

EDITORIAL



OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS

From *The New Tanner* - February 26, 2009

Beginning of Lent

from the desk of the late Hartley Coles

Yesterday was Ash Wednesday, first day of the beginnings of the 40 days of Lent which are observed by Christian churches around the world, especially the liturgical churches who follow a calendar. Lent ends on Good Friday before the moveable feast of Easter which occurs on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the 21st of March, so the date of Ash Wednesday also changes each year.

The introduction of Lent in the early church follows the teaching of Christ who predicted that when He was gone, His disciples and followers would fast. St. Paul advised Christians to work out their salvation in prayer and patience in watchings and fastings.

At first fasting was left to the discretion of individual Christians. Regular fasting imposed by the discipline of the Church began first in Gaul (France) in the second century. Diversity of practices sprang up and the Church finally decreed the 40 days of Lent for the sake of uniformity.

Why 40 days? The number was chosen in honour of the 40 days fast endured by Christ prior to His public life and in remembrance of the 40 years spent by the Jews in the desert before they entered the promised land.

Lent is being observed ecumenically in Acton each Wednesday at noon when different clergy from the churches join in a Lenten service which changes denominationally each year. This year's services are at St. Joseph's Patron of Canada with all the churches taking part.

Although it is often ignored by the secular world, Lent is still very much alive.

EDITORS NOTE: The Lenten Services mentioned in the above reprint, continue to this day, but this year are being hosted each Wednesday at noon at St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, Acton.



PANCAKE DINNER: Shrove Tuesday was celebrated at St. Alban's Church with the annual Pancake Dinner on Tuesday. Shawn Roworth, Diane Preston, and Gloria Barker were among those who enjoyed the meal. - Alex Hilson photo

Raise the bar to raise a generation

Raising children is an experience like few others. Watching your child grow into adulthood can leave you beaming with pride or wanting to pull your hair out by the roots with frustration—sometimes all in the same day. Still, all too often I hear words like entitled and spoiled thrown around when describing young people today, but is this generation really any worse than the generations who have come before?

That seems to be the way of things; the older generation railing against the ways of the younger. Perhaps, though, as my own child—who is taller than me now, and speaks of his future no longer as a distant and fuzzy, shapeless vision, but with an immanency that leaves me feeling like time has kicked in high gear and I can't find the brake—has me a touch introspective.

As our children grow up, we can look back with the benefit of hindsight and see the moments where we really nailed it as a parent, and other times we might wish we'd have handled a situation differently. It's only



By
Dawn Brown

natural, after all. To err is human, as they say.

Recently, reports emerged of a scuffle between two parents during a hockey game at the arena here in town. It apparently started with shouting before moving to pushing and shoving. Police were called, but by the time they arrived, the scuffle had ceased and no one would come forward with details.

More and more often you hear about parents demonstrating less than sportsmanlike behaviour—fighting with other parents, coaches and officials. And this behaviour isn't limited to hockey. When own my son played football, I witnessed a yelling match between two parents—a grown man and woman shouting in each other's faces. Soon one of the coaches joined in and the woman's teenage son.

The whole thing left me sick to my stomach. And if I was so

disturbed by what I had witnessed, I can only imagine what it must have been like for the kids. Kids who look to those same adults for examples of right and wrong, a sense of security.

How do we teach our children to grow into mature, compassionate, contributing adults if said adults won't emulate the same behaviour? How do we teach children to resolve conflict effectively if we the parents don't demonstrate the necessary actions?

I suppose it's only natural for parents to dream of their children becoming athletic stars. After all, who wouldn't want to see their child succeed at something they love? However, statistically, they probably won't. And I'm fairly certain that screaming and fighting with other parents won't help in that regard, either.

If we want to raise responsible, hard-working people, who resolve conflict like rational adults, then we must behave like responsible, hard working people, who resolve conflict like rational adults.



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