



BUSY GRADS: These McKenzie-Smith students received school letters for extra-curricular activity last Monday at the school's 1993 Commencement celebration at the Legion. Front row, left to right are Nick Vancek, Melissa Ford, Pamela Goy, Jen Johnson, Jaime McCoig, Yvonne Hendry, Heather Ambrose, Scott MacDonald and Robert Turpin. Back row from left are Craig Worsfield, Richie Dalziel, Jon Routledge, Don Jones, Jamie Birrell, Wendy Jones, Denise Katsilieris and Mike Morrow. (Doug Harrison photo)

Acton Precision works around the clock

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

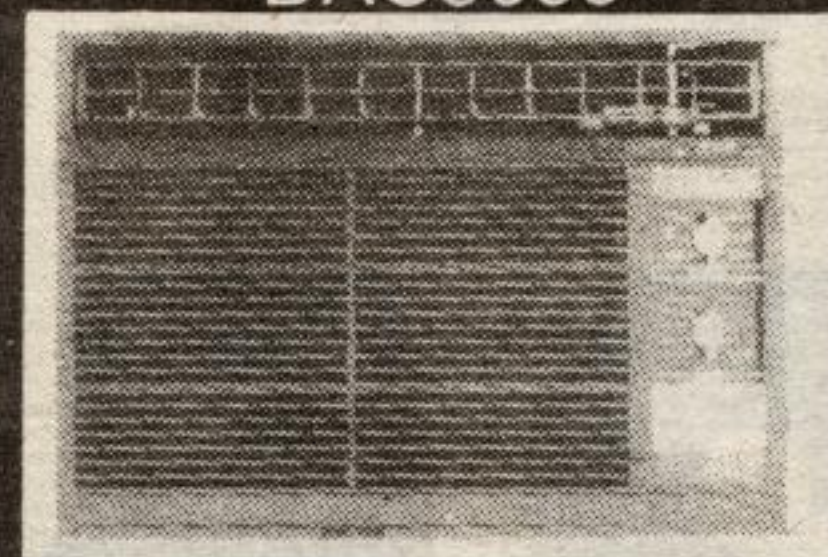
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Acton Precision Millwrights struggled through the doldrums of the recession.

Unlike others, though, they inched their way free and took a giant step up the ladder — with record-type production.

Working alongside Rose Technology of Willowdale, Acton Precision has completed the first phase of a project to install boiler plants into 34 Metro Toronto Board special education schooling facilities.

Working close to 24 hours, seven days a week, Acton Precision's dedicated and aggressive approach has produced 17 of the self-contained units in just 10 weeks, the target set when the two-year, \$40,000 contract with Rose was signed in late April.

"It's really something to come in on a Sunday morning at 6:30 and see the guys already working away and then see them depart with everyone else at midnight," admired general manager Alec Kitson at a special meeting at Acton Precision last Wednesday.

"The guys don't want to be anywhere else," he added. "They're soaking it up right now.

"We were talking and thinking about recession last year," said Kitson of Acton Precision, which employed 12 last year and ballooned to a current 35. "We decided to change our approach and get aggressive.

"Seventy-five per cent of what we do now we did differently last year. We can do practically anything thrown at us and have it done instantly."

Along with the Royal Bank, Ontario Hydro and the provincial energy environmental industry made contributions to the project.

"If they hadn't come to the party, we would've been white-knuckling financing," said Kitson.

Acton councillor Gerald Rennie said it's nice, after the shocking closure of the Hide House, to have some good news pass through Acton.

"I really think we're moving into the 21st century," revealed Rennie. "We're looking for our businesses in town to be attractive and I'm glad Acton Precision is here and doing well. It's providing employment and is an impetus of hope for the future."

Odd jobs for students

TIM MORGETROYD

The Acton Tanner

The good news for Acton students looking for summer work is there are more jobs than last year, but they will have to stay close to their phones and be ready on short notice.

"It's quite a bit better than last year for jobs available, but students are having to take two-to-three jobs this year instead of one job," says Kathryn Marshall, student placement officer at the Canada Employment Centre for Students in Georgetown.

"It's been great," said Marshall of the number of students interested in registering for the increased number of job vacancies. "We have 100 students signed up from Halton Hills for odd jobs this

summer; about 75 to 80 per cent are from Georgetown."

"We've been getting mostly odd jobs for Acton: baby-sitting and temporary work like grass cutting and haying. Jobs that last anywhere from two days to two weeks," said Marshall, who predicts the local job market for students will stay this way through July. "In July we will be fairly busy with odd jobs phoned in that morning," and hopefully the number of calls will stay this good through the rest of summer.

Marshall reminds students there is a job binder at the Acton Social Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) which her Georgetown-based Centre keeps up-to-date. Also, registration cards for Acton students are at ASSIC and are picked up by the Georgetown Employment Centre.

Acton students do have to go to Georgetown for help with their resume writing, or learning job interviewing skills.

"They can come in anytime they need help," said Marshall, adding that her Centre recently came to Acton for a seminar sponsored by the YMCA which explained resume writing students.

If enough students are interested in having another seminar in Acton they can sign a list in the job binder at the ASSIC offices, said Marshall.

Ted Lyons, president of Acton Precision, expects to hire 10 to 12 people in the near future. If the \$400,000 of new orders he received from Monday to Wednesday afternoon of last week is any indication, you can bet it will be sooner rather than later.

"When you hire our hands, you also hire our brains," said Lyons of the local company founded in 1987.



HUGE PROJECT: Surrounding a couple of AERCO plants are from left, Acton Councillor Gerald Rennie; Ted Lyons, Acton Precision Millwrights president and general manager Alec Kitson. (Doug Harrison photo)

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