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Metroland file photos

A stretch of vacant storefronts has been replaced by new businesses in downtown Acton. The plan to revitalize the downtown has seen nine new businesses open in the past eight months.

## NEW BUSINESS OPENINGS HIGHLIGHT DOWNTOWN ACTON REVITALIZATION

HERB GARBUTT  
hgarbutt@metroland.com

Early last summer there was a stretch of Mill Street in Acton, between John and Willow streets, that looked deserted. Five stores in a row sat vacant. Ironically, the stretch of empty stores was literally steps away from the Downtown Acton Business Improvement Area (BIA) office.

Today, four of those five stores are filled with new businesses, including the Plant Society Kitchen, a vegan restaurant that opened in December.

Owner Allison Mateo did her homework before choosing to set up shop in Acton. She found the rent was affordable for a startup business, the town was centrally located to several other larger centres, and she was struck by

how much traffic flowed through the town each day.

But most of all, it was the location.

"It was love at first site," she said. "I could see the vision and it was a good feeling to see it come to life."

Downtown Acton BIA manager Tyler King said the restaurant is a great example of a "modern, forward-looking business cham-

pioned by a young entrepreneur."

Robert Sawicki opened Tic-Toc Watch and Clock Repair in September at the corner of Main and Mill Street. He has been repairing timepieces for 30 years and most recently was repairing watches in his basement. When he started looking for a location

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