

# Business mentors help AHS to launch ABC Summer Biz

The Grade 10 business class at Acton High School (AHS) is getting ready to create business plans for a company that can be up and running this summer.

And behind them is the entire business community.

This is an innovative program—Acton Business Company — that will take the standard curriculum and give it an exciting new twist. The business plans the students will develop over the next few months will culminate in a *Dragons' Den*-like pitch day and the winning concept will be funded to actually run the business in the summer 2016 with the help of a mentor team.

The concept is to develop a meaningful experience for students and staff that is steeped in the assets of the school and the surrounding community.

This idea has been over a year in the making and has brought together a very enthusiastic team fo-

cused on Business Teacher Virginia Houston and her Grade 10 Class. The community team includes Sandra Nuhn, Halton Region Manager, Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Kathleen Dills, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and Beth Paisley Downtown Acton BIA, and dedicated partnership from Halton Public Health.

A very special group of mentors has been gathered to work with the class over the next few months and share their very specialized experience. Recruiting from Acton High Alumni was one of the goals and the five mentors are:

- Fred Dawkins, an entrepreneur with major achievements in Acton-based manufacturing, retail (The olde Hide House), land development, import/export, published author of series of books entitled *The Entrepreneurial Edge* and leader of Rotman entrepreneurship workshops;

Continued on page 15



From left, Yvonne Bergsma and father George Bergsma recently paid a visit to the Glazed Expressions ceramics studio on Main St. in Georgetown owned by Ron Quinlan, who found a sign in the basement of his property that's nearly a half century old. Ryan Colwell (far right) connected some dots and discovered that Georgetown Decorating Centre was the original name for Bergsma's Paint & Wallpaper.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

## Sign of the times uncovered in downtown Georgetown

By Eamonn Maher  
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Ron Quinlan, owner of the Glazed Expressions ceramics studio on Main St. in Georgetown, was cleaning out one of the dark, dungy basements in his downtown building that he refers to as 'Silence of the Lambs' when he came across a dust-covered sign for the Georgetown Decorating Centre.

Quinlan's tenant in the building, Ryan Colwell of the C&C Planning and Insurance Group at 65 Main St.,

decided to do some research on the sign and discovered that Georgetown Decorating Centre remains in business today, now known as Bergsma's Paint & Wallpaper and located in the Georgetown Market Place mall.

Quinlan had intended to present the sign to the founder and owner of Bergsma's, George Bergsma, and his daughter Yvonne, the store's current manager, but they already own another Georgetown Decorating Centre sign exactly like it, so Colwell said he'll place it in the foyer of his office

alongside a number of other historical Georgetown items, including a Neville's Tea Room calendar from 1927.

George said the original Georgetown Decorating Centre opened at 27 Mill St. in 1968 before moving in 1972 to the Main St. location to replace what was a fruit stand. The store name was changed a couple of years later when the Bergsmas opened another outlet in Milton, but the business is still officially registered as the Georgetown Decorating Centre and uses the same phone number— 47 years later.

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