

The Acton Free Press

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Merchants must invest to develop Leathertown

It is now within Acton's grasp to truly become Leathertown, a tourist attraction of significance in Ontario.

But the next 12 months will be crucial and only considerable investment by local business interests, both in terms of time and money, will bring the Leathertown venture off.

And if the ball is fumbled in the next year then a golden opportunity will have been missed.

The olde Hide House, the cornerstone of Leathertown, is bringing in a major attraction which will be not only a boost to that rapidly growing and thriving business and tourist attraction, but the entire town.

The smorgasbord restaurant which will locate and begin operating in the olde Hide House before the end of this year, likely in September or October, is a key addition to Leathertown.

The operators, the same firm which runs the highly successful Plainsman at Highways 5 and 6, have a proven record of drawing large numbers of travellers on tour buses for the luncheon buffet.

And tour buses are a key aspect of their venture at the Hide House. Already they have lined up tour buses for visits in the next year.

But for the entire business community and Acton to derive full benefit from the Hide House and restaurant being here much more must be done on the Leathertown theme, and time is of the essence.

This fall and winter the Hide House will draw a lot of people to town for shopping. The Christmas and winter coat buying seasons guarantee money from throughout the Golden Horseshoe will be coming into Acton. And for shoppers and tourists who don't need winter coats the Hide House diversified product line; shoes, wood and leather covered furniture, western wear, leather bags, gifts and furs and even its unique shopping atmosphere, make it a powerful drawing card.

The addition of the restaurant will bring diners from all over, the Metro, Peel and Halton areas to Acton.

Then to top it off there is the guarantee of diners and shoppers coming to town on the tour buses.

Add it all up and it means a solid chance for an attractive return on investment, both time and money, for Acton's business community.

Shopping and enjoying a meal at the Hide House is an activity or attraction which is good for only about three hours.

So if Leathertown is to be an attraction which draws families for a day or more and for repeated visits there will have to be more for tourists to

see and do in town.

The ball is clearly in the local merchants' court. The bulk of investment in money and time to make Acton Leathertown work must come from them.

The Leathertown committee is comprised of a few very energetic volunteers, with the backing of the Chamber of Commerce. Limited fund raising has taken place and much more money must be raised or contributed to finance the existing projects.

While the business community has been supportive of the Leathertown committee's efforts they haven't been backing the project too strongly either financially or in terms of attendance at meetings and help with the projects which have been started.

They must lend their time and expertise to the development of the walking history tour complete with displays—the museum and help stage special promotional projects like the Wintario draw.

They could be of great help to the Leathertown committee by raising funds to finance the tour, museum, signs etc, as well as promotional projects.

Also, local merchants have to start looking at lines of souvenirs for the tourists to purchase here. Leathertown T-shirts must be available at many outlets. They should be looking for ways to incorporate the Leathertown theme into their own lines of wares. In addition they should start planning their store window displays around the Leathertown theme.

Local merchants must work tirelessly with the consultants and municipality to complete the downtown studies and then move quickly to begin refurbishing public lands downtown. At the same time they must invest in improvements to both the interior and exterior of their shops.

There's no question tourists in good number will be coming here in the years ahead.

First impressions will be important.

Acton needs tourists telling their friends and relatives that this is a clean, progressive, friendly place to visit with lots to do.

