

BIA's new signs will promote town

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

A presentation of the urban design development to revitalize the image of Acton's downtown highlighted the Business Improvement Association's (BIA) annual general meeting last Tuesday.

Also, plans to re-design the signs at the four entrances into town and the brackets that connect the downtown's hanging baskets, were discussed as 1994 projects.

Work on downtown street signs will be another priority of the BIA this year. Plans call for a specially designed Acton logo with the street name accompanied by a BIA logo.

"I'm quite pleased with the way the downtown looked last year," says secretary Gerald Rennie. "We pay for the plants and for someone to water them once a day, six days

a week. It's supposed to add colour to the downtown and it's been somewhat successful."

In the last 10 years, the BIA has handled the sweeping of downtown sidewalks and purchased the existing parking lots at Church and Willow Streets, between Daly-Farnworth-McGregor and Four Season's Restaurant and paved the lot beside the Acton Mews.

As well, says BIA board member Dan Dolliver, the glass that covers the "Welcome to Acton" sign has been replaced, completing the work at the parkette at Main and Mill Streets.

"We just finished paying off a \$150,000 loan through the Town that cost us \$16,500 over a 10-year period," reveals Rennie. "There wasn't much left of the levy monies, but we did buy additional Christmas decorations."

One major urban renewal project of the BIA is the facade

improvements to the individual properties in the downtown core. Working with Juris Berzins of Urban Design Consultants of Toronto, Dolliver hopes that in time the downtown businesses will coordinate with each other and will encourage people "to stop, get out of their car and shop in Acton."

However, Dolliver confirms, the BIA is concerned with the empty storefronts on the main street, but points out the group is caught in a *Catch-22* position.

"It would be nice to find tenants for empty buildings, but the BIA can't openly promote or spend a lot of funds for a potential tenant."

This year, Rennie says, the BIA wants to do more in the area of promotion. He adds the BIA will work in co-operation and financially assist the newly formed business group, to be named "Action for Acton" or "Acton 2000," in promoting this community.

Some still without water

It's been the worst winter that most of us can remember, but if you think you have it bad, your neighbours might have it much worse.

Some Acton homes are still without running water as cold temperatures have frozen underground water service pipes.

According to some reports at least 30 homes, on Bower Av-

enue, Wynford Place and other streets in town, have been affected.

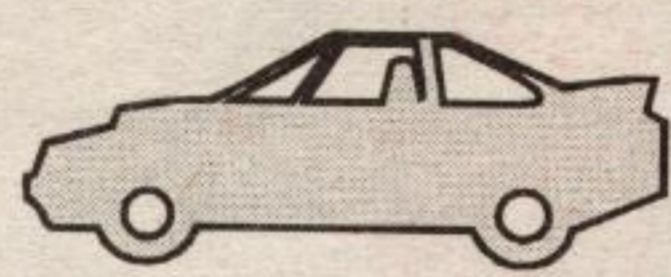
While he was unsure of the Acton numbers, Halton's commissioner of public works told us Monday that the Region has received over 600 frozen water service calls this winter.

"As of March 21 there were still 186 Halton homes with only temporary water connections," said Art Leitch.

The Region's temporary solution has been to run a pipe from a neighbour's tap to the home without water service.

Leitch explained that the Region places water service pipes 5½ feet into the ground, but the frost has been up to six feet deep in the Acton area this winter.

"In my 25 years, it's the first winter I've ever seen anything like this," explained Leitch.



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NEWS SHORTS

Eramosa meat shop burglarized

Thieves broke into Eramosa Meats on Concession 7 between Acton and Rockwood, and stole 200 pounds of meat and a weigh scale sometime during the night last Wednesday. The total value of the goods was estimated at \$1,500.

Rockwood area police say entry was gained by kicking in the front door of the shop. There are no suspects at this time.

Trailer stolen from roadside

A Georgetown contractor lost \$6,500 worth of construction equipment after motor trouble forced him to park a loaded trailer on Highway 7, just west of Rockwood.

The trailer was left on the roadside at around noon Friday, but it had been stolen when the man returned from his Kitchener jobsite Saturday morning to retrieve it. Police said later the contractor should have notified them of his problem and they may have been able to help protect his property.

Car rolled, driver charged

A 23-year-old Oakville man has been charged with unsafe turning after the 1989 Pontiac SSE he was driving left the road, travelled over 30 feet in the air and then skidded over 100 feet on its roof. There were also three male passengers, between 19 and 22-years-old, but no serious injuries were reported.

