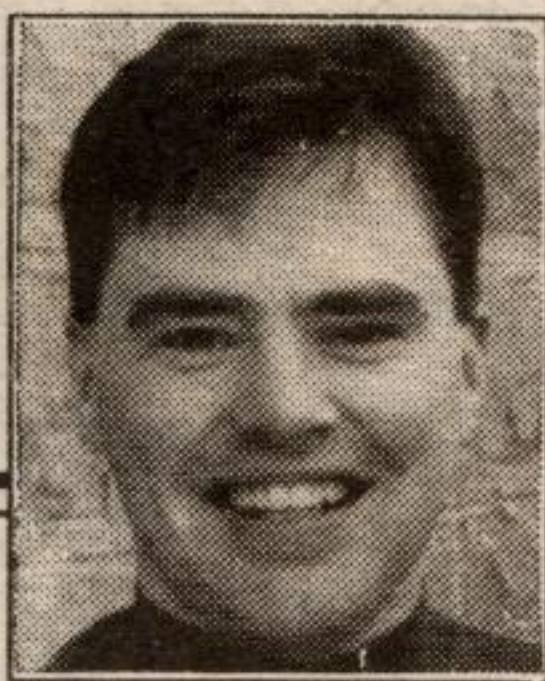


EDITORIAL

With Paul Nolan



Not without a fight

A bad week? That's a bit of an understatement.

"It's NOT worth the drive to Acton!" I must have heard that witty little phrase a dozen times last week. Give us a break!

The closing of the Hide House, Jack Tanner's Table, Flight-Line and Leathertown West Wearhouse rips a huge hole in the side of a community that couldn't afford any more knocks.

As I enter the *Tanner* offices here at 7 Mill East, I find that I'm still surprised when I see the big windows covered to conceal the insides of what used to be Flight-Line. I've grown so accustomed to looking in and waving to our downstairs neighbours on my way in to work; this definitely will take some time to accept.

But it seems like a lot of wasted energy worrying about what life will be like without the Hide House, when there's still a reasonable chance that it will re-open.

Hide House management continues to work on a proposal for restructuring, and when this presentation goes before the company's creditors (especially the C.I.B.C.) the future of a business, a family and a community will be at stake.

People ask me, What would Acton be without the Hide House?

Well, I don't really know — no one does — but the prospects are bad. It's time for this town to rally around a business that has meant so much to us all.

And while the Hide House has meant a lot to Acton over the past 12 years, it has a more-important role to play in the community's future.

After all, there won't be any "Leathertown" if there isn't any leather. Beardmore is long gone (a blow from which Acton still has not recovered), and if we lose the Hide House we'd better come up with a new monicker.

The *Tanner's* Quote of the Week last issue came from councillor Rick Bonnette, and it bears repeating: "We have to be positive. If anybody's capable of restructuring, Steve and Don Dawkins will lead the way."

So what can you do to help? Probably not much, at this time. But stay tuned. We can't give this up without a fight.

Has anyone else heard the Old Mill ads on area radio stations? Pretty scary stuff.

The Kitchener station I was listening to on Saturday must have played the promo a thousand times. While competitors have come and gone, the ads states, the Old Mill continues to operate as Canada's leading leather goods outlet. The ad goes on to remind us that "It's worth the trip to Blythe."

I just had to call Glenyce Snell at the Old Mill about this timely marketing campaign.

When I questioned her yesterday, Glenyce was up to the challenge: "We've been in business 32 or 33 years; how long have they (the olde Hide House) been in business? Fifteen years? And we are the people who came up with the phrase "It's worth the trip" — not Acton. It was Acton who copied us!"

LETTERS

Meeting tonight

To the Editor,

The great community of Acton has suffered a blow with the closing of the olde Hide House and its related stores.

While work goes on behind the scenes to see if the doors can be reopened, the closure has underscored, for many, the fact that Acton is not getting its share of the economic recovery.

How can we change? What can we do to stimulate growth and development in the town of Acton? And at the same time, how do we address the concerns people have for the environment, and the process of warding off the quarry dump?

A Town Hall meeting tonight, Wednesday, June 23, could provide a forum to discuss these issues. I invite everyone concerned about Acton's future to join me for that discussion.

