

# Santa needs Acton's help

BY RICK SOUTAR  
The Acton Tanner

This year Santa's belt may be a little tighter as recession-weary sponsors are unable to provide the same level of support as in previous years of the annual Acton Firefighters Association Santa Claus Parade.

Retired firefighter Bill Spielvogel said last week the Firefighters have lost money sponsoring the event for the past two years. The association has also lost money on the Canada Day fireworks they sponsor.

"We run the parade for the citizens of Acton and the surrounding areas. It's not a money-making thing — as a matter of fact we're losing money on it," Spielvogel said on Sunday.

"We're going to continue to put this parade on," he said, although he says that community support is essential to make the event a success.

"We can't afford to put on a parade like this (without donations). It doesn't seem like it costs much money but it really does cost a few bucks," Spielvogel said.

Last year the parade cost more than \$4,000. The Firefighter's Association lost over \$1,000 on the event.

This year donations have been slow coming in, as have the number

of floats, bands and dignitaries which are entered in the parade. So far less than five floats and three bands are registered, and the parade is less than three weeks away.

Spielvogel says the response has been slow partly because information packages were mailed later than usual, but mostly because people don't have as much money.

"Let's face it, people are hurting. It doesn't matter what you say in the paper, people have been hurting for sure," Spielvogel explained.

The Hide House was a major supporter of the parade in previous years but this year they were unable to commit any funds or support because of their debt problems. Spielvogel says he understands that the olde Hide House has to concentrate on their own financial problems this year.

He is still hopeful that he can put together a parade that includes at least four bands and 40 floats.

Spielvogel is appealing to anyone interested in participating to put in an application for a float, or send in a donation quickly.

He says the parade involves a lot of effort from everyone involved but in the end it's worth it.

"I'm a Christmas person, and I just love the Santa Claus parade. If you walk down the street and see the smiles on the parents, and the smiles on the kids when Santa Claus comes along, it's one of the nicest things in the world."

"It's just magnificent."



**MIGHTY MOUSE:** Caitlin Ingles, 5, was busy cutting a paper bat at the Acton Library on Friday when we caught her during the Halloween Howl festivities. The little mouse was making her ghost-pumpkin-bat treat holder as well as participating in Halloween games. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Skate swap at Robert Little

### ROBERT LITTLE NEWS

BY ERIN LINTON & KENDALL BROWN

read next week's report in *The Tanner*.

Well they did it again! All of us here at Robert Little are proud of our Blue Jays.

On Thursday, Oct. 28 we had our parade. On Saturday there will be a skate exchange.

We have started "caught ya's." This week they were for playground politeness. All the classes have been doing Halloween activities.

Also, on Friday, Nov. 19 we will be getting our report cards to bring home. Some people are getting excited for the Santa Claus Parade, which will be on Nov. 20.

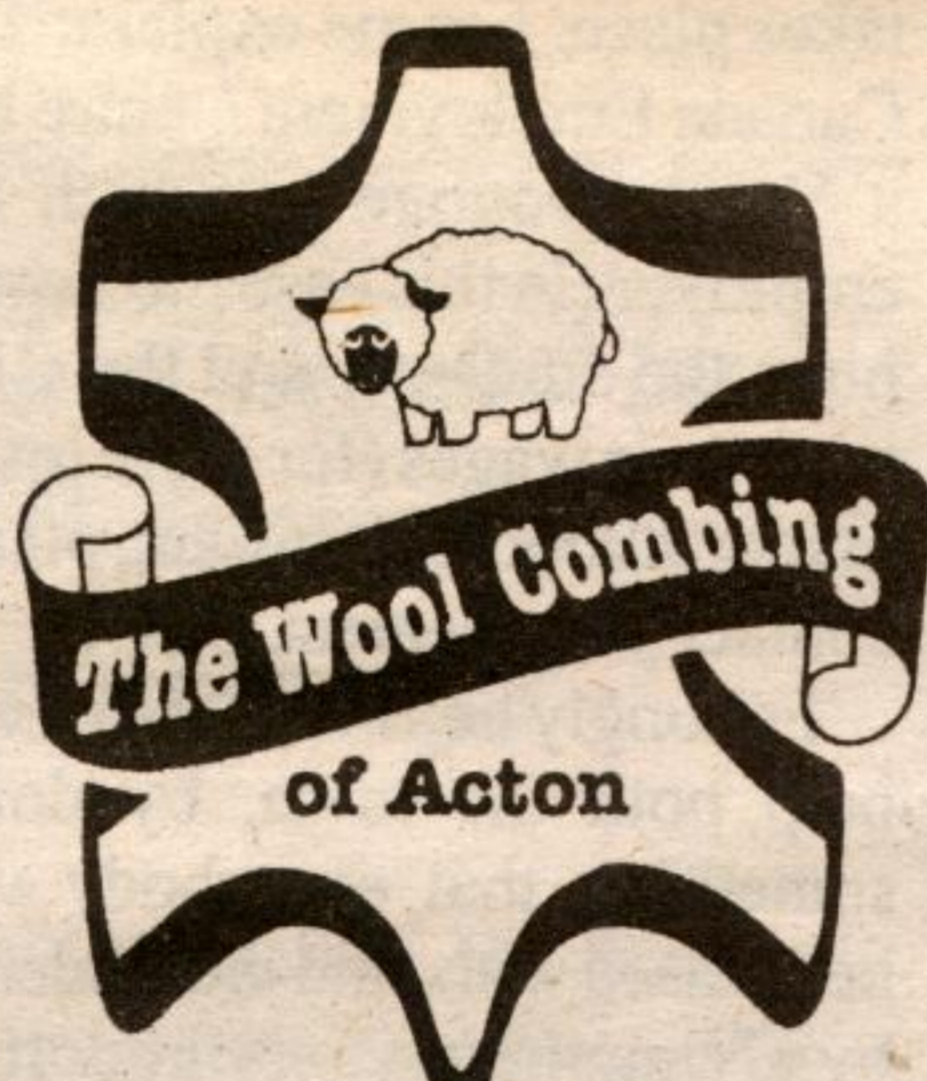
On Nov. 24, 25 kids' parents will be coming in for interviews. Also, on Nov. 24, 25, 26 and 27, we are having our book fair.

