

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Voters, some of them, have spoken

Any one who did not cast a ballot in Monday's election – an astounding 74.4 per cent of eligible voters in Halton Hills – have given up their right to whinge and moan about tax rates, development, pot-holed roads and all things municipal for the four years beginning December 6 when the new Town Council is sworn in.

The lack of any council race in Acton, where the Regional and two Local councillors were acclaimed, was a major factor in the poor 25.6 per cent turnout, down more than 10 per cent over the 2006 results.

One non-voter said "it doesn't interest me," when asked why he had not bothered to vote – made quick and easy with electronic vote casting machines. – quite content to allow somebody he did not vote for spend his hard-earned taxes.

While some people are indifferent to politics at all levels, their benign apathy doesn't speak well for democracy, despite arguments from some of those acclaimed to another term that it is appreciation of a job well done, not apathy, that led to the lack of challengers.

Congratulations to the winners, condolences to the defeated.



OFFICIALLY OPEN: The Acton Acute Care Medical Centre officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony and reception last Wednesday. Staff joined Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette (centre left) and Dr. Nather Alshakarji at the celebration of the multi-million dollar, long-awaited facility. – Frances Niblock photo

Helping others makes you feel good

A few years back, it became mandatory that for high school students to graduate, they must have completed 40 hours of volunteer work or community service to "encourage students to develop awareness and understanding of civic responsibility and of the role they can play and the contributions they can make in supporting and strengthening their communities."

When I first heard about this, I thought it was great. Then, I thought it was ridiculous that you had to make a person volunteer. The whole thing had me confused, maybe because helping out when you can is how I was raised. I couldn't help but wonder why someone had to be pushed to volunteer when it is a basic decent thing to do.

I've written before about volunteering with the original Trunk Sale group, when what I enjoyed the most was being able to play "Santa Claus" to other non-profit organizations when we gave them proceeds from the sale. For example, how could you not feel good listening to our Acton Citizens Band play for an hour, and then saying thanks and by the way, here's \$500. Heck, it even felt good giving the Scout Hall money for a new toilet. Who



By
Angela Tyler

knew buying a toilet could make you feel all happy. I know volunteering is definitely not about the money, however, with that particular event, being able to give money to other organizations, no strings attached, sure was amazing.

On Monday, I was doing my online reading of newspapers when on the Toronto Star site I noticed an article about a massive financial donation to the Hospital for Sick Kids. After their child, Michael Garron, died in 1975 from a rare form of cancer, his family has donated \$30- million dollars to the hospital to open the Garron Family Cancer Centre as well as assist in care, research and training.

I can't even really get a grip on what \$30- million is, and here is a family able to donate freely this enormous amount of money, money such as this that most of us only think about when Lotto Max reaches the big bucks. However, I truly believe that this family isn't doing it for any notoriety. After all, their son

suffered for years from cancer before losing his life at the age of 13, yet through their loss they are able to help others, and perhaps others will not have to lose a loved one like they did.

The economy is still tight; Prices, especially for fuel, are rising and Christmas is quickly on its way. Sometimes it's hard to make ends meet, let alone give money away, then you read about a family who can give a \$30- million donation. I think the important thing here to remember is that it all boils down to helping others, when you can.

Maybe helping others is shoveling your elderly neighbour's sidewalk. Maybe helping others is holding that door open for someone struggling with grocery bags. Maybe donating to a cancer centre is your choice. Whatever your way of helping others, there is one thing that is consistent, whether you help with yourself or with your wallet... helping others is a good thing and it makes you feel good.

Can you imagine how good the Garron family feels being able to keep the memory of their son 'alive' while maybe, who knows, helping the Hospital for Sick Kids find a cure for the cancer that took his life?

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

- A taxi driver in Acton was smashed in the face, causing what police called "severe" injuries, after he picked up three men on Kingham Road.
- Halton may install ultra violet lights as an extra security measure to kill bacteria and treat water at two wells that supply half of Acton's water.
- Acton's Christopher Stuckey, 34, died in a two-vehicle accident on the Fifth Line at 25 Side Road, His wife and 10-year-old daughter suffered non-life threatening injuries.

Five Years Ago

- Grade nine students at Acton High School – both those in the Applied and Academic courses – out performed both their provincial and school board colleagues in the mandatory EQAO testing.
- Acton and Guelph lawyer Aldo Braida celebrated 50 years of "fair, honest accomplishments" at a party in his honour at the Legion.
- Acton's Angela Cummings, 30, trained hard in hopes of completing the gruelling Boston Marathon. Her training included biking, walking, running, lots of sleep and good nutrition.



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