

Jack Tanner's back in business

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

While he may be in the minority, Murray McNabb never doubted Jack Tanner's Table would reopen.

In fact, his prediction that it would only take one year wasn't far off. Just 13 months after closing, as part of a restructuring of finances by the olde Hide House, Jack Tanner's will open its doors for business today (Wednesday).

"The re-opening of the restaurant was always in the back of my mind. It was just a question of what style of restaurant it would become and who would run it," McNabb said on Friday.

Well, the style hasn't changed apart from a few minor alterations to the menu, and McNabb, a gradu-

ate of Sheridan College's Hotel, Food and Management program, is at the helm.

He will operate the business with Acton's Rick Glugosh, and a third partner, who remains anonymous.

"I've always worked under him (Glugosh). We get along quite well," said McNabb, adding the two have 35 years in the restaurant business between them. McNabb will tend to daily operations and the hands-on work with the staff, while Glugosh will handle menu planning, among other duties.

"We (Hide House shareholders) took this route for two reasons," explained Hide House president Steve Dawkins on Friday.

"First, it's the Hide House's objective to have a restaurant for attractive value and secondly, we have tremendous faith in Murray. He's operated the restaurant as an employee for a long time and we thought it provided maximum incentive if it was his own business."

Jack Tanner's continental menu will feature past favourites along with other new delights. McNabb mentions little will be changed from the former menu with a downsizing of both the lunch and dinner menus the only major change. He went to say more emphasis will be put towards daily specials to keep things fresh.

The life-long Acton resident hopes Jack Tanner's can recapture its popularity of a year ago from area residents and tourists, and bring back a traditional Sunday Brunch outing.

Prior to closing last year, the Eastern Avenue establishment had built a solid rapport with eight or 10 bus lines that offered tour packages in the Acton area during the spring and fall. McNabb says the restaurant was basically the lunch stop for tourists and added it will continue that way.

McNabb pointed out the return of Jack Tanner's speaks volumes for a town that hasn't attracted many new businesses recently.

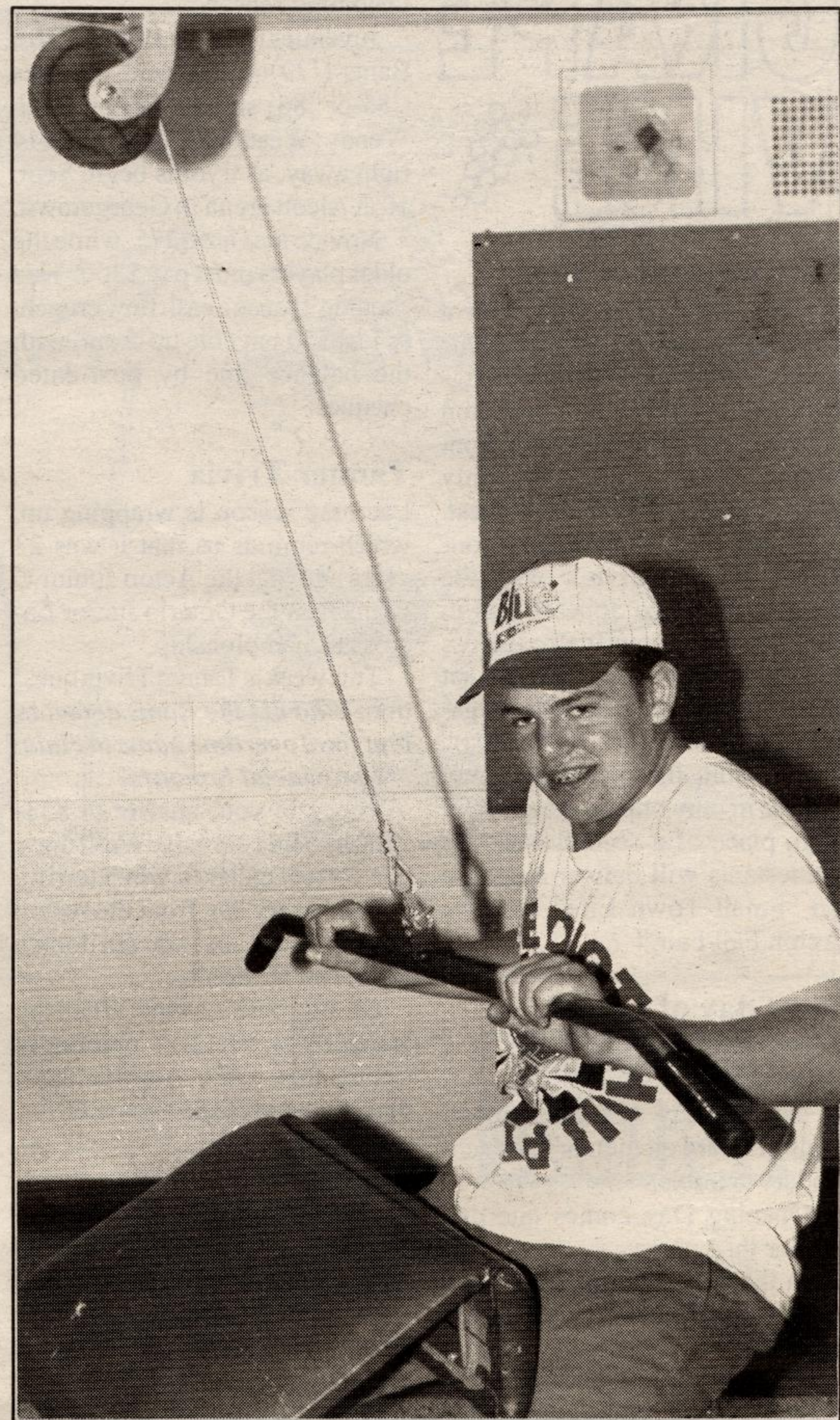
"It was a hard knock (to the town) when it closed. There was a point when there was no restaurant here of Tanner's calibre. Having it back is a big boost. It's been missed," explains McNabb, who spent two or three months relaxing last summer. He then worked as food and beverage manager at Blue Springs Golf Club, re-evaluated his career situation and most recently, trained a management team at the golf course.

McNabb, though, has remained a major cog in Jack Tanner's success since it first opened in 1981. He has served in the kitchen, as a prep worker, kitchen manager, dining room manager to his present managerial position.

He's excited about the new challenges he will face as the head of the business.

"Being part of this ownership group is a little nerve-racking, but not much," he said, adding he will carry 15 full and part-time staff. "Even when I worked for the Hide House I treated it as my own, so my intensity won't change."

"And I have full confidence in the people working for me."



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Paul Kerins, 13, works up a sweat in the Acton High weight room during the Acton Sports & Fitness Camp last week. It was the 15th year for the popular camp. (Doug Harrison photo)

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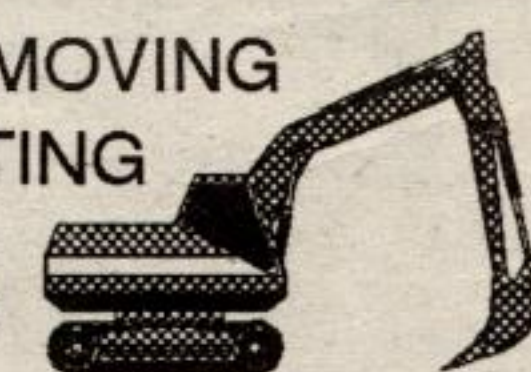
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