

Lovell's end era with sale of meat business



Len Lovell inspected his last two sides of beef in his butcher shop's freezer this week. As soon as stock is sold, Lovell Brother Butchers will be closed. They will however, open in about eight weeks time under new management, which, Mr. Lovell assures his customers, will be the same fine service they have come to expect.

Lovell Brother Butchers is closing its doors after 43 years as soon as the present stock is sold, according to surviving owner Len Lovell. Mr. Lovell told The Acton Free Press the store could be closed as early as this weekend. He revealed there are two potential buyers for the business, one from this area, the other from Bolton. However, it may be six to eight weeks before the store re-opens.

The decision to sell came after the sudden death of Mr. Lovell's brother and co-owner Gord Lovell, earlier this month. The two had discussed the sale of the property and were going to retire in the fall. The death, Mr. Lovell said, speeded up plans. For the first time since the business moved to its present location at 77 Mill St. E., 21 years ago, the large walk-in freezer is almost empty, the owner noted. There are two side quarters and a few smaller pieces of pork hanging up. There is nothing in the display cases in the store. Mr. Lovell is a self-taught butcher, having

been a bee-keeper until his butcher uncle asked him to work part time for him. He learned enough about the business over the next few years, that he and brother Gord opened up shop in Acton, where J and T Sports is now located. They were at that site for 22 years, before moving to their present location. In the past 43 years, Mr. Lovell has seen many changes in the meat business, the most noticeable was the soaring prices. However in this age of convenience, people still patronized the small butcher stores rather than the meat counters in large supermarkets. If anything, Mr. Lovell said, the supermarkets have helped him.

As for the prices, he said, people will always buy meat, no matter what the price. They complain, but they have to buy it. Within a few days, the freezer will be completely empty. It is capable of holding up to 40 quarters of beef. The Lovell brothers usually kept 20 to 24 quarters in it at all times and on the day of his brother's death, two weeks ago, there were 4500 pounds of meat behind the thick door.

With the closing of Lovell's doors on Saturday, comes the end of an era. They are the oldest business in Acton, founded by Acton Home Furnishings who have been open 31 years, and Watson's Music Store, in business for almost 26 years. Ironically, Watson's is also closing as soon as present stock is sold.

Hand railing safety solution

A work crew from the Adult Rehabilitation Centre in Brampton could be helping Halton Hills taxpayers save money. At the regular meeting of Halton Hills library board Wednesday evening in Acton, Jerry Disano said he might be able to arrange for a work crew to install a hand rail on the bridge to make traffic across it safer. All the board would have to pay would be the costs of the materials. Board members were enthusiastic about this suggestion and instructed Mr. Disano to look into it. Mr. Disano, an Acton resident, works at the Centre.

The board had previously been concerned about people, especially older ones, walking across the bridge in the winter when ice forms on the surface and makes the structure dangerous. After several weeks of discussion it was decided a metal handrail over the existing wooden one would be the best method of remedying the situation short of reconstructing the bridge.

Letters disappear from library wall

The 'I's have it, or someone has the 'I's. Both 'I's from the Acton Public Library lettering have either fallen off, or have been taken off the wall of the River St. building, and Halton Hills Library Board chairman Norm Elliott would like to see them replaced.

Mr. Elliott pointed out the disappearance at the board's regular meeting in Acton last Wednesday. He said they had been gone for some time and although it was a small item to point out, a lot of small items add up to a shabby looking building.

Other board members agreed with Mr. Elliott and have instructed head librarian Betsy Cornwell to look in back files for the man, or firm who made the letters when the library was built.

Membership winner

Gus Jeffery, 118 Cobblehill Rd., Acton was the lucky winner of a St. Patrick's Day husband and wife membership at Acton Meadows Golf Course. The draw was sponsored by the club's membership.

Police beat Red fox shot on McDonald

A red fox was shot and killed by a member of the animal control unit Friday afternoon on McDonald Boulevard. According to Halton Regional Police there is so far no indication the animal is rabid. Police are continuing an investigation into what is described as mischief that involved damage to a house and vehicle at an R.R. 1 Acton home. The key hole to the front door was blocked, and a pipe from the oil tank to the house cut. Also a neighbor's auto was damaged. A Mississauga man and an Orangeville resident were charged by a police officer who watched them removing a mail box from a Highway 25 address. They were later released.