Well, if you would like to hear more about our school, you should

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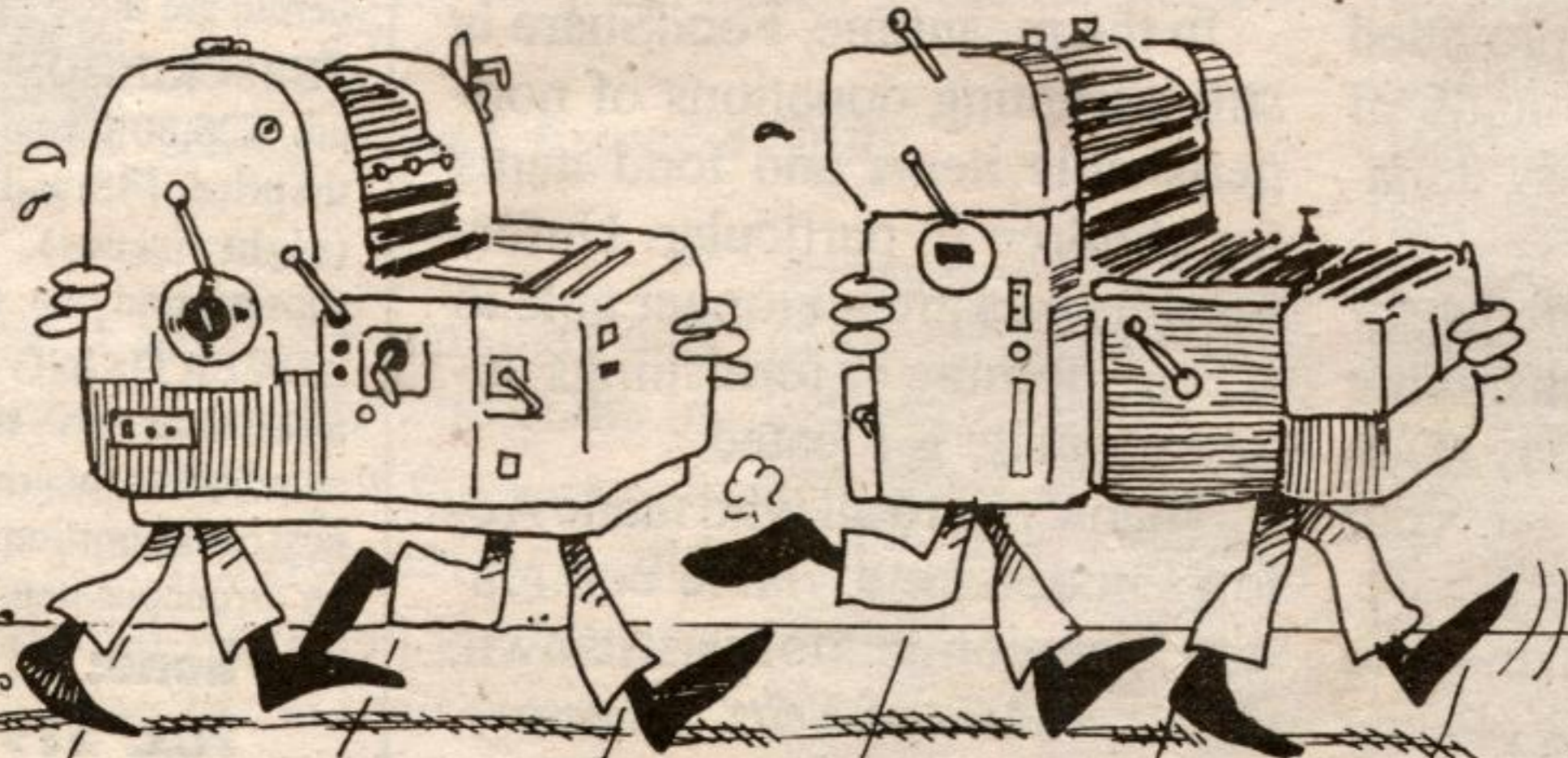
