



Making a deposit?

Acton's first drive in bank? The cold cash at the Bank of Montreal was really cold a little after 6:30 this morning (Wednesday) when this car belonging to Norman Merrin, Knox Avenue, smashed in the front of the building. Merrin left the car running, but in the park gear, across the street for a few seconds while he bought a newspaper. The vehicle slipped into reverse and careened across the street.

Olde Hide House opens Friday

This Friday a significant addition to Acton's business community opens its doors.

Friday morning at 10 the olde Hide House will open, about seven weeks after the plans for this major venture were announced. About 30 full and part-time employees have been hired to staff the business.

The olde Hide House holds out great promise for while the firm's owners, a group of local investors including the principles in the successful local industry Frank Heller and Co., but also the entire business community.

If, as expected, the olde Hide House develops into a tourist attraction it will not only bring more dollars into the town through that business and likely result in future expansion but also boost the entire business community.

The owners have moved quickly to have the factory transformed into a very attractive, spacious retail building to capture the Christmas trade. The olde Hide House has been heavily promoted throughout the Metro Toronto area in a bid to bring out of town customers to Acton.

Dawkins describes the numerous changes to the

building, which is over 80 years old and actually once served as a hide house, as mostly "cosmetic."

One noticeable change is the brick has been sandblasted. The walls are now natural brown and red brick and look like they did when the building was built around the turn of the century.

Part of the roof has been repaired on the exterior while the inside has been opened up to the natural fir and western cedar beams and boards. In addition seven skylights have been opened up, industrial piping and insulation removed. The high, high ceiling and skylights tend to make the huge building seem even larger.

"We are trying to make it look like it did 61 years ago. It's being renovated as a hide house," Dawkins explained. "We want to bring out the natural character and beauty of the building."

One area is devoted to footwear, between 1,200 and 1,400 pairs available by this Friday.

Furniture, some of which will in the future be leather covered, occupies a large part of the building. Workers have been manufacturing high quality pine and oak furniture for seven weeks now. While the furniture manufacturing area won't be open for

public viewing for a time, it will be eventually.

Half of the building will be devoted to garments, leather and suede coats mostly. Opening day approximately 1,800 coats will be on sale.

Another part of the Old Hide House will feature western wear, denim and cowhide clothing as well as miscellaneous leather products like belts, purses and wallets. Sheepskin clothing and rugs will also be for sale at the olde Hide House.

Even with all this there will be plenty of room left for expansion, over 6,000 square feet. Possible future additions include a first class restaurant and lounge but that's a couple of years away at least. There will also be room left for eventual leather product manufacturing on the site.

Room has also been left for booths for local craftsmen where they could make and sell their wares. Unfortunately this feature of the olde Hide House won't be part of the opening since nobody has contacted Dawkins about getting in on the ground floor.

"It's our sincere wish is that the olde Hide House makes a contribution to the town and is a success in a commercial sense. We hope with a reasonable degree of success we can fully develop this building over the next two years," Dawkins said.

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Polypenco adds machine shop

Polypenco Canada Ltd. is poised for growth after "acquiring the assets" of Acton Tool and Die.

Polypenco manager Michael Worthington said the firm has bought Acton Tool and Die's equipment, taken over the lease on their building and retained the two employees who were working in the machine shop.

He explained Acton Tool and Die was going through the process of closing when Polypenco heard their equipment was for sale.

Polypenco had been planning to "get into fabrication" in 1981 and so just moved up that schedule a bit by acquiring Acton Tool and Die's equipment.

"We are forecasting some exciting things," Worthington said of the expansion which could create some new jobs in the future. Besides the two employees who were added to the Polypenco payroll with the acquisition of Acton Tool and Die's assets Polypenco has 14 workers.

Previously Polypenco has been going to four or five machine shops in the area to get cast industrial nylon fabricated parts. That work won't be farmed out anymore now that Polypenco has its own machine shop.

As their business grew Polypenco had decided it would make sense if they got into fabricating themselves. "This was the ideal opportunity for us to get into fabrication ourselves now."

Now Polypenco will be doing as much fabrication themselves as possible and cut back on the work

that is sent outside.

