

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

## Donate Generously to MS

When some of the 600 cyclists get off their bikes in Prospect Park after a 150-kilometre to ride to and from Acton in mid-August, they will feel like they have Multiple Sclerosis (MS.)

Unlike MS sufferers, the physical aftermath of the ride – extreme fatigue, aching body parts, pain, problems with hearing, and vision and balance – will subside after 48 hours, but for those with MS, the symptoms last a lifetime as there is no cure.

MS officials were in Acton on Wednesday morning, hosting a breakfast to introduce local merchants to the plans for this year's RONA MS Ride that will start and finish in Prospect Park. Unfortunately, not a single local business owner showed up to hear about the August 15/16 event that will have "600 cyclists and their supporters descend on Acton."

"The event is a great way for merchants to get involved if they want to attract the people who are supporting the riders," said Erin Clifford, manager of the RONA MS Bike Tours, calling the supporters and riders a "captive audience."

She said they switched the start/finish to Acton, from Brampton, to provide a somewhat easier tour for the riders who will collect pledges – \$400,000 from the Brampton ride last year, \$2.5-million from Ontario rides, and \$9-million Canada-wide.

Acton BIA manager Josey Bonnette said she wasn't concerned that local merchants did not turn out to hear the MS Society officials make their pitch – noting that most run "Mom and Pop" operations, and attending the breakfast might have meant closing their store.

Clifford said on the Sunday, when the riders return to Acton, merchants are invited to set up in a market area and enjoy a barbecue. She said they are especially pleased that the Town has been so helpful, and that the Acton Agricultural Society has offered the free use of the Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre in the park for the event.

Several local groups of cyclists in training for the ride – give generously if they ask for a pledge to help those living with MS and for the three Canadians who are diagnosed daily with MS.



# FOND FAREWELL

Acton Salvation Army Corps Majors Dean and Margaret Locke were honoured at a dinner on Friday at the Acton corps – a goodbye to the couple who have been in Acton for five years. They are transferring to a Corps in Picton.

– Frances Niblock photo

# Angela cries foul

Oh no, here it starts again. It seems like we just finished all the Olympic hoopla and now comes World Cup Soccer.

Like the Olympics, I seem to be missing something. I will admit I really know pretty much nothing about soccer, let alone World Cup Soccer. I don't know the teams and I don't know the players. One of the things I do know about it, is that Coronation Street on Sunday mornings is not being shown for three weeks because of it, and that doesn't thrill me. Let's face it, for us "Corrie" watchers, we are already at least ten months behind the show schedule in the U.K., and things like soccer and the Olympics only delay it even more. It is unfair. I think all this sports should be kept on the many sports exclusive channels and leave the regular schedules where they belong.

I suppose it is nice to see the hoards of people being so patriotic towards their team or the country they support. It's like when you go to the States around July 4th, almost every house either has an American Flag flying proudly or flag-like banners hanging from their front porch. It's nice to see, but sometimes a little "over-kill." Maybe I'm just too Canadian, as I find we are pretty relaxed about the whole flag waving thing. Although the Dude has mentioned he wants to put up a flag pole which



By Angela Tyler

is to have a Canadian flag and a British flag for his family's heritage. I have a slight issue with that though. I think if you're Canadian, then you are Canadian. It kind of bugs me when people put their origins first before their country they are a citizen of. For example the term African-American...if you're American, you're American. Why add the prefix?

On the same token, I cannot, for the life of me understand the sudden surge in vehicles that are adorning flags for teams or countries. In my opinion they are annoying and a waste of money. The flags are like the "baby on board" things that hang from peoples back windows or horse trailers you might follow that state "show horses." Do the flags make me want to yell out my window in support or honk my horn? Far from it. Do the baby on board or horse signs make me change my driving habits? Nope... I'm pretty happy with my driving, and think I'm a safe driver without being told there are show horses in front of me.

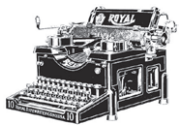
Speaking of safer driving, there is something new that I have be-

come quite fascinated with. I've seen them in Milton and in Georgetown and that is the new addition to traffic lights. These new lights under the pedestrian light to tell you to walk or not to walk now count down until the light changes.

