

John Hoare stands beside the new self-serve pumps at his Texaco gas station. After 15 years the station went self-serve last month.

More service at self-serve

Self-serve means more service. That is according to John Hoare, of John's Auto Service whose Texaco service station at Mill and Young has become a self-serve gas bar.

"Now I don't have to pump gas anymore," says Hoare, "which leaves more time for shop work." As well as the gas bar, Hoare operates a garage.

The switch came last month after 15 years of operation and says

Hoare business has increased more than twice as much as before. He said the station still offers other services, improved now because the mechanics get more done in a day. As well the station's extended hours, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., is more convenient and the gasoline cheaper.

His station employs one full-time mechanic, other than himself, two full-time gas bar attendants and two or three part-time attendants.

Downtown . . .

(Continued from page 1) They felt a focus for the town is needed, perhaps the Leather-town theme now being developed.

Survey suggestions included a call for "improved pedestrian environment, especially by overcoming conflict with through traffic, particularly trucks." More off-street parking would help solve the traffic and on street parking problems.

Downtown buildings need to have their appearance upgraded, both exterior store front windows and store interiors. Shoppers believe and they think there should be more redevelopment and improvements like Acton Mews and Leather-town Village.

The shoppers' survey also showed 82 per cent of those coming downtown do so daily, two per cent twice a week, six per cent once a week and 10 per cent less frequently. Sixty-five per cent of those coming downtown do so to shop, 25 per cent to take care of personal business and 22 per cent for other unspecified reasons. Thirty-five per cent of the people surveyed said they go to two stores on most visits, 27 per cent to just one store, 15 per cent to three, 12 per cent to four and 11 per cent five or more stores. Fifty-five per cent of those surveyed walked to get downtown, 38 per cent drove and seven per cent came downtown by other means.

A survey of merchants produced much the same answers.

Trees should be added to the downtown "streetscape", but merchants wanted to avoid other streetscape items like flower boxes and seating because of the potential for more loitering and vandalism.

Merchants saw a need for improving building appearances "despite the lack of individual interest in self-initiated improvements."

The consultants suggested the visual appearance of Mill St. near the tracks should be improved because it is an entry to downtown.

They felt the IGA plaza would be a plus as would a community centre downtown. The library grounds and close proximity of Fairy Lake and parkland were also viewed as pluses.

From the survey the consultants concluded parking must be close to stores, within 250 to 300 feet and will be used for a relatively short time.

Parking was felt to be in abundance in the east end of downtown but "somewhat limited" at

the west end where there are more stores. They warned against taking parking spots off Mill St. until there is more off-street parking a convenient distance away. The consultants expressed concern about the highway traffic downtown.

No inquests

There will be no inquests into the two recent drownings at Waterfalls Park, Dr. Allstair McIntosh, coroner for this area, told this newspaper.

Tony Duarte 19, of Mississauga drowned July 1, and Ronald Barrett 27, of Toronto, drowned two days later July 3.



Dave Manes, president of the Acton Rotary Club greeted District Governor Fred Black at the meeting of the local club last Tuesday evening.

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Canadians exploring own country-agents

More and more Canadians are exploring their own country this summer, as travel bookings to the eastern and western provinces have soared.

Both local travel agents, Ted Tyler Travel and Acton Travel report flights to the west far out-numbered any other destinations booked this summer.

But, says Ted Tyler, there seems to be no middle of the road travellers. By that he means people are either booking the very expensive holidays, or the budget flights.

It is the budget flights which he attributes the popularity of the west. This summer's travels are based on a "magic triangle," Tyler said. First is a willing traveller, second a desirable place to go, and third is an economical price.

Package deals are not as popular this year as they used to be, Tyler pointed out. Most people just want the flight booked and maybe the first and last nights' hotels.

Vacations to England are way down, Tyler notes. The majority of these travellers are not the typical tourist, but people returning home to visit relatives he said.

Tyler has noticed there has been a complete change in the travel business in the last six months. People are not willing to take the middle of the road. He says other travel agents are finding the same thing. When the more expensive holidays are chosen, it is usually the older, more secure traveller, who does not have to worry about a mortgage coming due and high interest rates.

California is also a popular spot this summer, Tyler noted. Because of this shift from package deals to do-it-yourself vacations Tyler pointed out the travel agent must work harder for his fee. A great deal of time is spent on the computers looking for the cheapest flights, whether there are seats, etc.

Rick Bonnette of Acton Travel agrees that Canada is the hot spot for travellers. He says Gander Newfoundland has more bookings than anywhere else. There have been many bus tours across Canada also, with a lot going to the Agawa Canyon, Atlantic Provinces and Upper New York State.

Britain is popular this year, Bonnette has found, and a lot of teenagers are purchasing train passes and travelling around Europe.

