

Bountiful Christmas thanks to caring Acton residents

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
Acton residents outdid themselves this holiday season with donations of food and money for the needy. "The outpouring of food and money was just tremendous," said Joan Waldie in an interview last Wednesday. Waldie, co-ordinator of Acton FoodShare, said no one went hungry this Christmas, thanks to generous donors.

"We had a man donate turkeys

and we were able to provide food and toys to everyone who needed help. We were able to provide food to all of the people who did not get Christmas hampers through the church or service club program. It was a good Christmas. I was overwhelmed that so many people gave so willingly."

Waldie said that thanks to donations of money and things like gloves and socks from Marzo Glove and Lavoie Knitting, FoodShare is in pretty good shape heading into the New Year.

"The givings are always down in January, February and March but we will be OK. Thank you Acton."

Heather Lambert, spokesperson for the Acton Salvation Army also had thanks for Acton donors.

"We handed out 120 Christmas hampers this year with the help of the I.O.D.E., Acton Rotary and St. Vincent de Paul. We really appreciate the generosity of Acton people who helped make the holidays happier for a lot of needy families."

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Developers want to build hundreds of homes

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Developers in Acton east, including Coscan Developments, Goldfan Holdings and Rinarin, want to build hundreds of homes on the east side of Churchill Road, both north and south of Highway 7. The developments have approval from council but were deferred by the Ministry of Housing because of objections from Canada Packers and owners of 20 acres of land near Fairy Lake off Elmore Drive.

The developers involved are all opposing each other's proposals because there is only limited water and sewage capacity available for growth and each wants their share. Keith said he doubts that Council will be able to deal with the long and complex reports in one night and predicts a second public meeting will have to be heard. At press time, four delegations had registered to speak at the meeting.

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NEWS SHORTS

We didn't do it!

By way of apology, Halton police asked the Tanner to report that two Acton men, arrested on Mill Street at Main Street during rush hour last Tuesday, are not guilty of any crime.

Twenty-five-year-old Shane Westwood and 24-year-old David Neal were arrested in the driveway of their apartment at 32 Mill Street by police who thought they had broken into the pro shop at Blue Springs Golf Club on Dublin Line.

The incident began last Tuesday afternoon when an alarm at the pro shop went off. As police arrived they saw a vehicle leave the parking lot and radioed to another cruiser to follow it as they had found broken glass and signs of a forced entry.

Police followed the suspect car to the Mill Street address and made the arrest. Both suspects denied any involvement in the break and enter, but admitted they had been at the club.

Both men were cleared of all charges when the investigation revealed the broken glass was from a break-in Saturday, Dec. 12 and had been left for the insurance adjuster to see.

Acton, Rockwood suicides

Police said they are not surprised by the separate suicides of two local men over the holidays.

"There always is an increase of this type of thing during the holidays, when depressed people see everyone else having a wonderful Christmas and New Year holiday," said Guelph OPP Constable Charley Hunter in an interview Monday.

"We get the suicides over the holidays and the domestics increase in January when the bills from Christmas come in. It's sad but it is very true and predictable."

Hunter said the investigation into the death of a 25-year-old Rockwood man, who killed himself by jumping in front of a westbound Via passenger train, has been closed. The man was hit by a westbound train at County Road 27 at 5:30 on Sunday.

Halton police report a 33-year-old Acton man, despondent over his personal life and a job loss, killed himself by attaching a vacuum hose to his exhaust pipe overnight Friday.

He was found by an employee of the Acton Cemetery Saturday morning, slumped over the wheel of his car.

Galvcast gas guzzlers

Halton police are investigating an aborted gas theft at Galvcast on Commerce Court early Saturday morning.

Police were called by a Galvcast employee, who saw two men drive into the parking lot and take several objects to a gasoline storage tank at the back of the building.

The suspects had taken off into the woods behind the building before police arrived but they left behind their car.

It was traced to a Milton woman who said she had lent it to her brother and did not know anything about an unloaded pellet gun found under the seat.

The investigation continues.

Cage curtains culprits

A mesh cage foiled thieves who broke into the VK Gas Bar New Year's Eve.

Police report the culprit(s) smashed a glass window on the east side of the building but could not get to the cash register or the confectionery items because of the mesh enclosure.

Police have no suspects or witnesses.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I've been notified that someone in my family was killed because of impaired driving and although it was a couple of years ago, I still remember that day, that minute. I'll never forget it."

— Tom Chapman, Halton Sergeant, page 5

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright's first airplane flight travelled 852 feet in 59 seconds. Eighty years later, track star Edwin Moses covered more than 1399 feet (400 metres) in just 47.02 seconds — running — over hurdles.

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