

**Drive underway**

**Society strives to kill cancer**

by Diana Waltmann  
Someone you know has cancer.

And the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society is doing something about it.

Cancer is one of the nation's top killers, with more than 35,000 Canadians dying a year from it. It strikes one out of every four Canadians in their lifetime.

Arile White, chairman of the campaign and Acton's Citizen of the Year, says the branch's goal for this campaign is \$13,000. Last year citizens donated \$12,416.09.

Mr. White, who has been chairman for the past six years, says he is proud of the branch's canvassers, as well as the people of Acton. "We've had the highest per capita donation rate in the entire country. With the town's unselfish generosity towards the cancer campaign, we've been able to feel ourselves superior to other branches."

Both Mr. White and Gloria Coates, assistant chairperson, say a lot of

credit goes to the volunteers.

Without them, "Mr. White says, "We would be in the hole (as far as income goes), because they get paid the same today as 25 years ago—a 'thank-you'."

Credit also goes to the people of Acton.

"Cancer is something that touches every family in some form," says Mrs. Coates. "People want to contribute in some way for this reason."

That's why she says, in the last four years the donation rate has increased to almost \$1.80 per person.

Besides door-to-door canvassing, the Cancer Society is marking the month with their annual daffodil day on April 12 and the dance held Saturday.

As well, posters and donation boxes can be found in local stores.

Although the main thrust of the campaign is held during April, the Society is busy raising money year round. The Acton branch has held a band concert at Christmas, runs a booth at the

fall fair and participates in the parade.

"We try to do more special events, but we're careful not to be always after the public," states Mrs. Coates.

The money raised is divided among the services the Society provides. Only six cents of every dollar goes towards administration of the national society. Five cents goes towards the campaign, two cents to the upkeep of lodges (the closest are in Hamilton and Toronto), 14 cents to the education programs, 18 cents to the services and a whopping 55 cents to research.

Besides searching for a cure, the Society deals with the dreaded disease in two other ways. The education program attempts to teach children and adults about prevention and early detection and treatment of cancer, while the special services provides emotional and practical support for cancer victims.

The branch started in the early 50s just for

transportation purposes, but it has since added to its services. Mrs. Coates, who has been involved in various aspects of the Society for the past 16 years, says the Acton branch provides services such as dressings, transportation to cancer research hospitals for treatments, visits to cancer patients, home nursing and medicine for those in need.

Coping with cancer, a group discussion, for patients and family is also available through the branch.

Mrs. Coates also said most teachers within local schools are now educating their classes about cancer. The Society provides the school with education kits designed for different grades, aimed at smoking and health awareness.

"We hope it will provide an awareness of cancer to children and show them how they can do some things that might prevent cancer," she said.

The education program extends to adults too and, says Mrs. Coates, the

Society is more than willing to present films and brochures to various service groups. "We have a lot of excellent films available," she said, "but we'd like to be busier with adult groups."

"We try to get across to both kids and adults that there is no cure, but there are a few preventive measures that might save someone's life."

She's talking about the Society's seven steps to Health:

1. Have a medical and dental check-up.  
2. Watch for any change in your normal state of health.

3. Find out about any lump or sore that does not heal.

4. Protect yourself against too much sunlight.

5. Do not smoke.

6. Have a pap test.

7. Do a monthly breast self-examination.

There are more than 50 volunteers in the Acton branch, including eight on the main executive, but, adds Mrs. Coates, "we can always use more. We are always looking for volunteer drivers and there is a reimbursement for gas."

"We'd welcome anyone who would like to become involved in the group." She said the branch has been so busy at times, they are short of staff.

Anyone wishing more information should contact president Sue Sale at 853-2873, or Mr. White, 52 Church Street, west.



Forty-two years of shoe store savvy gathered for the official opening Thursday of The Acton Family Shoe Store. Eugene Braida, sitting at centre, is the most senior former owner of the shop on Mill St. He is flanked by Donna Bottos, left, and Donna Neely the newest owners. Standing is Bill Benson, who bought the store from Mr. Braida and Alma Swetman who sold the shop to the newest owners.

**Leather heritage thrives with shop's new owners**

One of downtown Acton's oldest retail traditions will continue because two ladies like to meet families.

