

Artisan's Village to offer 10,000-square foot showcase

Big plans at Hide House

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Acton's Old Hide House, described by its management as being the largest leather goods retailer of its kind in Canada, has unveiled plans which promise to give the local crafts community a big shot in the arm.

Part of the 53-year old leather warehouse-cum-retail store and restaurant will be turned into a 10,000-square foot "artisans' village", Hide House officials announced at a special "media night" last Wednesday.

Spokesman Stuart Holloway said the new village will open this fall and, while including areas set aside for artisans to make and sell their crafts, the setting will also contain a butcher shop, a bakery, a cheese store, delicatessen and a country general store.

Contacted by The Herald, Hide House general manager Don Dawkins said the furniture-making branch of the retail operation which now occupies the site will be moved to a new location. He said the store's administration is looking at a number of other nearby locations.

The interior of the village will closely resemble the decor of the retail outlet and the adjacent Jack Tanner's Table restaurant, emphasizing the building's rustic brick and soft, natural lighting. Mr. Dawkins added that most of the work in the section will be repairing and insulating the roof, as well as cleaning up from the furniture operation. The dividing wall between the retail store and the "village" will be opened up at the ceiling and the floor plan will be "as wide open as we can get it" while still maintaining security for the individual artisans and shopkeepers.



Management at the Old Hide House and Jack Tanner's Table restaurant welcomed members of the media to a special social evening last Wednesday night and later announced that the Acton establishment would be expanding. Just before a fashion show, held to parade some of the latest items in leather the Hide House is carrying, plans were unveiled for a 10,000-square foot "Artisans' Village", allowing craftsmen to practise their trades right before the eyes of an admiring public. The village would also have a bakery, country store, delicatessen and plenty of space for crafts displays in sheltered, but spacious surroundings.

(Herald photo)

The idea for the project was basically developed by the Hide House administration. Mr. Dawkins said, rather than lobbying from artisans in the area.

"We've had a lot of encouragement from various sources," he said, adding that the Hide House hopes to attract high-calibre craftsmen to work in the village and is looking for an enthusiastic response from local artisans.

Exact arrangements for using village space have not been determined, Mr. Dawkins said, but agreements reached between the Hide House and the artisans would hopefully be beneficial to both parties.

During the media night which included a fashion show with the leather garments and accessories available at the Hide House, Mr. Holloway said leather has been part of Acton's "way of life" since 1842 and, at one time, the community's Beardmore Tannery was the largest in the British Empire.

Beardmore produces most of Canada's shoe sole leather and suede while the Marzo Glove Company manufactures ski mitts and specialized hand ware. Superior Glove Company produces leather work gloves and Frank Heller and Company process leather for jogging shoes and winter boots.

At the Y

The YMCA in Georgetown is offering a number of sports-related summer programs for youngsters. Besides swimming lessons at the outdoor pool from July 12 to August 20, the Y offers a sailing camp, day camp, judo classes, playschool and tot-parent kindergym along with an aerobics and "be fit" fitness class. The sailing camp includes bus transportation to Kelso Conservation area in Milton for campers aged 10-15 years. The program consists of two hours of sailing per day where budding sailors learn much of what there is to know about the sport. Campers must be able to

