

Friends-in-deed

by Trina Noel
On November 10, 12 members went to Credit Valley Artisans Cottage in Cedarvale Park, Georgetown for an afternoon of crafts. Three ladies were there to help us make Christmas decorations with pine cones, felt ribbon and other materials. In mid-afternoon we had a lunch of pastries with tea and coffee.
During our meeting of November 29, Mrs. Rene Watson of Acton gave us a ceramic demonstration. Shirley Krantz won a Christmas surprise and Marion Keelan and Emily Price a ceramic snowman.
December 13 was the date for our Christmas party held at the Acton Legion. Chinese foods and roast beef suppers were

catered by the Royal Cafe Restaurant. During the evening Santa Claus came for a visit and he gave presents to everyone. There were also some gifts for Santa and his helper. May Hoare had candy canes for each of us. We had a very enjoyable evening.
On the evening of December 15, ActiVan took us around Acton and Georgetown to see the lights and Christmas display. We stopped for coffee and donuts at Mr. Donut in Georgetown. We all thanked driver Don Brown for another beautiful evening out despite the snow and cold weather.
Our first meeting for 1984 will be held on Tuesday, January 31, at M.Z. Bennett school and new members are welcome.

Christmas good to local merchants

Christmas was good to local merchants, with most of them seeing a marked increase in business over last year.
Shoppers in Acton, for the most part, did not rush out at the last minute either, the shopkeepers noticed, with sales brisk throughout November and December, but no hordes on December 24.
Eric Sellers, manager of Canadian Tire, reports sales were "up substantially" with Cabbage Patch Kids, computers and Trivial Pursuit games the hottest items. Boxing Day sales, he says, were double what they were last year.
While his store was not particularly hit by the recent recession, Sellers said he is optimistic about the coming year, as are the other merchants. He feels inflation has been halted, and the manufacturing sector will respond to consumer demands.
Jake Kuiken at Hallon Hills Furniture and Appliances says many people woke up with microwave ovens and portable televisions under the tree. His store's sales were up over 40 per cent from Christmas 1982, which was "disastrous" for him, he admits.
Kuiken pointed out last year, he had three layaways, compared to 30 this year, which kept him hopping making deliveries the last days before December 25.
Sales at Glenlea Drug Mart are up

more than the inflation rate, says owner Gary Barton. Greeting cards seemed to be the biggest seller with his entire stock being sold out the week before Christmas. He figures he could have sold 50 to 60 more boxes had he been able to keep them in stock.
Barton says he also had a hard time keeping gift items in stock such as bathroom scales. It was impossible to re-order in many cases, he noted. Manufacturer cut backs contributed to this, he said.
Barton feels there was no reason to be pessimistic as far as the economy is concerned, and has noticed it is definitely turning around. His store, however, was not affected too much by the recession, he admitted.
Paul Nielsen, of Nielsen Clothing found his Christmas sales were up about 10 per cent on the average over last year. He attributed this to Beardmore being back to work fulltime, and noticed an increase in his business starting about July.
Ladies' lingerie seemed to sell better than ever, Nielsen observed, but men's clothing sales did not improve much. As far as last minute shoppers are concerned, Nielsen said he hasn't seen so few in his 30 years of being a store owner. He says having six full shopping days before Christmas probably played a part in this. Old Hide House sales jumped 35 per

cent from Christmas 1983, according to manager Steve Dawkins. Gift items, such as footwear, and woollens are up by as much as 40 per cent. A turn around in the recession, and a change in consumer attitudes have helped his business, he says. Boxing Day sales were just as brisk also, Dawkins admits, with the store meeting his expectations, which were about 35 per cent higher than last year.
The last few weeks before Christmas were the store's busiest time, with sales petering off about December 23.
As the Hide House enters its fourth winter season, and reaching a mature sales level, Dawkins says he is very optimistic about the future. There is a good potential market in 1984, he says.
His customers seemed to be buying things they put off in other years, and with last winter being so mild, they did not necessarily need. With the improved economy and the bad weather, business is brisk.
Sales at Acton Pharmacy were only up marginally says owner Bill Yundt, but it is difficult to tell because of the move to the new store during the Christmas shopping period. Staff was not as rushed in the final days before Christmas mainly because of the six full shopping days before. He says customers just felt like it was an ordinary week when Christmas did

