

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Reflections on 2010

Although some may dismiss reflecting on the past year as nothing more than navel gazing, it sometimes is a very good idea to honestly review the past (make amends where necessary and celebrate the triumphs) and commit to goals for the New Year.

It is easy to be optimistic about the future – even in a business where bad news often outweighs, and outsells, good news. A perusal of back issues of The New Tanner offers an introduction to some really amazing Acton people who live life well, willingly offering their time and talents to help others.

From local service clubs that work long and hard to help the disadvantaged, to young girls who donate their hair to make wigs for cancer victims, Acton is rich with people – young and old – and organizations who think of others first, and are a quiet inspiration.

We are lucky they call Acton home.

While New Year's resolutions often fade quickly, there are a few quotes that may make 2011 easier and nicer:

“Great people talk about great ideas; average people talk about average ideas; small people talk about other people”. –Anonymous

“You cannot change the wind, but you can adjust the sails.” Fortune cookie

Happy New Year



PIANO RECITAL: Piano and Vocal students of Acton's Jennifer Culpeper staged their Christmas recital at St. Alban's last Monday. The musicians include, front from left: Grace Furzer, Athena Milford, Ariana Trevisan, Janet Chang and Reka Paradi. Middle: Sydney Furzer, Jamie Kasunic, Lindsey Yake, Megan Robart- Morgan, Michael Chang, Madelaine Henriques, Jillian Mullin and Matthew Walmsley. Back: Natasha Kasunic, Michaela Trevisan, Dana Godak, Olivia Henriques, Grace Farrington, Lili Paradi, Jessamyn Chan, Dulwin Jayalath, Damon Crumplen, Mitch Godak and Stephanie Mullin. – Submitted photo

Acton looking good but there's more we can do

2011... Wow it's hard to imagine. It seems like yesterday everyone was panicking about the big Y2K. Now we've completed our first full decade of the 2000's.

Our town has seen a lot of changes over the past ten years. We've had a massive growth with the development in the east end. We had a 24-hour grocery store and have seen it go. We've seen schools be renovated and the addition of a wonderful soccer park, not to mention our big arena which now doesn't seem big enough. It's a wonder how we made do with the old one for all those years.

I started thinking about some of the things I would like to see happen for our town over the next decade. I was surprised to find in my inventory that my wish list was pretty small. With the new library, the splash pad and many other things that have been coming our way our town is looking pretty darn good. Yet, I still have a few things. Some of the things unfortunately cost money while some of the things don't cost a penny.

First, I would love to see the track at Prospect Park properly graded and have some new gravel laid down. However, since it's a wish list, I would also like it to have small gravel not the big stuff. I've found in some of the holes that they've patched with the big stuff that Little



By **Angela Tyler**

J's stroller just doesn't roll over that kind very well. The track is well used by dog walkers, seniors, strollers and kids and it would be nice to have a smoother surface.

While we're at the park, the new splash pad is a wonderful addition and nice to see at the old end of town instead of everything going to the east end, however, we need more seating. I noticed several times this summer that there just wasn't enough. Wouldn't it be great to have those big bright coloured plastic "muskoka" chairs that would be easy to keep clean, be comfortable, and I'm sure be well used.

We have a few empty stores downtown now. For these stores to continue to be filled, we all need to be more diligent about shopping in town. Yet, our downtown is quickly becoming more of store fronts that are service-oriented instead of retail. It's easy to say we need a shoe store or a clothing store, but honestly, I would take any store rather than an empty building.

Over the past few summers, the town has started replacing the interlocking sidewalks that were starting

to wear with fresh concrete sidewalks. Hopefully in the upcoming budget is the continuation of this so all the sidewalks will be uniform in appearance and safe for all.

This summer for the Leathertown Festival, I am hoping that the organizers find a better way to mark the vendor spots. Each year, they spray paint the curb to mark the spots, and every year the spray paint stays long after the festival. I'm sure they try to cover it up after, but you can still see it. There has to be a better way since the BIA puts so much effort into making our downtown look good and it does, and this just is deterrence.

I hope this winter all residents make an effort to not push their snow onto the roads, and in the summer when they cut their grass, if it does go onto the road that they take the time to sweep it up. This goes for our town work crews as well. I can't tell you how many times I've seen the big mowers cutting boulevards and such while the grass is sprayed all over the road. It's a simple effort that costs nothing and makes a huge difference winter or summer.

Like I said, I think our town is pretty good, and when it comes right down to it, maybe none of these things are necessary, but I can always hope that they happen. Either way, have a super New Year with much happiness.

Looking Back

Ten Years Ago

- Acton was abuzz with word that car parts giant Magna International wants to rezone 70 acres on Highway 25, north of the rail tracks for a car/truck chassis plant, which would mean 400 to 500 jobs.
- Local charities pack 53 hampers full of holiday treats and gifts that were distributed to the disadvantaged.
- The Acton Aqua Ducks churned up the pool at a Georgetown swim meet where they earned almost 50 medals.

Five Years Ago

- The Town's accessibility parking study recommended that disabled parking be improved so parking spots are located near the entrances of stores and buildings.
- The Toronto woman who donated a life-saving kidney to Acton's Dan MacCallum earned an Extraordinary Achievement award.
- Bill Anderson takes up his post as the Town's new Economic Development officer.



THE NEW Tanner
PUBLISHING LTD.

373 Queen Street East, Unit 1
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2
email: thenewtanner@on.aibn.com

(519) 853-0051 Fax: (519) 853-0052

Publisher
Ted Tyler

Editor
Frances Niblock

Editorial Contributors
Mike O'Leary Angela Tyler Denise Paulsen

Advertising and Circulation
Marie Shadbolt

Composing Ken Baker

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

Every effort will be made to see advertising copy, neatly presented, is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur provided a claim is made within five days of publication.

All articles, advertisements and graphic artwork appearing in The New Tanner is copyrighted. Any usage, reproduction or publication of these items, in whole or in part, without the express written consent of the publisher of The New Tanner is a copyright infringement and subject to legal action.