The pair—Donna Neely and Donna Bottos—are three weeks into new careers as partners in a shop which has been a shoe store for more than 75 years.

The newest name over 19 Mill St. E. is The Acton Family Shoe Store.

On hand for Thursday's official opening was every owner since 1938. Eugene Braida, who opened his store back then, Bill Benson (who took over from Mr. Braida, and Alma Swetman, who after six years in the business, sold Swetman's Shoes to the two Donnas.

Also there, to help fuse the transition was Hamilton shoe supplier Ken Hunt who dealt with each of the former owners. His father also supplied Mr. Braida with some of his wares.

Mrs. Neely is a former part-time employee of Mrs. Swetman. Therefore she is not new to dealing with family shoe customers.

For Mrs. Bottos, a shoe store is a new experience, though it is far from her first in the business world. She was general manager of Halton Cable Systems. Earlier she worked in Loblaw and Dominion stores.

"It's really just a challenge for both of us.

Something I've wanted to do," said Mrs. Neely. "I like working with people and selling shoes is really personal."

"I enjoy the hustle and bustle. I enjoy the people...and I felt, regardless of you being a manager, you still report to someone," Mrs. Bottos said.

"On your own, you can make a decision...There is a certain self satisfaction in working for yourself," observed Mrs. Bottos.

Mrs. Neely and her husband Dave live on Acton Blvd. with their three children.

When Swetmans put their shoe store on the market late last year, Mrs. Neely learned of it, contacted her girl friend and one thing led to another and finally to last week's official opening.

Mrs. Neely indicated they will have shoes for the whole family, just as Mrs. Swetman did.

Alma Swetman bid farewell not only to 19

Mill St. E., but also to any shoe business. For personal reasons Mrs. Swetman said she will not be opening a specialty shoe shop in Leather Town Village, the former Morse Pro Hardware.

Alma Swetman and her husband Dave bought the shoe business six years ago as a retirement project. That project tripled in business and work.

The shoe business at the mid-block spot on Mill St. stretches back in time to Edward VII's reign.

Back then the brothers Kenney, John and Bill, opened business which featured among other foot wares, the high button boots. Bill was the father of one of Acton's Citizen's of the Year, the late Dr. W.G.C. Kenney.

Fallant's clothing store bought out the Kenney brothers. Then in March 1938 Mr. Braida rented the store for a shoe shop. By mid-1956 he had built up the business to a point where he felt he could

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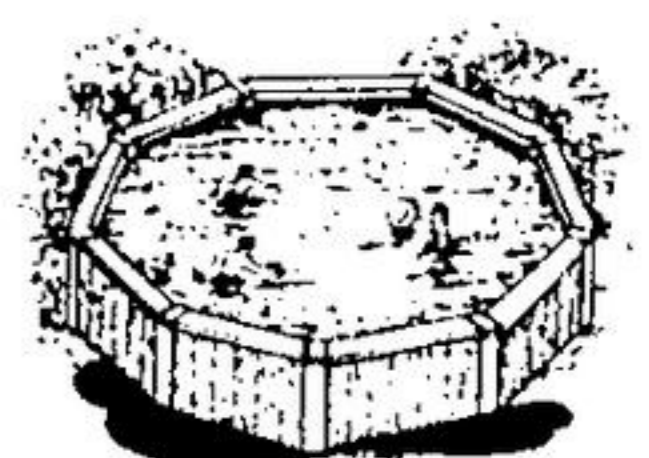
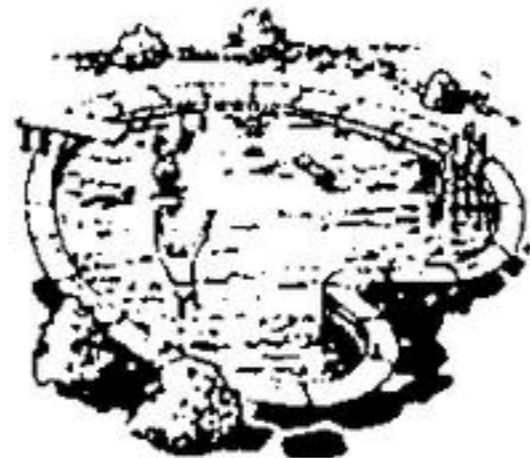
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