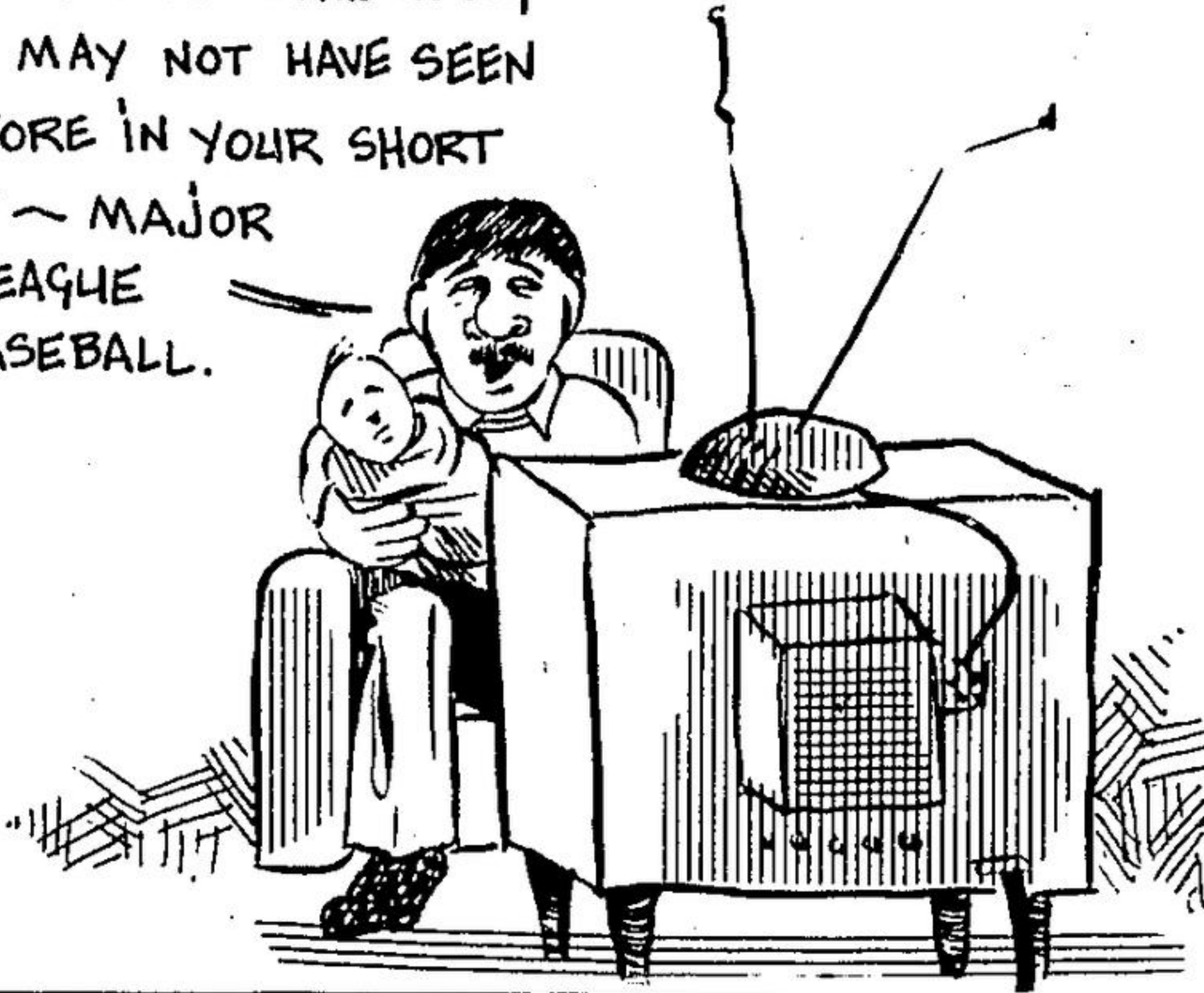
Leathertown has a firm foundation. There is a practically guaranteed return on investment.

Now is the time for everyone to pay more than verbal support to Leathertown.

Now's the time to spend money and work hard so that a year from now Acton is a genuine tourist attraction.

If people leave with favorable first impressions of the campaign to make Acton Leathertown then they'll come back again and bring lots more people with them.

AND THIS IS SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT HAVE SEEN BEFORE IN YOUR SHORT LIFE ~ MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL.



On the Leavell

With Helen

The Cook household on Orville Rd. just got clear of two small houseguests from Alberta when three more from Germany arrived. Monika Cook is entertaining her sister Rosi, brother-in-law Ernie Weber and their daughter Corina from Frankfurt, West Germany, for the next few weeks. It's been two years since the sisters have seen each other.

