

# Times not as tough downtown as many believe - BIA chairman

The sagging economy isn't hurting Acton businesses as much as many believe, according to Business Improvement Area (BIA) chairman Ed Wood.

Wood noted that the types of business closing in town in the past few years, are the hobby stores, or the second income places.

In a lot of the cases, he said, "the mom and dad decide they are going to start a business. But once they are in it, they find out it is not always a bed of roses."

Wood cites his own case about eight years ago when he and wife Pat opened a bake shop, where Halton Cable is now located. After running around for quite a while, they realized it was getting no where and closed down.

In the 10 years since the Woods have moved to town, he pointed out, all the businesses in Acton then are still here now, except for Foodland, which merged with AB Supermarket.

Shopkeepers have to be more careful now, Wood said, but the living is still there if the owner is not expecting to become extremely rich.

With his dry cleaning business, Family Cleaners, Wood has realized a 15 to 20 per cent increase in business over last year, and is hoping to better it again next year. He has to work harder for the dollar, he explains, but the money is still there.

Wood has noticed he is cleaning dirtier clothes. Instead of customers bringing in their apparel once a week, it is every other week, and dirtier. He has to work harder at getting the spots out, but that is how he is coping with the economy. He feels all the existing businesses are doing the same, finding ways to cope.

"People are more price conscious now than before," the chairman said and shop more carefully.

Of the many store closings in the past year, Wood can think of only one which shouldn't have, and that was one of the shoe stores.

But he feels if a store owner is properly financed and has good business sense, they can make a comfortable living.

While he does not believe the average person is conscious of the "Shop Acton" attitude, Wood says he thinks the high price of gas is discouraging some shoppers from going out of town, thus helping the local businesses a bit.

In the meantime, the BIA is trying to promote the downtown with Smurf a few weeks and the present Blue Jay game ticket contest.

But then something happened.

His son said, "Father, haven't you been listening to the radio and watching TV?"

There's a big depression. The foreign situation is terrible. The domestic situation is worse."

Whereupon the father thought, "Well, my son's been to college, he listens to the radio and watches TV and he ought to know."

So the father cut down on his meat and bun orders, took down his signs and cancelled his newspaper ads and no longer bothered to stand out on the highway to sell his hot dogs.

And his hot dog sales fell almost overnight.

"You're right, son," the father said to the boy. "We certainly are in the middle of a great depression."

There was a man who lived by the side of the road and sold hot dogs.

He sold very good hot dogs.

He put up signs along the highway and advertised in the newspaper telling how good they were.

He stood on the side of the road and cried: "Buy a hot dog, Mister?" And people bought.

He increased his meat and bun orders. He bought a bigger stove to take care of his trade.

He finally got his son home from college to help him out.

Last week Tot Lot had finger painting day. Instructor Sam Gopell shows Janey McCallum, Mikie Garton, Scott Teeter and Natalie Taltman how to put it on paper.



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Dinosaur Day at the Acton Library was a big hit for all the youngsters. They watched a film, read books and then made their own dinosaurs. Ethna Gourlay, Eddie Blim and Kate Penkett were proud of their work.

## Designate three parks Community Recreation Centres

Three parks in Halton Hills will be designated Community Recreation Centres so the municipality can take advantage of provincial grants which become available from time to time. The three parks which become Community Recreation Centres are Bovis Park in Acton and Irwin Dorsey and Neilson parks in Georgetown.



## Irene Evans is birthday girl

Birthday celebrations were held Sunday for Irene Evans, who turned 90-years-old on Thursday.

Here, as she is known to most, was born Irene Duval on July 22, 1892 in Bracebridge. On July 20, 1926, she married Percy Evans, in Welland, who died this past winter. She lived in Welland and Windsor before moving to Acton in 1929.

She was a member of the Catholic Women's League, who acknowledged her birthday with flowers.

Mrs. Evans' nieces and nephews held a birthday party for her at the home of Pete and Louise Papillon, Elmore Dr., on Sunday where over 150 friends and relatives visited her from as far away as Welland, Brantford and

Kitchener.

The birthday girl received a plaque and letter from Ontario Premier William Davis and Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy gave her a plaque from the town. Regional Councillor Dave Whiting was at the party to give Mrs. Evans a letter and pin from the region, on behalf of chairman Jack Raftis, and a telegram was received from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Other notable guests were Councillors Terry Grubbe and Ross Knechtel and his wife Iva.

A special blessing from Pope John Paul was sent through Father Ralph Diodati.

Four generations were at the party.

Mrs. Evans lives at 46 Holmesway Place.

## Five remanded to August 16

Four men charged in the theft of skins from a local leather manufacturer will appear in Milton Provincial Court August 16 to set a date for trial.

Mark Gourlay, 35, of 25 Main St., N., John Jordan, 27, of 24 Ransom St., Allen Doley, 34, formerly of Davenport Rd., has been charged with conspiracy. He too appears August 16.

A fifth man, Nick Marinis, of Toronto, owner of Nick's Shoes Repair, of Davenport Rd., has been charged with conspiracy. He too appears August 16.

The men appeared in court Monday morning to set a date, but were remanded until next month while one of the accused engages a lawyer.

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**NOTICE**

Roos Travel Agency will be closed for the upcoming holiday on:

**Monday, Aug. 2, 1982**

**roos travel agency**

296 GUELPH ST. GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE 877-0138

**ORANGEVILLE RACEWAY**

**HARNESS RACING**

• **POST TIMES** •  
Tuesday 7:30 p.m.  
FAN APPRECIATION NIGHT

No Admission Charge  
Thursday Sunday  
Evening Afternoon  
7:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m.

Betting and Cashing System  
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**CANADIAN ODEON THEATRES GEORGETOWN 3**

HELD OVER 2ND WEEK

1 **The Godfather Part II**  
Starring Burt Reynolds, Dolly Parton  
Showings at 7:00 & 9:30 p.m.  
Sat. & Sun. Showings at 2 p.m.

HELD FOR AN 8TH GREAT WEEK - THE NUMBER ONE HIT OF THE SUMMER

2 **E.T. THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL**  
Showings at 7:00 & 9:30 p.m.  
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3 **STARTING FRIDAY**  
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1 **THE GODFATHER PART II**  
Daily 7:00 & 9:05 p.m.

STARTS FRIDAY

2 **GO FOR IT!**  
ROCKY III  
7:00 & 9:00 p.m.

Wed. Thurs. "YOUNG DOCTORS IN LOVE" 7 & 9 p.m.

HELD OVER 8TH WEEK

3 **E.T.**  
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2. Things Are Tough All Over
3. Heavy Metal
4. Neighbours

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2. Things Are Tough All Over

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