



The Olde Hide House has been chosen as the 1989 Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year. John Brison (left), part owner and Chief Financial Officer, stands beside Cathy Coles, Manager of Retail Operations, in front of the Acton business.

Olde Hide House is business of the year

The Olde Hide House in Acton is the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce 1989 Business of the Year.

The award marks the first time that it has been presented by the newly formed Halton Hills chamber. When Georgetown and Acton had their own chambers, only the Georgetown chamber handed out a business award.

The store, which specializes in leather goods, was one of 25 businesses nominated for the 1989 award, and 11 of these were located in Acton.

All nominations were judged on the basis of the practice of "good business ethics in their dealings with customers and their economic and social contribution to the community," said the chamber's executive director Mary Anne Chapman.

"And the Olde Hide House certainly fit the bill," she said.

The Olde Hide House contribution to the tourism industry was foremost in the store being selected, according to a press release distributed by Ms. Chapman.

The company's original marketing campaign, "Head for the Hills... Halton Hills" is typical of its original goal of not only promoting its goods but also establishing a "world-renowned theme town."

Ms. Chapman also points to the company's two new businesses, The West Wearhouse and Flightline to show its commitment to having tourists come to know Acton as "Leathertown."

The Olde Hide House services almost 500,000 visitors from outside Halton Hills every year.

The company has also been extremely active in supporting and promoting local community organizations, Ms. Chapman says.

It gives time and money to amateur sports and non-profit groups. The company also hosts annual brunches for the Canadian Cancer Society and the United Way Campaign of which all proceeds go to charity, said Ms. Chapman.

Don and Fred Dawkins along with Ron Heller opened the business Nov. 14, 1981 with 12 employees. It currently has between 180 and 250 employees, depending on the season. It has also held steadfast through the years to the idea of supporting Canadian-made products. Ninety per cent of goods it sells are made in Canada, said Ms. Chapman.

According to Ms. Chapman, Don Dawkins says this support has significantly contributed to the 2,500 per cent increase in sales since 1981.

Bell Canada survey

Residents turn down one-price Toronto line

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald

Georgetown residents and businesses have said no to a one-price telephone line to Toronto.

Results of a Bell Canada survey conducted this past fall which were released in late December show that 73 per cent of the Georgetown subscribers rejected the one-price service.

Bell would have only considered hooking up Georgetown to the one-price Toronto line if 50 per cent of the respondents favored the new service.

The survey asked Bell's 9,083 residential and 1,999 business customers if they would prefer an increase in their basic rate instead of paying long-distance charges to Toronto.

Just over 7,000 customers

responded to the survey. But Bell didn't have a break down of how many residential and business subscribers participated.

Sue Bond, a sector manager for Bell Canada's business office, speculated that the majority of subscribers rejected the one-price service because it wouldn't have applied to communities lying outside the Metropolitan Toronto area - Toronto, York, Scarborough and Etobicoke.

She suggested if the service included such areas as Clarkson, Streetsville or Port Credit, there might have been more interest.

There must be at least one call a month made to a city or town by 60 per cent of a town's population before the one-price line is considered, said Ms. Bond.

Bell isn't disappointed with the survey results.

"We had no preference; it's just one of the services we offer," Ms. Bond said.

"The issue was that each individual had to decide for themselves if they spend enough to warrant the monthly increase."

The new service would have meant residential customers pay a basic rate of \$19.00 monthly instead of the current \$8.75. A business' basic rate would have jumped from \$29.10 to \$64.55 a month.

Apartment owner fined

Cont'd from Page 1

stressed that the town can only properly ensure safe housing if it receives support from the community.

The Albert Street residents were "very co-operative," he said.

Mr. Holmes invites people who have a serious concern about someone possibly building illegal apartments to contact the town.

But the town can only take action if the people who phone in willingly give their name, address and telephone number, and are prepared to appear as a witness, he said. He also emphasized that the process to stop a building code offender can be long.

He pointed out that it took seven months to gather enough evidence to take Mr. Compos to court.



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