

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

There's nothing like a "true believer" to get you into the holiday spirit, evidenced by the faces of many of the kids lined up to watch Saturday's Santa Claus parade. Even those a little too old for the 'down the chimney' story, suspended their disbelief long enough to hedge their bets.

Hundreds of kids also lined up on Saturday at the Roxy to have their photos taken with Santa, and to deliver their Christmas lists – popular items this year include anything electronic, and *Baby Alive*, which "pees and poops" according to the nine-year-old Guelph girl who whispered her heart's desire to Santa.

The annual Santa Claus parade – hosted for 27 years by the Acton Fire Fighters Association – is the official kick off to the holiday season in Acton, and several merchants reported they are expecting an "average" year, despite the continuing tough economic times. Those tough times mean that Christmas may not be merry for some this year, and it must be tough to have to tell a true believer that Santa won't be coming down the chimney with anything this year.

If ever there was a time to help others, this is it. There are several Acton area organizations that will make the holidays happier for the needy this year by distributing hampers of food, gifts and warm clothing. You can't recapture the magic that Santa holds for a true believer, but by giving generously, you can rekindle the spirit.



FAMILY TRADITION: Attending the annual Christmas bazaar and tea at St. Joseph Catholic Church is a holiday tradition for Glen Williams residents Kelly Rowe (left) her daughter Erin Rowe and mother-in-law Helen Rowe, who enjoyed themselves at Saturday's event – Frances Niblock photo

Let it snow, Let it snow!

Although our Santa Claus parade was awesome as always we were missing the one thing I said I wanted and that was a few snowflakes in the air. I'm still having a continuing issue with the weather.

The Christmas lights throughout the downtown and the merchants in town have the decorations up. A neighbour down the street has even had their Christmas tree up and lights glowing in the front window every night for about a week. This morning I heard my first Christmas carol on the radio. I'm not sure if I was ready for that however, it was nice to hear. Little J has wrote her letter to Santa and handed it to our mail carriers at the parade and since the parade has been talking quite a bit about Santa along with doing her ho-ho-ho impression. All the signs of Christmas being just over a month away are here but one important one. We don't have any snow.

A few weeks ago, I was delighted to see the mini-snowfall we had. For a few brief moments we had almost a white out. It was great. Little J has forgot about snow and was telling me it was



By
Angela Tyler

raining and Junior A had his first feeling of snow falling on his face which was a sight to see him trying to figure it out. Then, as quick as it came, it left us.

On one hand how great was it that this week we didn't need a winter coat and it was almost like Fall Fair weather. I even saw a man wearing shorts which I thought was 'pushing it' a bit but whatever. On the other hand, how can we get into the full festive mood without the white stuff.

I've been checking the weather a little more than normal. I keep wanting to see that snowflake symbol on the weather network's website. It isn't happening. This weekend it's supposed to be in the 50's (sorry – imperial measurements again). That guy that was wearing the shorts the other day will probably be wearing sandals as well.

I don't know how people in warmer climates do it. How can

they want to put up a Christmas tree or Christmas lights at the same time they are applying sunscreen.

I know we still have some time before the big day and let's face it, the 'weatherman' can be wrong a lot of the time and I guess there are a lot of bonuses to not having snow yet like not having to bundle the kids or worry about shovelling the sidewalk or seeing the heating bill increase.

However, we aren't in a warm climate. We're Canadians. We freeze in the winter, trudge through the snow then sweat in the heat in the summer and complain when it's too cold or when it's too hot.

Although I've snuck in a couple Christmas present purchases, Christmas shopping season for me officially starts December 1st and we've one week for that white stuff to start falling.

What's on my letter to Santa – snow! Bring it on Mother Nature... I'm waiting for a good dump of snow just in time for Christmas. However, when Christmas is over, please feel free to bring back those warm temperatures.

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

- Limehouse stable owner Walt Dixon and three others continued to fight record fines and suspensions for Standardbred racing violations which led to a \$350,000 fine and 1-year suspension for Dixon.

- Acton firefighters collected \$5,700 in donations for the New York firefighters 9-11 disaster relief fund – money that will be used by a deceased firefighter's family or an education bursary.

- Crews have taken soil samples and began surveying a site on Churchill Road south that will be the new home of Acton's proposed \$400,000 ambulance station.

Five Years Ago

- Reports of two near misses involving cars and kids crossing Churchill Road at Norman Avenue prompted Town council to take another look at traffic safety.

- Acton's Nan Hurst credited an active mind and active body – as well as not smoking and enjoying only an occasional rye – for her longevity as she celebrated her 90th birthday.

- Construction of the foundation was underway for the new fair/soccer building in Prospect Park to replace the old arena which was demolished.



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373 Queen Street East, Unit 1
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email: thenewtanner@on.aibn.com

(519) 853-0051 Fax: (519) 853-0052

Publisher
Ted Tyler

Editor
Frances Niblock

Editorial Contributors
Angela Tyler

Advertising and Circulation
Marie Shadbolt

Composing Traci Gardner, Iain Brennan
Typesetting Melissa Paul

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