

Community garden opens

Like to garden but don't have the space? Acton's Community Garden - located on Commerce Crescent - is the answer.

Applications are now being accepted for plots and the garden opens Saturday at 9 am for people to pick their spot.

Organizer Joan Waldie said they expect to rent more than the 20 plots that were worked last summer (each at \$10 a season).

For information about renting a plot call 853-4872 or 853-3349, or inquire at the Community Garden on Saturday.

NOW OPEN!

An Exciting New Store in Downtown Acton ...



Our custom-designed gift baskets will impress you with their beauty - and great price! We'll put together a basket that's perfect for each person on your shopping list. Our new Acton location (across from Andy's Restaurant) opens May 4. Please drop in and say hello!

COUNTRY REFLECTIONS

14 Mill St. E., Acton • 853-1996

Loiterers, fist-fight have Hoops' co-owner and neighbours upset

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Gord Labombard says he's just trying to run a friendly and clean establishment.

But he's concerned that the sight of groups of teens gathering outside the new Mill Street business Hoops, Pockets and More - including a throng of Erin and Acton kids that dispersed to the parkette nine days ago for a pre-planned punch-up - is tarnishing the facility's image.

"I built this place with recreation in mind. That incident had nothing to do with Hoops. It just happened that the guy those kids from Erin were looking for was in here when they came to town," co-owner Labombard explained last week.

"Just because the kid was at our place or just because the bunch of them ended up at the parkette, doesn't mean (the crowd) should be linked to here."

He added that he's complied with Acton Village Constable Bill Riddle in clearing gatherings outside the Mill Street business.

"But after that fight, I had one cop come up to me and say this was the third complaint the police had received and if there was another, they would shut my business down," continued Labombard. "Shut me down? What did I do? I've done everything the po-

lice have asked me to do."

Labombard isn't worried so much about a repeat performance of the pre-fight crowd as he is about affecting potential clientele at neighbouring businesses.

He adds he's genuinely concerned about "those guys." Meaning Jake Kuiken at Clocks and Curios Plus, Sharon Vincent at Freezer Frenzy and Andy Katsilieris at Andy's Restaurant.

"I want this to be a place where a 5-year-old and 80-year-old can come and feel comfortable," says Labombard. "But I don't want to sound like people are not supporting this place because they are. Business is fantastic."

He went on to say that it's not fair to tar-and-feather a whole generation because there are a few bad apples.

Labombard says that he's approached his neighbours and received no complaints. However, Riddle reported on Thursday that

he had received "a few" complaints from businesses close by.

The Halton Police constable said downtown business owners were concerned about customers needing to walk onto the road to get by the sidewalk traffic.

Says Freezer Frenzy owner Sharon Vincent: "It's too early to tell if crowds will be a problem there. But let's just leave it at that."

Many people hanging out in front of the smoke-free business are using the sidewalk as a type of "smoking area."

When asked if he might have to resort to allowing smoking at Hoops, Labombard answered "I hope not."

"The bottom line is, we'll take whatever action we have to get rid of the crowds."

"But I'm frustrated at the negative stuff. If you're going to be negative, give me a solution. Before criticizing the problem, give us a solution."



ADOPT-A-CAT! Assistant Sheri Burton (left) of the Acton Vet Clinic and Acton High co-op student Kristen MacKay hold a Persian and some Domestic Shorthair cats that need homes. Call the clinic for details (cats are \$40 each). (Doug Harrison photo)

Open House & Customer Appreciation Day

Join us for the FREE BBQ, Hot Dogs & Refreshments



10% off all in-stock Toys!



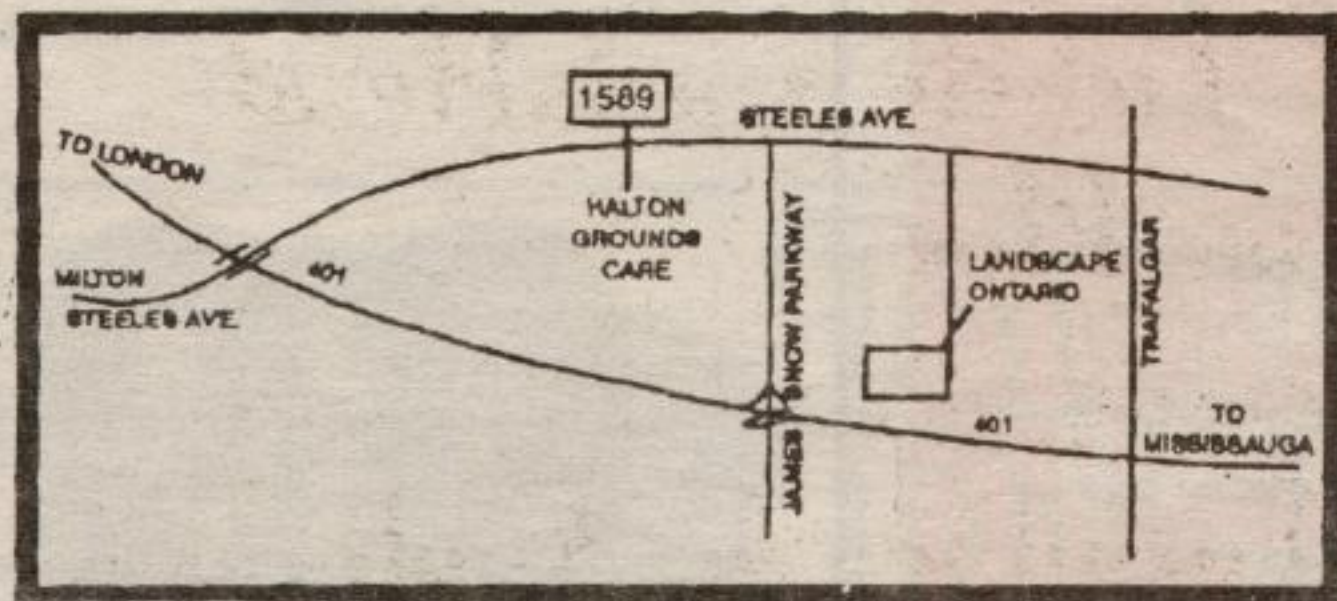
10% off all in-stock Filters!



May 6th, 1995
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Special Cash Discounts, Demonstrations & Prizes

Ride & Drive John Deere and Kubota Equipment
See the latest in Accessories & Toys



Halton Grounds Care Equipment
1589 Steeles Avenue East, Milton

Church St. shop hosts 'double celebration'

Wetherby's - the popular Church Street shop boasting "all things British" - is planning a double celebration on Sunday. And all Acton residents are invited!

From 12 noon to 5 pm the store will be hosting a party to mark the 50th anniversary of V.E. Day along

with the 30th birthday of popular British television show *Coronation Street*.

The Acton Citizens' Band will be playing at 3 pm, with refreshments and cake served in the garden (there will be a tent in case of showers).

Special V.E. Day souvenirs will be for sale at the event, including V.E. Day coins.

Coronation Street fans will be able to enjoy video presentations, displays and draws for Coronation Street Collectables. All this takes place in Wetherby's special Coronation Street Room.

The shop will also be sending a personalized greeting card to the cast of the TV show. Throughout the afternoon, group photos will be taken; the photos will then be transferred to the front of the card. Call 853-1633 for details.

Hot GREAT LUNCHES
at the STATION HOTEL
137 Mill Street East
853-0620