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## BIA REPORT

### Concerned about the number of empty stores downtown?

So are we. No one likes to see business going away, and Acton BIA exists to ensure the downtown is a prosperous and relevant place to shop, work and do business. That said we cannot run businesses for them, nor can we dictate the nature of a business. I also suggest that the onus is on all of us as part of this community to support and improve where we live.

**What can be done?**

- Shop local is our biggest opportunity to ensure that our economy continues to develop.
- If you don't shop local; tell us why. Provide feedback to the BIA or your local businesses letting them know what you need from a business or service. You can find me on email at [actonBIA@cogeco.net](mailto:actonBIA@cogeco.net) to tell me why you do not currently shop downtown and what it would take to get you here.
- If you don't shop with your dollar at least get involved. By that I mean chat up events going on in your community, support a cause or the people in it. This helps to create life, interest and vitality in our town.
- Local Business: We cannot rely on shop local idea to sustain us. You need to give your potential customers a reason to be loyal and local. Listen to your customers and what they

want. Simple things like creating a welcoming environment, providing remarkable service and having the right products or services consistently available. Take advantage of the partnership that can exist between stores and with you BIA. Ensure you have firm plans in place for your business and use the help of the region if need be. Free services are available at: [Haltonsmallbusiness.ca](http://Haltonsmallbusiness.ca).

- What can the BIA do? There is a lot; but it takes time and careful planning for our minimal resources. We are making plans and changing our model to foster economic development. We are working with the municipality to ensure the appropriate funding is available for programs like our façade Improvement program and revitalization. The town of Halton Hills and Downtown Acton's BIA is engaged and vested in ensuring Acton and it's small business can continue to grow, develop and prosper and it takes all of us to support business in our town and commit to our growth and development.

If you would like to know more about what will be happening in downtown Acton and our plans for the future, please come to our Annual General Meeting. March 29, 7 p.m. at the Acton Town Hall Centre.



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Isaiah 50 v4-9, Psalm 31 v9-16  
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