

# Last-minute glimmer of hope for village constable office

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Prospects for finding Acton Village Constables Bill Riddle and Jim Turner a new home by Nov. 1 went from grim last Wednesday to a glimmer of hope two days later.

An eight-foot by 12-foot space at the back of *Leathertown Fashions* on Mill Street had been offered to police, but it can only be accessed through a back alley. And as Riddle said last Wednesday, "it doesn't fill the needs of the community ... and it's not exactly conducive to doing police work."

But last Friday, Riddle stumbled upon a "strong lead" that could see them re-locate to a building on Church Street East.

The lease of the existing police building (Division 10) on Mill Street runs out less than three weeks from today, on Oct. 31. It is being closed as part of continuing cuts by Halton Region Police.

Riddle says upwards of 10 to 15 people come in the office daily to report an accident, other happenings or for information. For this reason, there is a need to maintain a station in town.

He said the Region hasn't advised him what will happen if a location isn't found and he's getting tired of thinking he'll be forced to put his desk on the sidewalk to do paper work.

"I'm frustrated with the whole thing and what's happened in the community. It's not that I think it's the residents' responsibility (to find a station), because it costs money and no landlord is going to give you something for nothing," Riddle explained.

What Riddle and Turner are looking for is a 400-square foot, preferably street level space that is equipped with a washroom. Riddle has heard that the donation of such a space would be a tax write-off.

Riddle would also like a place where he can have some privacy to eat his lunch "without people staring at you" or write up a report.

The 27-year policeman pointed out that Oakville, Milton and Georgetown have their offices donated, but they benefit from a larger population base.

If Riddle is homeless after Hallowe'en, he says he will main-

tain his phone system with an answering machine. Other alternatives are getting a phone line put in the Georgetown office or hoping a local merchant offers their building to set up a system.

"I will survive," Riddle confirmed. "I will be the Village Constable and I've been told I'll be in Acton the rest of my career, which is seven years.

"Police aren't leaving Acton, but they might be minus a station."

## Bazaar time!

It's fall bazaar time again! This weekend St. Joseph's Catholic parish will be staging its church rummage sale, Friday from 9 to 4 and Saturday from 9 till noon.

Then on Saturday, Oct. 29, Knox Presbyterian church holds its annual fall bazaar, from 10 am to 2.

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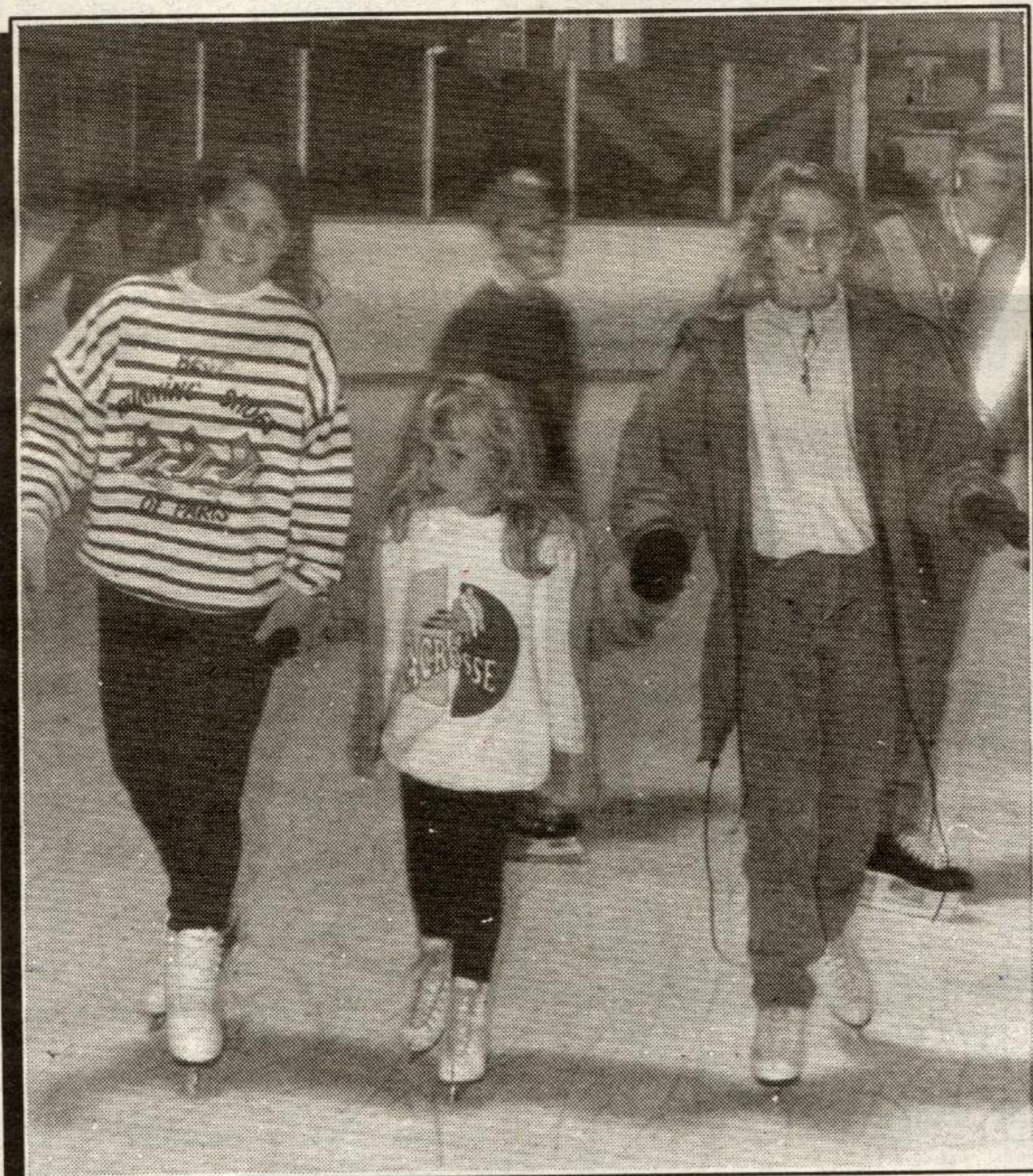
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FREE SKATE! From left, St. Joseph's students Shannon Harkley, Kelly McDonald and Carolyn Glatt enjoy Friday's Free Skate at the arena, courtesy of the Acton Rotary Club. It was a "Rae Day" off school for the girls. (Doug Harrison photo)

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We will continue to keep members of our community informed and entertained as only a community newspaper can.



THE ACTON  
**Tanner**