

Acton Churches celebrate

By Frances Niblock

With all of the shopping hustle and bustle at this time of year, Acton's churches are encouraging people to put the Christ back into Christmas, or at least slow down and reflect on what Christmas means to them, beyond the gifts and goodies.

While the emphasis at Acton churches is fellowship, family and festive fun, there is also time for quiet reflection, for helping others and for being thankful, to enjoy the homemade mangers and Christmas pageants, soaring hymns and quiet carols.

Acton Christians will celebrate the birth of Christ with prayer and music this holiday season, beginning tonight (Thursday) at Trinity United Church for a Service of Remembrance and Reflection – a Blue Christmas service at 7 p.m. for people who have suffered a loss.

On Sunday at Trinity's 10 a.m. service they will prepare the manger for Jesus and on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m., the congregation of Trinity will enjoy a family carol sing and candlelight service for all ages.

Acton's Crossings Community Church is hosting an

open house at the Roxy on Mill Street on Christmas Eve that begins with a carol sing at the parkette on the corner of Main and Mill Streets at 6:30 p.m. The open house runs from 7 to 9 p.m. and includes a casual evening of refreshments, live music and family activities.

Bethel Christian Reformed Church will celebrate Christmas beginning with "Behold the Child" services at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on December 20. The program will include a Sunday School children's presentation. At 7 p.m., the program includes other "special surprise" Bethel participation. On Christmas Day, the service begins at 10 a.m.

On Sunday (December 20) St. Alban's Anglican Church will hold a Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols at 7 p.m. On Christmas Eve there will be a children's service with carols and communion at 5 p.m., followed by a family service with carols and Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m., and the traditional Choral Eucharist at 10 p.m.

On December 20 there will be an Advent Children's Worship service at 10:30 a.m. There will be a Service

of Lessons and Carols at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day, a "Real Christ" service is slated for 10:30 a.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church.

At the Salvation Army's Acton Corps, all are invited to a Christmas Eve Candlelight service that begins at 6:30 p.m.

There will be masses at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and at midnight. On Christmas Day mass will be at 11 a.m.

The "Saviour We Seek" will be the sermon during a Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols at Churchill Community Church. The service begins at 7 p.m. and all are welcome.

The Evangel Family Church is inviting everyone to a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m.

At Acton Baptist Church, a musical production "The Greatest Christmas Gift Ever" will be presented at 7 p.m. There will be a Christmas Candlelight Service beginning at 7 p.m.

Acton's New Apostolic Church will hold a Christmas Day service at 10:30 a.m.



TOY/FOOD DRIVE BOUNTY: Donations of toys and food collected by members of the Acton Women2Women Business Networking Group will make the holidays a lot merrier for many in need. Collecting the donations are Re/Max agent Linda Olson, a member of the Women2Women group and BIA manager Josey Bonnette. The bounty will be distributed through the Acton Christmas Hamper program. – Submitted photo



Blue Springs

HOME OF THE \$20 and Under GIFT SHOP!

FLOWER & GIFT SHOP
519-853-0800 • Toll Free 1-877-841-6885

Arrangements, Centrepieces, Flowers, plants, and all your Christmas Floral Needs!

CHRISTMAS CENTREPIECES

Starting from \$19.99 +tax
(While Quantities Last)

READY TO GO BOUQUETS

Walk In Only

\$9.99 +tax

Gift Certificates Available for Flower Shop & Gift Shop

DOZ. RED OR WHITE LONG STEM ROSES

Walk In Only

\$29.99 +tax

UNIQUE GIFTS ALL UNDER \$20



Trendy-Fashionable Jewelry All \$20 and UNDER!

Fashionable Handbags All \$20 +tax

Pashminas \$9.99

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

All \$19.99 and UNDER

Gourmet Village all Under \$20.

Delicious dips for the holidays!



Town Digest

Hockey plaque

The Town's efforts to help the Minor Hockey Foundation stage a skills clinic last April was rewarded with a plaque of thanks for a contribution from the Town's Municipal Assistance Program.

The Foundation's program provides kids from low-income families with the chance to receive free hockey equipment, a subsidy towards their registration and a day of hockey skills instructions. With help from the Halton Hills chapter of JumpSmart and other local social service agencies, the Foundation made sure that those in the greatest need received benefits from the opportunity.

BIA expansion

Prospect Park will now be part of the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area.) Town Councillors recently

approved the boundary expansion requested by the BIA Board of Directors.

The Board wants to include the Park as part of the BIA area so it can be used for BIA events – like the popular movies in the park that were held last summer.

As per the rules, the Town sent notices to businesses within the BIA area asking for comment – if one-third had objected, the boundary would have remained the same.

A business improvement area is a public-private partnership in which businesses in a defined area pay an additional tax to fund beautification/promotion within the area's boundaries. The last time the Acton BIA boundary was altered was to include the Hide House and businesses on Eastern Avenue.

We stock a full line of **SICO** Paints, Hardware, Electrical & Plumbing supplies

Leathertown LUMBER

264 MAIN ST. N ACTON

519-853-1970

Enter to Win FREE HOCKEY TICKETS






LEATHERTOWN LUMBER

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

HOURS

Mon-Fri. 7:00am to 6:00pm
Saturday 8:00am to 4:00pm

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

FAX LINE: (519) 853-2542 • TORONTO LINE: (416) 601-1259