



NOW OPEN! Judy MacDonald inside her new Mill Street shop.

New store has baskets full of great gift ideas

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Judy MacDonald had more pressing matters on Thursday than worrying about how many people would drop by her new downtown store.

"I'm a little concerned about getting home and making supper," admitted the mother of three, who opened *Country Reflections* (across from Andy's Restaurant) after spending four years building clientele from her rural Acton home. "I always had supper on the table by 4 pm."

MacDonald, 44, left a flight attendant position with Air Canada after 17 years to start a family, all the while accumulating ample items to go inside her custom-designed gift baskets, the lure of *Country Reflections*.

"Now my three kids are in high school, so I don't have to be there for them when they get home," she reasoned, adding an existing client base has eased the move to Mill Street. "Instead of starting a business and buying, I have everything."

"I always knew that at some time I would move the business out of the house, but I was in no hurry."

Whether it's from home or beside the Towne Friar fish and chip shop, MacDonald is doing what she loves — putting gifts together and decorating baskets.

Country Reflections items such as coasters, beer mugs, napkin holders, butter dishes, soaps, candles and stuffed animals are just some of the goodies that make for

a nice gift in the pink, blue, green and burgundy baskets that are available.

"People still have gift-giving situations, but who's got the time? People are working and don't have the time to buy one and wrap, so I do it here," MacDonald explains.

She adds that there are a number of neat surprises you can stuff inside the baskets. "You don't know what's in them until you open them. And there's a lot in them that you wouldn't buy for yourself."

MacDonald, who has lived in Acton for eight years, stresses she hasn't opened shop downtown to compete with craft stores or flower shops, but to complement them.

Also available — either separately or in bouquets — at *Country Reflections* are a number of coloured regular or latex balloons. MacDonald is also able to decorate your house or a hall for special events.

Public reaction to the new shop has been positive.

"I come here once a week to the fish shop and always missed not seeing a business next door," commented Guelph resident Dianne MacLean, saying she'll be a regular *Country Reflections* customer.

Acton's Steve Townsley said, "I think she'll do well. There's not much like this in town."

Closed Mondays, *Country Reflections* operates from 10 am to 5 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 to 7 on Thursdays and Fridays and is open during the day on weekends with specific hours to be determined soon.

Plans for arenas made public

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Acton's arenas — the old one and the long-awaited new one — are on the agendas of Town councillors these days as they hear about proposed plans for the Prospect Park facility and the new facility in Acton East.

At Council on Monday Acton Agriculture Society president Janis Fread briefed the Town on a feasibility study now underway to determine what the community would like done with the old arena.

The study includes questioning 15 focus groups to ask what, if anything, they would like to see happen at the building, which the Society uses for its in-door exhibits during the Acton Fall Fair.

Fread said after reviewing the proposed size of the new arena, the Ag Society determined that it was too small and opted to keep the Fair at Prospect Park.

"Despite the deteriorating condition of the old arena we decided to apply for Provincial funding for the feasibility study.

"The study should be complete in October. If everything looks

good we will probably come back to Council to see if we can work out some kind of agreement in order for us to take over the old arena," Fread explained.

Fread said some events being considered for the old arena include a regular auction, a farmer's market and small trade shows as part of a year-round venture.

University of Guelph Professor Mark Waldron, who is conducting the study for the Agriculture Society, said the Town will end up with a reasonably unbiased report on what the community wants to see happen with the arena.

"We are asking the focus groups if they think there is support for a renovated facility for community programs, if they think that events like trade shows would consider Acton as a good location for their event and what type of event would they like to see in the arena," Waldron said.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette congratulated the Agriculture Society for "taking the bull by the horns" and arranging for the study.

The special meeting Tuesday has been called to discuss funding

for the new Acton East facility.

"Council and staff need to talk about the components and ramifications on other property the Town owns or controls," explained Tom Shepard, head of Recreation and Parks, at a recent meeting.

"Staff also needs direction on what grants we will apply for."

Theft at arena

Sometime between Wednesday and Friday, someone broke into the Acton arena and stole several lacrosse sticks and shorts.

The sports equipment, property of the Acton Minor Lacrosse Association, is valued at \$400.



