

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Scammer's hell

If there is hereafter justice, there must be a special hell for people who scam others for money in the name of charity, like those who claim to have terminal cancer – even shaving their heads for realism.

A nasty scam was uncovered at the Acton Santa Claus parade on the weekend, a crime also perpetuated at the Guelph parade. In Acton, two white, middle-aged women carrying plastic buckets with homemade signs saying “sick kids” moved through the crowd asking for donations.

One observer, at the four corners in Acton, heard one woman say the donations were for “sick kids” and watched as many in the crowd of parade watchers dug into their pockets to make donations to what turned out to be a scam. Something about the women bothered the observer who contacted The New Tanner, which contacted parade officials who said they did not sanction any charities to solicit for money during the parade, and never would.

In Guelph, a team of people reportedly moved through the parade route – this time with buckets reading “Kare for Kids” – asking for donations. Officials at the non-profit Kare for Kids in Toronto said they did not have anyone at the parade.

Maybe it is naive to believe events like Santa Claus parades should be sacrosanct, but what a sad commentary that opportunistic scammers can so easily take advantage of people who willingly want to help the less fortunate.



KETTLE TIME: The Salvation Army Acton Community Church starts its Kettle Campaign tomorrow (Friday) at Sobeyes and Giant Tiger. Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott (second from left) made a donation on Saturday, aided by Major Sam Roberts (left), Kettle coordinator Reg Marsh and Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong. A kettle will be at the LCBO beginning December 2.

– Submitted photo

Air travel has lost its fun

I now, more than ever, believe that air travel has lost its fun. I've been very fortunate to have flown many places over the years, and from a very early age as well. I have watched airlines grow and I've seen a few go and I've been on some of both.

When I first started going away by airplane, air travel was an event. It was something that you wore your best duds for and it was truly something special. I remember one time when I was little, going out with my mom downtown to the children's store “Toddlers to Teens” to buy a special dress for a flight, and it was not to be worn until that time. It was almost the equivalent of your Sunday church clothes. Men wore suits. Ladies wore fancy dresses and nobody wore blue jeans. People acted respectfully while flight attendants and pilots were admired. Things have changed a bit though.

Gone are the days of wearing your best duds for a flight, welcome now an anything goes mentality. I remember once even seeing a woman wearing a bathing suit on a plane and not much else. People wear blue jeans, flight attendants are sometimes looked upon as glorified waitresses, and let's face it, not all passengers are respectful.

However, if I'm going away, I still prefer air travel. Sure a road



By **Angela Tyler**

trip is fun, but toss me on a plane and I am a happy non-camper.

This winter, our family has a couple mini- get-aways planned. About a week ago, even though I heard about them before, I started hearing more and more about the full body imaging machines that the TSA in using in the United States. I suppose most of the media attention is a result of their big Thanksgiving this weekend.

At first, I thought this was great. Finally there will be a way to find those crazy people that want to do crazy things to airplanes. Maybe, just maybe, with these body imaging machines scanning every ounce of ones body, perhaps the old ways of air travel could return. You remember those days when you could actually take a bottle of water through security instead of paying close to five bucks for it inside the “secured area.”

Then I started hearing some of the horror stories. There was the guy who refused to have a full body scan done and instead opted for a “pat down” but when they told him where precisely they were going to pat down, he instead got his ticket refund and tried to leave the airport.

He was then told once a passenger screening starts, it must be completed even if the passenger doesn't fly or they will face an \$11,000 fine and possible criminal charges.

What about people who can't have an x-ray. If you get an x-ray done at the dentist, they are tossing that protective apron on you and here you are at an airport getting the full-monty of x-rays. Then there are the kids and infants... the screening applies to them as well.

I just read about a Florida TSA personnel who thought it was appropriate to make fun of a man's minimal manhood during a screening. Their co-worker didn't find it funny and decided to beat them up. Until then, I never thought about them seeing all that.

In the end, you don't really have a choice. If you want to fly, you have to go along with what the TSA or whatever country's airport security in is in place, or you don't fly. I have such mixed feelings about the whole thing. I'm happy stronger measures are being taken, however, the thought of someone doing a new “pat down” or a full body image screening doesn't really leave me wanting to fly. Thinking about it though, the lady that wore the bathing suit on a flight would have made it pretty easy for the TSA to do their new pat down screening. Maybe I need to reconsider that road trip option.

Looking Back

Ten Years Ago

- Incumbent MP Julian Reed held onto his seat in the Federal election, defeating four challengers for the riding he'd held since 1993, when the Mulroney Tories were swept from power.

- There were no tears, but lots of emotional reminiscing as three defeated municipal politicians – including Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson – said goodbye at the final meeting to end the term of Town council.

- Effort Trust, a Hamilton property management company working on behalf of Acton Shopping Plaza Limited, purchased a 3.4-acre property on the south side of Highway 7 in Acton East to build a plaza.

Five Years Ago

- Ann Adema was presented with the Community Champion Award by the Rotary Club of Acton in recognition of her efforts to make Acton a nicer place to live.

- A new transit service, North Halton Rides, began providing rides to local disabled persons and seniors who need to get to medical appointments, day programs or to go shopping.

- The annual Acton Santa Claus parade was a great success with 34 floats, five bands and 160-pounds of donated candy handed out to kids who lined the parade route.



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