

The old names are disappearing

Those of us who grew up in a much smaller Acton, at a much earlier date often identified parts of the town not only by street names but by other names as well. For instance, the area east of the CN Railway tracks along Young and including Mill, Peel and Arthur was referred to as "Rosedale" by some or simply as "Over the tracks".

Of course there was the "Beardmore Crescent" circumscribed by Poplar Ave. and Crescent St. The south end of Main St was known as the "Cemetery Hill" with Fairview Cemetery entrance adjacent. Probably a few can also remember the high hill which overlooked the village called "Cobblehill" when the Second Line was rebuilt as Highway 25 much of the aggregate for the road bed was a large part of Cobble Hill, it was raised to its present height along Cobblehill Road.

At the south end of Mill St. a stream runs through a culvert into Fairy Lake from what appears to be a he swamp. It was always called "Beaver Meadow", suggesting that it was once a Beaver colony.

An older generation for Actonians will remember these nicknames but we're betting many of them have been lost in antiquity. Recently this scribbler was describing the scene of an accident to Angela Tyler "You know?" I said, out on the highway past Mann's Creek. She shook her head. "Well it's just past the Bannockburn corner." Still, no recognition. "How about along Highway 7 between the Fourth and Fifth Lines?" I tried. Recognitions dawned.

"Why didn't you say so in the first place?" Angela said, or words to that affect. She really had no recognition of "Mann's Creek" or "Bannockburn." The creek now known officially as a tributary of the Black Creek, the stream that flows out of Fairy Lake on its way to the Credit River through Dolly Varden, Lime house and Stewarttown.

"Dolly Varden?" you ask?

Coles' Slaw

with
Hartley Coles



It's the area at the end of Churchill Road South where the street merges into the Third Line which skirts the big Dufferin Quarry on the south end and merges with Glen Lawson on its way east through countryside which has always reminded me of Wales or Scotland with a stone house sitting next to the intersection

Where does the name Dolly Varden originate? John MacDonald in his book Halton Sketches, suggests it may have come from the name of a trout which were plentiful in the creek or the name of a lady famed as a singer. In any event the McDonald family of which John is a member, should know since their farm was in Dolly Varden, which in the 1800s was also a busy place with lime kilns.

The area, of course encompasses the "Three Sisters", the large hills which line up north of the Glen Lawson Rd. Once they were popular with skiers and tobogganers and ATV trails, but now No Trespassing sign are abundant and stakes indicate some kind of development, possibly a quarry.

And how about Warren Grove which is the name for the area beyond the band hall on Wallace St. familiarly known as the "War-time Housing", a subdivision built after WW2 mostly for veterans.

Another generation and the old names will probably have disappeared. Parts of Acton are familiarly known as Kingham, Lakeview, Bovis, Honeydale, Glenlea, the Downtown, Industrial Park, Danville and such, most of which are housing subdivisions built within the last 50 years.

As the old saw says "Temprus Fugit" (Time Flies) and so do descriptive names.



OLD NAMES FOR ACTON: Acton once was called Adamsville after the founding fathers, the Adams brothers, Saddleback Methodist missionaries originally from the United States. They came to Acton around 1829 or 30 to settle on farms and take advantage of the water power from the stream, now known as the Black Creek, for a grist mill. As houses were built in new areas they were called by different names. The Adams legacy is here in street names such as John, Maria, Wilbur and Frederick, after their children

As seen on T.V.

I will admit it. There are times when I am a complete and absolute sucker. It seems to happen the most when I am watching television.

I also have a weakness for watching the shopping channel. I can sit there for hours watching sales people demonstrate product trying to convince us that we need to buy it. This is when I usually get myself in trouble.

A few weeks ago we were at a flea market/yard sale and I saw someone trying to sell one of my earlier 'purchases'. "Do you remember those?" I asked the Dude. It was the ab-roller which guaranteed wash-board abs. The stupid thing is after you bought it, tried it and stopped using it; it wasn't good for anything. It wasn't like you could hang clothes on it like an unused tread mill.

Although I haven't bought a lot, I have bought too many things I've seen on TV. You would think that I would have learned after purchasing the pasta cooker/vegetable steamer (used under six times) or the food dehydrator, which I did not buy on TV. However, after seeing it on TV, I did buy someone else's reject at a garage sale. There was the pony tail twister thing that I ended



By
Angela Tyler

up giving to a kid I knew; the space bag, the food slicer complete with some tool that would make a radish into a flower (never used), not to mention some of the half a dozen or so things I bought on the shopping channel years ago. After all my lessons learned with useless things I've purchased, I fell victim again.

The "dynamic duo," also known as the dogs, despise their nails being trimmed, like many dogs do. I don't know why. When they were little they had no problem, and their nails have never been trimmed to short, so there was no reason for the antics. Yet, the antics were becoming annoying to say the least.

When I saw the "Pedi-paw", "as seen on TV," how could I resist? The dogs seemed to love it and it promised not to hurt them as it filed their nails not cutting them. It was exactly like a puppy pedicure. One of my co-workers even gave it rave reviews after she pur-

chased it.

When in the states recently, low and behold I came across the "Pedi-paw" selling for a measly ten bucks. "As seen on TV" it was much more expensive so, of course, I bought it. The Dude grumbled about me buying more junk. I was sure this was not "junk".

Upon our return, it was spa day for the dogs. I was all set. I had the battery operated nail file and they were actually sitting nicely awaiting their pampering.

When I tried it, it didn't seem to be working like it did "as seen on TV."

"What's that stink?" I asked the Dude. It was horrid.

"It's their nail that you're filing off," he informed me.

I stopped for a moment and the dog started smelling and licking her paw as if she was trying to get rid of the smell. I tried and once again. It looked much better on TV.

I guess we're back to the nail trimmers. Come spring, when we have a garage sale, I think I'll use a new advertising strategy. Instead of advertising collectibles and treasures, I can state that there are a large amount of items, "As Seen On TV".... gently used.



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