

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

## Fashion for a cause

News of a 62 per cent cancer survival rate, and a little black dress with a modesty neckline and rhinestones, both provoked spontaneous clapping from guests at the Acton Branch Canadian Cancer Society fashion show on Monday at the Acton Town Hall Centre.

Events like the sold-out fashion show, a major fundraiser for Acton Branch members, helped pay for the research that led to the winning cancer survival rate but, "there's still work to be done," according to Lorraine Skarratt, District Manager of the Wellington Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society.

She noted, sadly, that everyone at the event had a cancer story, but added they are making great strides with better outcomes, prompting the well-dressed crowd into sustained clapping.

With dwindling disposable incomes and growing demands for good causes at home and away, it is hard to raise funds, but Acton Branch members have made it profitable and fun with well-run stylish events including luncheons, flower shows, garden tours and fashions shows.

The Town Hall Centre was the perfect venue with models coming down from the stage into the crowd to get a good look at the clothes from Elizabeth's Fashions in Georgetown. Organizers said Heritage Acton members and their families went above-and-beyond what was expected to help prep and decorate the auditorium.

While a deadly serious subject was at the core of the evening, organizers made it festive and fun, and ultimately successful.

Well done.



**FELLOWSHIP FEAST:** There was lots of chicken and chatter at Churchill Community Church for the annual community barbecue on Friday, part of the church's ongoing 175th anniversary celebrations. - Ted Tyler photo

## Hungry or hypocritical

I'm not a vegetarian or a vegan. I have no problem admitting I love a good steak. I like an "old fashioned" breakfast of eggs and greasy bacon...real bacon, not that turkey/ bacon stuff. However, I am also an animal lover. Some animals more than others, but still an animal person.

I get quite upset seeing dogs left in cars, like in grocery store parking lots even if it isn't a hot day. I don't like dogs being taken to the Trunk Sale or the Fall Fair. I'm not a cat fan - but I don't like seeing them suffer, and when the lady next door was in hospital, I worried about her cats that roamed between our properties.

I feared the coyotes took care of them. I suppose I am a hypocrite in a way...I don't like animals suffering yet I don't have any problem with them being on my dinner plate. However, slaughter and suffering are two different things in my opinion.

Probably about 35 years ago, my dad decided the family needed to go to Snelgrove to an animal auction. It was basically cattle. He had a few acres and thought we needed three cows named Patty, Maxine and Laverne after the Andrews Sisters. The cattle stayed with us throughout the summer, and that fall, made a one-way trip to Norval to a butcher. That winter my sister and I didn't eat a lot of beef when we realized why the



By Angela Tyler

Andrews Sisters of cattle were purchased. That was a lesson for us. The cattle were not our pets, but bought for a reason which was food, not as a pet.

I have a big issue with poultry. It doesn't matter if it is chicken, turkey or anything else with feathers. Come to think of it, I'm not much of a bird fan unless they are in a tree. I really can't stand the old poultry barn at the Fall Fair. Foul is smelly and very creepy looking to me. I can't even watch a television show with one of those massive barns that are used to house poultry bred for food. Seeing hundreds of chickens or turkeys squished together gives me nightmares. However, I do like to eat chicken. Hypocrite? Perhaps.

I think of animals as put on earth to help do the chores and help us survive by basically being our food when needed. There are those who do not feel animals should be our food, and that is their choice and I respect that. What I don't condone is animals being tortured.

I have been to a cattle slaughter house. I've seen the end results where their different parts become different things whether it

is food or items such as leather for shoes. I know have known people who had made their living and provided for their family by raising poultry with those big cramped barns filled like the ones I despise seeing so much.

Even though I don't like it, what I have seen, in my opinion, has not been torture.

This past week a local chicken processing plant was found guilty of violating Federal animal health regulations. There are two convictions of this charge out of the 58 still being dealt with in court. These charges stem back to incidences almost five years ago when live chickens were transported in sub-zero temperatures inappropriately resulting in about 10 per cent of them dying a cruel death. They were spent hens, which mean they did not have feathers. Their skin was wet from the conditions during transport then they froze to death. This in my opinion is cruel.

I suppose like many, I don't give a lot of thought to animal transport trucks when I pass them on the highway. In fact, I usually look away because I don't want to see it. However, maybe we do need to look at them. Maybe I need to take a look at that box of frozen chicken in my freezer processed by that plant and reconsider who I purchase future products from in the future.

## PAST PAGES



### TEN YEARS AGO

• With water from the Region, 500-acres of employment lands at the south end of Halton Hills along the 401 are opened for industrial development.

• Acton's Eleanor Grammick knitted 114 pairs of mittens, earning the Homecraft Division's Special Community Service Challenge at the Acton Fall Fair.

### FIVE YEARS AGO

• The first ballots in the Wellington-Halton Hills riding were cast at an advance poll at the Acton Legion in Canada's 40th general election.

• The Our Kids Network officially opened the Acton Community Hub, a one-stop community services centre, at the south end of McKenzie-Smith Bennett School.



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373 Queen Street East, Unit 1  
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2  
email: [thenewtanner@on.aibn.com](mailto: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

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