

EDITORIAL

with Angela Tyler

'Groundhog Day' or 'A New Hope'

Last year, *The New Tanner* consciously made an effort to maintain coverage about our concern for "downtown Acton". Our goal was to regularly bring to the forefront news of our downtown, keeping the story in the news regularly and to uphold this with our readers. Therefore, we were hopeful that change would come in a positive and hopefully more steadfast manner than it had been.

12 months later, we felt little had changed. The same issues were discussed within our pages and amongst our elected officials or Acton BIA members and managers. In four years, the Acton BIA has had three managers. All of which seemed eager to take on our dismal "Main drag". However, here we are; 12 months later after our first "downtown issue" with it's front page that was intentionally planned to be a "shock and awe" front page. 12 months later and our downtown is still amuck. We still have empty storefronts, some would argue more than last year, with unkept streets and dirty store windows. There are still many businesses for sale, and those who are surviving are managing because they have found a niche.

Once again, we at *The New Tanner* intentionally set forth with a front page designed for "shock and awe" and questioned if we were living a real-life "Ground Hog Day" over and over in our town because nothing has truly changed in our business/retail core. We took off our "rose-coloured" glasses and tried to cover this story again and not fluff up reality. The reality is our downtown is hanging on for dear-life.

Yet, our issue was printed, distributed, read and probably put in the blue box. Were we surprised that we didn't receive any real feedback? Not really. Our town has become complacent and seemingly accepting of a dismal fated downtown. We were saddened that the only feedback we had was from one individual concerned about the store fronts chosen in the front-page spread.

We have a new Acton BIA manager as of recent. We have a new Town of Halton Hills Economic Development Officer. We have a dedicated town councilor for our Acton BIA. We have resources at our disposal yet, how much longer can this town actually wait?

We are now in a Municipal election year. Would be candidates are soon going to be filling their nominations for public office. Current elected officials maybe seeking re-election. Our downtown and its destiny will soon be in the hands of a new council. To those seeking office, we whole heartedly hope that you take a good hard look at this dire situation. We need help. Saying it isn't enough anymore. We need a solid plan and action. Those who are able to vote, need to vote—and vote wisely. We should all be asking questions and demanding answers from those who desire to be our elected officials—especially if we hope to save Acton's downtown.



COFFEEHOUSE: Bob Gee and Friends delivered their annual Coffeehouse Concert to a full house at the Limehouse Memorial Hall on Saturday night. Around 50 local residents enjoyed an evening of folk songs, ballads and some amazing homemade pie, with proceeds going towards the Limehouse Memorial Hall. - Les Schmidt photo

A reminder and nothing more

This weekend we will be losing an hour as Daylight Savings Time (DST) rolls in once again on Sunday. I must admit, the prospect of losing this hour is less than appealing, and I'm not looking forward to the inevitable disruption to my own internal clock as a result. While intellectually I realize that it is only an hour and it shouldn't have that big an impact, between my internal clock and those of us with pets or young children, it can take close to a week before normal routines resume. Again, not really a hardship, and perhaps I wouldn't resent the disruption so much if the purpose of Daylight Savings didn't elude me.

This year, Daylight Savings Time will begin this Sunday at 3 a.m. when we will "spring forward" an hour and end on November 4 at 2 a.m. when we "fall back" an hour. While gaining the hour in the fall is less obtrusive, the entire process feels arbitrary.

Some who favor DST will argue that the extra hour of



By
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sunlight—which is based on the clock only since it's the same number of hours of daylight no matter what time it is—helps to save energy and encourage people to get outside more. However, studies have since shown that DST has only a minimal if any impact on energy savings, and that extending DST in 2007 has showed no impact on energy use.

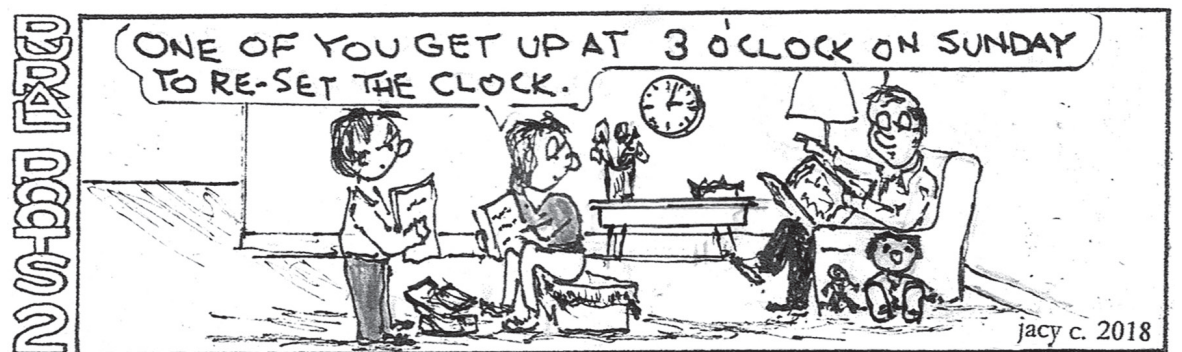
There have even been studies linking DST to negative impacts on our health. While that one-hour disruption may not seem like big deal, studies have linked the sleeplessness as a result of the time change to an increase in car accidents, workplace injuries, suicides and even miscarriage. The earlier darkness in the evening when DST comes to an end has been linked to depression, and studies have even shown an increase in

heart attacks at the beginning of DST with a decrease in heart attacks at the end.

While DST is practised in all 10 provinces and three territories across Canada, there are some places—like most of Saskatchewan—that don't. In Ontario, there are three communities that don't observe Daylight Savings Time, using Eastern Standard Time all year long instead.

So perhaps it's time to acknowledge that the benefits of turning the clocks back and forth are not what we once believed. We as a people are ever evolving, our needs changing, and it may be time to look at whether DST meets those needs. Doing something simply because we have always done it really isn't a great reason. Whatever usefulness DST might have had doesn't seem to be there anymore, and it may be time to let it go.

However, in the meantime, at least DST acts as good reminder to check the batteries in our smoke and CO detectors.



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