not break up the week.
The economy is definitely turning around, Yundt noticed. After speaking with local doctors, it was discovered many people without drug plans just were not bothering to get prescriptions filled because of the costs. This seems to be changing also, he said.
Wally Ella, of Acton Home Hardware says his store had a "good Christmas". They weren't as busy as last year, he noticed, but more items were sold and people were spending more. Most of the shoppers were familiar faces, there weren't many new faces in the store, Ella said.
Cabbage Patch Kids would have been a good seller, had they been able to get them, Ella pointed out. Games seemed to be popular this year, including Trivial Pursuit and its latest edition, the Baby Boomers.
Larry Greaves, at Sedmans Department Store said his sales were similar to last year "considering the state of the economy of the nation". He ran out of Christmas cards, even though he had more in stock than last year.
While Greaves is optimistic about the future, he says it will take until at least Easter before it looks brighter in Acton. Local industries were the last to be hit and will be the last to recover, he claims, and while people are going to back to work, it will take a while before they are caught up financially.



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Sheldon suggests
If Acton thinks winter service bad, try enduring in rural area

If Acton residents think their snow plowing and removal service from the Town is inadequate they should try facing winter in the rural area where it's a real hardship, Councillor Pam Sheldon suggests.
Both Sheldon and Jake Kuiken, two ward two councillors living in the Acton area commented this week on snow service both in Acton and the surrounding rural area in interviews this week.
Kuiken reported that like Councillor Rick Bonnett after the first storm of the season he heard complaints about lack of snow removal in downtown Acton.
Esquesing's new regional councillor also commented that he received calls from rural residents in the area experiencing problems or anticipating experiencing problems getting out of their driveways onto the road after the first storm.
He said he called the works department and reported the concerns and when he went back to check the job had been done well.

"That's the difference, if you complain to staff it's done," Kuiken declared.
Sheldon said she has heard complaints about rural roads this winter, mostly connected with school buses being out on the roads when parents don't think it's safe, but none from Acton.
She explained 15 Sideroad, a regional road, is a concern since several times the buses have been out and couldn't complete their routes.
The problem has been poor communications between the region, school board and bus company about driving conditions. For example buses have gone out when the road hasn't been plowed or when the road hasn't been plowed for several hours.
Buses aren't really a concern of local councillors, but Sheldon has been helping worried parents anyway by calling an official at the Halton Board of Education. She

noted that the person in charge of buses for the board came up to this area and saw for himself how treacherous the roads can be, Sheldon said, and agreed buses out in winter weather in Esquesing can be a concern and they'll be more careful about sending out the buses in the future. "I got a lot of satisfaction," she said.
Commenting on the controversy in Acton with residents monitoring and comparing snow removal service here, with the job done in Acton and then going to councillors and the press with their complaints, Sheldon said she is "tired of the parochialism."
She suggested if Actonians are unhappy with snow service they need only contact their councillors and complain, they don't need to be comparing the job done here with the quality of service in Georgetown.
If she was going to be parochial then she'd push for no service for the urban areas and just snow plowing

in the rural area where there are major problems. Sheldon noted there are 120 miles of rural roads and there can be big problems. "If people in Acton think things are bad there in winter they should try coming out here and seeing kids waiting for buses in weather so bad you can't stand up."
Sheldon concluded she doesn't think the works department does a bad job in winter throughout the Town considering the amount of money council spends on snow service.

Ebenezer
by Mrs. R. McLean
New elders elected recently were Jim Bonnell, Wayne Taylor and Mervin Thomson.
In the absence of the Rev. Sam Wigston, who was in Washington, Rev. Bernie Warren took the service. Mr. Warren spoke on Mark 4, the parable of the sower.

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