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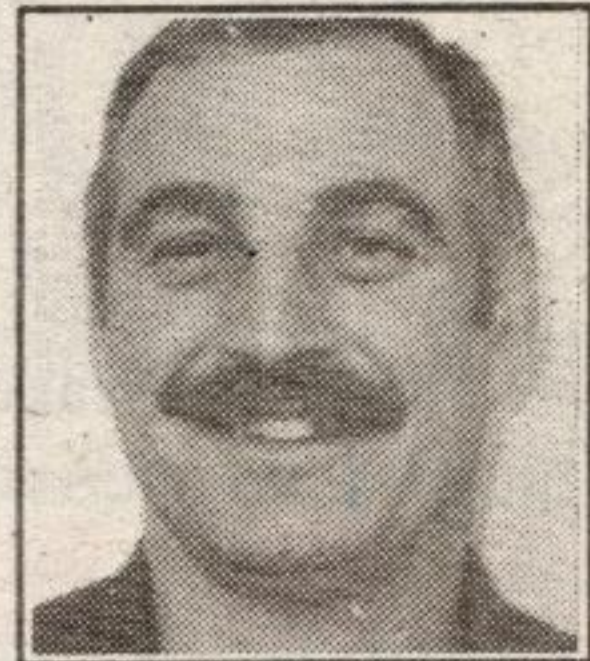


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STEVE



EMPTY SHELVES: Acting FoodShare co-ordinator Joan Waldie is flanked by volunteers Frank Thompson, left, and Bill Howell at the Perth Street food bank last week.

FoodShare hits all-time low

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

For the first time in months Joan Waldie made four emergency calls at the FoodShare last week for families who have seen their food supply decimate.

In fact, the acting co-ordinator says the Acton FoodShare shelves have currently reached a level never seen in its near four-year history.

"We're really desperate. One lady doesn't have anything and another had to take extra money just to pay her rent," said a concerned Waldie on Thursday. "It's really terrible to be worried and looking for food."

Waldie mentioned that summer is never a time when donations come in by the truckload and understands people are on holidays. But with Labour Day approaching, she hopes an improvement is soon coming.

"It's not a lot of people's top priority to donate in the summer. It's their holiday, so you can't blame them. But kids are soon going back

to school, so I feel very strongly to stock the shelves for when they go back," she stressed.

She adds M.Z. Bennett, McKenzie-Smith, Robert Little and Acton High have had food drives in the past and adds additional help from Guides and Scouts would really help. So will re-opening the FoodShare doors on Thursdays, from a Tuesday-only operation through the summer.

The most sought after items are spaghetti noodles and sauce, sugar, milk, tea bags, peanut butter, jam, cookies and pudding boxes, to name a few.

Waldie prefers not to harp on negatives and quickly turned the topic to the tremendous care Acton people have thrown the FoodShare's way.

"There's a gentleman — who we call Mr. Anonymous — who has come in every six weeks for the last two or three years, holds his hand in front of me and drops a \$100 bill. He

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Get tough with criminals, urges Acton native

Acton native Sue Cieslik (nee Kinal), an officer with Metro Toronto Police Force, recently wrote a letter to politicians and federal Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi about the need for changes to Canadian immigration laws and the justice system.

Now, she's decided to spread the word and has written the following letter addressed to Acton residents.

"Since I wrote the initial letter," begins Cieslik, who recently lost a good friend in Officer Todd Baylis, "my basic goal has been to get the average law-abiding citizen to become interested in the issues and see that things are happening in this country.

"Hopefully people will take action and get involved, because this issue concerns everyone and we need changes."

Cieslik, 30, says she wants to see how the issue is perceived by Acton people.

BY SUSAN CIESLIK

Special to The Acton Tanner

Citizens of Metro Toronto and area were troubled to learn of the shooting and subsequent death of police officer Todd Baylis on June 16.

Officer Baylis was shot and killed by an armed drug dealer while doing a routine walk through in an Ontario Housing Apartment Building. His partner, Officer Mike Leone, was wounded in the exchange of gunfire.

The public sat glued to their TVs and stuck close to their radios as details of the night's events unfolded. What had gone wrong in a city that was once considered one of the safest places to live?

The pain and memories of that day will live with me until the day I die. You see, Todd and Mike were my friends, co-workers and members of my "police family." I am Officer Susan Cieslik, Metropolitan Toronto Police Force, 12 Division, B Platoon.

Todd and Mike and the rest of us started our shift at 3 pm, never suspecting what lay ahead. But at 9:49 pm the call all officers dread came over the car radio: two offic-

ers down, suspect down.

