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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1993



BOOKS PUT A SMILE ON HER FACE

Acton Librarian Marie Vickery holds her favourite childhood book, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. She also agrees with Michael J. Fox that we should all read more.
(Tim Morgetroyd photo)

Hide House deadline nears

BY TIM MORGETROYD
The Acton Tanner

With the deadline now only eight days away, the management of the old Hide House remain busy ironing out the plan they hope will reopen the doors.

July 22 is the final date to submit the financial restructuring plan they have been given 30 days to complete if the business is to avoid

bankruptcy, "so we've got a lot of work to do in the next couple of weeks," said Hide House president Steve Dawkins Friday.

Dawkins added there were no new developments to report last week, but with time running out to prepare a plan that will impress creditors he and his remaining staff continue to be "cautiously optimistic."

"It's just a continuation of the process. There have been no milestones, or end to this phase of the process," said Dawkins of the month-long process of "legal suspended animation" his business has been in since the doors closed last month. If his plan is approved by creditors the old Hide House will be back in business and Acton can keep its "Leathertown" nickname.

Last month's devastating closing cost 115 employees their jobs, and if the doors stay locked the estimated 500,000 tourists the leather goods company draws to Acton yearly will be lost.

Among the tourists most disappointed are the Japanese exchange students who arrived in Acton yesterday, said the Acton organizer of the trip.

"Almost everything here is cheaper than in Japan," said trip coordinator Marilyn Rognvaldson. "The students were looking forward to going to the Hide House because leather is very popular and very expensive in Japan," she

CNIB fundraising angers Councillor

BY TIM MORGETROYD
The Acton Tanner

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott warned fund-raisers who go too far that their tactics will "backfire" as a request to stop cars on a local street with a road toll to collect donations failed to win support from Monday's council.

"When I read this (proposal) I thought of people getting tired of 'in your face' fundraising events like this," said Elliott. "I have to speak against the idea in the strongest terms."

The "Roll or Toll" idea of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind was for volunteers wearing safety vests, and posting signs ahead of the area where cars could stop, to ask drivers pulling into safety lanes for donations to help blind Canadians. The driver would be given a 'thank you' card to display on their car dash boards so other volunteers wouldn't approach them for a second donation.

Councillors were doubtful the enthusiastic volunteers would stay on the sidewalks as promised and keep out of traffic, and following Coun. Elliott's protest rejected the idea.

The CNIB letter to council said it borrowed the concept from the

CNIB Hamilton-Wentworth district office, which raised \$3,692 last year with this event.

"I find this offensive. It's a strange thing," Coun. Elliott told Council. "They say they'll raise \$3,000. I think people contribute out of a sense of embarrassment, but it will backfire on (the organizers)."

Centralized fire services are one step closer

A big step toward establishing a regional fire department dispatch system was taken by Town Council Monday as it gave the green light to a feasibility study of the idea.

Council authorized Halton Hills Fire Department to participate in the study exploring a linking of its communications with Burlington, Oakville and Milton fire departments, as well as pinpointing other opportunities for consolidation of these fire services.

"Is this going to cost us any more down the road?" Acton Councillor Gerald Rennie asked Fire Chief Bill Cunningham. The

answer was that no money except staff time would be involved, but Chief Cunningham added a note of caution by admitting if any costs were hiding in the future they could not be predicted.

Council was satisfied with the Chief's briefing on the merit of regional fire departments comparing notes on advantages and disadvantages of centralizing service, which Oakville's Deputy Town Manager and Fire Chief were directed to initiate in May 1993.

The report which began as in-depth discussions between Oakville and Halton Region will
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