

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Blame the breed?

Jasmine, a stray dog being socialized as part of the adoption process by the Upper Credit Humane Society, will be put down after attacking and biting three volunteers who were playing fetch with it last week at the society's Erin shelter/pound.

Cathy Slaney, chair of the Society's Board of Directors, said the rare attack could have been much worse, but added she didn't even want to think about what could have happened if the dog had passed all the behaviour tests, was adopted, and then attacked someone in its new family.

The adoption process for the two-year-old female Mastiff/cross was delayed because the dog was in heat, and was not scheduled to be spayed – a requirement for adoption – until next week. This dog, picked up almost a month ago as a stray in Erin, had shown no aggressive behaviour at the shelter, and if this attack had not occurred, it would have been shortly placed for adoption as the shelter can only handle eight to 10 dogs at a time.

While that attack was "personally distressing," Slaney said it could not have been predicted. Slaney said the breed may have been a factor, noting that like some pit bull-type dog attacks, Jasmine was happy and friendly one minute, and then switched to an aggressive attack mode, raising speculation that she may have been abandoned because she was aggressive.

While many experts say breed prohibitions don't work and decry Ontario's pit bull-type dog ban, this was a very close call for "seasoned" volunteers who were treated in hospital – all required stitches – and since have returned to work at the shelter. Too bad that her aggression – whatever her breed – caused Jasmine's death.

Dangerous dogs may exist in every breed and breed cross, and the incidence of dog bites has not been shown to be reduced by restricting the ownership of certain breeds.



FROZEN TREATS: A frozen banana dipped in melted chocolate proved a tasty treat at the Acton Farmer's Market last Thursday at Christian Hartman's The Banana Stand. – Ted Tyler photo

Goodbye summer, hello sashes

Last week at bedtime I was frozen. I could not get warm. For the first time in months we had all the windows shut. When I went to bed I was drowning in my bathrobe, a sweater, socks, pj's and two comforters on top of the bedding. I was ready to put the furnace on. Nothing was getting rid of the chill I had that night.

The cooler temperatures have been a refreshing change; however it is a bit more than expected. That is how I thought until this past Monday. About half way through the day it hit me like a brick wall. It was Civic Holiday. Civic Holiday? No! It was just Victoria Day yesterday. Then, on the radio I heard the advertisement with the ever so familiar jingle... "Let's go to the Ex". GAAAA not the CNE radio ads. No, it can't be the CNE already. It was official – summer was over.

I started thinking about the end of summer. By the time you read this, school will start in just over three weeks. Costco has been selling kids snow suits for a month. Little J was asking me what she should be for Hallowe'en earlier in the day. I suppose the cold evening made sense. After all it was August. It



By **Angela Tyler**

is Southern Ontario. When you combine those two elements you get cooler, even cold evenings.

Of course, the big even for this fall is our Fall Fair's 100th anniversary. It should be an awesome time, and like always, a perfect occasion to meet up with old friends and family. It's actually kind of funny because this week I had a "remember when" from a Fall Fair decades ago. We all have fond Fall Fair memories – mine is the opening Friday night and the Miss Acton Pageant.

This week, I stopped into see the Dude at his work and he was chatting with one of his customers whom I didn't know. I was just going to let him finish his stuff, but the lady introduced herself, and at first, I didn't recognize her. It had been quite a while since I saw her, but I surprised her when I told her when it was. As she told me her name, I replied, "Oh yes...you were Miss Acton." I think I startled her. She blushed and said hadn't

thought about her win for a long time, adding she was surprised I remembered. The Dude also questioned my memory.

It was quite easy, I explained. She was Miss Acton back in the day when it was standing-room only at the old arena for the Friday night pageant. It was the most important part of the Fall Fair – a variety show, a who's who, a stage full of dozens of beautiful young ladies vying to be declared the winner. That is where you had to be Friday night of the fair. If for some reason you couldn't make it to the end to see who won, because it wasn't uncommon for it to run into the wee hours, the next most important thing was the Fall Fair parade so you could see Miss Acton and her royal court of princesses and their royal wave from the back of the convertible. The former Miss Acton was crowned in the pageant's hey-day. I could even name some of the other winners who were crowned before or after her.

The Dude asked Miss Acton if she still had her crown. She told us she had to return the crown, but every once in a while she still brings out her sash.

PAST PAGES



TEN YEARS AGO

- A scratch ticket purchased at Acton's Lucy's Jug City variety on Mill Street won a Toronto woman, with a trailer at Acton's Smallwood Acres, a grand prize of \$100,000 a year for life. Linda Teriault, 56, intended to buy her first house, share her winnings with family and travel.

- Dogs will romp unleashed with carefree abandon at the Town's first leash-free dog area in Prospect Park, which will be built near the tennis courts.

FIVE YEARS AGO

- GO officials said Acton was being considered for GO train stop, and that the number of possible commuters would be the deciding factor as GO expanded its Toronto line to Kitchener. Acton had GO Train service from 1990 to 1993, but it was cancelled, allegedly due to poor ridership.

- Acton prepared for the 17th annual Acton Leathertown Festival which turns downtown Mill Street into a pedestrian mall featuring fun, food and good deals from a variety of vendors.



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

Publisher Ted Tyler
Editor Frances Learment

Editorial Contributors
Angela Tyler

Advertising and Circulation
Marie Shadbolt

Composing Traci Gardner, Iain Brennan
Typesetting Melissa Paul

Distributed to every home in Acton and area, as well as adjoining communities.

Every effort will be made to see advertising copy, neatly presented, is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur provided a claim is made within five days of publication.

All articles, advertisements and graphic artwork appearing in The New Tanner is copyrighted. Any usage, reproduction or publication of these items, in whole or in part, without the express written consent of the publisher of The New Tanner is a copyright infringement and subject to legal action.