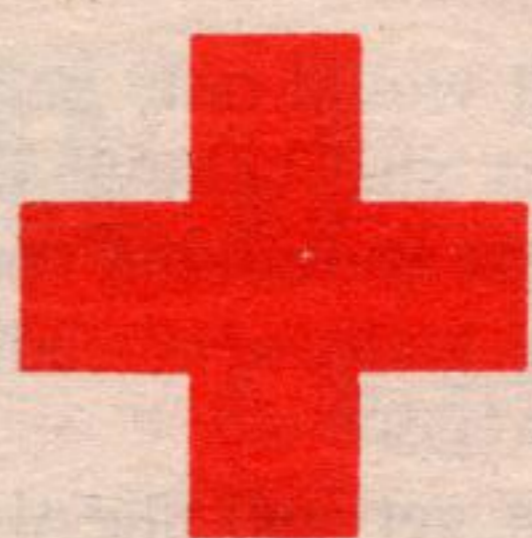


March is Red Cross Month



Acton Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic

Thursday, March 24 from 5 to 8:30 pm at the Acton Legion

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Business group plans strategy

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

They have the people and the plan, but they're still unsure what to call themselves.

They are Acton business people who are concerned about their town's business development situation and all the empty downtown storefronts.

And, for now, they answer to the name "Action for Acton" or

"Acton 2000."

The group has met since January and at their fourth meeting at Andy's Restaurant last Wednesday, they aired their concerns and ideas and finally came up with a focus for future efforts.

Three key issues they will tackle in the coming months are: Urging Actonites and Acton business people to shop locally whenever possible; attracting visitors to Acton by promoting events with the existing touring organizations and addressing the empty storefront issue in town and generally promoting awareness of retail vacancies and assist the Acton Business Improvement Association (BIA) in any number of projects.

"We can't wait for the storefronts to fill up. We have to get aggressive and make the town look like it's thriving," says group member Janis Fread. "We have to get the community more interactive and, once we show that we're an enthusiastic community, more business may become attracted to the town."

"We're looking for ways to encourage people to shop within the

town to boost Acton's economy. For every business or person that leaves town, the whole town becomes weaker," adds group member John Deakin.

One idea the group is excited about is one that has roots in England — bringing a weekly "Trunk Sale" event to town every Saturday morning. It's the brainchild of Acton's Jack Carpenter.

Fread says it's important the group keep its enthusiasm and work on ideas while the enthusiasm is still high.

The name of the group will be determined at the next meeting set for April 6 at Andy's Restaurant at 8 pm.

Also on the agenda will be the election of an executive and filling out the committees with volunteers who will work alongside committee leaders Fread, Deakin and Andy Katsilieris.

"Whether you own a business, work here or live here, we need these people — ones who care about this town — to come out and show they give a damn about the direction Acton is taking," states interim chair Paul Nolan.

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'Hey Ruby' plays tomorrow

ASSIC ALERT

You don't have to go to Toronto to see a professional Theatre production. The Smile Theatre group is coming to Acton one more time!

The Smile Theatre Production is a non-profit, charitable organization that has been presenting fine plays for the past 21 years.

