pharmacy on vacant land on Queen Street East at the foot of Young Street.

FIVE YEARS AGO

- Plans for a café and doctor's residence were cut from Dr. Nather Alshakarji's proposal for a new medical centre at the corner of Mill Street and Eastern Avenue.
- A group that no longer exists – Acton's IODE Lakeside Chapter – was honoured as the 2008 Citizens of the Year by the Rotary Club of Acton for its decades of community help.



ACCESSIBLE KNOX: The old choir room was demolished at Knox Presbyterian Church to make for an extension which will house an elevator, a new choir room, storage and meeting space, along with a new back entrance. Construction should be complete by the end of the summer. – George Henderson photo

No good news but still compelling

It's hard to believe some of the horrific events that have happened lately. From the Newtown shooting that devastated a small town with the killing of innocent children to persons being blown up while running the historic Boston Marathon. We watch in horror as these stories unfold on television, the internet and in print. We pray, we fear, we are in shock and awe yet we still are glued to the stories.

A little over a week ago I stumbled across the story of an Ancaster man who went missing after two men came to test drive a truck he had listed for sale on the internet. The next day I mentioned the story to a few co-workers and family members, and none had heard about it. I even suggested our newspaper put a little blurb because as horrible as it sounds, it is true that dead bodies show up in this area, like the unidentified female in Rockwood. At the time, Tim Bosma was just missing.

On Tuesday, police held two news conferences to an-



By **Angela Tyler**

nounce human remains, found burned beyond recognition, were Bosma, a young man married only a few years with a little two year-old daughter.

Another young man has been arrested and charged with his murder...not convicted.

With the discovery of the human remains and the press conference there has been an outpouring of emotion, compassion and possibly fear, as at present, there are potentially two other suspects not in custody, nor identified...yet.

The details of the story run rampant because the information is available and we want to consume it. We don't want it to happen to us. We want the bastards who did this caught. We don't want the television nightly news to start with killings or murders or other “bad things” but at the same time,

we wait and watch all the stories – the one we've don't want to know about, but need to watch. It is this sick circle that is like that old analogy of passing an accident scene on the highway, you don't want to watch but you do anyway?

Does the mass media coverage of these horrific events fuel other horrific events? Did the Boston Marathon bombing inspire the person deciding to gun down and injure 19 people watching a Mother's Day parade in New Orleans? Did the Columbine killing mass media accounts encapsulate Adam Lanza to go into that elementary school and obliterate a community and toss a nation into mourning?

I don't know if one horrific killing snowballs into another, but I firmly believe the media needs to look at how they cover, and how much they cover, these events which are escalating. I'm not suggesting we hide and pretend these things don't happen, but there has to be a better way of handling them.



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