

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Thanks rankles receiver

Boy, there is a very fine line that politicians must toe as they attempt to do what they were elected to – including communicate with constituents. But, sometime you just can't win, as witnessed last week by the visceral reaction of a local resident to a perceived waste of her tax dollars.

The resident was incensed that Halton Chair Gary Carr had mailed her a copy of a photo of herself that had appeared in The New Tanner after she received a community recognition award. In with the copy was a Carr's business card with the words "You've been making news."

The recipient saw this as a complete "waste of money" and time as she envisioned Regional staff scanning local papers for worthy recipients. Well, it turns out that Chair Carr has been recognizing local citizens who do good since his days as an MPP in the 1990s, and he does the work himself, so the only cost is to mail the photos and cards – about 12 a month.

As to tax wasting allegations – Carr righteously defended his, and Council's fiscal record, saying Regional taxes have been frozen for six years. Carr said he's never had a negative reaction to his initiative – in fact; "hundreds" of recipients have thanked him, and "with all due respect" to the unhappy recipient, he will continue to send out the notes.

Many award recipients are embarrassed by the attention and don't seek or want additional notoriety – add in someone who favours tighter controls on public purse strings and the message is "return to sender."

Looking Back

Ten Years Ago

• An apartment in Acton, designated for homeless families on a short-term basis, was one of the first Federal Supporting Communities Partnerships initiatives in Halton.

• Town Council hoped a new fence bylaw – no barbed wire, height and material restrictions – will help some residents mend fences with their neighbours.

• Many people were on celebrity alert as actor Al Pacino was in the area – at the Scotsdale Farm in Ballinafad – to film The Farm, billed as a contemporary psychological CIA drama.

Five Years Ago

• Acton's Jim McKnight received his 60-year Royal Canadian Legion service pin at an awards night ceremony.

• Acton Soccer Club president Ian Watson wore a big smile and a t-shirt with a new club logo as he presented a \$100,000 cheque to the Town to help pay for lights at the Acton East sports fields.

• The generosity of many Acton area residents meant that the needy won't go without food or gifts this holiday season – thanks to two Acton hamper programs.



MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS: From Bach to Jingle Bells, the Acton Citizens Band, under the direction of Bandmaster Dr. George Elliott, presented the Christmas Story in Music at the Band's annual Christmas concert on Sunday at Bethel Church. – Ted Tyler photo

Letters

Thanks for Santa Help

To the Editor,

The Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department would like to extend a very special thank you to everyone who contributed to the annual "Santa Calls" program.

A big heart felt thank you to Rick Chambers from Optimist Club of Georgetown who assisted in recruiting over 20 volunteers over three days. Their efforts are

inspirational, and have made a lasting impression on many children. In this busy world, it's wonderful to have people who will take the time to share with others.

To the school principals, kindergarten teachers, and parents - thank you for participating in our 2011 program, and helping to make it such an incredible success.

A final thanks goes to the McGibbon, Subway and Swiss

Chalet for providing the fuel for Santa so he could call so many children.

With everyone's contributions and hard work Santa spoke to over 900 kindergarten children and their families to wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Frank Prospero
Recreation Supervisor -
Community Development
Town of Halton Hills

Community Christmas Day Dinner

Dear Editor,

Are you far from family and friends this Christmas Day? If you would like to spend the afternoon with other people

in a joyful setting, enjoying a delicious turkey dinner, please consider joining us. Kind friends from within our area will be busy cooking up a storm. Call

Ann at 519-853-3687 for more information. All are welcome.

Regards,

Christmas Dinner Committee
Acton, On



THE NEW TANNER
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373 Queen Street East, Unit 1
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2
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 **Typesetting** Melissa Paul

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