

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Natural talent and hard work pay off

The pride in Acton students was palpable in the Acton High School cafeteria last Thursday and Friday nights as parents and teachers cheered for students whose academic excellence earned them subject awards, bursaries and scholarships.

At the Academic Awards ceremony, 103 subject awards – a certificate and \$25 – were presented to students who earned the highest mark in each course the previous school year. The top three students in Grades nine, 10 and 11 were honoured, and one student who showed consistent effort and a positive attitude received a special achievement award. As well, 118 students in three grade levels were inducted into the Honour Society, indicating they'd earned marks over 80 per cent in both semesters last school year. With a student body of 510 in Grades nine, 10 and 11, that is an impressive achievement for a small school.

On Friday night, the graduating class returned to Acton High to march across the stage and receive their diplomas. Again, the best and brightest were honoured for their hard work, including one student whose 97 per cent average earned him the Governor General's Award.

As well as the scholastic awards, the students who raised thousands of dollars for the Terry Fox Run, for the Me2We program that built a school in Africa and other charities were lauded for their compassion and hard work.

Ceremonies like those at Acton High last week re-enforce a comment made years ago by Acton's Arlene Bruce, a former trustee and chair of the Halton District School Board, which still rings true. Asked how Acton students stack up against those in the south of Halton, where schools are bigger, may have newer and better facilities and equipment, Bruce said that Acton students might not have the "sophisticated veneer" of their south Halton counterparts, but more than hold their own when it comes to intelligence and compassion.

Well done students, teachers and parents.

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

- A female teacher charged with sexually assaulting a 13-year old male Grade eight student three years earlier in Acton and Guelph, was relieved of her classroom duties when the Halton District School Board learned of the charges.

- An external audit vindicated the Halton District School Board of financial wrongdoing, misconduct and impropriety – allegations raised by a Burlington trustee who announced he would resign.

- Financial problems forced award-winning Acton builder, Peter Zions Construction Ltd., and Pat Stuart Developments Ltd., into bankruptcy, putting approximately 20 employees out of work.

Five Years Ago

- Two candidates – Sean Haefner and Gerry Ockenden – were in the running for the newly created Acton seat on the Halton District School Board. The former Halton Hills seat was held by retired Acton teacher and Board chair Ethel Gardiner, who did not seek re-election.

- Bone fragments from early Acton pioneers that were unearthed during construction of the new building to replace the old arena in Prospect Park were re-interred at Acton's Pioneer Cemetery.

- A crew from Global Television watched as a technician, dressed in a hazardous materials suit and respirator, took swabs and air samples at a Peel Street residence after neighbours complained about two storage bins and a porta potty parked on the front lawn.



ANNIVERSARY HONOURED: The Town marked the 145th anniversary of the Peel/Dufferin/Halton Lorne Scots Regiment with the presentation of a plaque which will be installed at the gates to the Georgetown fair grounds, where the Lorne Scots used the former armoury. Mayor Rick Bonnette presented a plaque and mock-up of the sign to Regimental Sergeant-Major Derek Murphy (right) and Lieutenant-Colonel Andre Phelps on Monday at Council. – Frances Niblock photo

The plot thickens...

With Halloween coming, I am sure the television is going to be filled with horror movie programming. One thing I am really happy about is that I am not alone this weekend.

I've tried several times to watch horror movies, but I think there is a big scale of differences in horror movies. A true horror movie is not about the slashing and blood. It has a plot that thickens, makes you stay on the edge of your seat, and just when you think everything is safe, the horror movie music starts and something happens to make you jump so hard you almost pee your pants.

I remember years ago, my godmother telling me – actually I remember her telling several people over the years – about the time she and the gang went to see the movie Psycho (the original one with Anthony Perkins). She claimed her nails dug in so hard to the seat in front of her in fright, the claw marks were probably still there decades later.

I think my first actual horror movie I saw was when I was in my early teens. It was Hallowe'en night after all the kids had gone trick or treating



By
Angela Tyler

and my mom, while I was in the middle of watching Jamie Lee Curtis get terrorized in the movie Hallowe'en, informed me I had to take our dogs for a walk. I was so scared to leave the house, I took the dogs to the end of our front lawn for the quickest walk of their lives. If I could have stood on the front step and squeezed them, I would have.

Everytime The Shinning with Jack Nicholson is on the television, I try to watch it. I have always wanted to watch it. However, about half way through the movie I find myself changing the channels quickly. I can watch the beginning and until Jack starts to see the little girls standing in the hallway of the hotel, then I have to change the channels until the end when his wife and son escape. I am pretty sure the last time I tried to watch it, I ended up sleeping with the lights on that night. I have often wondered what happens in the middle of the movie, but not enough to scare

myself that badly.

Long after the movie I Know What You Did Last Summer was in the movie theatres, I rented it and watched it at home. This time I thought I was smart. I watched it in the daylight. The problem was I watched it in the basement in the dark. When that movie was over I bolted upstairs and refused to go back down for days...just in case.

Now in the time of remaking old horror movies or continuing movie ideas for part one, two, three and more, it really is hard to get a good horror movie. The problem is even if I found out about a good horror movie I wouldn't be able to watch it. I couldn't even imagine going to the movies or renting one to watch with living in the "country" now. Heck, there are so many noises I never knew of before like the coyotes out back, I get can get scared even without a horror movie.

Sadly though, I know if I see The Shinning in the TV guide this weekend, I'll be once again trying to watch it.

Editor's Note: Want to scare yourself this weekend? Check out the Hallowe'en movie suggestions on page 15.

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