Worthington explained Acton Tool and Die wasn't equipped quite the way Polypenco would like.

Most of the fabrication work Polypenco needs is done on a lathe while Acton Tool and Die had much more heavy milling and surface grinding machinery than lathe equipment. Polypenco will be bringing in some new equipment to "change the balance around."

Worthington said 55 per cent of Polypenco's fabrication needs are taken care of on a lathe; there is only one at Acton Tool and Die. The other 45 per cent of their requirements can be manufactured using milling, punch press and drilling press machines. While the firm will add more lathes to their operation Polypenco also intends to seek out new business which will utilize the other equipment acquired from Acton Tool and Die.

By having their own machine shop Polypenco expects to be able to produce and sell its products at a "more competitive level." They also expect to increase and strengthen their market position. Having their own machine shop will give Polypenco "direct control" over production scheduling. "This will make us more competitive for deliveries too."

Polypenco makes stock shapes as well as custom cast shapes. Now they will be making their own fabricated parts for stock customizing as well.

Noting sales for 1980 are ahead of 1979, Worthington said the firm which has been in Acton for 14 years has made this move with the plan of promoting growth and creating more jobs.

inside

Acton High School held its annual commencement exercises Friday night. We have a number of pictures as well as a story on pages 6 and 7.

You'll find Profiles on page 2, This Week Thru the Lens page 3, News Digest page 9, Rockwood Digest page 10, Chamber Happenings page 12 and Library Looseleaf page B7.



John McHugh, far left, reads off the names of Acton's war dead during Sunday morning's Remembrance Day service. The block around Trinity United Church was jammed with citizens who either came downtown for the service at the cenotaph or, like the Color Party, marched in the parade from the post office. More Remembrance Day pictures and story on pages 5.

Photo by GORD MURRAY

Head lice scratched

An outbreak of head lice at two town schools has been taken care of while other schools have managed to mainly escape the louse, according to authorities.

In all 17 cases of head lice or Pediculosis, have been reported at Robert Little Public School and St. Joseph's Separate School, according to principals Ron Chatten and Sean Briggs.

Referring to McKenzie-Smith Middle School, Halton Public Health Nurse Fran Jamieson said: "We've had the odd case of Pediculosis, but we view it as a common occurrence."

Another public health nurse, Ann-Marie Bilien confirmed that there were no cases at Acton High School.

M.Z. Bennett Principal Doug Magwood said there is "no head lice at this school at this time." There was, however, "a real outbreak last year." Magwood said that in one day he thought there were a dozen children with head lice.

Eleven children, in different grades, were checked by the health unit at Robert Little Public School a week ago Monday, according to principal Chatten. There were no cases of head lice at the school last year.

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New ABC group proposes Christmas decoration contest

A new citizens' group in Acton, born last week, has come up with a novel first project which could make the community a little cheerier this Christmas season. It's hoped residents will give their front doors special decorating attention this Christmas.

The name of the new organization dedicated to the beautification of Acton, is as simple as ABC, the Acton Beautification Committee.

The small group, eight people attended last Wednesday night's founding meeting, is the result of a trio of workshops dealing with the landscape architecture and appearance assets and liabilities of Acton. The three workshops, sponsored by the University of Guelph Rural Development Outreach Project, along with a study are the basis of a masters thesis by student Janice Cervelli.

About 40 resident attended the workshops and a number of them indicated they want to be involved in the ABC, but weren't able to attend the founding meeting at the home of the group's chairman, Bill Coats. Pat Wood will be busy before the ABC's next meeting recruiting new members while Yvonne

Rosenquist will be calling everyone who attended the workshops held at Acton High School.

ABC has some ambitious goals which came out of the workshops. However, at the outset the group is going to tackle a couple of promotional type projects designed to give Acton a brighter appearance as well as draw attention to the organization's cause.

Tonight (Wednesday) Coats is expected to unveil ABC's plans for a "most welcoming door at Christmas" contest at a meeting of the Acton Business Improvement Area (BIA) board of management. The BIA will be asked to sponsor the contest. Coats also plans to outline the group's more significant aims for the BIA.

