

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Interesting times

“May you live in interesting times.” Depending on the context, that reported Chinese proverb can be either a blessing or a curse, especially in the news business with its steady stream of interesting information, some turbulent, some touching, some true.

Here are some things that brought great comfort and joy this week:

- The Grade 12 design class at Acton High School took \$450 of its \$1,000 grand prize in an affordable housing contest and donated it to FoodShare, to help feed the hungry.
- Students at St. Joseph Catholic School raised at least \$200 to help the Boys’ Running Group compete in a marathon in Guelph on Saturday. They took pictures of classmates dressed up with holiday props.
- Not only artistic, but altruistic, employees of Super Glove donated the \$100 they won for best “other” float in the Santa Claus parade to the Salvation Army.
- Employees of Galvcast raised \$1,500 with a Toonie Bar at their recent Christmas party, and will continue their holiday tradition of donating the money to FoodShare.

The Bad tidings include:

- An Acton girl is devastated by the theft of 74 of her Irish dancing medals during a break-in at her grandparent’s house. The medals are worthless, but irreplaceable from a sentimental point of view.
- Still no arrest in connection with the murder of Garfield Steele, whose body was found in a barrel 10 days ago on 20 Side Road, between the Sixth Line and the Esquesing/Nasagaweya Town Line.

Interesting times, indeed.



HOMEMADE TREATS: Acton’s Lyne Tredel (left) with Ice Dreams Art and Monica Tinneberg displayed their candy treats and beautiful candles during a Christmas sale at the Roxy on Saturday. – Frances Niblock photo

Light thoughts of Christmas

I’ve written many times about how I love to seasonally decorate about my love of Christmas lights.

This year, I had great ideas of putting our Christmas lights up when it was sunny and warm, that way when it turned miserable, all I would have to do is plug in the cord. I repeat, I had great ideas.

Last year with Little J’s arrival, our Christmas lights were limited to the eaves. However, it was the first time that I could remember that the Dude wanted Christmas lights and even picked them out.

I had been a tried and true clear Christmas lights gal, and succumbed to that horrible thing in marriage called compromise, by agreeing with the Dude’s choice of coloured lights that even changed from pink to purple to blue. For me, this was a big compromise to abandon my clear lights.

Yet, something happened last Christmas that made me love those ever changing colour Christmas lights. Every night, as Little J was enjoying her bottle every four hours, the Dude or I would sit in the living room with our interior lights out, sitting there by the glow of those lights. As Christmas approached, we noticed that Little J was mesmerized by those lights. Cradled in our arms she would watch the lights change slowly. At that point, I started to actually like those lights.

This year, with Little J being



By **Angela Tyler**

older and her fascination with lights continuing, I decided we needed more lights. I’m not sure what happened when we moved to our home now but somehow my clear Christmas lights conveniently didn’t move with us.

Before I knew it, I had purchased my multi-coloured Christmas lights. That night, the Dude came home and saw my purchases and wasn’t exactly thrilled. Somehow, he actually thought the lights on our eaves were sufficient. He grumbled, but I knew he knew that there was no way they were being returned, and we were going to have a true showing of Christmas lights.

On Saturday, Little J, bundled in her first snow suit, sat in her stroller on our front sidewalk and watched Mom put up the lights. I had bows, lights, flood lights and the six-foot high Santa I bought at a garage sale in the summer that everyone thought I was crazy for buying. When the Dude returned home from work, Scrooge left while Daddy reappeared and decided he would put the last string of lights on the eaves that we never finished last year.

I was feeling pretty good about the whole thing until he opened the box where the lights were and found three sets of lights I bought last year, still in the box, that I had forgotten all about. As he grumbled, I informed him “not to worry, I can use those as well.” Scrooge briefly reappeared, but soon left again, when he could see how excited I was to start the Christmas decorating extravaganza.

The Dude finished the lights and improved the way I had the extension cord and made it “safe.” I am not the most attentive when it comes to things like that. He even promised to attend to the parade to bring the storage bins with all the Christmas treasures upstairs. I was positive he had melted. He was getting into the spirit of the season.

That was until the next night. Earlier that day, he got his buddy Country Bear to give him a lift home at the end of the day. When he came in, I asked “what do you think about the lights? Don’t they look good?” I was ready for his praise. He looked at me bewildered and replied, “I don’t know... when we pulled up Country Bear said ‘whoa I’d hate to see your hydro bill!’ I suppose now is not the time to mention that we’ll be putting up lighted garland inside along with over 400 lights on the Christmas tree.

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

- The newly-elected Halton Hills Council is sworn into office with Mayor Kathy Gastle announcing that her first priority is to broadcast the message that the Town is open for business.
- Over 300 local seniors were fêted at the annual Legion/Rotary Christmas dinner that included entertainment, a delicious dinner and a visit from Old St. Nick.
- Habitat for Humanity announced plans to build an affordable duplex in Rockwood, offering housing to families who are willing to help build the houses in exchange for an interest-free mortgage.

Five Years Ago

- Canada’s 30th Parliament was dissolved and a general election slated for January. Four candidates will run for the seat held by Conservative Michael Chong.
- Acton High grad Jeff McEnery won the Tim Simms Encouragement prize of \$3,500, and the chance to make a short film for the Comedy Network after being named best new comic.
- All Halton restaurants must now post their health inspection reports as the Region makes its voluntary anti-dirty dining program mandatory.



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