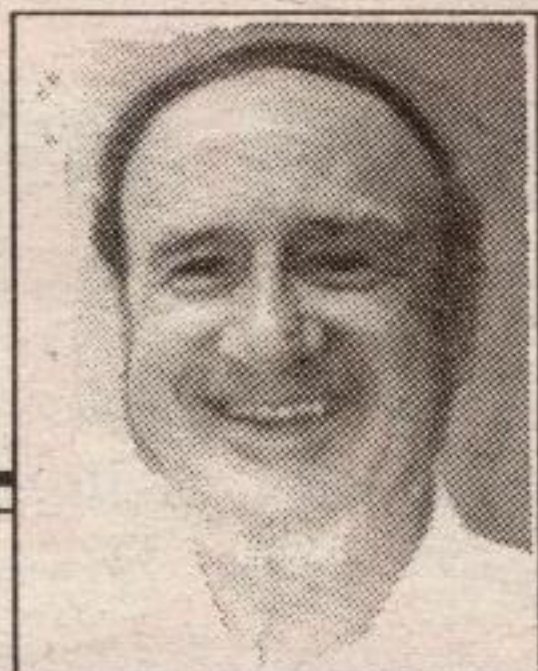


## EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



# Celebrate Easter!

For most Christians in Acton and area, the next few days of Holy Week commemorate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, beliefs which are at the heart of the Christian faith. Special services around the world re-live events which happened in Jerusalem almost 2,000 years ago.

Simultaneously, almost, Jews around the world are celebrating the week-long festival of Passover that commemorates the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt more than 3,000 years ago.

They occur almost at the same time because the events are intertwined. Early Christians knew the feast of Easter as "Paschal" time, the Greek work "Pascha" derived from the Hebrew word "Pesach" meaning "passover".

Easter is called a moveable feast because the date can change from year to year. The formula is that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the 21st of March. This was arrived at not without some controversy.

Eusebius, an early Christian writer, records a controversy in the year 190 A.D. about the right day for the celebration of Easter. A diversity already existed as early as the year 120 AD between those in Asia Minor, who kept Easter on the 14th of Nisan, the Jewish Passover, or the date arrived at by the Pope and bishops of the church who wanted it on Sunday, the date when Christ rose from the dead.

The arguments about when Easter should be celebrated are really not important any more. Even as in those times when the threat of death for being a Christian was real, today much of the Easter message has been almost lost in the secular view which looks on Good Friday as just another holiday (which oddly enough derives from the term holy day) and Easter as a time for feasting and honoring the Easter Bunny.

The word "Easter" itself is an Anglo-Saxon word from the Teutonic "Eastre, an ancient German goddess of light, but has no connection — only as a time of year when the arrival of the spring equinox was an occasion of celebration. Ancient celebrations of the spring equinox contain no trace of the significance of the Christian Easter, which commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus.

However, many of the old spring usages, such as the use of eggs symbolizing germinating new life, and buns, which represent fruits of the earth, were retained as harmless. To change their meaning a cross was added to the buns. These are known today as hot cross buns. Christian symbols were painted on eggs and it became an art form.

So when Christians crowd into the churches of Acton and district this Easter Sunday they are celebrating, not the rites of spring or the arrival of the Easter Bunny, but the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This has been a stumbling block for many people, not just in the present skeptical age, but through the centuries. There has been much publicity given to those who would deny the physical resurrection of Jesus and little to those who defend it — essential to Christianity.

Belief in the actual physical resurrection of Christ was certainly essential to St. Paul. A persecutor of Christians in his earlier years, Paul had a vision of Christ on the road to Damascus and became a Christian. In one of his letters to the Corinthians who were debating how anyone could rise from the dead, Paul wrote: "If there is no resurrection from the dead, then even Christ did not rise; and if Christ did not rise, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith also is in vain."

The debate continues, but for most of those who will crowd into churches around the world this Sunday, it is an affirmation that the resurrection of Christ is a profound truth. The Russian people have an Easter greeting which says it succinctly:

"Christ is risen,  
Christ is risen, indeed!"



## GOT A BEEF?

Write a Letter to the Editor!



## LETTERS

### Blood donor clinic was a success

To the Editor,

The Acton Blood Donor Clinic last Thursday was successful once again. The Clinic was attended by 137 people and we collected 132 units of blood. This was a little shy of our projections but in light of our "competition" with other activities going on that night, we are pleased with the outcome and proud of our donors for making their blood donation a priority.

Especially gratifying was the presence of so many high school students — many first time donors

— who are starting a selfless and generous habit. Many thanks to those students and to the staff a AHS who encourage them in the classroom and by example.

Thanks to the Legion for the generous use of their facilities, to Tim Horton's for the TimBits for one and all and to PREView Video, IGA and Tylers for their help and signboard space.

The biggest note of thanks is reserved for *The Acton Tanner* itself. You have graciously promoted these clinics all along. As this clinic's sponsor you have not only fulfilled sponsor's responsibilities but have given generously of space in the paper. We are very appreciative of your support in this community and proud to have you as a regular sponsor of the Blood Clinic. A sincere thank you.

Geoffrey Moon,  
Clinic Convenor

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### A Weekly Round-Up of Coming Events in Acton & Area

**April 1, Friday — 10 am:** Don't be an April Fool! Worship with us Good Friday at the Acton Baptist Church, on Mill Street East. A nursery will be provided.

**April 1, Friday — 7 pm:** Come and celebrate Good Friday with the whole Christian Community of Acton at Knox Presbyterian Church. Nursery will be provided.

**April 3, Sunday — 11:30 am to 1 pm:** Chudleigh's Easter Egg Hunt. Over 200 children participated last year. Come and have a great time. You'll be walking in the orchard, so be sure to wear proper footwear.

**April 7, Thursday — 5:15 pm:** BLITZ NIGHT — Canadian Cancer Society Campaign 1994. All canvassers are invited to attend a Chili Supper at Trinity United Church, 70 Mill St. E. Join us for some great chili, coffee and tea and then go out and do some canvassing. At approximately 7 pm we'll have coffee and donuts and make a draw for "Tea For Two" at Tim Bris. There will also be a video shown, "Look what daffodils can do."

**April 7, Thursdays — 10 am:** Line dancing with Barb at St. Alban's Church. A five-week course geared for the active Senior. \$10. Come get with the beat! For more info or to register call Sue, 853-3310.

**April 7, Thursdays — 10 am:** Red Cross fun and fitness. A social program that includes sitting and standing exercises. Come and work at your own pace. No cost for class. Transportation will be provided at \$1. Call Sue at 853-3310.

**April 9, Saturday — 9 pm to 1 am:** Rotary Club of Acton presents an evening of Line Dancing at the Legion. Music by "Rerun". Cash bar. Prizes. Tickets \$5 per person, available at Acton Bowling Lanes, Clocks and Curios Plus, the Legion Hall, or from any Rotarian. For more information call 853-5062. Proceeds to be donated to the 1994 Easter Seals Campaign.

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