

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

## Patience a virtue

Patience really is a virtue, and travelling in and around Acton these days calls for lots of patience, what with Wallace Street closed for reconstruction, and one lane of Queen Street closed intermittently as the Region replaces water and sewer pipes under the roadway.

Side streets are clogged at "rush hours" – such as they are in Acton – as motorists attempt to detour around the construction zones to save time.

The good news is that the Wallace Street job is on budget (\$993,000) and ahead of schedule, now aiming for a mid-to-late September finish, not October as originally forecast. Impatient motorists can also take comfort that the \$5.7-million Queen Street job is also on budget and on time.

Rockwood residents are also gearing up for traffic delays as the MTO's contractor began work last week on a \$7-million, two-year project to reconstruct Highway 7 from the Eden Mills cut off at Halton Road 32 to Falls Street by the Conservation Area. Some village merchants are concerned they will lose their customers if it isn't easy for them to get to their stores – the contractor promises at least one lane will be open at all times, and full access will be restored each evening.

One flag person in Acton wisely suggested that frustrated motorists should crank up the air conditioning and the tunes, relax and think happy thoughts about how nice the new roadways will be. Good advice – but easier said than done.



**SPELLBOUND:** The Stylamanders – Mark Kersey and Nicholas Thurston – entertained an appreciative group of kids during Sunday's Leathertown Festival with songs and dance, music and dance. – Marie Shadbolt photo

# Devil is in the details

This past weekend, the troop (The Dude, Little J, Junior A and I) went on a mini-vacation. In stereotypical family fashion, dad drove while mom took the co-pilot seat and the kids rode in the back seat. Being co-pilot, I was in charge of the GPS. The problem was crossing the 49th parallel and historically, once I cross that 'line' my navigational abilities with or without GPS, go into an abyss.

Once again, I successfully put the location into the GPS. This time the problem was there were two places with the same name...almost. According to the Dude, I do not pay enough attention to detail and sadly, this time he was right. I read where we were going once and read it haphazardly. Consequently, I had the location as a park where in actuality I should have put in as LAKE park. Whoops. The problem was the two similarly named places although in the same town were about 30 miles apart. We did get to where we were supposed to be going...eventually, however, my lack of attention to detail did cause a bit of stress.

About a month ago after watching too many episodes of Extreme Couponing where Americans grocery shop with coupons to the extreme utilizing in-store coupons, online coupons, double coupon days. The original grocery bill of usually hundreds of dollars is widdled down to



By  
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under twenty dollars. This inspired me. Although we don't seem to have the coupon deals the Americans do, I was determined I too could reduce our weekly grocery bill.

The other night, while continuing to reduce our hydro bill, I put on a full load of dishes in the dishwasher after dinner during non-peak hours and headed out to catch a few moments with the Dude while the kids were sleeping, knowing I had probably two or three hours before one of them woke up.

Near the end of the dishwasher cycle, I was ready for bed and toddled off to our bedroom. As I walked into the kitchen my feet felt wet. I looked down and loudly said "UH OH" several times. I feared our dishwasher exploded or something, and headed out to the garage to get the mop and bucket continuing to repeat uh oh as I hurried past the Dude.

The Dude came into the kitchen to investigate. "I don't know what happened" I explained to him. "I got some new dishwasher soap and this is the first time I was using it" Previously I had been lazy and got those convenient, pricier washing pucks, but this

time I opted for liquid soap which was half the cost. I figured I don't need the pucks. What the heck is the difference anyway? I was soon discovering there was a big difference as I looked down at what I thought was water was actually suds.

I grabbed the bottle of dishwasher soap and continued with my uh oh's. The Dude was staring at me as I said "uhhhh...its dishwashing soap, not dishwasher soap." Apparently he was right; I have an attention to detail issue. I felt like the Brady Bunch boys when they washed the clothes for Alice when she sprained her ankle and put too much soap in the washer. Their laundry room had suds up to their heads.

"You know I remember a girl I dated and we went to Niagara Falls and she put too much bubble bath in the whirl-pool tub and we had suds all over the hotel room," the Dude reminded me. Yep, I was that girl. Who knew that you couldn't put a cup of bubble bath in a whirl-pool tub like an ordinary tub?

So, the good news is we have enough dishWASHING soap for about a year because I bought a club size and our kitchen floor is really clean now after cleaning up all the suds. Bad news is I had to admit the Dude was right, and I had to promise to start paying more attention to details like product labels and GPS directions.

## Looking Back



### Ten Years Ago

- Acton mourns the sudden death of Dr. Brian Moore, 66, who was struck by lightning and killed at his family cottage near Burk's Falls.

- The Town strikes a committee to review existing anti-smoking bylaws with the intent of going 100 per cent smoke free in all public and work places by June 2002, a year earlier than the target date.

- Canadian Blood Services encouraged all Acton residents to attend a local blood donor clinic because supplies are low.

### Five Years Ago

- Rural Acton's Emily Boycott won four Gold medals and one Silver in Rhythmic gymnastics at the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Manitoba.

- New Acton physician, Dr. Dhanya Jayalath, will begin seeing patients in September after being recruited to Acton which is listed as an under-served area for doctors by the province.

- Acton small pet owners are warned to watch their pets closely after a coyote was seen with a small animal in its mouth in the McDonald Boulevard/Division street area. The next day, a neighbourhood cat was reported missing.



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