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Broadcaster Stu Holloway, company spokesman for the olde Hide House, stands beside an historic plaque at the entrance to Canada's largest leather store.

Hide House has distinctive air

The distinctive smell of leather fills the air in the olde Hide House in Acton. That's not unusual given the massive inventory of fine leather garments and furniture which occupies the historic build-

The smell of leather, however, isn't the only feature which gives the former tannery warehouse a definite air of distinction. "History, quality, friendly service and excellent selection" are all part of the package offered at the olde Hide House, Stu Holloway, director of tourism and public relations, said during an interview last week.

"It's indisputably the largest leather store in Canada," Holloway said of the renovated tannery warehouse, where visitors can discover over 10,000 fine leather and suede garments and accessories for men, women and children, plus the largest display of quality leather furniture in this part of Canada.

Tanner's Table, a classy 250-seat country restaurant.

All of these features add to the distinction of the large building, which was built in 1899 of half a million bricks. Holloway said the building offers a full acre of shopping space, if the upper gallery is

"This is really more an experience than just shopping," Holloway said. "It's like a giant general store featuring leather.'

The olde Hide House draws close to 4,000 visitors to Acton every year. "People are looking for quality at a reasonable price," Holloway said, noting that the recession has placed even more importance on quality and value for the shopping dollar.

Customers can be assured of quality and affordability at the olde Hide House, Holloway said. "That's why our return rate is so

Under the same roof is Jack high. We can offer products that are 10 to 30 per cent less expensive than the big city stores because of our location," he stressed.

> A one-day, in-store survey conducted last August by Festival Country, an area tourism authority, found that 97 per cent of customers. visiting the store said they "would come back." The olde Hide House also scored 89 per cent in an 'overall satisfaction' rating by visitors.

> Holloway said the company is pleased with its location and wants to see Acton grow in the years ahead. There are eight divisions in the company, including the olde Hide House, The Lifetime Furniture Gallery, Jack Tanner's Table; and two companion stores, The Flight- Line Leather Store and Leathertown West Wear-House. Also in the Halton Hills group of companies are Blue Springs Golf Club, Blue Springs Estates and North Halton Construction.

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