

Sewing clothes for 'special needs'

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Eight years ago, Lori Mandy found herself in an unenviable position — confined to a wheelchair after breaking the fibula and tibia bones in her left leg when she lost her footing on stairs under renovation to the landing of her Mowbray Place residence.

All the while, the 36-year-old was nine months pregnant with her first child, Derek. She now has a 3-year-old daughter, Nicole, as well.

A sewer of 20 years, Mandy was able to make herself the big dresses she needed to fit her predicament. But it started her thinking about clothing for people with special needs.

Mandy visited health care agencies to see if there was a demand from the mentally and physically challenged for specialty clothes.

Her business, *Adaptive Designs*, offers an alternative to ready-wear clothing, with easy-on features that take the challenge out of dressing.

"You don't realize what you can't do until you really can't do it," the native of Fredericton, N.B., explains of her days in a wheelchair. "And you don't know what it's like to finally wear something that was hanging in your closet for three years. It's like getting a new birthday present."

Business has steadily increased since Day 1 in October for Mandy, who, after years of working as a loan officer at the Credit Union in Georgetown, decided it was time to do something on her own that would allow her to be at home



DOLL DRESSES! Lori Mandy will be offering March break sewing classes to local students, 8 and up.

when her children needed her.

Mandy's clientele includes people in wheelchairs, Alzheimer's and arthritis patients. She'll substitute Velcro for buttons, and for those who have trouble lifting their arms, Mandy will insert a zipper that runs from the armpit down the side of a sweatshirt for easier access.

She makes a turban-like hat that is popular with cancer patients, and lap quilts for people in wheelchairs. In addition, Mandy can add a string to the inside of pants to make it easier to pull them up. She has also stitched the front of sleepwear for hospital patients, cutting a hole in the back that can be closed with Velcro, so people will "feel dressed."

Altering pants and blouses and designing clothes from scratch is about 75 per cent of Mandy's work. The other 25 per cent is devoted to re-sizing underwear and miscellaneous needs.

"If someone's going to benefit from my work, that's what I want to do," says Mandy, who won first-prize at the 1993 Acton Fall Fair for designing children's Christening clothing. "I still love banking, but I really love doing this — getting the satisfaction, smiles and hugs from people."

NOTE: Mandy is offering sewing classes for children 8-and-up at her home this week from 9:30 am to 4 pm. There are still a few spaces available. Call Lori at 853-2283 for more info.

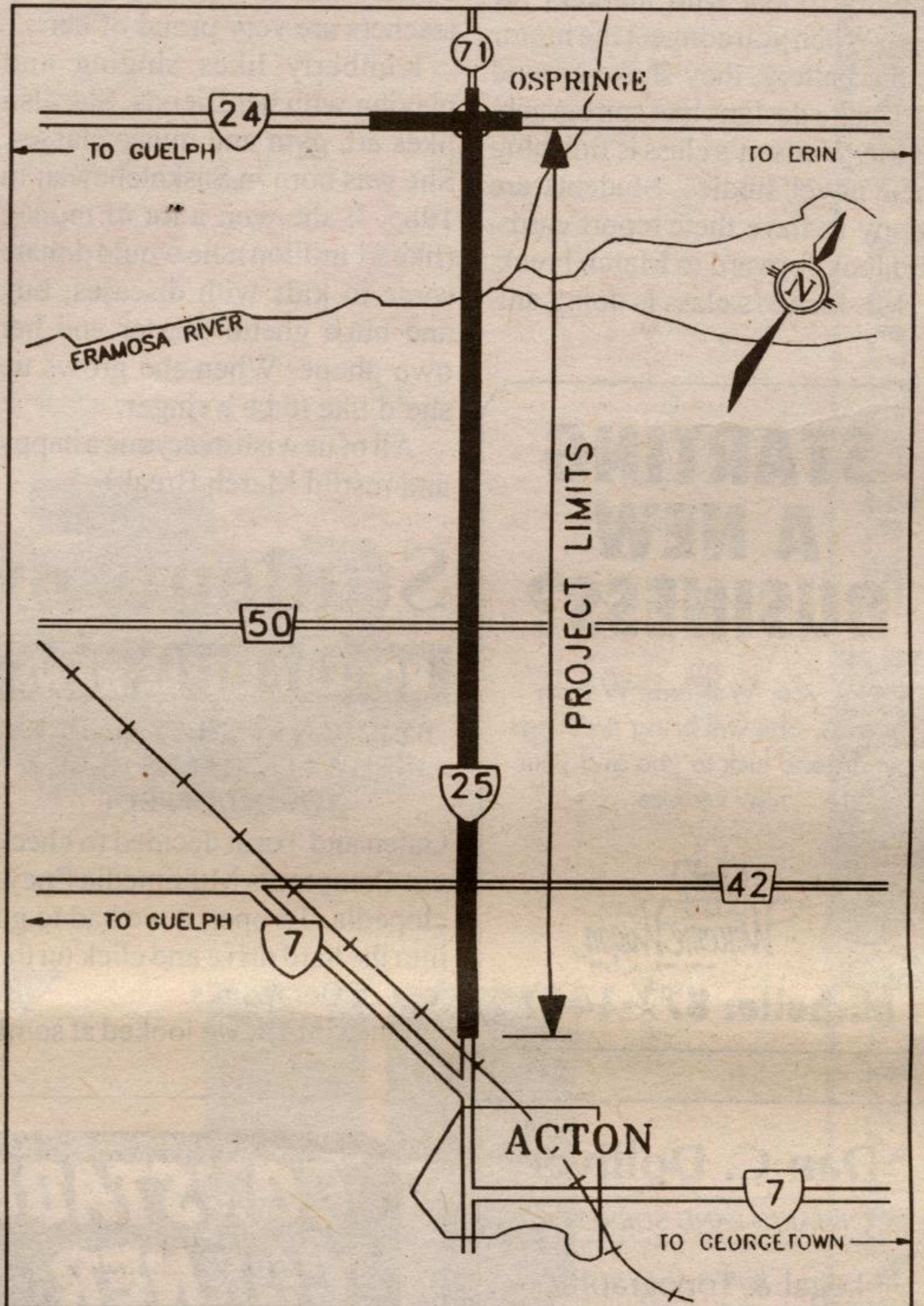
NOTICE OF STUDY COMPLETION HIGHWAY 25

From the former north limits of Acton, northerly to the intersection of Highway 24, Ospringle.