Police say there were indications the brakes locked up going into a curve on 25 Sideroad, where the accident occurred Saturday night around 2 am.

Car hit by unknown vehicle

A man from Stroud, visiting in Acton, reported to police that his 1987 Honda Accord had been damaged by an unidentified vehicle while it was parked on Cobblehill Road, Sunday between 3:30 and 10 pm. The front fender behind the wheel well was dented and police estimate the damage at \$300.

Car window smashed

A 30-year-old Milton woman reported that the front passenger window of her 1981 Chevette had been smashed in while she was parked in a lot on Commerce Court Thursday, sometime between 5 and 11 pm. Police estimated the damage at \$200.

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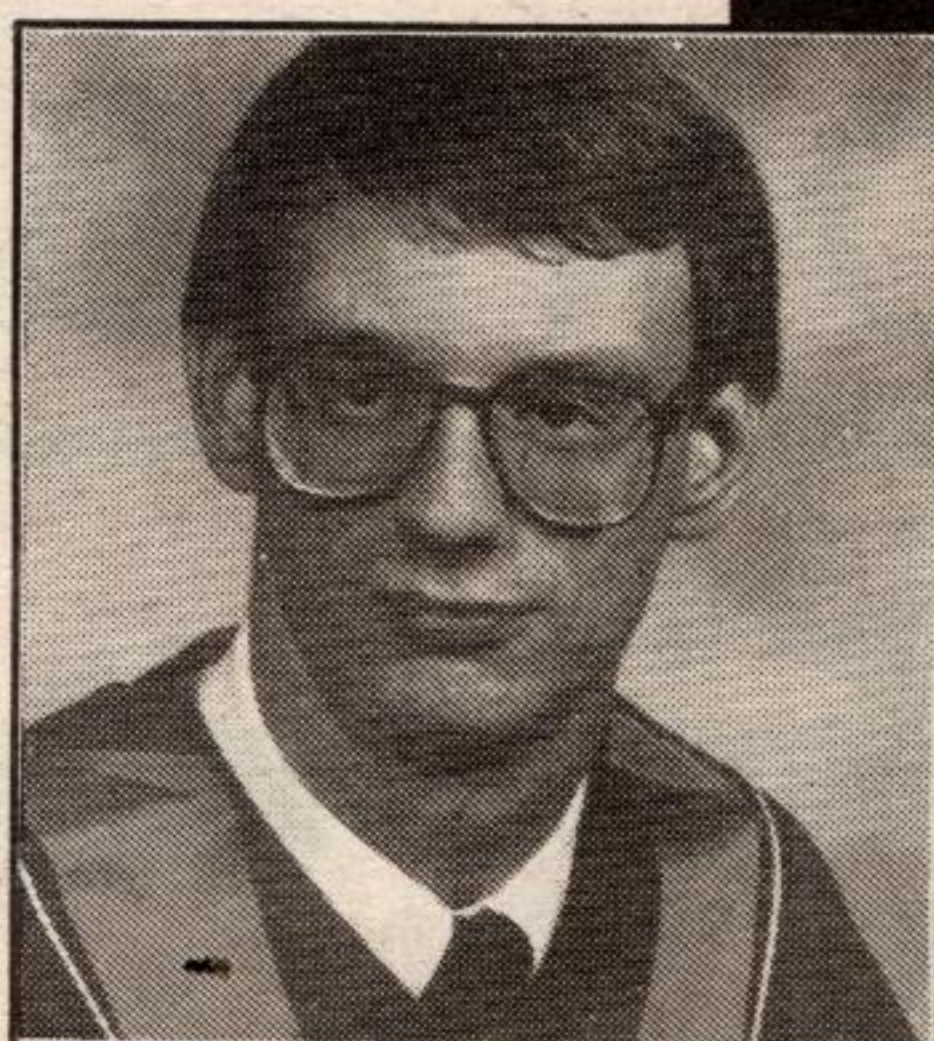
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If they turn me down, I'll turn around and apply again. The more you do it the more you realize it's a good project."

— Tom Cullen, Koinonia chair, Front Page

DID YOU KNOW?

The grandfather of Charles Lindbergh changed the family's last name. If he hadn't, our high-flying hero would've been known as Charles Manson.



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