

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Festival fun

A prelude to the Acton Fall Fair – the Leathertown Festival – is slated for Sunday, and the 19th edition promises to be a crowd pleaser with non-stop entertainment at several stages, roving musicians and street artists, good food and approximately 100 street vendors.

Mardi Gras is this year’s theme and Mill Street will be transformed into Bourbon Street, the heart of the Big Easy.

What began as Back to Acton Days – an afternoon of free family fun and a summer boost for Acton merchants – has evolved into a street party that draws as many as 10,000 people.

While organizers are careful to avoid allowing the event to turn into a “vendor fest” with all kinds of cheap stuff for sale from out-of-town merchants, vendor rent money does help foot the bill for the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) event, which also receives money from generous sponsors and the Town.

With the emphasis on entertainment, music and food – there are two pizza-eating contests – the Leathertown Festival is a chance for Acton to have some summer fun.

If the weather cooperates, so much the better, but rain or shine, the party’s on.



SUPERIOR COOLING

Rowan Rusk of Acton enjoys a splash in the face and can tell you the Superior Glove Splash Pad is the place to be as the hot weather sticks around. Weather forecasters predict cooler dryer air for the weekend, but chances are the splash pad will stay a busy location

- Denise Paulsen photo

Little J is changing me, but....

I don’t know whether it is the arrival of Little J or whether I’m opening my eyes a bit more, however, this past little while I am really enjoying our town more than I normally do.



By Angela Tyler

This summer has been great for our town. This year we have our new farmers market. I was quite excited about this. I have always enjoyed going to farmers markets in surrounding areas and going up to St. Jacobs. Heck, when on vacation we have, several times, even gone to markets where we visit. Having one in our town is a real treat.

After it started, I did hear some people voice concerns that the market was too small. My response is, it is just starting and it takes a bit for word to get out and vendors to know about the market. I like our market. I agree it could use a few more fruit and veggie vendors however, each week there seems to be another one showing up.

Each Thursday, Little J, Gramma D and I head down to the market. We pick up the farm fresh produce. Thankfully Little J loves her fruits and veggies. Of course the highlight of the market is getting the awesome ice cream that the Roxy sells, sitting at the picnic tables while she frantically consumes our orange and vanilla ice cream while we listen to the weekly entertainment. For me, the entertainment is what

makes the market. It just gives it a charming atmosphere and makes it more enjoyable than just going to do some shopping.

Another great thing is the movies in the park. Unfortunately we were going to go to the last movie until it started raining that day. I think it’s great that Prospect Park is used for more than the traditional baseball games, fishing and the Fall Fair. We’re hoping to attend one before the end of the season this year.

This weekend is the Leathertown Festival. I like to think of the festival as a prelude to the Fall Fair. For me, the Fall Fair is like a homecoming and the festival is similar to this. These events are what make this town more than just a town. It reaffirms that this is our home. I love that it seems every few feet you walk you run into someone you know. Some people you haven’t seen for a while and some you may see all the time yet it’s still great seeing them all. It is also great the number of people you see that might have moved out of town that still come back for the day.

As Little J grows, each day I look forward to things that we can do in town as a family. This

year the Fall Fair will be even more special than normal. She is such an inquisitive little thing, I just know she will enjoy all the sights, and seeing all the animals from the horses to the poultry barn. Of course, I personally have this dislike for the poultry barn. I’m one of those people who have no problem eating chicken, I just don’t like seeing the live version. I am fairly confident that the poultry barn will be an adventure that Little J will be able to share with Grampa or daddy.

The other day, my sister said she was thinking about what Little J’s Hallowe’en costume might be. That got me thinking about the Hallowe’en walk that the BIA hosts for children each year.

In the past, I had usually taken the pictures for the paper and always enjoyed seeing the children in their costumes however; I would be confused as to why parents would take their small children to it when they were very young.

I think though, I am changing. I might have to break my “rules”. I am starting to realize that it isn’t about taking the kids out to collect candy. It’s about the experience both for the parents and the children, something they can both enjoy in a safe and enjoyable setting. Okay, this little girl is changing me...but I’m still not going into the poultry barn.

Looking Back

Ten Years Ago

• Local Scouting officials look for help to work on the Scout Hall to bring it into compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. The hall is now closed and will not open until the safety issues – new fire extinguishers, emergency lights and exit signs – are installed.

• Police laid 45 charges and issued 20 arrest warrants on a three-week crackdown of vandals and loiterers in the downtown core. Police said a “select few” are causing most of the problems and on the whole, Acton youth are not the problem.

• The Canadian Cancer Society announced it is closing the Georgetown branch office, a move that will impact Acton services as the Georgetown office was often the first point of introduction to people needing cancer services.

Five Years Ago

• Halton officials are not “spooked” by the arrival of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Halton, pointing to the Region’s \$1.2-million WNV program that includes public education, monitoring dead birds for signs of the virus and larviciding areas of standing water.

• Acton’s John Zenga died suddenly of anaphylactic shock after being stung by a bee while vacationing at Wasaga Beach.

• Organizers prepared for the third annual Three Musketeers Golf Tournament to help raise money to build a skateboard park in Acton to honour three Acton teens who died in a train/car accident on the Fourth Line, south of Acton.



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