## Acton Camera store provides repair service

Last Thursday's opening of Acton Photo and Camera on Willow Street will provide area residents with a number of new services locally for the first time.

Jim Beaulieu's store is the first one to open in the new Leathertown Village south of Mill Street and Mr. Beaulieu is bubbling with enthusiasm, both for his work and all the new friends he's going to make in town.

"I'm a people person," he commented last week. "I get more satisfaction out of the satisfaction I see in my customers than I do out of the money I make in my business.

"I like capturing expressions on film. I really have to struggle with things sometimes to get the effect I want but no matter how well it turns out I can always see something wrong with it. I know I'll never take the perfect picture. If I did, I'd quit. It's an art form and I enjoy the challenge, or I wouldn't have chosen the career I did. I guess I'm a

perfectionist." Beaulieu calls Pembroke home, but he came to the Cooksville-Port Credit area in 1970. Two years ago, he moved to Limehouse with his wife Catherine, a teacher with the Peel Board of Education, and their three-year old daughter, Aimee.

Mr. Beaulieu has run a free-lance photography business out of his home for the past three years. Prior to that, he worked for large Toronto studios and managed a Mississauga photo store for a

Studio work such as single or family portraits and weddings are his specialty and he has taken special courses in wedding photography.

He has a studio in the back of his store where he can take portraits and also identification pictures for passports, immigration papers or age of majority cards.

Mr. Beaulieu has purchased a special camera for this work so that the pictures are developed immediately for the customer and his assistant will be trained to take these pictures in case a customer came in during a time when he is out of the store.

In addition to Instant passport pictures, Mr. Beaulieu will offer a complete one-day photo finishing service through a Hamilton company. Black and white work may not be available quite so fast.

He will also copy photographs for customers who want prints made of a picture for which they have no negative. This involves no chemicals or other things

which could harm an irreplaceable picture, he prospective assures customers.

Mr. Beaulieu will carry Canon, Pentax and Braun cameras and equipment as his main line, but through dealership rights, he will also be able to order items made by other companies for his customers.

"If they're willing to be patient with me for a day, there'll be no need to go into Toronto (or things," he said. "And I intend to offer them at competitive prices, too."

He will also carry Canon calculators from the pocket to the full business size.

Since he has taken a twoyear camera repair course at Humber College, he will also be able to offer customers a complete camera repair service. Although the repairs may be done in the store customers won't get their camera back until he has been able to get it to proper test equipment which he does not

"i shudder at the thought of returning a camera without testing it first," Mr. Beaulieu says. "I know it's done all the time, just relying on the repairman's eyes and ears to judge that it looks and sounds right, but I couldn't do that. I don't have the equipment myself. It's pretty expensive. But I have arranged with a friend to use his. I guess that's part of the perfectionist in me. I just couldn't give it back until I knew it was tested and properly repaired."

Mr. and Mrs. Beaulieu are born-again Christians and he says a lot of prayer has gone into this store.

"God is my silent partner," he grins, "and He isn't always so silent. Some of life's lessons are pretty hard to take. If something fails, I've learned to accept that that's His way of telling me I shouldn't be doing

He has done some prison ministry, sharing the gospel with inmates as well as being associated with Athletes in Action.

He chose Acton for the site of his store partly because of owner Merv Pryhitka, who he can't consider as a landlord, just a friend, and partly because he feels the town has a great deal of potential.

Although the store opened Thursday, Mr. Beaulieu has postponed his grand opening until his inventory has all been sorted out. For the first while at least, he will be open 9:30 to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, and 9:30 to 9 Thursdays and Fridays.

Debbie Ruppert will be his part-time employee.



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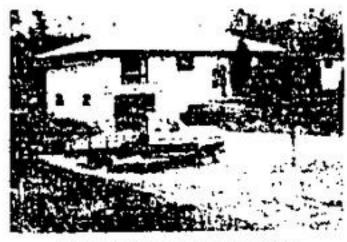


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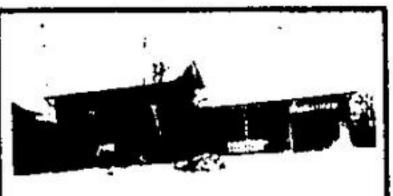
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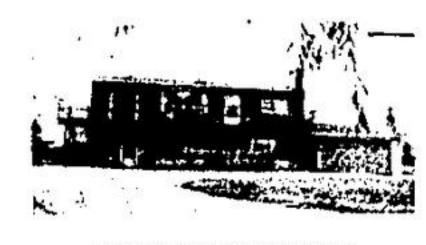
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