Town of HALTON HILLS
877-5185

GENERAL INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS
ALL MUNICIPAL OFFICES OPEN FOR BUSINESS AT 9:30 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 4:30 P.M. MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

LIBRARIES:
GEORGETOWN AND ACTON - OPEN TUESDAY TO FRIDAY, 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.
SATURDAYS 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

It's official: A-B buys Foodland

The last piece of the deal between A-B Supermarket and Foodland Stores slipped into place last week. However, shoppers will have to wait until early next month to inspect the results. The morning of April 3 will see A-B Foodland open its doors for the first time. That event will end a nightmare for one-half of the ownership, Don Mathieson, while making material a long-time vision for partner Don Lindsay. Mr. Lindsay has for years dreamed of using the Foodland building, near the tracks, in order to provide better food store service, while Mr. Mathieson saw the smaller downtown store as a nightmare. Together, though, they are excited about the possibilities the newer building presents. To the newer store the two Dons are taking services patrons grew to expect from the old outlet, six blocks to the west. Townfolk may continue the practice of phoning in orders, according to Mr. Lindsay. The delivery service will also be kept as will the meat service counter. "It'll be a continuation of what we do now," Mr. Mathieson said. Size is the main advantage to the new owners. The Foodland building offers about twice the floor space of the older store. Another plus is the 25 or so parking spaces compared with none downtown. One tradition the Dons will leave behind is the Monday closing. A-B Foodland will be

open six-days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Thursday and Friday until 9 p.m. The two owners will try continuing the few Foodland no-name products that are in the store. The new operation's name—A-B Foodland—does not reflect the nature of the store. The deal is not an amalgamation, according to Mr. Lindsay. He and Mr. Mathieson bought out the Foodland Store. That means in exchange for an undisclosed sum, the pair get the stock, equipment and goodwill. "We're running it as an independent food outlet," Mr. Lindsay said. That also means the two men will be in the store daily, where customers may come with problems. An advantage the Lindsay-Mathieson team picks up is the use of the Foodland computer which can be used to control the price system. A-B Foodland will employ the same meat supplier as at A-B Supermarket and the two owners will be selecting fresh produce on their own. Shoppers, however, should not expect exotic foodlines, because we can not afford to carry them, Mr. Lindsay said. About five months ago, said Mr. Lindsay, Foodland Stores approached A-B Supermarket about moving up the street. The original owners went bankrupt in the first five years of operation, then the wholesaler,

Foodland, tried to recover some of the \$100,000 it invested, Mr. Lindsay said. "They've lost money every day since they took over," he said. "By rights that store should have been doing the bulk of the business and it's doing the least," according to Mr. Lindsay. Foodland's image as a high price but poor quality store is going to be changed, Mr. Lindsay pointed out. Lumsden Brothers, who run Foodland Stores, have really bent over backwards to give the town something, Mr. Lindsay said. They are taking over the Lindsay-Mathieson lease on the downtown store, and they are going to renovate it and provide tenants. "It's costing them a lot of money, but it's costing them money to stay there." In addition to its other advantages to shoppers, the one outstanding feature of the larger store is there is room for expansion if market merits such a step, said Mr. Mathieson. The shift of the A-B operation from its present store breaks an association which goes back about two decades. Before then Steinbergs had a store in that spot, but later sold it to an independent. Mr. Lindsay has managed the A-B Supermarket for a number of years. He and Mr. Mathieson a former production manager at Northern Telecommunications, bought the business last year.

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Harriet Helwig, (left) helps Jean Leishman and Greta Perkins pick out some nice baking at the Baptist Church Ladies bake sale on Friday.

BIA elects executive

The Acton Business Improvement Area elected a new slate of officers Monday evening. Larry Grievies, a fairly new businessman in town, was chosen for the top spot, the chairmanship. Bill Coats was elected vice chairman, and Gord Chapman secretary. Treasurer is Jack Meinen. On the board of directors are Don Jameson, Don Lindsay, Paul Nielson and Henry Stachyra. Ross Knechtel is the Halton Hills council representative.

Cable 4 this week

Watch for Program Listings on Cable 4 for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Note: Time and program changes will be posted on Cable 4. Call now for the Cable Connection 877-0181.

Five injured . . .

(Continued from Page 1) town District Memorial hospital. Kathy Balmer, 20, suffered a compression fracture of the lower back and was in hospital in Guelph at the beginning of this week, a source said. Terry Balmer, 14, was treated and released and Leslie Thomson, 13, was kept at hospital for three days for observation after suffering a bump on the forehead. Damages in the incident were \$1,800 for the station wagon, and \$2,300 for the import, a "total write off" according to OPP.

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