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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1993

## Thief fleeing with stolen goods caught by witness

BY TIM MORGETROYD

The Acton Tanner

A 15-year-old Oakville girl was arrested Monday morning for a badly bungled robbery attempt of

Acton Arcade after a witness flagged down a vehicle the young hitchhiker was making her escape in.

A window of the Arcade on

Mill Street W was smashed with a rock about 3:45 am Monday by the suspect, allowing her to enter the building and stuff her coat with 26 bags of potato chips and two bins of candy.

The suspect casually walked into a nearby donut store, her coat bulging with stolen chip bags and candy instead of fleeing the scene.

An employee of Acton Arcade was in the donut store and when he recognized some of the stolen snacks as Arcade goods, he phoned the manager of the Arcade. The manager then phoned police.

Before police officers arrived the girl left the store and was walking southbound on Main Street when a witness to the break-in spotted her. The witness followed her and watched her trying to hitch a ride, but when a vehicle picked her up he flagged down the driver before she could escape.

The witness told the driver what he had seen the suspect do, convincing him to turn the vehicle around and take the girl back to wait for police.

There was \$100 damage to the Arcade window, and the suspect was scheduled for a bail hearing later that day.

## Acton businesses still 'hanging on'

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Acton beating the recession. It depends on development, maybe a little more impulse buying and the state of the olde Hide House.

This is the general consensus among five downtown merchants and Bob Malcolmson, president of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, who four weeks ago felt Acton businesses were "hanging on by their fingernails" and on the verge of closing shop.

"We need development," Malcolmson says bluntly. "You just drive down the highway and see what's for sale and what's closed.

"In general when times are tough, people don't want to cut the grass and throw away the garbage because it depresses the situation even more. All Halton Hills is in tough times, but we have to take a positive approach to development and not a pessimistic one."

"People are more cautious in what they buy; they're thinking more practically," says Charlie Kinal of Home Hardware. "But there's less impulse buying. A lot of people are still feeling the pinch. But our business is far better than last year. It all hinges on develop-

ment, though."

"The delays with process in government hurts the chances of development," Malcolmson mentions.

"It comes down to whether the business owner wants to renovate or feed his family ... he's going to feed the family," explains Malcolmson, who adds that 42 business members of the HHCC have closed or moved — some out of the province — in the last year.

But it all seems to revolve on what type of business you have and/or what time of the year it is.

"In our type of store (convenience), the summers are always better because campers are moving in and business is generated," says Jug City co-owner Taufiq Ali. "I think the real test will be in the winter when convenience store owners all depend on tourist traffic from the Hide House."

Halton Hills Furniture and Appliances owner Ron Kuiken's mind has been a whirlwind for the past few weeks, trying to gauge the situation.

"If you asked me three weeks ago, I would have said there was no recession. We were extremely

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GOOD BYE FRIENDS: Japanese exchange student Eiji Koyanagi said thank you to his Acton host family by singing the Beatles' song Hey Jude during the students' "Sayonara" party for host families Aug. 9 at Georgetown District High School. They flew back to Japan the next morning. (Tim Morgetroyd photo)

## Rumours encouraging for Hide House

BY TIM MORGETROYD

The Acton Tanner

People across Ontario confused by misunderstood news reports and rumours believe the olde Hide House has reopened and now the phone is ringing off the hook, says Hide House management.

"People are calling now thinking we're open," said company president Steve Dawkins on Monday. "We're getting up to 20 calls a day wishing to know when we're reopening, and inquiring about our hours of operation."

Dawkins says the phone calls

are "very encouraging" because they reveal "a lot of public interest out there in our projected reopening.

"There are frequent news reports on our progress appearing in newspapers and on radio stations

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