A holiday outing for Mrs. Debbie MacDougall, of Eden Mills, formerly of Acton, turned out to be a bit more than she bargained for.

Last week, Debbie and her two youngsters Tara and Troy, and her grandmother Mrs. J. Scriven, of Acton, enjoyed a train ride to London. No sooner had they arrived when adventurous Troy got separated from his mother and ended up, in all places, in the police paddy wagon.

While the police drove the youngster around looking for his mom, the frantic mother searched stores, streets, you name it. Finally reunited, the police wouldn't let Troy out of their custody until they were assured, through numerous questions, that Debbie was in fact, his Mom.

The entire incident was extremely embarrassing Debbie says.

I have to wait another 38 years before I can retire, and then chances of there being any money in the Canada Pension fund are slim to none. However, Wellington-Dufferin-Peel MP Perrin Beatty could get to collect his pension in the next few years, and he's only five years older than I am!

Seems Perrin is in the midst of a controversy right now because MPs are eligible for a pension of 75 per cent of their salary after 15 years serving the public. Perrin was first elected in 1972, at the age of 22. That means in five years, when he is 37, he will be eligible for the pension. He has to fight one more election to reach that milestone however, but the way he sweeps in the landslide victories, that probably won't be a problem.

Seems Perrin has been singled out as an extreme example of the government's generous pension plan for MPs. Never without the facts however, Perrin has pointed out that two other MPs could also be getting the pension at an early age. There's a Saskatchewan MP who will be eligible in two years, just two months after his 37th birthday, and another one in New Brunswick who will be 38 when he reaches his 15 years of service.

The pension is 75 per cent of the MP's salary, fully transferable to his spouse and accumulating to the time he reached 60, when indexing takes over.

But I predict it will be a long time before Perrin will be retiring. During the short reign of the Progressive Conservative party a few years ago, Perrin was made a cabinet minister, the youngest in national history. He turned 30 just a few days after the election. If he sticks to his present success campaigns, Perrin could be a very viable candidate in a PC nomination convention, and may well someday be the

Prime Minister of Canada. You read it here first, with my vast knowledge of the political system of this country, it will probably be the only prediction I ever make, and it's not even all that impossible.

Wedding anniversary best wishes go out to Jim and Ena Gibson, who celebrate their silver in an open house this Saturday at St. Alban's Parish Hall. Both are very well known in town.

It was Ena who led me to a life of leisure by selling me a second hand dishwasher. I'm forever indebted to her. Happy anniversary!

Mark September 12 on your calendar for the Crafts and Antique Sale at Tuitman's Garden Centre on Highway 25, just south of town.

Elly and Len Tuitman will provide space for booths for their flea market-type affair. They expect tables of preserves, crafts, and antique furniture, and hope to get many more booths. There are already lots of booths signed up.

For more information call 853-2480.

Sandra Kenzie from Speyside joined 7,000 parents and health leaders from 30 nations and six continents for the Eighth International Conference of La Leche League at Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel.

Over 200 speakers addressed the delegates at the four day conference, covering all medical, nutritional and behavioral aspects of child care which are directly related to breast feeding.

La Leche League is the only international organization whose major purpose is to help mothers who want to breast feed their babies. The seven mothers who founded the league in 1956, out of their own need for information, had no idea that 25 years later their organization would reach one million mothers annually. Headquartered in Franklin Park, Illinois, the League's mother-to-mother network now includes over 12,000 certified leaders and 4,500 groups in 43 countries.

La Leche League has influenced an entire generation of mothers, has changed the course of infant feeding practices, and has brought about a renewed interest in the age old art of breastfeeding.

Acton La Leche League holds meetings monthly to acquaint those interested with the physical, psychological, and practical aspects of breastfeeding.

MEANDERINGS by Mabel Barkman

Scissors

Scissors are very important in the kitchen—even more so nowadays than ever before.

