

EDITORIAL

with Dawn Brown

Canadian Pride

In the eighth grade I travelled to Washington, D.C. on a school trip. While travelling through the United States, I was struck by the number of American flags residents displayed on their homes. Almost every house we passed had a flag waving. There were flags on porches, garages, gardens and even lining front walks.

The reason these flags stood out to me was I didn't typically see that in Canada. Sure, there was the odd house here and there with a flag waving on their property, but not nearly in the same numbers that I saw during my short sojourn to the United States.

All that is about to change, however, at least in the Town of Halton Hills as the Town sets out to become Canada's most patriotic town. The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce has launched a community-wide challenge to celebrate Canada 150. The goal: for 15,000 flags to be flying by July 1.

Halton Hills residents are encouraged to show their national pride by flying the Canadian flag—or better still many flags—outside their homes or businesses. Display a flag over your front door, in your garden, in planters or over your garage. If you live in an apartment, fly the flag on your balcony.

Acton residents can pick-up garden size—nine by 18 inches—Canadian flags for only two dollars at The BIA Office at 45 Mill Street East, Acton Optical at 80 Mill Street East, No. 1, and The New Tanner Newspaper at 379 Queen Street, East. Once you've displayed your flag (or flags), register them on the haltonhillscanada150.ca website so it can be included in the official count. It's that easy. Also, if you already have a flag, you can register it on the site as well.

A number of local businesses have sponsored the initiative to help make it happen, and all money raised from flag sales will go towards a legacy project.

Challenges like this are a fun way to show national pride and bring the community together to achieve a common goal. Like the Chamber of Commerce, I too hope to see a field of red and white by July first.

I'm proud to be Canadian, proud of the rights and freedoms we enjoy as Canadians and that we should never take for granted. And I will proudly display a flag—probably more than one—to show that pride.

While we Canadians might not traditionally wave our flag as frequently as or with the same gusto our neighbours south of the boarder, maybe it's time to change all that. Maybe it's time for our inner patriots to emerge, and by doing so remind ourselves of just how fortunate we are to live in a country like Canada.



LONGEVITY: Long time local resident, Thora Hallas Jespersen celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends recently at the Acton Legion Senior Apartments. She is an inspiration to her friends and family as she is a very active hiker with the Seniors hiking group, attends events at the Hillsview Senior Centre and still rides her bike.

— Submitted photo

Fundraising with waste

Back at the start of the year, the Acton Aqua Ducks had an electronics waste fund raiser. It was a good event for the club and timed well as it was held after Christmas. Why I say it was timed well is that usually there are a lot of electronics given as presents or bought during Boxing Day sales and the old items like televisions need somewhere to go. The club collected the items and received money in exchange for the waste. Our kids' school had decided to proceed with a similar event venturing into a metal and e-waste collection/recycling.

This past weekend was our big event. The weather was cruddy to say the least and I was starting to get worried. However, we soon realized that there is a lot of electronic waste in this town. There is a lot of metal hanging around in people's yards and garages as well, but let me tell you this town is a town of broken televisions and thousands of miles of wire/cable.

When I was looking through our own stuff for e-waste I opened my desk drawer at home. It's a scary drawer. It is the land of chargers and plugs that fit something, but what I can't remember. We've all had those moments... "I know this charger fits something (big pause



By
Angela Tyler

and images rolling through your memory). I'll just put it here for now." The problem is that "something" usually is never remembered and that "for now" turns into years, and that spot with one charger becomes overrun, cords multiplying like a bunch of rabbits. All those useless to you chargers are e-waste.

Remember that television you got for Christmas? Remember you put the old one in the back part of the garage behind the bicycles? You said you were going to get rid of it on the weekend. That is e-waste. It's so easy for us to forget about all the electronics that we have and don't use or are broken that could be recycled.

So there we were, me and the other volunteers waiting for the town to bring us their recycling in the pouring rain on a miserably cold and dreary day. Once again, the town I love did not let me down and the cars started arriving. It was an endless parade of out of date, deceased and unwanted electronics. It was truly astounding and sometimes rather sad. One gentleman ar-

rived and handed us a MacBook, bowed his head and shared, "I paid \$4500 for that thing." I felt like I wanted to give him a hug and offer my condolences. Another showed up with a then state of the art television which had two dials to find your channel and adjust the volume. "It's too bad...it still works...nobody wants it not even the grandkids," they shared. Cell phones that were top models a few years ago were being hurled into the pile like Frisbees. Mounds and mounds of flat screen televisions and computer monitors were intertwined with chargers and electrical cables and thousands of batteries.

After two days and endless volunteer hours, the very large bin was completely full and being hauled off to the recycling centre. It'll be a few weeks until we have our final numbers. However, the really cool part of all this goes beyond the fundraising. It is being part of a community that once again comes together to help others; actually meeting and talking people in your community even if it's just for a few moments while you mutually mourn a laptop. A group of people who got together in various ways to help out children from a local school. That is cool.



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PUBLISHER: Ted Tyler

EDITORIAL: Dawn Brown, Angela Tyler, Jane Dougan, Vivien Fleisher, Les Schmidt, Harry Rudolfs, Trish Bell

ADVERTISING AND CIRCULATION: Marie Shadbolt

PRODUCTION: Iain Brennan, Jessica Wilson

Distributed to every home in Acton and area, as well as adjoining communities.

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DEADLINE: Advertising and Editorial TUESDAY at Noon