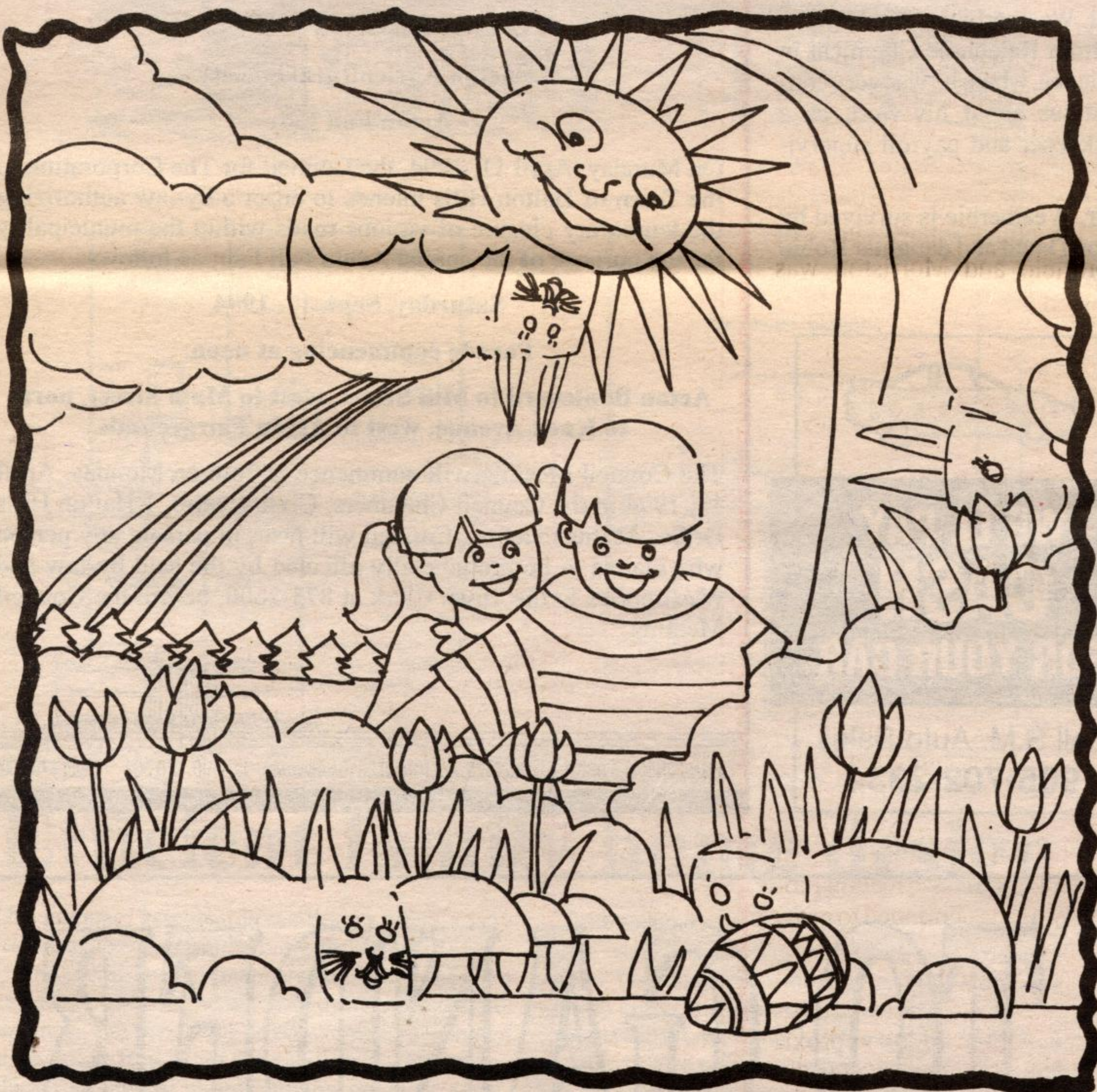
Tomorrow (Thursday) will be the last of three play performances in Acton for this Toronto-based production group. "Hey Ruby" is a dance musical about Halifax's Ruby Keeler, who tapped her way into the hearts of many.

"Hey Ruby" will tap her way

onto the Acton High School stage at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available for the low price of only \$6 each and can be purchased at the school on the evening of the performance.

All proceeds go toward assisting Acton Social Services and Information Centre in offering programs and services within the community. Come alone, bring a friend or the family. Transportation may also be arranged.

For information, tickets or transportation, call Acton Social Services and Information Centre at 853-3310 or visit us at 19 Willow St. N., Acton.



IT'S EASTER FUN TIME AT TIM HORTONS

Colour the picture & you could win a Tim Hortons Easter Bunny cake for you and your family!

Contest open to children ages 3-6, 7-10, 11-14.

Bring your entry to Tim Hortons by March 27.

Prizes will be drawn on March 28.

Three prizes for each age group.

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