Have you ever tried to open a package of soda biscuits lately? Or potato chips. It's almost impossible and downright dangerous to use teeth anymore! Ice box lettuce lends itself to scissors in making a salad and Romaine is even better snipped with scissors.

To prepare croissants to go with the salad, scissors are indispensable to cut the bread in suitable strips and then in cubes. And to make bread stuffing use scissors too.

Bacon can be cut in little pieces to fry and add to a quiche. Even slices of cheese for the quiche can be cut with scissors.

Perhaps the most important use for scissors nowadays is to cut the bags of milk we buy. Nothing else seems to work as well. If you have children the scissors should be tied in the drawer or put in an inaccessible place or you will be frustrated looking for them all the

time. As you read this your mind will be going over all the times you have used scissors in the kitchen, the number of times can go on forever—to cut string, to cut paper, for garbage, to snip off the tip of a bottle, to trim broken fingernails, etc. etc. A useful piece of equipment to be sure.

Rockwood lost a very prominent resident last week when Audrey Bilton died suddenly at her home. At her funeral a poem written by her children was read.

In honor of all the community work Audrey did in her 20 years in Rockwood, the following is that poem:

To Our Mom

Mom oh Mom
What would we do
If we all had to live
Not knowing about you.
You were always there
When we needed a friend
You stuck by us
Til the very end
And now when we think back
To our childhood with you
We know you were doing
The best you could do
We wish we could give you
Half of our years
For all of your pain
And all of your tears
So when you've gathered this up
And then triple the sum
We're saying Thank-you so much
And we all Love You Mom.
Love from Gordon, Paul, Brian, Lynda,
Susan. Our thoughts will be with you
until eternity.

Kathy and Bill Sanford of Limehouse returned recently from a month's vacation in Germany, England and Ireland. Kathy is a teacher at McKenzie-Smith Middle School. The couple left July 25. While away, they just missed the riots in London, missed the rioting in Dublin by one day, and were stopped often by the army in Northern Ireland. In Germany they had a chance to visit East Berlin, which Kathy describes as quite an experience. She admits she was a little nervous going through Checkpoint Charlie.

Rick Bonnette of Acton Travel, has been receiving ribbings from friends about a story that was in last week's Free Press. The article was about the US Air traffic controllers strike and its effects on local residents.

The story said "He (Rick) had no one travelling during this week," making it sound as if Rick has no customers. Well rest assured, Acton Travel does indeed have customers. What the sentence meant, and therefore what it should have read, was that he had no clients who were either leaving or coming home during the weekdays, all were travelling on the weekend. Don't worry, Rick isn't going hungry.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKee Churchill Rd. N. has a visitor this week. Christian Labbe, 13, of Montreal, is taking part in the second half of a Smile Across Canada program sponsored by Labbatt's. The McKee's son Kenneth spent last week in Montreal at Christian's home.

The program is an annual one put on for children of Labbatt's employees. Youngsters from 12 to 14 years of age are sent across Canada visiting with other employees' families for a week. Once the week is up, the youngsters return to the other's home.

Monday, the exchange visitors and hosts visited Canada's Wonderland, courtesy of Labbatt's.

Back issues

10 years ago

August 11, 1971

M.P. Rud Whiting and Mayor Les Duby told the Free Press this week that they have been "right on top" of the possible extension of the GO transit system proposal being discussed now by federal, provincial and Metro Toronto representatives.

The third and fourth games of the Junior C Lacrosse finals are scheduled here this Saturday. Acton Rams, favorites to take the title from Brockville Essos, emerged from the two day opening games with the first game 22-11 but losing Sunday afternoon's contest 16-13 to a light-checking Brockville team.

Joe Petric has been awarded a \$100 scholarship given by Waterloo Music Conservatory through the Royal Conservatory of Music. Joe auditioned at the Conservatory in Toronto for a scholarship in June, and learned he had been successful while acting as head counsellor at Ontario Youth Music Camp last month.