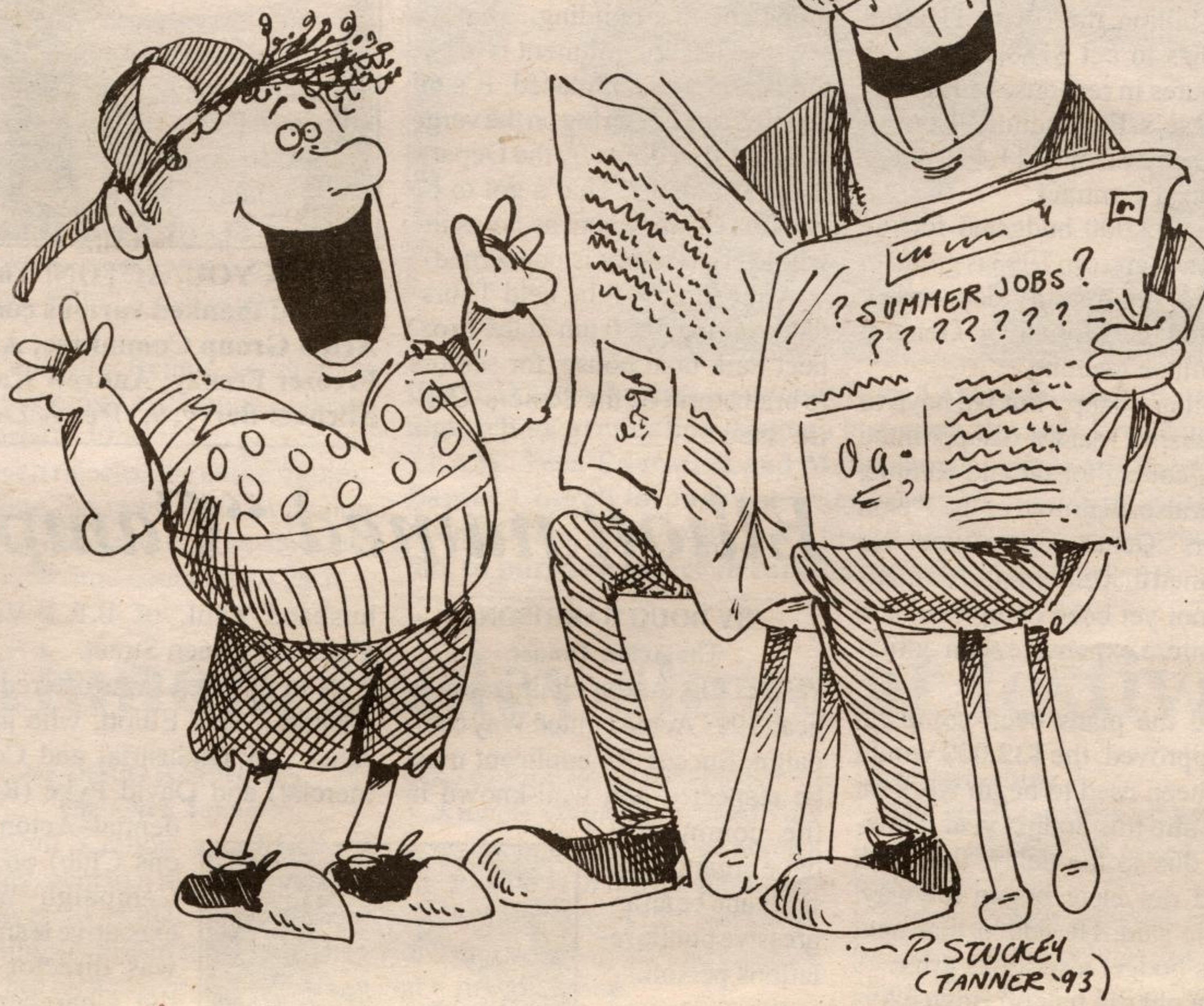
The meeting tonight will begin at 7:30 pm, and take place in the Cafetorium at Acton High School. I hope to see you there.

Garth Turner, MP
Halton-Peel

HEY, DAD! I JUST PUT AN APPLICATION IN FOR CARRYING NEWSPAPERS! THEY SAID THEY'D CALL ME TODAY— MAYBE I WILL HAVE A SUMMER JOB!

GREAT, SON.

AWW... I WANTED THAT JOB.



LETTERS

O.H.H. — Spirit of our community

To the Editor,

The olde Hide House, which opened in 1980, has been expanding slowly and steadily since its inception.

The building in which the store and restaurant are housed has been beautifully restored to reflect the town's leather heritage, but it's the business itself that is the heart and the soul of the community.

And not just through the people

it employs but through the support it generously extends to community and volunteer groups, the encouragement to fellow merchants and the huge influx of visitors it generates.

The devastating impact the closing of the olde Hide House, West Wearhouse, Flight-Line and Jack Tanner's Table will have affects the very existence of our community and will have far-reaching repercussions throughout the region.

We are disappointed that the financial institution involved may not have considered the whole picture. This business represents the spirit of our community; we support it passionately.

Janis Fread
Halton Hills Tourism Committee

Same results

To the Editor,

It is with a sense of shock that the news about the olde Hide House is bad, that they are closed pending financial restructuring.

The truth of the matter is that they, along with all other business, have an intolerable amount of tax and government regulations working to put them, and most other small firms, out of business.

Herewith a copy of part of my letter written last year concerning the same thing:

A phone call tells me that our governments have struck again. A new farmers' market was to open on Hwy. 7 this coming weekend, I

believe.

Can you think of a worse crime to commit? Just think — a new service for the people in Acton, provided by people who *only think* that free enterprise is alive and well in Canada.

The death of this small enterprise, at the hands of our governments, really signals the demise of the free enterprise system.

Just think — one can no longer even open up any kind of enterprise without the great white fathers having to be consulted, and rear ends kissed.

Different letter, different firms, same result.

John Shadbolt
Tidy Avenue

Sale success

To the Editor,

The Acton Citizens' Band wishes to thank everyone who supported our garage sale, both by

"giving and receiving."

It was a huge success. Thank you.

"The Band"

THE ACTON Tanner

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