

# Chamber's Leathertown Committee disbands, immediately reborn as independent association

by Gord Murray  
Acton's Leathertown Committee has been disbanded and replaced by a new, independent, non-profit organization which will be incorporated as the Leathertown Association.

The Association will have a substantial membership too; everyone in Acton is given a free membership as a symbol of the committee's goal that Leathertown represent the entire community and

not benefit any specific groups or businesses. Leathertown was born seven months ago as a sub-committee of the Acton Chamber of Commerce and last Wednesday night the Chamber's directors and Leathertown committee unanimously agreed that the Leathertown venture has grown to such large proportions that it must be operated by a completely independent body.

While Leathertown organizers realize the entire

community isn't likely to become involved, by making everyone in town a member the door is open to anyone to participate now or in the future in anyway they wish.

Leathertown Committee members have held a number of meetings since the organization severed its direct relationship with the Chamber last week and are planning an inaugural public meeting for early next month at the Acton Library. A slate of officers (mostly members of the Leathertown Committee) and details of upcoming Leathertown projects will be presented at this meeting. Leathertown Committee chairman Chip Petrillo is heading up the new Association.

The Leathertown Association's goals and objectives remain essentially the same as those which were set out for the committee seven months ago. Leathertown aims to increase local awareness and appreciation of Acton's history and leather heritage, foster a positive feeling for Acton both within and outside the community and strengthen this town's sense of identity. A second major goal is to create a tourist image for Acton based on the leather theme and by attracting tourists to Acton to strengthen the local economic base.

As a subcommittee of the Chamber the Leathertown Committee accomplished quite a bit in a few short months.

The Leathertown logo was quickly designed and adopted and is springing up on signs, business letterhead, T-shirts, and company vehicles all over town. In addition Leathertown key fobs have been distributed to local school children and many residents, as well as people living outside Acton.

A trio of students was hired for the summer and they researched Acton's history as well as the

community's leather heritage, compiled a detailed report, designed the walking history tour and started on drawings of buildings and people from Acton's past.

Leathertown has participated in several community events and promoted learning about Acton's past through a couple of fun contests. Working with Halton Region Leathertown had a booth this summer for a time at the Eatons Centre in Toronto.

Current projects include a leather fashion show next month and a Wintario draw tentatively set for November 26.

The committee is working with the Region to have publicity about Acton as Leathertown contained in a soon to be produced publication about Halton.

Within a few weeks Leathertown signs will go up at each of the four entrances to Acton.

Leathertown organizers are aiming to have the walking tour completely developed, including display cabinets at stops on the tour, one for tourists and shoppers coming to town and the other for dis-

tribution to tourist information centres across Ontario.

Planning is underway for a big Leathertown Days celebration including a Monte Carlo Night, Acton High School reunion, Leathertown Market Day, etc. in May.

Longer term goals for Leathertown include a museum, promotion for new businesses to locate in Acton, development of practical plans and drawings for store exterior refurbishing, encouraging the location of commercial recreation attractions and facilities for tourists in and around Acton, and promotion of Acton through the donation of leather prizes to TV game shows.

In recent weeks more volunteers interested in Leathertown have joined the committee and an appeal to local businesses for financial support drew a good response. Of course Leathertown would welcome more volunteers and donations.

But the biggest accomplishment so far has been the growing community acceptance, support and recognition of the Leathertown theme.

## Hide House restaurant called the olde Tannery

The smorgasbord restaurant being built in the rear area of the olde Hide House will be called the olde Tannery Restaurant.

Hide House manager Don Dawkins reports construction work is proceeding and their agreement with the owners of the restaurant, Norseman Dining Lounges Ltd., calls for everything except decorating and equipping the dining room and kitchen to be completed by October 15.

The Liquor Licence Board of Ontario has called for a hearing on the licence application for December 3 and the licence wouldn't receive final approval for another 30 days after that.

Dawkins said the restaurant could open a couple of weeks before the licence is finalized so he expects "if all goes well" the restaurant will be open sometime between December 15 and 25.

Monday Halton Hills council received and noted a

letter from the LLBO advising the application has been filed and a hearing will be held.

The owners of the Norseman Dining Lounges could not be reached for comment since they are in the United States lining up more tourist buses to come to the restaurant, Hide House and Acton. Previously Hide House owners reported 150 buses have been lined up for the next year and as many as 500 could be stopping here coming from the northern United States and all over Ontario.

Norseman Dining Lounges operates the highly regarded and successful Plainsman smorgasbord restaurant in the Hamilton area and do a brisk business with tour buses.

Their Acton restaurant will seat about 200 people and feature both a smorgasbord and regular menu. The elevated bar will seat approximately another 25 people.

## Clinic Thursday

### Urgent appeal for blood

The Red Cross Blood Bank is dangerously low and major surgery is being cancelled because of the shortage.

The Acton Red Cross is issuing an urgent appeal for donors to attend tomorrow's (Thursday) clinic at the Acton Legion from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

The Toronto Centre must collect between 800 and 900 pints of blood to meet hospital demands. All types of blood are needed.

For more information about donating blood call Alice Schreiber, Acton Red Cross Blood Donor chairman, at 853-0681.

# The Acton Free Press

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## Thousands have fun at the fall fair

Despite competition from three other surrounding fairs, and the cool weather, Acton Fall Fair organizers expect there was only a slight drop in fair attendance this year.

Acton Agricultural Society president Brian Evans explained that gate receipts were definitely down from last year's total of 10,514 but weekend ticket holders not yet counted were up. Acton's fair was competing against fairs in Aberfoyle, Fergus and Brampton.

Secretary-treasurer John Rowe noted that for every paid admission, they estimated an average of two children attended with every adult, which could put the figures well over 30,000. However, he said, there is no way of knowing how many children attended as admission was free for them.

