

EDITORIAL



with Frances Niblock

Lest We Forget

It will take far too long on Saturday for an Acton Royal Canadian Legion member to solemnly to read the 39 names of the Acton men – some no more than boys – who gave their lives in World Wars and conflicts so we could live free.

Too many men cut down in the prime of their lives – farm boys, beloved sons, husbands and fathers who never came home. Each year, we give honour and thanks to all those who fought, remembering their service and sacrifice and recognizing the tradition of freedom these men and women fought to preserve.

On Remembrance Day, we acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who served their country and acknowledge our responsibility to work for the peace they fought hard to achieve. We also hope and pray that Canadian servicemen and women in Afghanistan will come home, safe and sound, to their families.

The Ode of Remembrance

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young.
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Lest we forget.



HALLOWE'EN FOR HUNGER: Before Acton's Monty Greig (right) scared people at his haunted house on Frederick Street on Sunday, he allowed them to tour his spooky den in exchange for a donation of food, which he delivered to Acton's FoodShare on Tuesday morning.

– Frances Niblock photo

Conflicted Christmas shopper

It was the end of August, and I just happened to be in a kid's store that just happened to get their first delivery of Hallowe'en costumes. Had I planned on buying Little J's costume? No. Had I planned on buying the costume in August? Absolutely not. However, Little J went absolutely nuts when she saw this costume so how could I resist?

It happens all year though. As soon as Christmas is over, the Valentine's stuff is out and when that is over the Easter stuff is out. Before you know it's back to school, Hallowe'en then Christmas all over again. Sometimes it seems like retailers may rush things, however, that's what retail is...selling.

Recently, a local politician declared he was going to "boycott any store and product this Christmas season that advertises before Remembrance Day" in order to show our veterans respect. Wow, that is quite a public announcement, and one could easily slip up and shop in a store that is advertising Christmas now.

I didn't, and still don't understand this statement. I do not understand what one has to do with the other. I completely respect our veterans. I couldn't imagine doing what they did or do, and am very thankful for members of the service. I do my best to attend the



By **Angela Tyler**

service at the Cenotaph each year and I always applaud members of the Armed Forces and Legion members when they are in any parade I attend. I also think it is truly touching when those members stop in front of the Cenotaph during a parade and salute out of respect for the fallen. On top of it all, the number of poppies I buy each year is ridiculous, because they always seem to fall off my coats. I know a simple solution would be to by one of those pins that hold it in place; however, if I keep buying them, it is more donations to help the poppy fund.

I can understand being frustrated seeing Christmas commercials on television or hearing them on the radio, basically as soon as November 1st appears. I personally felt drained when I saw a Christmas display in Costco about a month ago. It instantly zapped the energy out of me probably in dread of the endless miles of Christmas shopping that lay ahead. Yet, let's face it...we've all been guilty at some time or another of buying a Christmas present in July when it was on sale, or such.

What I don't understand is how a store putting a Christmas ad, say, even in this newspaper, makes the store less disrespectful of Remembrance Day or veterans. I have been many places on November 11th over the years – schools, stores, at work, even driving down the road and each time the world has stopped to remember.

Remembrance Day is a wonderful thing. Solemn in some aspects, yet, without it, I think that many very important people and events could get lost in the world today. For some, remembering may only happen once a year for just a moment. For others, like Legion members, it could happen every time they put their foot in our Legion and see the pictures of our veterans.

As an alternate option to boycotting, which in turn is a form of conflict, I think it is more important to have less conflict and more peace-keeping. Why not understand where the retailers are coming from and work on promoting remembering. What's that saying...if you love your freedom, thank a vet...how about remembering to thank them on a day that isn't declared Remembrance Day, instead of getting upset about an ad featuring Santa on November 10, instead of merchants waiting until November 12?

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

- Volunteer Tulio Perusello spoiled the physically and mentally handicapped adults he drove for several social service agencies, and for his generous commitment, he was honoured with a Community Champion Award.
- Lagging contract talks cause moral problems at Acton High School where the 32 full and part-time teachers each made their own decisions about taking part in extra curricular activities, resulting in no teacher supervision for the band and drama club.
- Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson thinks she's done a good job in her term of office, but challengers, Councillor Kathy Gastle and former councillor Rob Heaton say it

is time for a change in the municipal election.

Five Years Ago

- Property assessments notices are in the mail, and experts said if your recent property reassessment increased more than 13 per cent, expect a tax increase this year.
- Halton police, Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Halton and municipal bylaw officers are prepared for the annual week-long controlled shotgun deer hunt in Halton Hills.
- Acton developer Fred Dawkins donated \$5,000 to Heritage Acton to help with restorations of the old Town Hall on Willow Street which volunteers are returning to its original 1883 grandeur.



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PUBLISHING LTD.

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

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