

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Truly thankful

For many, enjoying a large helping of turkey, cranberries and root veggies on Monday will be how they get to enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving harvest.

At the first recognized Canadian Thanksgiving, explorer Martin Frobisher staged a party in what is now Newfoundland, giving thanks for surviving his attempt to find a northern passage to the Orient. For hundreds of years earlier, Canada's aboriginal people marked the fall season with feasts as they prepared for winter.

A national holiday since 1879, the Parliamentary proclamation called for a "General Day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed..."

For many the religious reference has largely given way to pumpkin pies and double-header Canadian football games, but the statutory holiday remains a time to reflect on what they are thankful for.

The big list might include freedom, democracy, good health, wealth and happiness. Many would add a happy family, good friends and job security to the list. Whatever the list – there is much to be thankful for, and a day off to help celebrate it.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

- Separate funeral services were held for three Acton teens, killed when their car was hit by a train at a level rail crossing on the Fourth Line, south of Highway 7.
- Halton Hills was declared an under serviced community when it comes to family doctors, a move that will make it easier to attract new physicians to Acton.
- The Acton Branch of the Bank of Montreal offered cake and coffee to customers who helped celebrate the branch's 100th anniversary in Acton.

Five Years Ago

- The mood was festive as four or five eager customers lined up to be the first through the doors of the new TD Canada Trust branch in Acton.
- Retiring Town engineer, Acton's Bob Austin was "pretty stunned" when he learned that the Town's works yard in Georgetown was to be named the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre in his honour.
- The Town will spend \$10,000 for a closed captioning system to be added to the audio/video coverage of Town Council meetings by Cogeco Cable.



GOLFERS GATHER: Members of the Acton and Georgetown Seniors Centres enjoyed a golf game at Blue Springs Academy course, and then lunch, on September 22. – Julie Conroy photo

Reading and the wrecking ball

For my sister's birthday this year she got one of those new portable electronic book things...e-readers, I think they are officially called. It's kind of an odd concept.

I actually suggested we get her one. I figured since she has some books on CD and when she travels she likes to read and usually takes a few large books, this would be an easier way to go. E-readers are basically a laptop or Ipad sort of thing that you can load books into – I think hers will hold 400 – and then you pick a book and flip the pages like you're flipping a webpage when you read.

What we were met with when she opened it, was her not wanting it at first. Like most of us, she spends the day staring at a computer screen and reading a book electronically was the last thing she wanted. Add to the situation figuring out where to buy the books and downloading them and it was a bit overwhelming. She proclaimed to me that she like reading a book and feeling the pages. After all, reading a book is an experience. In the end, she is giving e-reading a try, and was quite thrilled to find out that e-books are about a third of the cost of what she normally pays for books, with the understanding that this is a convenience



By
Angela Tyler

item, not the real thing which she is not replacing.

About the time of the e-reader, our library kept popping into my thoughts and conversations. Actually, I blame the Dude for the library thoughts. One Saturday, we were out running about when we drove by and started talking about it. He had thoughts that it would be a great place for the seniors to have their centre as they are outgrowing their space at the arena.

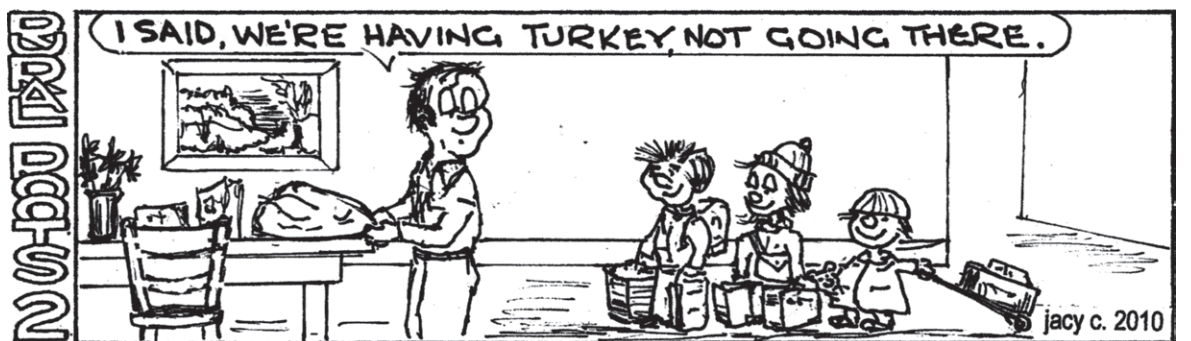
"I'm pretty sure they're tearing it down..." I told him. I really didn't know, and since found out it really is going to come tumbling down. I suppose I was subliminally trying to stay clear of my thoughts about the old one, built for the bi-centennial, and focus on the new one and the future.

It seems for the greater part of my life, I have had stories of old Acton landmarks that were torn down, much to the dismay of many old Acton residents. The old post office and the Force Electric building come to mind immediately. I was fortunate enough to have participated in Heritage Acton and helping stop

the wrecking ball from demolishing our old Town Hall. Maybe it was because of that, and the Dude later joining Heritage Acton, that we both started thinking about the library, now on death row waiting for its execution.

Every time I drive by the library I really look at it...I mean I really look at it. Okay, so it has three furnaces and isn't accessible. Surely these things can be fixed. I mean, if the Town can come up with over a million dollars to buy back land that they gave away originally, surely we could have found some way to bring the old library into a useful position to be a continuing productive building in our community.

I just keep thinking that some group or some organization or something could have appreciated the old library. Who knows... maybe I'm wrong, and it's time to let go and welcome the new library and all it will have to offer. Whether I am right in my could-have, should-have, would-have thinking or not, the old library is on death row, and you know what happens to people on death row... they never get a second chance once the executioner does his job. The same applies here...once the wrecking ball hits, the library will never get a second chance. Let's just hope we're right about getting rid of it.



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