

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Acton: a clean bill of health

Health care has come a long way for Acton area residents, many who didn't have, and couldn't get a family doctor just a decade ago. Those days, we were "under-served" and Acton's two physicians were tripled booked prompting one to impose a one complaint per office visit rule because of the crush of sick and ailing people who needed to be seen.

Today, Acton has four family practitioners, a doctor who does house calls, a twice-weekly walk-in physician, and a Nurse Practitioner. While the new Family Health Organization funding model no longer uses the one doctor to 1,380 patients ratio, experts said that is close to reality in Acton with the recent addition of Dr. Nina Nahab, who will see patients at the end of the month.

Roger Firsoff, Acton's first and only Nurse Practitioner (NP) has built a cradle-to-grave practice of approximately 2,000 patients annually in a program paid for by the Ministry of Health at \$120,000 annually, and \$7,500 annually from both Halton and Halton Hills.

Halton's Physician recruitment Officer Angela Sugden-Praysner, who Firsoff credits, along with Town Economic Development Officer Doug Penrice, as key in getting the Nurse Practitioner position funded in Acton, said Acton residents benefit greatly with ongoing and enhanced health care access because of the Nurse Practitioner program – just what the doctor/NP ordered.

PAST PAGES



Ten Years Ago

- Halton Flour Milling – Acton's oldest industry – was sold by Rockwood's Brian Dolotowicz after Dover Industries offered him more money than he could refuse.
- With 58 new clients on their first day of business in the Sobeys plaza, Curves set a one-day record for new memberships in the worldwide fitness chain.

Five Years Ago

- Churchill Community Church celebrated its 170th anniversary with a recreation of an 18th century service, commemorating the settlers who tamed this area.
- Seven Acton area adults – described as "always caring and always there" – were honoured with Youth Supporter Awards at an Acton Youth Chance for Change celebration.



PLENTY OF PLANTS: A large crowd of eager shoppers – including Acton's Sharon Lawrie – had a wide variety of plants to choose from at the Acton Horticultural Society's annual plant sale at Bethel CRC on Saturday. They sold out within hours. – Ted Tyler photo.

Letters

Love in every stitch

To the Editor,
The Comfort Ministry of the Ladies' Aid, Knox Presbyterian Church, appreciate coverage by The New Tanner of our project. Over 400 shawls and lap robes have been distributed to individuals, hospitals and nursing

homes throughout this community and also across Canada. Last month we were pleased to give 42 lap robes/shawls to the Cancer Society for anyone in need of some comfort. We also thank John McNabb for generously providing the tag

attached to each item. This is truly another example of our community working together to help others.

Thank you,
Jean Somerville
Acton, ON

Book an eye exam

To the editor
May is Vision Health Month and according to CNIB research, Canadians are more afraid of losing their eyesight than almost anything else. Given that one in seven of us will develop a serious eye disease; it's a fear that's certainly not unfounded. Fortunately, 75 per cent of vision loss can be prevented or treated and there are many things we can do to prevent blindness and vision loss. The

most important step is to get regular eye exams by a Doctor of Optometry. The problem is that many Canadians aren't getting their eyes checked as often as they should because they think their eyesight and their eye health are the same thing. They're not. 20/20 vision and eye disease are not mutually exclusive. The reality is that many eye diseases have no symptoms in their early stages, so someone may not realize they have an

eye disease until it's too late to get treatment that could save their sight. That's why it's crucial to have regular, comprehensive eye exams, regardless of how old you are. In recognition of Vision Health Month, we recommend people take action for their eyes and book an eye exam today.

Regards,
Dr. Keith Gordon
Vice President, Research, CNIB



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