The Study

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation has completed a study which recommends the following:

- Construction of a westbound truck climbing lane on Highway 24 just west of Ospringle and a southbound truck climbing lane on Highway 25, just south of the Eramosa River;
- Widening of Highway 25 to current design standards;
- Resurfacing/recycling of the existing roadway throughout;
- Improvements to intersections, entrances and drainage;
- Updating guiderail where required; and,
- Extension of the twin culverts at the Eramosa River to accommodate the widened roadbed.



The Process

This study followed an approved planning process. As required, an Environmental Study Report has been prepared and is available for review at:

Ministry of Environment and Energy
Halton-Peel District Office
Suite 401, 1235 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, Ontario L6H 3P1

Regional Municipality of Halton
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1

Wellington County
74 Woolwich Street
Guelph, Ontario N1H 3T9

Acton Public Library
17 River Road
Acton, Ontario L7J 1C2

Ministry of Transportation
Southwest Regional Office
659 Exeter Road
London, Ontario N6E 1L3

Halton Hills Municipal Office
1 Halton Hills Drive
Halton Hills, Ontario L7G 5G2

Township of Erin
Box 250
115 Main Street
Hillsburgh, Ontario N0B 1Z0

The review period will terminate on May 2nd, after which time the Ministry may start construction.

Comments

We are interested in hearing any comments or concerns that you may have about this project. Please direct them by May 2nd to:

Marty Sluyter
Project Manager
Ministry of Transportation
659 Exeter Road
London, Ontario N6E 1L3

Telephone: (519) 649-3010
Fax: (519) 649-3109
or Toll-Free: 1-800-265-6072
Ext. 3010

Note:

- With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.
- If you believe after consulting with the Ministry staff that serious concerns remain unresolved, you may request that the project be subject to formal environmental assessment review.



Breakfast program expands

Acton's popular Dine and Dash Breakfast Club has become a moveable feast.

Starting next month, a second Club will open to make sure that even more Acton students get a good start on the day with a quick and nutritious breakfast.

Students from both M.Z. Bennett and McKenzie-Smith schools will be able to have breakfast for just 25 cents.

The program will mirror the one already operating every morning at Robert Little school. But instead of being run by local community groups, the new club will be run by Grade 7 and 8 students from McKenzie-Smith.

The Breakfast Club started several years ago in Acton when local Food Bank officials noticed that young school-aged children made up a large part of their regular clientele.

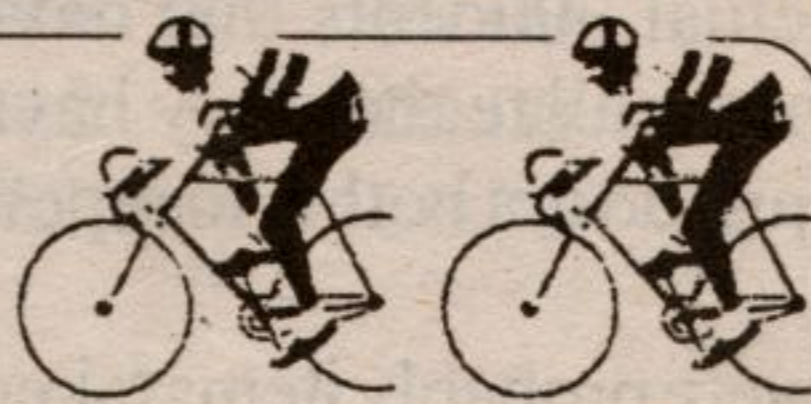
SUNDAY FAMILY PROGRAMS AT TERRA COTTA CONSERVATION AREA

1995 WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS

*AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPORT OF CYCLING

Sunday, February 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: \$10.00 per person
Suitable for adults and youth (12 years and older)

Enjoy a day with a cycling pro and learn about the equipment needed to participate in this rapidly growing sport. Discover the right bike for you. Practice basic repair techniques and pick up a starter tool kit at bargain prices. Learn about local cycling routes. Appropriate clothing and repair equipment will be on display.



TERRA COTTA TIMBER TALK

Sunday, March 5, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child
Suitable for adults and children (6 years and older)

Ever wonder how to tell one tree from another? Terra Cotta Conservation Area has an interesting variety of trees to observe. Hike with a staff member and visit different trees to learn about their special features and the role they each played as people settled this area. Learn about baseball bat wood and elephant skin bark. We guarantee that every person will be familiar with at least 3 trees by the end of this hike.



In 1995, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority is presenting a series of Sunday programs at Terra Cotta Conservation Area. The programs are either full day or half day events and most are suitable for both children and adults; appropriate age levels are listed in the program descriptions. A few programs are offered on both Saturday and Sunday. All programs start from the Visitor Centre in the Terra Cotta Conservation Area. For information or to register, call: (905) 877-9650 ext. 22 (*Programs require pre-registration)