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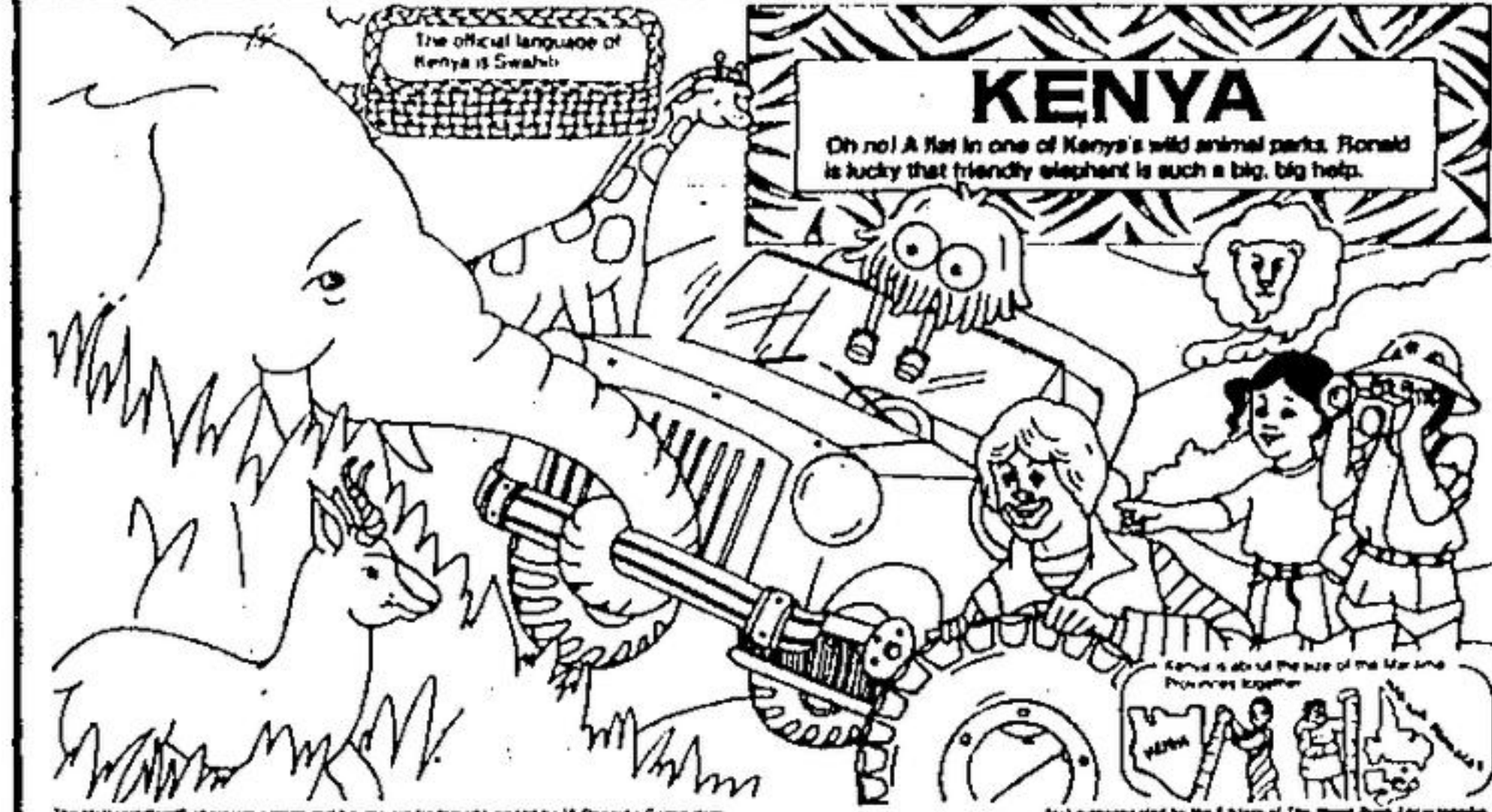
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12 National
13 Cast off
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15 Agad
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20 Dootie
21 Wager
22 Report
23 Employ again
24 Impaired
27 Epochs
28 Aligator
29 Yawn
30 Danish capital
31 Fish
32 Coast
33 Parlor
34 - Moines
37 Directed
38 Warm
39 Lured
40 Lurch
41 Compate
42 South American hero
43 Preferred
44 Empic
45 Boil
46 Do by air
47 Campaign town
48 Mohammedan place
49 Yawn
50 Danish money
51 Bapicene
51 Bapicene

ACROSS:
36 Try
37 Caught between
38 Watches can
39 Budgetary
40 See Eagles
41 Drive
42 Deane

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57 Eternal city
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Our new Code is based on a very simple but strong idea: Each person living in this province is equally important. And each person's worth and dignity should be recognized in order to create a climate of mutual respect and understanding.

Here are some of the main points of the new Code:

RACIAL, ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION. Everyone has a right to equal consideration for employment, contracts, accommodation, goods, services and facilities regardless of race, colour, ancestry, ethnic origin, place of origin or creed.

HANDICAP. Every person with a physical or mental handicap has a right to equal treatment under the Code.

EMPLOYMENT. The Code has been expanded to prohibit discrimination against handicapped persons, persons between the ages of 18 and 65, and against persons on the ground of family status.

HARASSMENT. Every person has a right to freedom from harassment because of any of the prohibited grounds in accommodation and employment. And unwelcome sexual advances by persons in a position of authority are prohibited.

The Code elaborates these and many other provisions, and permits exceptions in certain cases. We'd like to send you a copy, and your own guide to the Code so that you can find out all the details. Please write: Ontario Human Rights Commission, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2. Or phone: (416) 965-6841 or 1-800-268-9004.

And see how the new Code supports another very simple but strong idea: Together We Are Ontario.

Ontario Human Rights Commission
Hon. Russell Renniey Minister of Labour
Canon Gordon Purcell Chairman