

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Cancer Society ill-advised

The decision by the Ontario Division of the Canadian Cancer Society to close the Georgetown office which served all of north Halton, is ill-advised. North Halton, which includes Acton, Georgetown and Milton, has the highest per capita rate of donation to the cancer society in all of Canada.

The total donation for north Halton in 1999 was \$450,000 for a per capita giving of \$6.11.

Acton is in the vanguard of the support for cancer research. By September of 1999 Acton and area residents gave over \$53,000 to the cancer society. This year - 2000- to the end of July, Acton donations totalled \$97,300 which puts the per capita rate at around \$10 per person.

Although closure of the Georgetown office will have more effect there, the Acton branch of the cancer society got their supplies there and volunteers here note it is important to have a point of contact for the public.

Cathy Gerrow, president of the Acton branch, noted that when someone is first diagnosed with cancer and hasn't got to know any volunteers, it is always a bonus if they know there is an office where they can go and speak to someone.

"We'll lose that," she says.

The Oakville office will still be open but "that's not going to be much use to Acton residents and volunteers," Ms. Gerrow maintains. And she's right.

It looks like another case of a society anxious to shoot itself in the foot. Why in the world would you close an office in an area where the highest per capita donations in Canada originate? It's a good way to antagonize the people of the area who work so hard to raise funds to fight cancer.

When they closed the Milton office donations shrank. Surely that should be a harbinger of what could happen in Halton Hills.

Perhaps, as volunteer Bob Stuart says, Halton Hills' both branches might be better to drop out of the Ontario Division of the Canadian Cancer Society and operate independently. It would serve local needs better.

'Horrible and isolated'

We have to agree with Councillors Clark Somerville and Ron Chatten that the site chosen for a 130-bed long-term care facility in Georgetown is "horrible and isolated".

Despite the pair's opposition to the 3 acre site at the triangle by Trafalgar Road and Highway 7, Halton Hills Council approved official plan and zoning changes to allow Extendicare to build the long-term care facility.

Surely the site, where traffic lines up along both roads and are jammed at rush hour with vehicles of every description, would be a better place for something where there's no people. Subjecting elderly people especially to the noise and fumes of congested traffic is punishment, not treatment. Trains go by there regularly, too, adding to the noise and confusion.

An impact study says window glazing and air conditioners in some units will provide noise control but wouldn't a facility where such noise and confusion doesn't exist be immeasurably better?

Council should reconsider their decision. They'll be old too someday and maybe then realize what they did to elderly people.



Holey Donation: Jim Pope, left, brought his holey sock to the SOCK EXCHANGE last weekend. Receiving the contribution was EXCHANGE organizer Jack Carpenter. - Ted Tyler photo

Sock Exchange opens ... with volume up 100 %

By Jack Carpenter

Saga of the missing socks Part 2

I predicted there had to be at least 100 single socks around and sure enough they showed up at the Trunk Sale in ones, twos and bagfuls. All without a definitive answer as to where did the missing sock go.

It was the opening of the SOCK EXCHANGE and the trend looks like record numbers can be expected. It was deemed a service long overdue. Strange as it may seem none of the socks matched. There were highlights though.

Pope brings holey socks

Yes, Mr. Pope made the pilgrimage to the SOCK EXCHANGE and he donated his holey socks. He was hoping he might find his missing socks but no luck.

Then there was the phone call. I think the caller said he was from the Ontario Securities Commission, and Exchanges were not allowed to be open on a Saturday. "Ah, but do you have brokers?"

"Broker." I replied. "We couldn't be more broker."

He hung up when I asked him if he had any odd socks.



Oh boy, what a difference a week makes. Last week I was pondering the ongoing problem 'where does the other sock go' leaving me, and countless others, single socks that do not match.

This week I still don't know.

What I do know is that the missing sock is a world wide phenomenon, based upon information from overseas visitors to the Exchange. Then the family that brought a shopping bag full of socks confirmed every home has a pile of single socks and the SOCK EXCHANGE is a long awaited relief valve. Whatever that means. Maybe it's a chance to get rid of them and clean up the house and

start collecting all over again.

One young family has a mother that puts all the socks in a large plastic bag and if you wanted a pair of socks you dug in and sorted them out yourself. When the bag got full she dumped it.

I also got a lecture on the art of mending or darning socks. Not long ago you never threw out a sock with a hole, you darned them. There were wooden darning tools to go inside the socks, darning needles, and socks came with a supply of matching wool or thread for darning. So there. Buying socks in bundles of six the same colour is today's answer.

Goes for record

It's intriguing, just how many single socks are out there. Gather them up and bring them to the TRUNK SALE Saturday or drop them off at the New Tanner office, the Halton Hills Community Support Office and Off the Wall on Mill Street and Home Hardware on Queen Street.

With a record number of socks we can solve the problem of the missing sock or solve the bigger mystery. Why do people keep the pile of socks in the first place?



Tanner

59 Willow Street North
Acton, Ontario
L7J 1Z8

(519) 853-0051 Fax: 853-0052

Publisher

Ted Tyler

Editorial

Hartley Coles

Frances Niblock Mike O'Leary Ellen Piehl
Maggie Petrushevsky Angela Tyler

Advertising and Circulation

Marie Shadbolt

Composing

Karen Coleman Penny Zurbrigg

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