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STEVE



HAPPY 80TH, JIM!

Friends and family gathered to celebrate Jim McKnight's 80th birthday on Sunday afternoon at the Legion games room. Here Jim is surrounded in a circle of love by his grandchildren. From left: Robbie Rolfe, Vikki Rolfe, Kim Baddeley, Rachel McKnight and Darryl McKnight. (Lori Frechette photo)

'Y' finally sold, repairs started

BY PAUL NOLAN
 The Acton Tanner

After four years of vacancy, Acton's YMCA building has finally been sold.

The YMCA of Greater Toronto reportedly has accepted an offer from a local business owner to purchase the Mill Street building, stirring positive reaction from local citizens.

"Certainly this is a very good thing for the town of Acton," enthused Bill Pshyk on Friday. Pshyk is the Acton real estate agent who sold the property.

While Pshyk said he was unable to disclose the buyer's name "at this early point," he did say the site sold for less than \$100,000.

"It's terrific that a local business person has come along and bought the building, saving it from further deterioration," said Pshyk.

"The intentions of the new owner appear to be noble — he plans to restore it and put some new life back into it."

The structure, built in 1934, has had many uses: YMCA fitness programs in the gym, teen socials in the basement, even police and municipal headquarters in its front offices.

"This is a classy older building," said Pshyk. "It's got a lot of

history, and the architecture — especially the exterior — is still in good shape.

"We know that it's going to take a small fortune to renovate the inside, but the new owner's plans already are on the go, beginning with the furnace."

YMCA spokesman Jim Whitehead said on Monday that "what's important is that the facility will continue to be used."

Whitehead assured that the YMCA would continue to provide programs and services to the community; in fact he confirmed that the proceeds from the sale would be used toward Acton programs.

Acton's Gord Chapman, a former member of the Metro Toronto YMCA board of governors, was pleased by the news. "The time had come for the building to be sold, as it no longer met the needs of the Y."

"It's a real benefit that the proceeds will be used for services in town."

Chapman was happy to hear that the new owner had plans to renovate the building's interior. "It would be nice to preserve the facade; unfortunately there's not much more than the facade that would be worth preserving."

Acton municipal councillor and BIA member Gerald Rennie said Monday that he was happy the facility's facade would be maintained. "I hope the building will be used for something of value to the entire community."

Hide House back to full hours by Aug. 1

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
 The Acton Tanner

The mainstay of Acton's tourism trade — the olde Hide House — will resume seven-days-a-week operations beginning Monday, Aug. 1 and Jack Tanner's Table will again be serving meals on Wednesday, Aug. 17.

"We have made very significant progress in the financial restructuring of the company's affairs," explained Hide House president Steve Dawkins in an inter-

view on Sunday.

"As well, the outlook for this fall and winter is considerably better than it was even a year ago at this time. The rebound from the recession is picking up some velocity — not to say that it's boom times, but things are on a reasonably steady incline and that's encouraging for everyone," Dawkins said.

Financial trouble forced the olde Hide House to close its doors, and those of its two satellite stores, in

June of 1993. The main store reopened three months later on a seven-days-a-week basis but then reduced operations to only weekend openings last May.

When the store resumes full operations the public will see some changes.

"We are going to have a children's play area and a wider selection of more popularly-priced clothing lines and a broader-than-ever selection of woolens. Jack Tanner's Table is not reopening as

a division of the olde Hide House but on a leased basis to Murray McNabb and Rick Glugosh, one of the principals in the Hide House group," Dawkins explained.

"We are trying to make our accessories departments more effective from a visual engagement standpoint to make the meander through a little bit more interesting and harder to resist spending money," Dawkins said.

The olde Hide House will begin
See HIDE, Page 2

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