

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

A little more leather?

While there was precious little leather – some belts and just a few coats – at the 22nd Acton Leathertown Festival on Sunday, the street party was still a success as approximately 4,000 people thronged to the pedestrian-only downtown street for the festivities, seen by some as a warm-up for Fall Fair weekend.

They came for the food, fun, music, and for some, to shop at the mainly out-of-town merchants who hawked everything from jewellery, hats, clothing and knick knacks. Many wished that the handiwork of some of the many local artisans could have been on display and for sale, as in past years when a craft area was set up, showcasing the unique man-made goods of talented crafters.

It is hard to please everyone, but with a rich history as Leathertown, it would have been nice and informative to give more than just a passing nod to the leather industry, which put Acton on the map – first as the largest leather producer in the Commonwealth, and later as home to the olde Hide House, which sparked the ubiquitous marketing phrase “It’s Worth the Drive to Acton.”

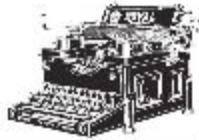
THUMBS UP

• For the outpouring of financial support from local businesses and residents who donated money – approximately \$800 to date – to help repair/replace Molly the Moose, the Sweet Molly’s mascot, which two weeks ago was damaged by vandals, for the fourth time in a year.

THUMBS DOWN

• To Acton residents and merchants who, so far, have not responded to an invitation from the Acton Agricultural Society to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Acton Fall Fair by taking part in a decorating contest to support this year’s theme : “100 years from rural roots to new branches - Maple Trees.”

PAST PAGES



TEN YEARS AGO

• After a long and arduous planning process, Town Council approved plans for Leathertown Junction – a small plaza at Queen and Young Streets, which will house a Shoppers Drug Mart.
• There were two registered sex offenders living in Acton – but in a briefing to Town Council, Halton police said that was all they could report under Ontario’s Sex Offender Registry rules.

FIVE YEARS AGO

• Dr. Ahmed Raouf-Alkadhimi joined the Acton Acute Care and Medical Centre to help take over the heavy caseload of retired physician Dr. Vanderbent.
• A 41-year-old Acton man, armed with a butcher knife and several small steak knives, held Halton police at bay for two-and-half hours before being disarmed and arrested without injury.



PHYSICIAN INCENTIVE: With help of a \$5,000 grant and \$10,000 interest-free loan, Acton’s newest family physician, Dr. Dina Nahab was able to open and equip her office at the Acton Medical and Urgent Care Centre. She accepted a cheque and welcome on Tuesday from Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette. – Frances Learment photo

Coke, tornadoes and power outages

The past few days, a number of items have caused me to pause – a couple just seem so unfamiliar to me, and one just boggles my mind.



By Angela Tyler

This past weekend we headed off to Michigan for our friend’s daughter’s wedding celebration. It was a pleasure to attend with everyone smiling and the bride was absolutely stunning. The next morning as we headed home, we stopped for breakfast at an American family-restaurant style, one of those ones you see all over the states that you can count on for consistent food and service.

I was looking forward to breakfast, as going out for the most important meal of the day is one of my most favourite things. As we sat down, the waitress came over with menus I waited for her to ask if we wanted coffee. But, instead she asked what we’d like to drink saying “Would you like a drink to start? Coke? Coffee?”

Was she serious? It was ten in the morning. Coke? Did she really ask if we wanted a Coke (which by the way has the equivalent of ten teaspoons of sugar in a can) with our breakfast? Welcome to America. I have never in my life been asked at a restaurant if I wanted a Coke with my eggs.

I’ve traveled quite a bit

throughout the states in my life. I’ve been very fortunate in that respect. The Coke thing was totally new for me. Another thing that I had never experienced occurred on our way to the event. I, of course, had to do a little snooping around the area shopping mall, and while we were there the Dude and I were feeling a bit peckish so we headed upstairs to the food court for a quick bite. As I looked toward an empty spot in between some of the vendors I noticed a sign that said exit. It was your normal steel industrial looking door, probably part of the frame of the mall, and painted to blend in yet you could see the steel t-bars and bolts. I didn’t think much about it until something caught my eye. Above the frame was a sign that stated “Notice ... Tornado Shelter.” Egads. Are you serious?

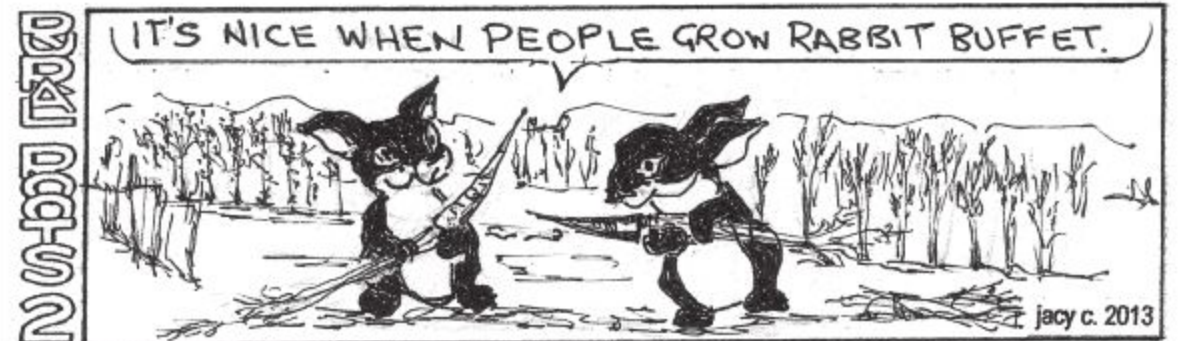
We were at the top end of Michigan near Lake Erie... well sort of. We were closer to Lake Erie than the famed tornado alley in the southern United States. I wasn’t prepared for that sign at all. It oddly rattled me.

The thing that totally boggled

me was something I read in a Toronto daily paper this week. A man in Toronto got a parking ticket eight years ago. He protested it and is still waiting for his case to be heard. He has not been convicted. He has not paid his fine and he, when moving twice, made sure city hall had his correct address to inform him of his court date.

Eight years have gone by and he waits. Eight years is longer than businesses are required to keep documents for government requirements. Yet he is not alone. The City of Toronto is still receiving payments for tickets issued as far back as 1989. Does this not just seem bizarre?

And, continuing with none of these things having any commonality, it was 10 years ago Wednesday that we experienced a massive power outage that affected a large portion of North America, and I remember it quite vividly. I would like to thank Halton Hills Hydro for the power outage on Tuesday morning at approximately 8 a.m. just as I stepped into the shower and lathered up. For a brief moment my heart raced and I thought “oh noooo it’s happening again”. Then it came back on which I thank them for. I’m always thankful when the power goes back on since that day ten years ago.



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