I don't know who invented these things or how much they cost, but at first I thought they were great. No longer is there that unknown when you come to a light wondering if its going to change or whether you're going to make it through without it turning yellow. Yet, I've almost become too fascinated with these additions. I think they are starting to distract me. I find myself looking for them and looking in anticipation for what number the light is at. If it is at two, do I still have time to make the light or should I be stopping even though the light hasn't changed? I'm starting to wonder if these count down lights work or whether they will end up like the chevrons that used to be on Highway 401 until they found the drivers were too busy counting the chevron spaces thus causing more problems then they were trying to solve by having them.

Maybe I need a sign on the back of my truck...Caution...driver has obsessive compulsive disorder with traffic lights...follow with caution.

## Looking Back



### Ten Years Ago

• Halton police institute a new zero tolerance policy to combat repeated complaints about loiterers, vandalism and drunken rowdiness in connection with an unnamed bar in the downtown area.

• Councillor Kathy Gastle will challenge Marilyn Serjeantson for mayor, but is mum on campaign details, accusing Serjeantson of "stealing other people's ideas."

• The Town hopes an "understanding" handicapped Acton woman will not file a Human Rights Commission complaint about the inaccessibility of the

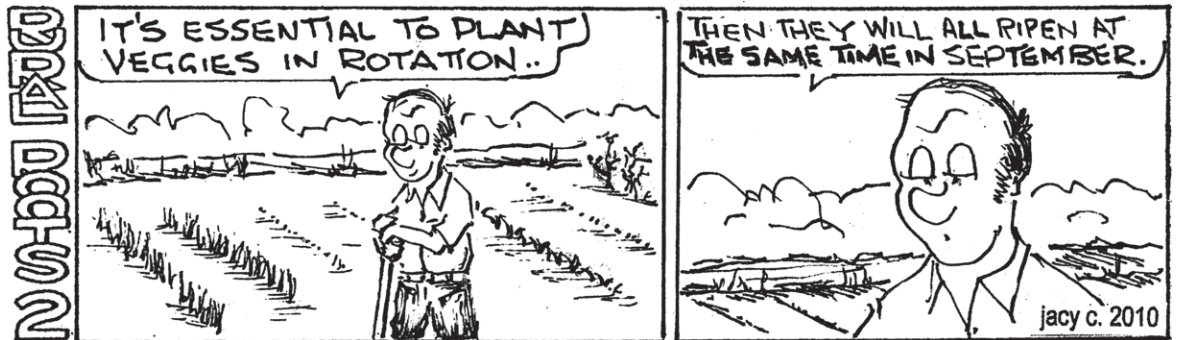
Acton library – because she would surely win.

### Five Years Ago

• Acton's new skateboard facility will be built at the north end of the Acton arena. The Town will pick up half the cost and the balance will be raised by the Acton Sports Action Park committee.

• Acton's Justin Worthy is going to the show – the 18-year-old catcher was signed by the Major League San Diego Padres.

• After 16 years in business, Wetherby's owner Jo Lister announces she will retire at the end of July and sell her "all things British" store.



**THE NEW TANNER**  
PUBLISHING LTD.

373 Queen Street East, Unit 1  
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2  
email: [thenewtanner@on.aibn.com](mailto:thenewtanner@on.aibn.com)

(519) 853-0051 Fax: (519) 853-0052

**Publisher**  
Ted Tyler

**Editor**  
Frances Niblock

**Editorial Contributors**  
Mike O'Leary Angela Tyler Denise Paulsen

**Advertising and Circulation**  
Marie Shadbolt

**Composing** Ken Baker

Distributed to every home in Acton and area, as well as adjoining communities.

Every effort will be made to see advertising copy, neatly presented, is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur provided a claim is made within five days of publication.

All articles, advertisements and graphic artwork appearing in The New Tanner is copyrighted. Any usage, reproduction or publication of these items, in whole or in part, without the express written consent of the publisher of The New Tanner is a copyright infringement and subject to legal action.