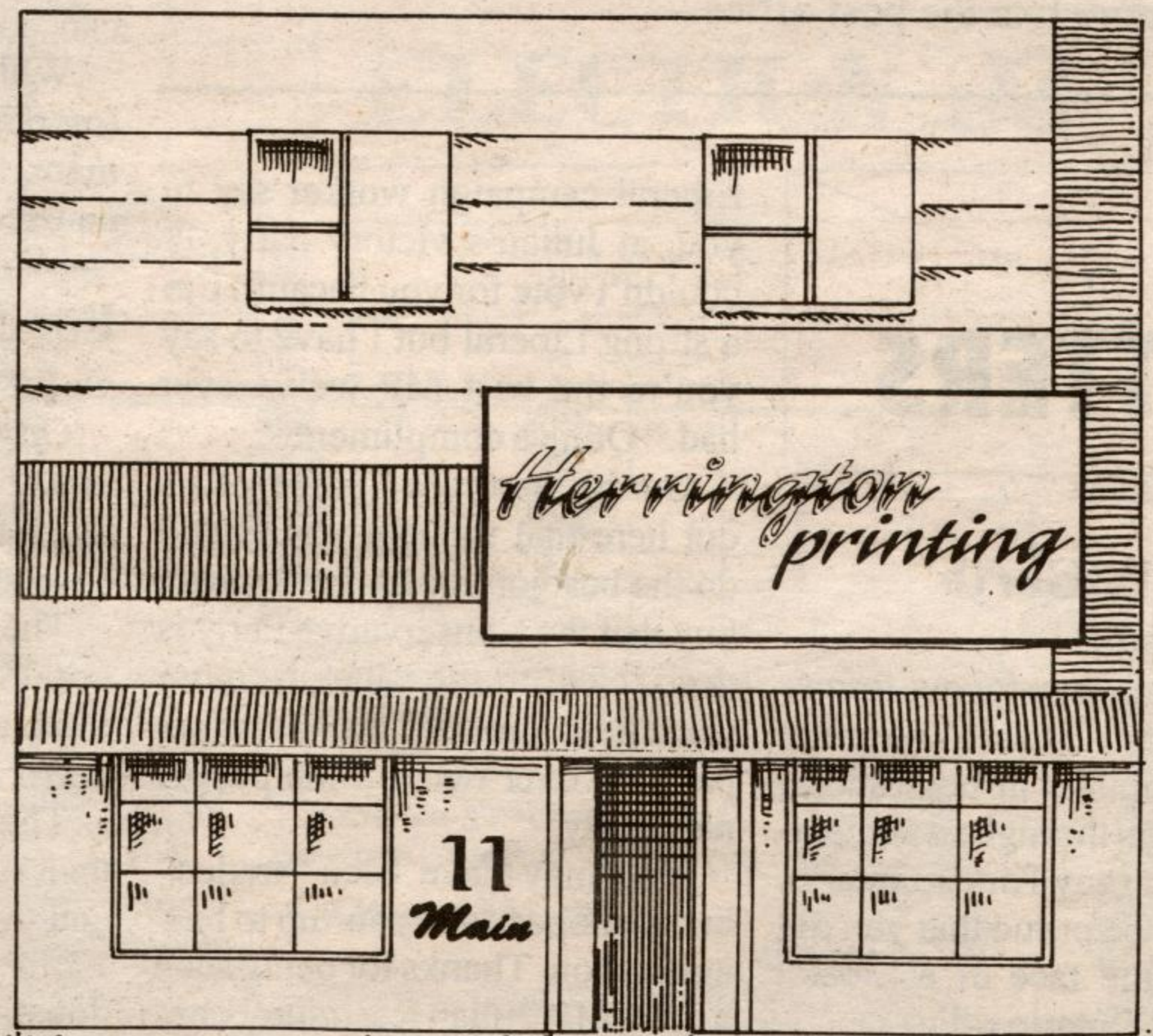
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Yes It's Worth Staying In Acton!