20 years ago

August 10, 1961

Starting in 1960, Acton's oldest businessman and merchant, Harold Wiles and his sister Laura Wiles will celebrate 52 years in the tobacco and confectionery business this Friday at 18 Mill St. The store also serves as a Gray Coach depot.

A charter member of the Acton Y's Men's club and a consistently active worker in the organization, since he first joined, G. W. McKenzie, Main St. North, was elected by unanimous vote, to the position of area vice-president during the international convention in Chicago July 27 to August 3.

A young teenage patrol leader with the First Acton Scout Troop, Rodger Ladouceur was honoured Monday evening during the Scout meeting when he was presented with a Golden Arrow Badge. This is the first time the badge has been presented by Provincial Headquarters to any Scout.

50 years ago

Thursday, August 13, 1931

George Leslie, treasurer of Esqueving township, had a narrow escape from being killed by a ferocious bull.

Following the discontinuance of the electric railway the Arrow Bus Lines are inaugurating an added service.

For some months alterations have been underway at the warehouse of Beardmore Leathers Ltd. preparatory to moving the cut sole, tap sole and counter department from Toronto to Acton. Many of the 30 employees will move to Acton. Some years ago Messrs. Beardmore removed the welding and belt manufacturing departments of their plant to Acton and consolidated the business in the Acton buildings. This further move is a decided asset to the industrial life of the community.

75 years ago

Thursday, August 9, 1906

Associated with the earliest history of New England States, Quebec (then Lower Canada) and Upper Canada, now Ontario, are the U.E. Loyalist branch of the great Adams family of Massachusetts, and the death of Maria Adams Swann, wife of the Rev. Matthew Swann of Fergus, two weeks ago, removes one of the oldest living members of the family in Ontario. Born at Adamsville, now Acton, in 1828, she married Rev. Swann in 1846. She was the 17th generation in America, her branch preferring to seek a new home rather than break allegiance with the motherland, although the signatures of two members of another branch were attached to the Declaration of Independence. Her father, Rev. Ezra Adams, was one of the pioneer preachers of Upper Canada, one of his first circuits being from Stoney Creek to Kingston, and during a long life of usefulness was one of the prominent leaders of the Methodist church of Canada. The Adams were a family of pioneer preachers when they settled in Acton back in the 20's of the last century.

100 years ago

Thursday, August 9, 1881

Voting on the Town Hall bylaw takes place Friday 18th inst. Poll your vote in favor of the bylaw.

School commences next Thursday, 16th August.

The boys enjoy bathing in Nicklin's Pond during the hot weather. A number of boys were before the revee this morning for indecently exposing their persons while bathing last evening. They were fined \$1.75 each, with a caution.

A large number of towns and villages in Ontario have their Civic Holiday tomorrow and many excursions are planned.

Mr. Peter McCann has purchased the plow factory including the machinery and the water privileges. He will also manufacture cabinet ware of all kinds.

The constable has been very busy looking after the cows the past week. He is determined that none will escape him either day or night. Quite a number of citizens have been obliged to visit the pound, one of our village councillors among them.

Our readers write

Scout thanks CJ '81 trip

Dear Sir:
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those citizens and clubs in Acton who made it possible for the 1st Acton Scouts to attend the 6th Canadian Jamboree held in Kananaskis County "Canmore" Alberta.

A special thanks goes to our Group Scouters: John Sharples, Bob McKee and our chaperon and friend, Rick Gibson. Without their valued knowledge and support it wouldn't have been possible for us to attend.

I would like to thank Group Committee (Acton Rotary Club), The Scout and Guide Mothers and all those in-

dividuals who supported us financially and physically. With their help it made the burden on our parents lighter.

I have enjoyed my first year in Scouting and feel that every boy should have the rewarding experience that our troop had at "CJ 81". Thank you all sincerely.

In closing I would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Kuechler for hosting a barbecue to finish off our Scouting Season.

Yours in Scouting,
David DeForest
1st Acton Scout Troop