### Fair photos inside

If there's an event in Acton bigger than the fall fair it's news to us.

So, in an effort to bring readers as complete a look as possible at the big show over the weekend today's paper contains over 100 pictures. You'll find fair photos and stories on pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, B1, B3, B4 and B7, as well as a two page special supplement full of pictures.

To accommodate all those photographs we've had to drop Profiles, on the Leavell and Outdoors for this week but they'll return next week. In addition publication of some correspondents' reports, news, features and sports stories has been delayed a week.

In the hall exhibits, the canned goods and preserves were down, Rowe said. He attributed this to the poor fruit crop this past summer. Vegetable entries, however, were up. The hall in general was slightly down, he noticed.

Outside was a roaring success, Rowe and Evans agreed.

The English horses were down, but Rowe said they never know until fair day how many they are going to get. There was a good turnout for the Western horses.

Cattle entries were bigger than ever before, Rowe claimed, and the Belted Galloways, the second time for this show, had a large turnout.

Poultry was slightly down from last year the secretary-treasurer said, but he felt this year's level was comfortable. Last year, the barn was overcrowded and pens had to be borrowed from other fairs.

There were more sheep entries than last year and the tractor pulls and model boat races both reported large turnouts.

Halton Regional Police report no mishaps, Rowe said. He explained that the midway was clean, and all areas of the fair were quiet, as far as the police were concerned.

The horseshoe contest was well attended and the farmer's walk was won by K. Reid, of Erii, who carried 400 pounds over 40 feet.

The fiddlers' contest was way down in entries, with only 23 participating, Evans said, but he explained the western finals were being held in London at the same time. However, Acton was lucky enough to attract Ken Reid of Sudbury who is the Ontario Champion.



Hold on to your hats folks... it's fair time. Denise Crooks and Jenny McDonnell were just a few of the thousands who took in the fair on the weekend, but unlike a lot of the older seekers, they took in some rides. See inside for more fair pictures. Photo by DAVE DORKEN

## Cindy McGilloway queen of our fair

by Helen Murray

Well known Acton figure skater Cindy McGilloway broke the McGrath sisters' string, and was crowned Miss Acton Fall Fair 1981 Friday night amidst thunderous applause and cheers.

Cindy, 20, was one of 12 contestants vying for the crown. Kymm Lakin, 17, was chosen as first runner-up and Marlene Lott, 18, was crowned second runner-up.

Cindy was crowned by last year's winner Lisa McGrath, who has been launched into a successful modelling career. Lisa received the title from her sister Cathy, who was the 1979 winner.

From the 12 entries, five semi-finalists were chosen, from which the winners and runners-up were picked. Besides Cindy, Kymm and Marlene, Nancy Vetricek, 18, and Gwyneth Gibb, were in the semi-finals.

Other entries were Alanna Bowen, 18; Jody Duncan, 17; Barbara Hogenbirk, 18; Cheri Lindsay, 17; Carol Anne Lovell, 17; Tina McGrath, 18; and Debbie McQuade, 17.

Channel 11 television personality Vic Cummings was a great hit with the teenagers in the audience, as he took part in the judging. Other judges were John Wyley, general manager of the Royal Winter Fair and Patricia Gwyer, head of Fashion Design and Technology at Sheridan Col-

lege, and involved in major beauty pageants, including the Miss Canada contest.

The girls were judged on poise, personality and appearance. They first appeared on stage in street length dresses and then changed to evening wear.

The semi-finalists had to answer impromptu questions. Cindy's question was "What goal have you set for yourself and what have you done to get there?"

The eventual winner explained that she had already achieved her goal, to be a professional figure skater. She will start teaching in a few weeks time for the Acton Figure Skating club.

Cindy is the daughter of Ed and Dodie McGilloway, 37 Victoria Ave., and is a graduate of Acton High School.

Miss Acton 1980, Lisa McGrath, praised contest organizer Maggie Hall and dubbed her "Mrs. Acton".

Lisa also spoke of her busy year as Miss Acton, including standing in the centre of a bull ring with a bright red cape on. Lisa said she felt comfortable in her cape and crown, "But then, I've always worn my sister's hand-me-downs!"

The Miss Acton contest was interspersed throughout by a variety show. Acton's Citizen of the year, Ron McKnight arrived in the ActiVan with the McGrath sisters to officially open this

year's fair and begin the evenings program.

McKnight recalled fairs of the past and how he loved to watch everyone march in step in the parade. He said at the beginning of fair week there was nothing happening at the park, but by the end of the week everything was ready to go. It's behind the scenes work of people like Mac Sprowle, Bert Davidson, Brian Evans and Brent Marshall who have made the fair what it is today.

"They always have good leadership at the helm, and this year is no exception." He congratulated this year's president Brian Evans and his workers.

And then, with a dramatic flair, McKnight pronounced "with the power invested in me, I hereby declare this year's fall fair officially open."

The first act of the show was the Broadway Brats who sang and danced their way through the early part of the evening.

Then the show went to the dogs as Norma and her Canine Pets thrilled the packed arena. Rossini and Co., a magician act still has people wondering how he cut his assistant in three, and suspended another in the air.

Florence Hansen and her electric fiddle entertained and Harry Jarvey told jokes and sang. The Harry Williamson trio provided the background music for the various acts, and local resident Jack Carpenter was master of ceremonies.



A tearful Cindy McGilloway (sitting) is flanked by her runner-ups after being crowned Miss Acton Fall Fair 1981. Kymm Lakin, left, was chosen as first runner-up and Marlene Lott, right, is second runner-up. Last year's winner Lisa McGrath stands directly behind Cindy. For more fair photos see inside. Photo by DAVE DORKEN