I was teamed up with Roy Smith that night, a 20-year veteran of the force. When we arrived on the scene, our worst nightmares became reality. Mike and Dennis Mercer were already performing CPR on Todd. Mike was so determined to keep Todd alive that I did not even notice his wound until he told me he'd been hit too.

Despite our training, none of us was able to keep Todd alive. By the time we arrived at Sunnybrook Hospital, it was out of our hands.

You might think police officers become hardened to this sort of thing, but it never becomes easy.

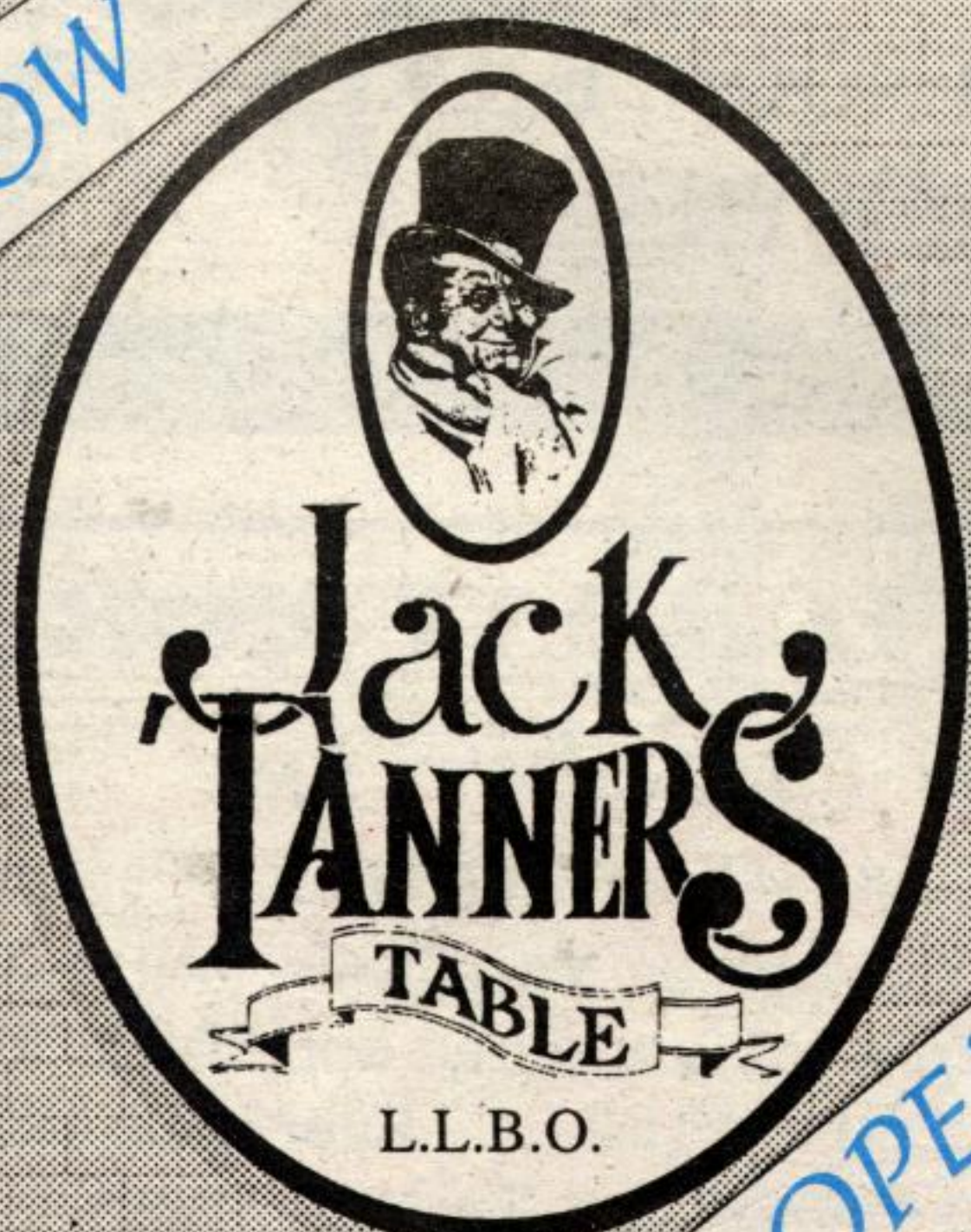
For Officer Neil Butler, the hardest part was holding Janice Graham, Todd's fiancé, in the intensive care unit of the hospital. No words could help her through her loss.

For Roy Smith, my partner, the hard part will be coping with his seven-year-old son, who will always fear that his father will not return when he leaves for work.

Joan Randle, the officer who accompanied suspect Clinton

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