

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Crying wolf frustrates cops

The most recent report of a suspicious man attempting to lure an Acton boy into a silver vehicle frustrated Halton police when it turned out to be a lie – a huge “fabrication” by a nine-year-old boy, possibly looking for attention.

He sure got it – on Friday, there were seven officers investigating four reports of a suspicious silver car/truck in Acton in the past month, and the tactical squad was in town – a police “presence” designed to quell fears.

Police stopped short of saying there was a “panic” because of the four reports – there’s been no corroboration of the first three incidents – but said there was a ‘heightened awareness’ involving silver vehicles.

One officer said it was a “Catch-22” situation – they want people to report incidents, but don’t want to waste time investigating kids who cry wolf.

While school officials continue to stress street proofing measures, let’s hope they, and parents, talk to the kids about the dangers of lying, possibly using Aesop’s Fable about the bored boy who falsely cried wolf who was not believed when there really was a wolf who ate him.

As the fable says, “Even when liars tell the truth, they are never believed. The liar will lie once, twice, and then perish when he tells the truth.”

Looking Back

Ten Years Ago

- Following the Walkerton water tragedy that killed five people, Halton officials assured residents that their water is safe and is tested on a regular basis.
- Thirty-plus people – many of them members of the Friends of Fairy Lake – donated their time to help with the annual cleanup of the lake filling more than 35 garbage bags.
- While the overall number of people needing food from FoodShare declined in the past year, food bank officials said the number of children who needed food is increasing, which is “frightening.”
- Five Years Ago
- Georgetown Hospital will

- no longer be part of the William Osler health centre. In a move that made local politicians very happy, the hospital will be part of Halton Healthcare Services that operates hospitals in Milton and Oakville.
- Finoro Homes announced it hopes to begin construction within months of a 64-unit, luxury condominium project at Dr. Moore Crescent and Wallace Street.
- Acton students will have to go to Georgetown if they want face-to-face help with a summer job search – there is no Acton location although local students can access job information on computers available at Acton High School or at the library.



What's Your Beef?

Put it in a letter to the Editor! Deadline is Tuesday at noon.



TO THE HEAVENS

The choir sang along with the congregation at Churchill Community Church on Sunday morning with a Serenity Celebration commemorating the church’s 172nd anniversary.

– Denise Paulsen photo

“X” rated educational toy

On Saturday, it was Mommy morning. This meant that I was heading out with the girls to go to the Milton Farmers’ Market, hit the Trunk Sale and a few garage sales.



By **Angela Tyler**

When they came to pick me up, the Dude said farewell with his famous words, “don’t buy any more junk...” Last spring, the gals and I went out on a similar adventure and I came home with the chair that is in our living room which he despises. I think it has character. Then, a few weeks ago, we were out and about and went by a garage sale and of course, I saw another chair which he instantly deemed “ugly.” That evening, he corrected himself admitting that the chair was very comfortable. I really was only going to buy the chair because he hated it so much, however, I did buy it because it was so comfy.

On our return to town, we headed to the Trunk Sale which I was happy to see had such a great turnout for the first event of the season. Then we scoured the town for garage sales. Surprisingly, there were quite a few since we hadn’t seen one ad for any in either local paper.

So, off we went to the Milton Farmers Market. I really like that market and hope the one next week in Acton on Thursday is just the beginning of Acton having the same sort of one. I have often thought I should go more often to the Milton Market yet I never seem to go as often as I want to. It is a true farmers market full of the right mix of produce, flowers and more.

Our treasure hunting, which ended up including a trip to the thrift store, didn’t pan out much beyond some great hanging basket deals at the market. The Dude and Dyno-man, who sent us out with almost the same caution as if they were comparing notes on what to say to the women, were safe with us returning with no additional junk.

However, my in-laws were another story. Dude Sr. and the Mrs. also enjoy garage sales and their treasure hunt produced a Leap Frog toy for Little J. They were quite proud of their find because it was a musical school bus. I have to admit, it’s great and in perfect shape.

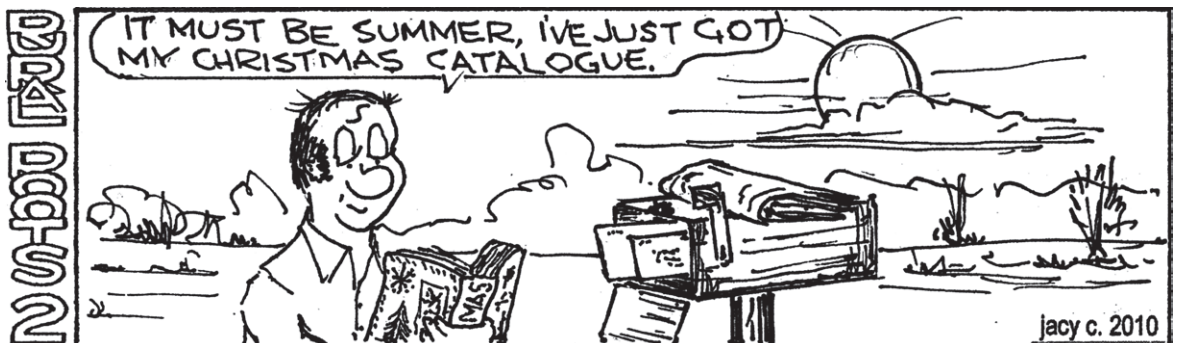
That evening they stopped by to give Little J her new toy and

she loved it. It sang the alphabet song and also would say a letter as well as say the letter in a word in an educational and fun way. It was perfect.

As Little J was enthralled with it, Mrs. Dude Sr. reviewed what it did and instructed us to push the letter “X”. Around the bus were the letters of the alphabet that when pushed produced the sounds selected. After purchasing the bus, and checking it out, they realized the bus had a certain language issue.

The bus started phonetically singing its little letter song but there was one problem. The voice in the bus that made the “X” in fox did not sound like fox. The “X” sounded more like a “K” and if you sound out fox and replace it with a “K” it sure sounds like the f-word.

I don’t think the folks at Leap Frog really listened to this toy before mass producing it. I realize there aren’t a lot of “X” words, but couldn’t they have even picked X-ray or something? Maybe this is why the bus was in the garage sale? Maybe the other kids didn’t really hear the word fox. Maybe we just need to set the bus to the alphabet song setting and avoid the letter “X” word altogether.



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