

Roxy Coffee Shop closing in June

By: Harry Rudolfs

Anybody who loves good coffee better be sitting down when they read this. Roxy Coffee on 6 Mill Street East is closing June 2. The three managers of the restaurant, Wendy Tavender, Madelaine Attrell and Mary Ellen Stanley, have given their notice that they are retiring and that the business will be shuttered for the time being.

Affiliated with the Crossroads Church, the cafe has been a popular community

gathering spot since 2010 when it opened. The restaurant specializes in premium coffee, light lunches, desserts and baked goods and has also been a forum for local artists and musicians to display their work and perform.

"The board has decided they are going to close the shop for now," said Wendy Tavender. "We're not sure what the direction is going to be."

Tavender adds that they have looked for someone to take over the operation but

haven't found anyone suitable yet. "If anyone wanted to come forward with a proposal to the board, they're welcome to do that. It's a

unique opportunity."

The restaurant has been run as a non-profit since its inception with the managers and staff being paid minimum wage. She thinks it has fulfilled its mandate as a welcome environment for all members of the Acton community. "The idea was to create a comfortable place where people could sit and have a coffee and have

a conversation," she said.

"This is a really welcoming and homey place. I'm going to really miss serving the people and the community," said Pat Tyrrell who works in the kitchen at the Roxy.

"I love this job so much," added Marie Vetro who works behind the counter. "A couple of the high school students will probably find other jobs and there are a lot of volunteers. It's sad, but it'll be okay."

According to manager Tavender, the restaurant is planning a farewell celebration on May 31. "We want

to invite the customers to come and party with us. The last couple of weeks of May, we're going to be having some specials, and we've also decided to put out a cookbook—so many people have asked us for our soup recipes."

"It's going to be very heartbreaking for people," posited customer Lois Van Volkenburg. "But we have to move on."

"I'm certainly going to miss it," added manager Madelaine Attrell, "but I'm looking forward to spending more time with my grandchildren."



Managers Madelaine Attrell (left) and Wendy Tavender



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Cross processes through town

By: Alex Hilson

On Good Friday, churchgoers from all of Acton's various churches participated in the Procession of the Cross from Churchill Community Church, north of Acton on Third Line, to Knox Presbyterian Church on Main Street.

"The purpose of the walk is to invite followers of Jesus from Acton and the surrounding area to retrace, in a special way, the last steps of Jesus on his road to Calvary and the 'Place of the Skull' where he was crucified," explained Father Robert Héту, the Pastor of St. Joseph Patron of Canada Catholic Church. "I was told that we had a family that came all the way from Mississauga. They have relatives in Acton, and this was not their first walk. Even the children enjoyed it."

The walk travelled down the hill just south of Churchill Church on Third Line. A volunteer carried a wooden cross and the group picked up a pre-placed small white

cross at each stop.

The group passed between Evangel and Bethel churches, before turning down Peel St. and walking to the Salvation Army Citadel. From that point, the route depends on where the group is going to end its procession, which changes each year. A closing service is held after the walk and is followed by a time of fellowship. Traditionally, coffee, tea and hot crossed buns are served.

The walk speaks to different individuals for different reasons. Reverend Naomi Kabugi from St Albans Anglican Church joined the walk for her first year. "I think what I like about the walk is that Jesus meets us where we are. It also speaks to each of us in our own brokenness, reflecting his own."

Major Rick Pollard from the Salvation Army Church had his own theory. "Following the Cross symbolizes for me a tree of love that connects us as a community to the heart of God... because He loves us all the same."



Austin Daleman leading the Procession of the Cross down Third Line