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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1993



COMING THROUGH: Acton High Senior Girls' hoop star Jenny Goy drives to the basket during her team's 49-38 loss to Aldershot on Thursday in Acton. Teammate Dagmar Munnich follows the play. (Doug Harrison photo)

Downtown Acton a 'ghost town?'

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

To some, downtown Acton is perceived as something of a ghost town, lacking a number of standard shops that thrive in other communities. No sports store, no shoe store ... the list can go on.

While some business people attribute the number of empty storefronts to a tough economy, others point their fingers at a government choke-hold.

Four Acton merchants interviewed recently see the empty downtown lots four different ways.

Hide House president Steve Dawkins feels it could be several years before there's any Acton development and is concerned about the downtown core.

"It is an unfortunate problem that feeds on itself," he says. "It's clearly more difficult for merchants of stores to continue operating downtown and convince people to shop if there's a perception of less there."

Dawkins says his company's old FlightLine store has usable floor space that is recently and extensively renovated. He sees anything from a clothing or a combination clothing and footwear store to a restaurant or entertainment facility as suitable for the Mill Street East lot.

Dawkins thinks a lot of people are waiting for the east end of town from a residential and commercial standpoint.

He adds the powers that be in the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings have successfully sand-trapped the Acton development process.

"The situation has as much chance of worsening as it does of getting better," said Dawkins. "It would be nice if the shackles could be taken off from a development

standpoint."

Ken McIsaac, co-owner of K.T. Taxi on Mill Street West, thinks people are being intimidated, hesitant to open businesses downtown because of the hassles they might incur.

"I wonder why you never see vacant storefronts in Georgetown?" McIsaac asks. "I don't know if it's favouritism between the towns or what."

The empty storefront where K.T. Taxi formerly operated was not structurally sound and was considered a fire hazard, forcing the business to move at the end of the summer to its location beside the arcade.

The old building, owned by Toronto's Adalaine Capital Corporation, has recently undergone a cleanup.

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Acton food drive was great success

On Saturday, Scouts, Guides and Calvinist Cadets, along with their parents, relatives and friends, collected over 27,500 pounds of food for food banks in Acton and area.

Hundreds of kids went door to door to help stock the shelves of our food banks as a community service project.

In Acton and Rockwood 8,500 pounds of food was collected for Acton FoodShare. The day started at 9:30 am and by 10:30 the teams were returning to the

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Sewage problem sent back to Region

BY RICK SOUTAR

The Acton Tanner

The owner of a duplex on Bower Avenue appeared before council Monday to win support in his battle with Halton Region over sewage problems.

Doug MacDonald, half-owner of 136 Bower Ave., says the Region has refused to pay \$8,000 in lost rent and damages which was caused by waste backing up into his rental property from the sewer main. He asked council for help in

pressuring the Region into accepting responsibility for the damages.

"I pay my taxes to you people," MacDonald said to council. "I'm just asking for some sort of direction."

MacDonald outlined a history of sewage problems dating back to November 1992 when a tenant complained that the sink and the toilet weren't draining properly. A contractor was called in to clear the drain, but after 75 feet of drain was snaked out MacDonald was

told the problem was in the eight-inch sewer main outside his property line.

MacDonald said he was then billed by the Region, which sent an employee who claimed the blockage was caused by a sanitary napkin 55 feet down the four-inch diameter residential wastepipe.

The problem began again in the spring and the main floor tenant stopped paying rent after raw sewage began coming up through the

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