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NEWS

Acton BIA manager to retire

After 15 years as Acton BIA's manager, Josey Bonnette has announced her retirement.

Bonnette's last day on the job will be March 31.

"I seriously love my job," said Bonnette, but says the physical aspect of the work such as setting up for the Farmers' Market or taking care of the flowers throughout the season, is becoming too demanding.

Bonnette was first hired as a part-time coordinator in September 2000, splitting her time between a job at the Hide House and the BIA. By 2003, she realized the job called for more time, and convinced the board to hire her on full-time as manager.

"This was a huge decision as the Acton BIA operating expenses increased 100 per cent. In my mind this was the best move as it gave me the opportunity to concentrate my efforts 100 per cent on the Acton BIA and the downtown merchants," Bonnette wrote in her resignation letter to the Board of Directors in November.

Since then Bonnette has raised the profile of Downtown Acton through numerous initiatives such as the Acton Farmers Market on Thursday afternoons, the Acton Winter Carnival, Christmas events, Acton Celebrates the Arts, and Canada Day Concert in the



JOSEY BONNETTE

Park.

"When I started my position the Acton BIA ran two events, Halloween Haunted House and the Leathertown Festival," she said. "The Acton BIA currently runs eight events plus implement-

ed the Façade Improvement Program, Summer Student Program and the Acton Farmers' Market."

Bonnette said it was time to retire and let someone else take the BIA in an exciting new direction.

Once she retires Bonnette plans to volunteer, visit her children, and spend more time at the cottage.

The BIA has begun advertising for a new manager, who will likely be in place by March 15, giving Bonnette an opportunity to mentor the new manager for two weeks.

For details on the job description go to the Acton BIA website, www.downtownacton.ca.

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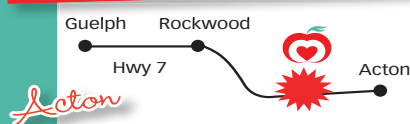
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