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Reflections of a year gone by

For me the Christmas season is the most wonderful time of the year. I love the tinsel and bells, Christmas trees and lights, shopping and baking special treats, the hustle and the bustle and oh the Christmas dinner. But most of all it is a time to reflect on who we are and why we do what we do.

Most of us have chosen to live in Acton, whether it be by circumstance because we were born here or moved here from a bigger centre to enjoy small town living. Our BIA is small when we compare ourselves to other BIA's, but we are mighty! We have one of the smallest budgets but we work together to make our downtown inviting and a place for you to come and shop, dine and play.

We have over 10 events throughout the year including the Acton winter carnival, Acton Farmers' Market, Leathertown Festival, Trick or Treat on Mill and Main Street and Holiday Magic on Mill and Main to name a few. We do this to showcase our downtown and hopefully show you and visitors what our over 90 shops and services have to offer.

The Acton BIA is responsible for maintenance and beautification in the downtown. We purchase the flower baskets, plant the flower beds and maintain them throughout the summer months and believe me this is no small feat! Just ask our summer student. The Acton BIA is also responsible for the Christmas light displays in the downtown and at the Acton arena. We purchase and maintain the displays and hire someone to put them up and take them down at the end of the season. We also promote our downtown businesses

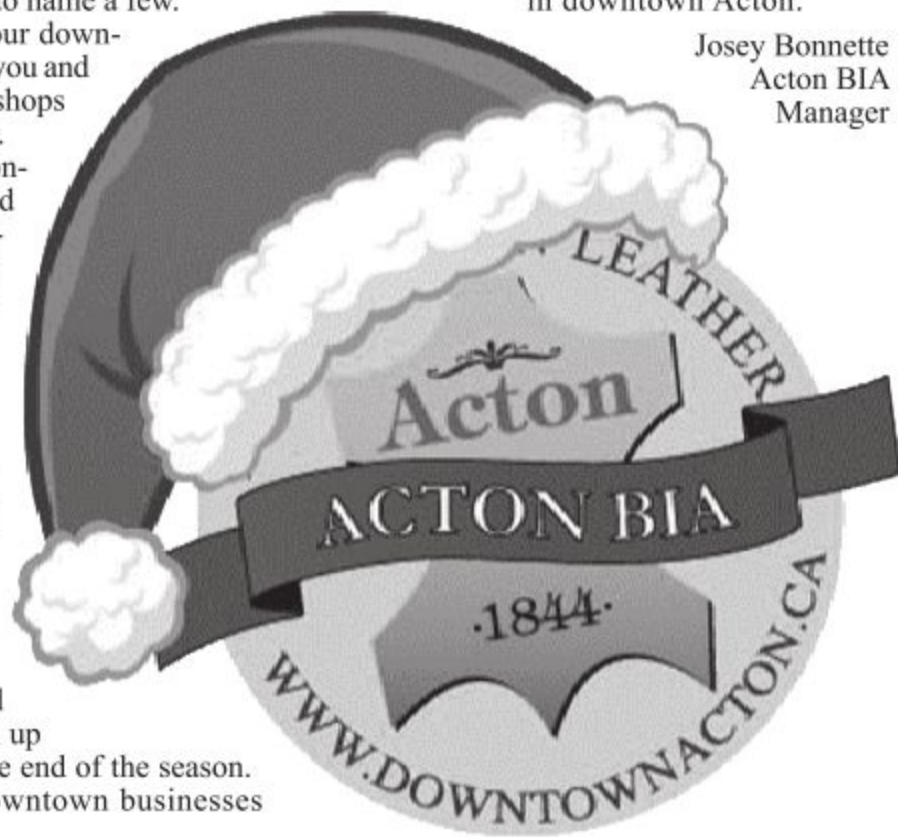
through advertising and various promotions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for shopping in downtown Acton and supporting our local merchants. There is such a draw for on-line shopping, getting the best deal and the big shopping mall experience. But you can't beat small town customer service, saying "hi" to your neighbour while you shop or enjoy a meal or cup of coffee. But we have to earn your customer loyalty and make you choose to shop local and I hope we do that in downtown Acton.

Our next event is the Acton Winter Carnival the last weekend in January. So mark January 25 & 26 on your calendar. There will be a community dance, outdoor skating, tractor and wagon rides and so much more.

I like to think that we really are "small town living at its best." Happy New Year and I hope to see you on the street in downtown Acton.

Josey Bonnette
 Acton BIA
 Manager



Aldo Braida
 B.A. L.L.B.
 Barrister & Solicitor

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