

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Happy Canada Day

There will be parades, bands, food, fun, flags, fellowship and patriotic parties from coast to coast this weekend to mark Canada Day and celebrate our country's proud legacy and unlimited possibilities.

The local 146th Canada Day festivities take place in Glen Williams, and then Prospect Park, wrapping up with the traditional Acton Firefighters Association fireworks at dusk.

With Maple leafs painted on cheeks, people (and their) pets festooned in red and white, and with many homes and vehicles proudly flying Canadian flags, Monday will be day to mark the anniversary of the July 1, 1867, enactment of the British North America Act, 1867, which united three colonies into Canada within the British Empire. Dominion Day was renamed Canada Day in 1982, when the Canada Act was passed.

Sometimes who and what we are as a country is revealed by others. Here are some Canada Day quotations:

"Canada will be a strong country when Canadians of all provinces feel at home in all parts of the country, and when they feel that all Canada belongs to them." – Pierre Elliott Trudeau

"It is as Queen of Canada that I am here. Queen of Canada and all Canadians, not just one or two ancestral strains." – Queen Elizabeth II

"A Canadian is someone who knows how to make love in a canoe." – Pierre Burton

"Canada is the linchpin of the English-speaking world." – Winston Churchill

"I am a Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, or free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind." – John Diefenbaker (From the Canadian Bill of Rights, July 1, 1960)

"Canada is a country so square that even the female impersonators are women." – Comedian Richard Benner

PAST PAGES



TEN YEARS AGO

- The Town anticipated little public response to a new butt out bylaw that bans workplace and public smoking with the exception of restaurants, bars and bowling alleys during specific times.
- Six employees of Holly Industries were evacuated without injury after a small explosion and fire at the Eastern Avenue plant which supplies sulphur, mainly to tire industry.

FIVE YEARS AGO

- Veteran Acton High School teacher Joan Boychuk retired after 29 years, coming to Acton, where her husband Rick was teaching, in 1979.
- The Old Beach in Prospect Park was the only one of seven public beaches tested by Halton health officials to be declared unsafe for swimming because of high bacteria levels.



A blast from the past

This spring and summer we have had the strangest weather. However, the last few days have been scorchers. On Monday, I was so grateful we had central air, yet at the same time, I had refused to turn it on, just yet. I figured we could tough it out a little longer – after all, we'd been waiting for this hot weather for so long. By lunchtime, I decided that the kids and I were going to cool down the old-fashioned way and play in some water so we headed to the splash pad at Prospect Park.



By **Angela Tyler**

The kids love it there. It is the only splash pad we go to at the moment. It's small yet big enough for their age. It is well used, but not crazy busy right now, and it has the sheltered area right be-

side it. For us it is perfect.

On Monday they played for over two hours in the water and during that time they made friends with several other children ranging in age from one year old to nine years old. It is such a

comfort to have a place like that accessible within minutes, free, fun and most of all, safe.

From my archives I found a piece I wrote two years ago following our first visit there (the facility is three years old), with, at the time, only one child. I repeat part of it now and marvel, again, about the wonderful donation Superior Glove Works gave the children of Acton. It truly is a gift that keeps giving.

A blast from the past...

I have to admit that I paid little or no attention to the decision that transpired for Acton to get a splash pad. I don't know how it came about, who brought the idea up or how much it eventually cost.

Until recently, my only observations of the splash pad ranged from wondering why we couldn't have kept the wading pool and added a splash pad, to trying to understand why the Town required a corporate sponsor to help pay for what appeared to be a really small splash pad.

I walked through the park several times with Little J and every time the same unanswered questions went through my head. It was like the new library. Although we've been to the new digs a few times and heard all the reasons why the old library couldn't have been saved, heck I even talked the Mayor about it, I still wonder

why the old and new couldn't have been cosmetically amalgamated or the old one used for something.

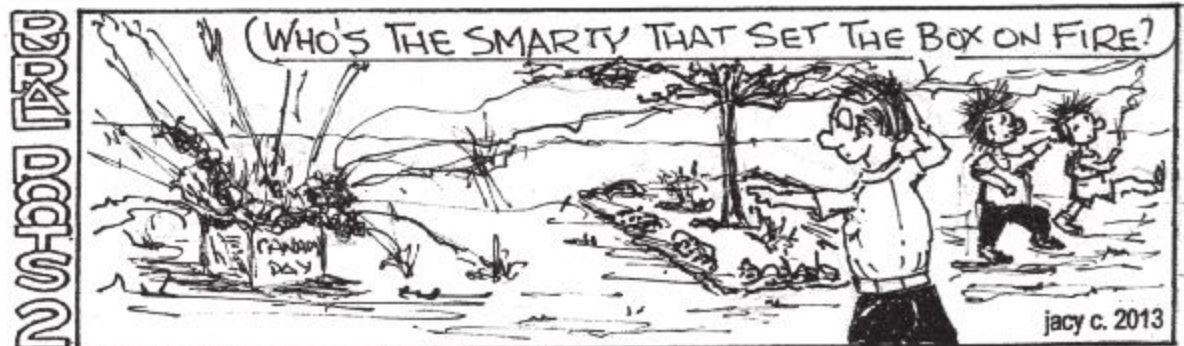
However, there comes a time when you have to join the majority, and two weeks ago when the end of May temperature rose to sweltering levels, it was our time for momma and Little J to have a splash pad adventure.

True to her daredevil form and full of her daddy's genes, Little J tore off full force into the chilly waters with no fear. I couldn't believe this was the same baby that only figured out this walking thing six months ago. Now here she was running from water burst to water burst in her little polka-dot tankini saying hi to other kids, having probably the happiest time ever.

Here we had a safe play area that needs no supervision by Town staff, therefore it was ac-

tually cheaper than a wading pool, and I think it is probably safer in the end because it isn't a pool. The splash pad is actually a fair size and quite a bit of the area in the shade. Any queries about hygiene were gone almost immediately – you could smell the chlorine in the water and the entire area around it is clean too. It is perfect.

I still don't know how much the splash pad cost, and quite frankly I don't care. I still don't know why the Town required a corporate sponsor either. What I do know is Little J now squeals with excitement when we drive into Prospect Park in anticipation of what waits for her. Thanks to the corporate sponsor Superior Glove Works for donating \$75,000 towards safe fun for the kids. Their donation is a huge chunk of money for a company in a small town like ours.



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PUBLISHING LTD.

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Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2
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Distributed to every home in Acton and area, as well as adjoining communities.

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