The BIA is just one of a number of community groups, including high school students, members of the scout and guide organizations, service clubs and community service organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, which will be asked to help ABC. ABC hopes it can co-ordinate efforts by a number of community groups on various projects, like cleaning up

creeks around town. After ABC and other Acton organizations complete a few smaller projects the new citizens' group will go to Halton Hills council seeking support and assistance in securing provincial study and project funds.

Besides the first small project "the most welcoming door at Christmas" contest, ABC is talking about a spring-summer garden and lawn beautification competition and possible development of a parkette at the intersection of McDonald and Mason and clean-up of the creeks as initial efforts.

ABC needs a strong liaison with and support from the BIA since a number of the new group's concerns are in the downtown area and could be remedied through the BIA's planned study and revitalization program.

The next ABC meeting, to which interested residents are invited, will be at Coats' home, 31 Young Street, on December 3 at 7.30 p.m.

More details about the "most welcoming door at Christmas" contest will be released next month.



A hug for the happy winner. Dave and Heather Whiting were delighted with their election win Monday night.

Whiting takes Wood to the cleaners

In Monday night's only election upset one term Acton regional councillor Ed Wood was ousted by Dave Whiting.

Whiting picked up 694 votes while Wood drew 507 and took 11 of 16 Acton polls.

In the race to fill the shoes of retired Halton Hills separate school trustee Hartley Sherk, newcomer Irene McCauley of Georgelown defeated Acton's Vince Whelan 506 to 337. Whelan took the Acton polls, split Esquesing but was thumped in Georgelown.

Whiting will be one of only two new faces on the next Halton Hills council.

The other rookie, Pam Sheldon, topped the polls in the ward two area race with 1,354 votes. Incumbent George Malby came second with 1,218 votes. Rookie Wayne McLellan polled 745 votes and three time loser Nick Hunsley collected just 298.

Veteran Esquesing regional councillor Russ Miller easily defeated two challengers to hold his post. Newcomer Dolly Moulden drew 380 votes

and Peter Branch 298.

As expected, the Acton voter turnout was very poor. In 1978 2,051 voters cast ballots in the three way Acton region seat race, this year only 1,201 people turned out. There are 4,826 voters in Acton.

Electors also stayed away from the separate school trustee race in droves. There are about 3,500 separate school electors in Halton Hills but only 840 cast ballots.

A small gathering of politicians, supporters and citizens had to wait at election central at Acton Community Centre until the polls had been closed 90 minutes before they knew the final results.

However, the trend to Whiting was clear from the time the first results were phoned in at 8.20 p.m. Whiting was ahead 121-76 then and 10 minutes later he was up 159-102. Wood still trailed by over 100 votes 45 minutes after voting concluded.

By 9 p.m. Wood, who arrived at the rink about

20 minutes after the polls closed, said he figured he had lost. By then he was down 161 votes with just two polls remaining.

However, Whiting, who came to the rink shortly after 8 p.m. wasn't accepting congratulations until the final vote was in. "I'm feeling nervous," he muttered.

At 9.30, with the final vote in, Wood and his wife Pat, handling the defeat in stride and with dignity, congratulated Dave and Heather Whiting on their victory. The Whitings, while obviously pleased, weren't as excited as you'd expect considering it was his first taste of victory after two losses in as many years.

Whiting said he thought he won because his campaign crew "got the vote out." Mrs. Whiting agreed their team of about 30 volunteers did an outstanding job of not only getting supporters out to vote but also taking his campaign and the issues to the voters. Whiting says he'll quit his real estate job and start learning his new career, a full-time councillor, within days.

Wood said he wasn't sure why he lost. He said he may run again for council in the future. "I'm certainly going to maintain my interest in the community." He says he'll now have more time

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Vote '80 scoreboard

WARD ONE REGION COUNCIL	
Dave Whiting	694
Ed Wood	507
HALTON SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD	
Irene McCauley	506
Vince Whelan	337
WARD TWO REGION COUNCIL	
Russ Miller	1,483
Dolly Moulden	380
Peter Branch	298
WARD TWO AREA COUNCIL	
Pam Sheldon	1,354
George Malby	1,218
Wayne McLellan	745
Nick Hunsley	298