

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

## Youth funding debate

The police comment that “youth crime would skyrocket” if the youth drop-in centres in Acton and Georgetown closed sounded melodramatic, but Constable Moreen Smith is convinced that a “bored mind is a dangerous mind.”

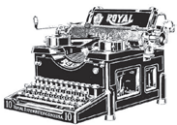
Village Constable Smith made the comments last week in support of a request from Links2Care, which operates the youth centres and programs, for a 42 per cent budget increase from the Town. The \$142,000 that it takes to run both drop-ins for 15 hours each a week is funded by the Town – \$13,200 in each of the next two years – Halton Community Investment Fund, the United Way and previously, a Trillium grant.

The Town’s Corporate Affairs committee found the 42 per cent request, which a Links2Care official described as “slight,” too rich, and recommended that Council approve a 10 per cent increase, that while still “significant” would be more in line in very tight budget times.

The Acton Off The Wall youth centre gets approximately 1,500 visits a year, while the Georgetown drop-in, bolstered by volunteer help, gets 13,000 annual visits.

The good news is that even without the requested whopping 42 per cent budget increase, programs or centre hours will have to be cut. Links2Care officials said it would mean that opportunities to expand the programs would be missed. Too bad, but in tight budget times, there are other, more pressing, priorities for public money.

## Looking Back



### Ten Years Ago

- Environmental consultants collected baggies of soil samples from Imperial Oil’s former gas station site near the Mill Street railroad tracks in preparation for selling the property.
- Plenty warning, plenty overtime and plenty muscle and metal made light work for Town crews who cleaned up after the first significant storm of the season that dumped 20-centimetres of snow, along with freezing rain and ice pellets.
- Three-term Acton politician Ross Knechtel, 89, died at his Guelph nursing home. He was remembered as a calm and well-

prepared councillor who never lost his temper.

### Five Years Ago

- Snowbirds heading south flocked to Acton’s elections Canada office to cast their advance ballots in the January 23 Federal election.
- Halton police stopped 12,242 vehicles in the first two weeks of their RIDE program, charging three people with impaired driving and issuing 291 warnings.
- Acton’s Rebecca Nelles and her ice dance partner Dylan Simpson earned a berth at the Skate Canada Junior Nationals in New Brunswick with a sixth place finish at a Skate Canada qualifier.



**HO! HO! HO:** Horse drawn sleigh rides with Santa were part of the festive fun on Saturday during the Acton BIA’s Olde Fashioned Christmas celebrations. Enjoying the ride downtown were, from left: Stephen, Amy and Eric Mann, Santa, Councillor Clark Somerville and Jeanne Brennan.

– Denise Paulsen photo

## Quiet. Corrie is on!

Over the years, my television viewing has greatly diminished especially now with Little J in our lives. Now, watching TV is usually an hour or so after she goes to bed, when dinner is done and I’m trying to stay awake to watch.

There is one show the Dude and I always watch every night if we can. Our little guilty pleasure is for that half hour watching Coronation Street. When we first started dating, I was almost embarrassed to admit that I watched it, and then I found out he watched it too. It was another confirmation that we were meant to be together (ha-ha).

For those of you who haven’t heard, Coronation Street is a British soap opera that just celebrated its 50th anniversary. Sometimes, I think we are kind of silly in a way, as we do have satellite and we have a west coast feed of channels, which means we can watch shows that air at say 7 p.m. here, later again the same night. So, with that capability, it isn’t uncommon for us to watch “Corrie” more than once per night. Even more silly, but the CBC repeats the entire week



By  
Angela Tyler

every Sunday morning for two-and-a-half hours straight.

The only problem with Corrie here is that we are about a year behind what runs in the U.K., therefore with the Internet at my hands, I have been known to sneak onto the U.K. websites to find out what is going to be happening on the street. The Dude says he doesn’t do that, yet he never is opposed to me sharing my findings of the current happenings with him.

Last week, the CBC had an hour special with Debbie Travis going behind the scenes of the Street and finding out why Canadians are crazy about Corrie. If you don’t watch Corrie, it is hard to explain to the non-viewer.

As we watched the special, my sister, a non-viewer began texting me with Corrie questions, trying to figure it all out. I finally had to tell her I couldn’t explain it. It’s a strange addiction and I really could only offer that it was

a story based on real people on an imaginary street. My last text to her confirmed our craziness for Corrie, as that night when I went to bed, the Dude stayed up to watch the special a second time.

The 50th anniversary show includes a huge story line that was just amazing. I, of course, cannot wait a year to find out who lives, who dies and all the details, so once again I headed to the Internet. This time, I first went to social networking, a.k.a. Facebook where some of my “friends” are the Dude’s U.K. relatives.

Here I was thinking I would get all the dirt from the horse’s mouth, as they say, and then they told me that they don’t watch the BBC. It was the football finals I think and that ranked above Corrie. What good is having U.K. relatives if they don’t watch the BBC?

I ended up on Google to find out all the who, what, where’s, when’s and why’s. I won’t spoil it for the non-sneaky Street fans, but I will tell you, boy, when we do get to watch those episodes, they will be worth the wait. Now I have to go... Corrie is on in exactly 12 minutes.



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