

# GRAPEVINE



### Dutiful donor

"It is the gift of life, as they say. It's the satisfaction of helping other people," Richard Coe said when asked why he made his 75th blood donation at the Canadian Blood Services clinic last Thursday at the Acton Legion.

Coe's first blood donation, when he was in his 20s, was through the local Masonic Lodge, and he's continued to donate because, "it is inconsequential for me - you know, an hour of my time." Coe was joined by 61 other people and 57 units of blood were collected.

To book an appointment for the January 2, 2012 clinic at the Acton arena/community centre call 1-888-236-6283. Two more milestone donations are already booked for the February 9 clinic, including one person making their 50th blood donation, and one making their 25th donation.

### Wave bye, bye

No one watched the new Kitchener to Union Station GO Train as it rolled through Acton early Monday morning on its inaugural run - it was three minutes late. Still no word when the Acton station - really more of a ticket kiosk - will open. Town and GO officials are negotiating for GO to "acquire the necessary property rights to permit the use of the Town's land for parking and other GO station infrastructure," according to GO officials who would not confirm any deadline.

Two morning trains through Acton arrive at Union Station at 7:53 and 9:08 a.m., with stops in Guelph, Georgetown, Mount Pleasant, Brampton, Bramalea, Malton, Etobicoke North, Weston and Bloor GO stations. The return trains leave Union at 4:45

and 5:45 p.m.

The expanded GO Train service includes \$8-million in Guelph, \$8-million in Kitchener, and \$2.4-million for Acton.

### Winter fun

From pond hockey to horse-drawn wagon rides to a snowman making contest - weather permitting - the first Acton Winter Carnival slated for Sunday, January 29, will feature fun for all. Hosted by the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) the carnival will also offer a photography competition, a chilli cook-off, public skating, a three-pitch tournament and bingo at the Boathouse. Carnival buttons will go on sale during the first week of January at various downtown businesses.

The BIA is looking for volunteers to help organize the Winter Carnival. If you are interested, contact the BIA office at actonbia@cogeco.net



### New Year's festivities

Acton's Citizen of the Year, Dorothy Rognvaldson, will usher in the New Year by ringing the bell at the Acton Town Hall Centre. All are invited to the December 31 festivities, which begin at 11 p.m., and will include hot chocolate, cookies, music and the countdown to 2012.



**CHRISTMAS PAST:** This scribe thought she was the cat's - actually the leopard's - pyjamas, after receiving this outfit at a Christmas long past. - Submitted photo



**DUTIFUL DONOR:** Acton's Richard Coe made his 75th blood donation at the Canadian Blood Services clinic last Wednesday at the Acton Legion. Volunteer Deanna Stewart ensured Coe had a revitalizing snack and drink after he gave the gift of life. - Submitted photo

# Life is good

I read today that 60 per cent of the world's population is under the age of 30. Six out of every ten people were born after 1981.

Since reading this statistic, I've been thinking about it a lot. One of the reasons is that two members of our family are part of that statistic. Then, I started thinking about all the things that 60 per cent of them don't know about life. Some of the things I thought of may not apply to certain regions of the world, certain religious groups or others, however, I think you'll get what I mean.

This means that 60 per cent do not know life without a computer. The Apple computer came into the world past its proto-type form in the early 1980's. I vividly remember happily using a manual typewriter after I graduated high school in the late 1980's, and fiercely opposing those computer things. I took several courses of short-hand in high school. Short hand is not LOL or OMG. Do those in the majority of the population even know there is an actual written language of short hand that isn't based on shortening words they are texting?

With texting comes cellular phones, iPhones, Blackberry's and more. The first cellular service was available overseas in 1979. How did we survive without cellular phones? Youth will never know the



By **Angela Tyler**

wonders of the first cellular phones that were huge, or later, the glamour cellular phones in a carry bag. No texting, no IM's, no messenger. If you wanted to talk to somebody you either went to see them or called them, and you might have to call on a phone with a dial.

What did we do before cordless home phones, call waiting, call answer, caller I.D. and redial? How did we actually send a letter through the postal service, instead of an email instantly? How did we ever write out all those Christmas cards instead of sending a mass email E-card to all our friends and family so impersonally?

We listened to music on a radio or on a record player, cassette player or an eight track player. How could we survive without downloads, iTunes, iPods and YouTube? Are you serious? You watched a movie on a tape and had to rent the machine as well? What's BETA? What's a floppy disk?

Life without fertility clinics and Viagra? It was 30 years ago the world's first test tube baby was born. Test

tube baby...it almost sounds like one of those politically incorrect phrases that you would be shunned if heard saying in public.

Sunday was a day of rest. Stores were not open on Sunday. Sunday shopping was not legally allowed until the early 1990's. Can any of us really even remember what the big hoopla was all about even if we aren't part of the 60 per cent?

It's easy to think about all the things that the 60 per cent have never known really. I find myself thinking about my grandmother, and her probably thinking that my life was too easy compared to hers, and then, I find myself thinking the same about my kids.

Then, I think how great it is that this high of a percentage of the population don't know life with war rations during WWI and WWII. They don't know about living in a world where people of different colour have to sit in different sections of a movie theatre or public transit. They know life with progress in medical fields that enable people to survive diseases that not long ago would have meant almost instant death. The positive thoughts are overwhelming.

I don't know if my kids will have an easier life than mine however, I know one day they will probably be thinking the same thing about their kids' lives.