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National competition

81.5 mark for Free Press

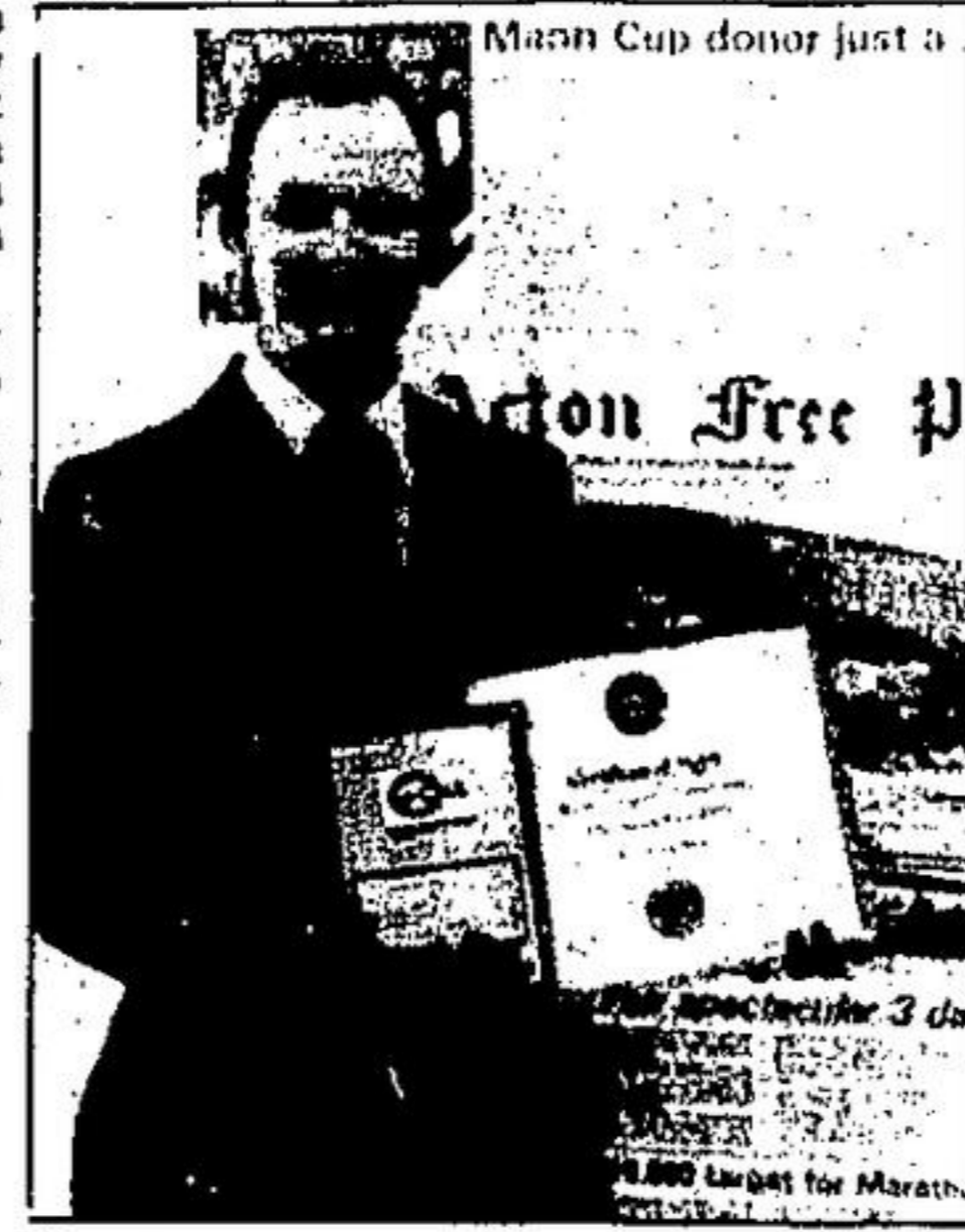
Acton Free Press editor Gord Murray accepted two awards at the annual Canadian Community Newspapers Association convention in Halifax last week.

Free Press publisher Don McDonald also attended the convention. The paper was honored as best all round in class three broadsheet newspapers, circulation 3,500 to 4,499. The circulation of the Free Press is 4,100.

The Free Press topped a field of 24 entries with a mark of 81.5 marks out of a possible 100. There were entries from Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

This paper also took second place for its front page, 13.5 marks out of 15. The Free Press earned 17 out of 20 for its editorial page, 9 out of 10 for news of the community, 11 out of 15 for photographs, 12 out of 15 for advertising, 12 out of 15 for typography and page make-up, and 8 out of 10 for local features and columns.

Judging was based on two mandatory issue submissions from 1980, the issues of March 26 and September 17. In a separate competition for sports pages



Free Press editor Gord Murray was presented with two national newspaper awards in Halifax last week.

The Free Press placed eight out of 45 in the 4,000 to 12,499 circulation class. The Free Press received a special judge's comment for "excellent layout on its front (sports) page." This newspaper had a mark of 30 out of 50.

In a Christmas edition competition the Free Press tied for 16th spot in a field of 45 entries with a mark of 32 out of 50. This competition was also for papers with circulations of 4,000 to 12,499.

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Joy Howell, Acton children's librarian, reads to members of the Start Reading Club. From left to right, Shane Troit, 9, Vicki Troit, 11, Tanya Troit, 5, Lavonne Bugala, 7, Judy Eaton, 8, Lisa Bugala, 12, Andrew Franks, 7, and Brian Dunn 8.

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