

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Proudly Acton

Living vicariously through the achievements of others is easy in Acton when three of the four annual Business Achievement Awards handed out by the Chamber of Commerce last week are from Acton.

Congrats to the business owners and the top employee who put customer service first, making it easier, and more attractive, to shop local. Congratulations, again, to Val and Bill Manes at Acton Home Hardware, to Nancy LaRose at the Salvation Army Thrift Store and to Andrea Clark at Taners Pub & Grill.

THUMBS UP

• To organizers of the annual Acton Scout, Guides, Bethel groups food drive – April 13 – who are putting the final touches on this year’s door-to-door appeal for food – hopefully 6,000-plus pounds.

• To the Acton Ministerial Association for its “Easter gift” to Acton – a free DVD in this week’s paper featuring a big screen movie *The Life of Jesus* and a children’s version.

THUMBS DOWN

• To the cold thief who stole a cell phone and a small amount of cash from a purse left unattended during a quilting class at Trinity United Church.

• To the Seventh-Day Adventists who left what one local minister called an “evil” booklet in area mailboxes last week, calling the Pope and antichrist and railing against perceived threats of making Sunday a day of rest and worship.

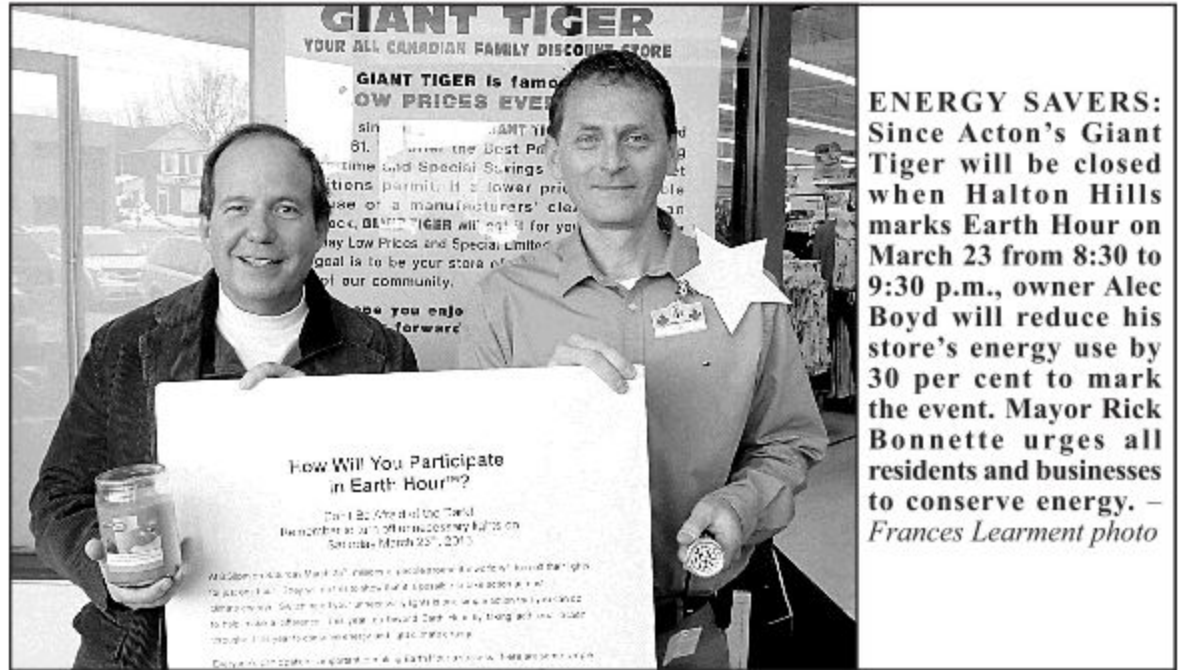
PAST PAGES

TEN YEARS AGO

- A Rockwood commuter decried the poor and deteriorating shape of Acton area roads – saying the many potholes make it seem the town doesn’t “give a s—t.”
- Some downtown merchants are not impressed to learn the multi-million reconstruction of Mill Street may be delayed until 2005.

FIVE YEARS AGO

- The olde Hide House filed for bankruptcy protection as it liquidated stock to pay an estimated \$5.1-million to creditors.
- Three professional comedians yukked it up at Acton High School in a fundraiser for the school band’s trip to Boston



ENERGY SAVERS: Since Acton’s Giant Tiger will be closed when Halton Hills marks Earth Hour on March 23 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., owner Alec Boyd will reduce his store’s energy use by 30 per cent to mark the event. Mayor Rick Bonnette urges all residents and businesses to conserve energy. — Frances Learment photo

Celebrate Earth Hour

Earth Hour on Saturday, March 23 between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m., will be celebrated around the world.

To increase public awareness of the need to decrease energy use and to take action against climate change, Earth Hour is no longer just about turning the lights off for an hour. Instead, it is an opportunity to promote year-round conservation and long-lasting actions that benefit the health of our planet. Earth Hour participation is voluntary, fun and informative.

Last year, more than 7,000 municipalities in 152 countries and territories worldwide switched off their lights to participate in the largest climate campaign ever. Halton Hills was one of these communities – in five years, the Town has saved enough electricity to power a about 17,200 homes for one hour.

How to mark Earth Hour For Residents:

- Visit the Acton library and share how you will celebrate Earth Hour. Write your ideas down on a star and glue it onto the large poster.
- Bring the family to an exciting, fun and free star gazing event hosted by the Town of Halton Hills and Gardiner Public School, sponsored by Halton Hills Hydro. Due to limited space, pre-registration is required by contacting 905-873-2601 ext. 2290 or jennifers@haltonhills.ca

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- Turn off any unnecessary lights and electronics without compromising safety.
- Change your traditional light bulbs to much more efficient compact fluorescent lights or LED bulbs.
- Turn down the thermostat.
- Avoid operating major appliances during Earth Hour.
- Enjoy a candlelit dinner with family and friends.
- Read bedtime stories by flashlight.

For Schools:

- Organize symbolic Earth Hour events on Friday March 22 since schools are closed on Saturday, March 23.
- Turn off or dim any unnecessary lights, without compromising safety and security.
- Organize environmentally-themed contests and activities for students and teachers.

For Businesses:

- Browse the Earth Hour website for ideas as to how your business can participate: www.EarthHourCanada.org
- Post information on Earth Hour on your website. Electronic banners can be downloaded from www.EarthHourCanada.org
- Turn off or dim any unnecessary lights (including outdoor signs) and major appliances, without compromising safety and security.
- Promote Earth Hour to your employees and customers by displaying Earth Hour posters in store windows and on restaurant tables (e.g. menu inserts, table cards). Contact the Office of Sustainability at 905-873-2601 ext. 2290 for a copy of a free poster(s).
- Reduce energy use. Turn down your thermostat.
- Replace inefficient light bulbs with much more efficient compact fluorescent (CFL) lights or LED bulbs.
- Unplug electrical equipment (e.g. computers) before leaving for the day on Saturday, March 23 and everyday thereafter.
- Offer candlelit dinner service.



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