

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Apathy or appreciation?

There are two distinct camps among some local voters following the acclamations of the three Acton councillors and the mayor in the October 25 municipal elections.

While many feel that the Acton politicians are doing a good job and deserve their seats at the council table, others feel that democracy requires a vote.

One rookie acclaimed to his seat in a neighbouring municipality said acclamations do not “speak well for the appreciation of democracy.” While disagreeing with that statement, the Acton councillors and mayor said the councillor-to-be has the right to his opinion and free speech – the hallmarks of a democracy.

It is to their credit that none of the local politicians acclaimed to office are smug or arrogant about being unchallenged – to a man, they said they are “humbled” by the voters’ confidence in them, suggesting it is appreciation of their efforts over the past term, not apathy, that led to the acclamations.

Hopefully the lack of an Acton race – except for the school board trustee at the public and Catholic school boards – will not lead to even lower voter turnout than in past years when there were races in Acton.



GIFT OF LIFE: Helped by phlebotomists Zoya Slavkovic and Sherri Watson, Acton’s Laura Kroezen made her 26th blood donation at the Canadian Blood Services clinic at the Acton arena/community centre last Wednesday. – Frances Niblock photo

Exercise your vote - it’s your right

There is one thing that is a must for me. That is ensuring I exercise my right to vote. I’m not sure why it is so important to me, other than it is.



By **Angela Tyler**

I remember when I was little; I would go with my parents over to the school to vote during elections. There was always a lot of political discussion amongst my dad and his friend when they gathered, however, once the vote was cast, not a word was mentioned as to who they voted for. It was a secret ballot for a reason. I’m sure there was discussion between my parents as to who they would vote for yet we never knew who it was. There was always just something important about voting.

about to publically support any politician, nor am I about to criticize them either, yet I am totally bummed that Ward one Town council seats are all acclaimed thus stripping me of my ability to vote.

When I finally turned the magical age when I could vote, I did it and still do it with pride. If there is an election, I always vote and I never spoil my ballot. There is a really low voter turnout in my opinion, and at least I can be proud to say I vote.

I’m sure there would be acclaimed candidates who are happy that they don’t have to run an election campaign, but, is it a happy thing just to be acclaimed and not re-elected by the people, but just slide into the seat because nobody else ran? Just a thought I’ve been having.

That was until this year and the municipal election. I’m not

In response, someone could say to me, well why didn’t or why don’t you run then? Well, I can honestly say I have thought about it from time to time. Yet, there is one very important thing that stops me in my tracks each time.

That one thing is a council meeting. Have you ever seen

one? They are horrible...they are worse than getting wisdom teeth pulled. They are long, drawn out affairs that go on and on and on. The ones I’ve witnessed seem to accomplish not much except a whole bunch of people talking trying to sound polite to each other when sometimes all you want to really say is the guy talking is a dufus.

Sometimes I think that if the councillors got together at the coffee shop and just talked ‘shop’ and treated each other as they would as one of their own friends a lot more could get accomplished and take up a lot less time than council meetings do.

Then, don’t forget the items discussed have to go back and fourth with motions being made and reports being requested and this seconded and it just seems like a bunch of blah blah blah’s.

Maybe one day I’ll run for political office. However, the day I do the council meetings sure won’t take four hours like they do now sometimes.

Looking Back

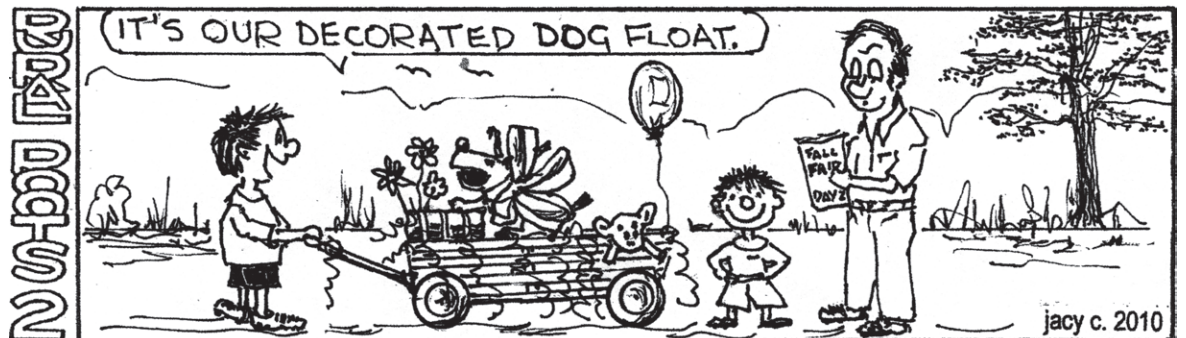


Ten Years Ago

- Plans for a 143-unit housing development for seniors and empty-nesters in the West Meadows area – Wallace Street and Commerce Crescent – received a ringing endorsement from Acton councillors.
- Acton Fall Fair officials plan for what they hope is the last year to hold parts of the Fair under tents – the new Fair building should be ready for next year.
- The Acton I midget hardball team captured the Central Ontario Baseball Association playoff championship with a 6-0 drubbing of Campbellville.

Five Years Ago

- West Nile Virus arrived in Acton via a dead crow found in Prospect Park. Dead birds are a good indicator of the presence of the potentially-fatal virus. There were four human cases reported in Halton.
- Nineteen members of Acton’s Bethel Christian Reformed Church headed to Guatemala for a 10-day mission trip to help build a children’s centre and offer a Bible school ministry.
- Hundreds of shoppers lined up for hours at the final closing sale of Wetherby’s – the Acton store that sold all things British for 17 years.



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