

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Be thankful for exciting times

Sometimes in a slow news cycle, we wish for hot copy, and sometimes, we get what we ask for, in spades.

The transition from summer to fall took a nanosecond, and suddenly, we have a weekend crammed full of front page-worthy events.

The excitement of wild rides, old friends and country fun is in the air at Prospect Park, which has been transformed into a fair grounds for the 98th edition of the Acton Fall Fair – perhaps the social event of the year.

On Sunday, the 31st Terry Fox Run takes place on the track at Acton High School – organizers said the combined total of fundraising for the Acton and Georgetown Runs will top the \$1-million mark with this year's events as people continue the Marathon of Hope.

All weekend in Eden Mills, literary heavyweights will read from their latest works as part of the annual Eden Mills Writers Festival. On Saturday, Toronto radio station KISS 92.5 will do remote broadcasts from the Acton Tim Horton's as the Town names a lane behind the plaza, to morning man Roz Weston, who lives in Acton.

Covering all this will be difficult – but that's part of the fun of reporting in a town that knows how to have fun.

See you at the Fair.



BOUNTIFUL HARVEST: Coring DePaoli (right) owner of The Farm near Stewarttown had help from her niece Analyn Eswagen with a basket full of red peppers on Saturday. – Marie Shadbolt photo

Reality Horror - Reliving 9/11 a decade later

It's hard to believe 9/11 was ten years ago. I suppose especially for my generation and those a few years younger, this was our John F. Kennedy moment; the moment that you will never forget where you were when you heard it.

Like many, I was at work. As I sat at my desk staring at the computer doing the stuff I did every day, my day quickly changed when a co-worker came upstairs to tell us what he had just heard on the radio downstairs. We were all in shock. We were in disbelief and without a television we were being held hostage in a way to the radio which seemed so inadequate.

Why I remember where I was that day so much is, sadly, it was the first live news I ever watched online. I then remember calling my sister and others to tell them to turn on their televisions or computers to see what was happening.

As others did, I too hung on to news items whether it in print or radio for the months following that horrible day. I looked at the pictures. I read people's stories. I watched newscasters report from Ground Zero. Then oddly, Ground Zero started to



By
Angela Tyler

fade into the history books and although there were stories here and there, it never was like it was that day or in the immediate time that followed.

In the weeks leading up to the 10th anniversary of 9/11 it seemed the television was flooded with stories recapping the day, showing old news footage and stories of survivors and heroes. Last week we watched one about the heroes of the 88th floor. Over the weekend I surfed from one show about the day to another show with a different aspect. For some reason I couldn't bring myself to watch the entire show. It would get to a terribly emotional part and I would have to change it. I couldn't imagine being in the situation of many and telephoning a loved one to say good-bye or leaving a voice-mail message for them to listen to after I was gone.

I watched another show about a photo-journalist who after taking pictures that day and after published a book as well found

the individuals she took pictures of to give them a copy of their picture. These people had no knowledge that they were being photographed and seeing the photos of them and hearing them now tell their story of when the picture was taking was heart breaking.

The saddest story of one of the pictures was that of a monk who spent months after 9/11 going to Ground Zero to pray for the victims they were still finding and sometimes the victims were merely just body parts. He said sometimes it might have only been a hand that the Ground Zero workers would have found.

It's strange though because each show, each news article, everything about 9/11 that I read or saw lately just seemed like it was another lifetime or from a movie. Looking at the pictures of what New York City looked like and what it returned to seems unimaginable. However, rather than hearing more than stories "about" that day and actually hearing from the survivors, the workers or the victims' families certainly reminds me that it wasn't a movie or from another lifetime.

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

- Like the first Acton Fall Fair in 1913, parts of the 88th edition of the Fair will be under canvas as the Acton Agricultural Society continued to raise money for a new building in Prospect Park.

- Police conducted a homicide investigation after former Acton resident Matthew Virgin, 19, died in hospital after being found unconscious outside a house party in rural Erin Township.

- Acton prepared to honour Terry Fox with a pledge run to raise money for cancer research at the Acton High School track.

Five Years Ago

- Construction began on the Acton Sports Action Park for the new skateboard park beside the Acton arena.

- Famed Canadian author Margaret Atwood charmed visitors to the annual Eden Mills Writers Festival on the weekend as she read from her new book, *Moral Disorder*.

- Acton marked the 20th anniversary of the closure of Acton's largest employer – Beardmore Tannery – which put 329 people out of work.



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NEW
Tanner
PUBLISHING LTD.

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Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2
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Distributed to every home in Acton and area,
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