

# EDITORIAL

## Forever Thankful

From the files of the late Hartley Coles, Editor Emeritus

Next Monday, Thanksgiving Day, is a public expression of thanks for the many blessings we have- especially in this country. It's an opportunity to say thanks to the Creator for gifts freely given and seldom appreciated. Thanksgiving days are not a recent innovation. Loyalists who fled the American Revolution brought Thanksgiving customs to other parts of Canada. Many of the English settlers were accustomed to celebrate Harvest festivals in Anglican Churches every fall. So it has long been a Canadian tradition.

Eventually in 1879, Parliament declared November 6 a day of Thanksgiving and a national holiday. Over the years dates change until the most popular day for Thanksgiving was the third week in October. But after World War 1 both Armistice Day and Thanksgiving were celebrated on the Monday of the week, on which November 11 occurred, a double celebration. Then in 1931 they became separate holidays while Armistice Day was renamed Remembrance Day.

The date of Thanksgiving was finally settled in 1957 when Parliament proclaimed "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed...to be observed on the second Monday in October."

Sometimes we think of Thanksgiving as a time to gorge at the festive table with turkey as the menu star. Well that has come under fire.

Whether you go for the meatless menu or the bird, don't forget to give thanks for all the good things we Canadians enjoy. There are many countries where there is no holiday or festivities and perhaps little to celebrate.



**SWEET TREATS:** Thirsty shoppers quenched their thirst at Walt Hazzard's lemonade stand at the Acton Farmers' Market last Thursday. Hazzard also sells dried tea. - Ted Tyler photo

## Scam doesn't deter generous hearts

Like everything in the world, there is good and there is bad. The internet is no different. It is not hard to find the bad things. There are the endless email scams from some guy in South Africa that has a bank account with millions of dollars just waiting for you to divulge all your banking info to him so he can give you some of his millions. There's lots of stuff like that. You have to be careful while "surfing" or even just opening emails.

However with bad, thankfully there is good, in fact, great things like websites such as Freecycle - a grass roots organization of over five-million people worldwide who "recycle" goods/products in order to reduce items sent to landfills. There are plenty of groups like this online. Kijiji, which is a buy-and-sell website, has a category for free items and another one for swap or trade. These are great things. Now, social media is being utilized for items to be received free of charge for reuse rather than trash.

The other day I was on a "free" group's page on Facebook. I've picked up a few things here and there to use and posted items that I have given away as well. It feels good to give items to people who can use and want them when you do not need them. Sometimes the



By **Angela Tyler**

people just can't afford something and your unwanted item is very much needed. Sometimes when people need a particular item they post an "ISO" or in search of. That day, a young mother posted that she needed anything and everything. It was a sad story.

The young mother said she had left her home with her child. She went to a shelter and at some point she had another child who was born prematurely and was in ICU. She was no longer in the shelter with no transportation, a baby in hospital and needed help. She was in Brampton, which was out of the area for this group, and apologized, however she said she never knew of a group like this in Brampton. Before you knew it, other mothers had taken on the task and were quickly preparing items for the young mom.

It truly was touching to see how many people wanted to help another person in need. One person had a stroller; another had clothes, while others had blankets. Some might not have had anything, yet

found suggestions for the woman of who could help such as particular churches or such. When it was discovered the woman couldn't get the items because she didn't have transportation a local woman offered to go door-to-door to pick up items and take them to the woman in Brampton. This was truly an act of unselfish kindness.

While the women clamored to help, the holes started to creep into the woman's story. I heard a saying many times... "if you're going to be a liar then you better have a good memory." I don't think the young mother had a good memory because before the goods were delivered, thankfully, her large fabricated story came out. Many were disgusted to find out she even lied about having a child in hospital. It was discovered this was not the first time she did this and resold items that were given out of the goodness of people's hearts.

Sadly, these scams happen in our community not just "in the big city." Thankfully, the items that were gathered were given to a local organization that does help mothers who are truly in need and will appreciate them not being taken by people just looking to scam a dollar or two.

## PAST PAGES



### TEN YEARS AGO

- With just five days before Canadians went to the polls in a federal election, officials with the Wellington-Halton Hills riding return office were still looking for staff to work the vote.

- Construction began on a new "millennium-look" Sunoco gas bar/convenience store on Queen Street at Tanners Drive at the entrance to the Honeyfield subdivision in Acton East.

### FIVE YEARS AGO

- The Liberal landslide in Ontario left Halton Tory incumbent MPP Ted Chudleigh hitchhiking to Queen's Park after his party crashed on The Road Ahead in the provincial election.

- All of the planting and pruning led to proud preening in Halton Hills as the Town earned second place finish in the ninth edition of the National Communities in Bloom competition.



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