

# EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

## Apathy at polls

There's a lot of concern by many Acton and area residents interested in this community's wellbeing that because all Ward 1 (Acton) councillors were returned by acclamation that few voters will bother to go to the polls on election day Monday, November 13.

The concern is genuine because numbers at municipal elections haven't been healthy for years. Only 35 per cent of eligible voters bothered to exercise their franchise last time. It is not only an Acton problem. In nearby Guelph/Eramosa Township only 30 per cent of the voters showed at polls in the last election. Council there has instituted a vote-by-mail method to help bolster the numbers for the Nov. 13 election.

The fact that mayors and councillors all over Ontario will be voted in for four years at this election makes it even more imperative that people register their vote this time. Back when the term was only one year, then raised to two years, unfit officials could not do a lot of damage. The four year term means someone who's elected just to warm a seat will be around for four long years.

Voters in Wards 1 will be electing a mayor, a regional chairman as well as school board trustees in both the public and Catholic boards, posts which all require mature candidates with good credentials. In Ward 2 (rural) voters will also be called on to elect two councillors from among three candidates including the incumbents.

Although some of the lustre may be lacking in this election for Acton voters with no councillors to elect, there're four other good reason to get out and vote for the candidate of your choice.

It's ironic that only 35 per cent of voters would turn out to register their vote when Canada has troops fighting and dying in Afghanistan so people there can enjoy a democratic system, with the vote.

## Road reconstruction

Although there has been no strong indication of global warming in this area during the summer and fall there certainly has been a shift in weather patterns. That was evident during the month of October when the normally moderate temperatures gave away to a lengthy period of cold and wet weather.

It was particularly felt in road construction where the rain and its attendant cold put back projects by several weeks. As one contractor in Kitchener noted, "Mud does not spread very well."

When road construction also entails replacing curbs, and water and sewer installations it has been difficult for residents and businesses who have had to deal with lengthy construction along their street or road.

Residents in the Bovis area are already enjoying the new pavement along McDonald and adjacent streets. Work is progressing on Bower Ave., Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive with contractors expecting to finish paving there very soon as well as on Eastern Ave.

All this road construction will continue next year when Main Street is due for reconstruction. It's a main artery as part of Regional Rd. 25 with thousands of vehicles using it daily. It will be interesting to see the traffic patterns when work starts on Main St. S. since only the Dublin Line on Acton's west side provides access to 25 from Highway 7 and 25 North.

Neglect over the years has made so much road reconstruction necessary. Access to the gasoline tax has made it possible. Once we stop playing the game of catch-up then road conditions should get back to nearly normal.



**CHRISTMAS WREATH:** Members of the Halton Hills Quilters Guild and several friends got into the Christmas spirit on Saturday by starting a holiday sewing project – a quilted wreath wall hanging – under the guidance of Acton's Helen Dubeau (right). The stitchers include, from left: Ann Totten, Sybil Ewing and Pat Patterson. – Frances Niblock photo

## Domestic Goddesses? Acton's full of 'em!

Our gal Friday decided to move away from Acton. That was the end of June. Our gal Friday was our everything gal, including our office cleaner.

It seemed simple. We needed an office cleaner and a gal that could do all the little things that needed to be done. So, being that we had a link to a newspaper, we advertised.

We advertised and advertised. Apparently finding an office cleaner and everything kind of gal wasn't as easy to find as we thought.

Finally, in mid-August we found our gal. What captured us was the fact that she had listed sanitizing bathrooms in her resume. I was elated. A sanitized toilet may not seem like much but when you haven't had a cleaner in a while it was like winning the lottery.

She seemed wonderful. She was feisty and energetic. Soon she was whipping around our several offices on the property cleaning, buffing and polishing. As I inhaled I could smell clean. It is like the smell of spring. You can't really describe it. Smelling spring is like this misty dewy smell when you first open the windows in the spring. Clean is the same thing. It is not a scent of Pinesol or disinfectant or bleach. You can inhale and know things



By  
Angela Tyler

are clean. Then the cleaner found another job which was full time.

So, we advertised again. We had another clean office. We could smell clean again. Then for some unknown reason the cleaner disappeared. When we hadn't heard or seen her in weeks we went back to advertising again. There weren't many replies. For some reason the words office cleaner and miscellaneous duties didn't catch people's attention.

Out of desperation I came up with an idea. I had heard the expression on the Food Network. Nigella Lawson on the t.v. describes herself as this so I summoned the sign guy.

I wrote out what I wanted our road side sign to say. The sign guy looked at it, read it, and then hung his head. "The boss isn't going to like this," he declared. "It's okay. I will take full responsibility" I told him. With that the sign soon said "Wanted, Domestic Goddess, to clean our offices." I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

I told the boss and he just rolled

his eyes in wonder. I had a call from the Dude declaring the sign was sexist. I told him he wouldn't complain if by chance the Domestic Goddess was cute. I called my politically correct sister to warn her. Surprisingly, she wasn't offended. And with that, the calls started. Some may think the calls were from people who were upset by it. Instead, we were swarmed with calls, maybe over 100, all of which were people declaring they were a Domestic Goddesses. I had no idea Acton had so many.

We had so many calls that one of the ladies in our office who usually answers the phone said we need to start a new cleaning company because we had so many people calling. After one call, she noted on the message pad, "will it ever end?" After another phone call and message, she added, "apparently not..." We even had one lady say she was not a Domestic Goddess. She was over 50 and she was a Domestic Queen. We had women, men and even a teenager apply for the position.

In the end, we are going to have the smell of clean again and it just goes to show that advertising all boils down to how you choose your words.



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