**OPEN Tuesday to Saturday
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853-1053**

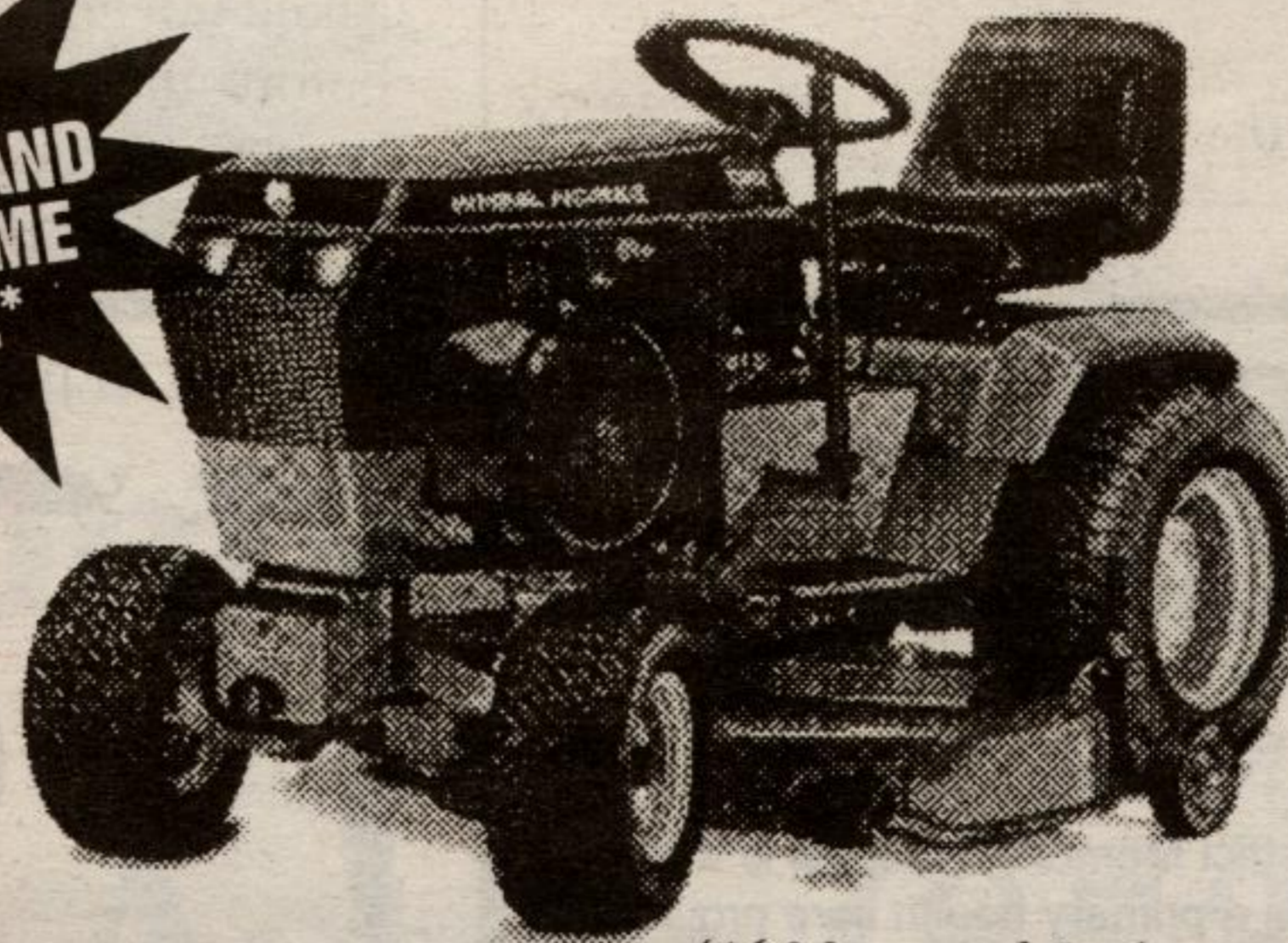
Stolen car recovered

Police were called after a car was reported stolen from a Kingham Road residence Saturday.

While police were writing their report, OPP officers located the vehicle, a 1986 Ford, in a ditch in Eramosa Township.

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Len Tuitman & Staff present...
**Green Thumb
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Fruit(less) Trees

Fruit trees develop into eight to 20 foot aesthetically pleasing trees, and produce delicious fruit to eat. But a number of factors can inhibit fruit production.

Age is the first factor. Trees are usually two years old when sold at Garden Centres, but don't produce a sizable crop for three years or more.

Trees such as apples, pears and sweet cherries require two varieties be planted to ensure cross-pollination. Fruit does not form if the flowers are fertilized by their own pollen.

Some fruit trees are not truly 'hardy' in our region. Fruit buds of peach and nectarine trees may be injured by extremely cold temperatures, their duration, and damaging winds. Unless planted in a protected area, they may not produce fruit but will otherwise grow normally.

Nutrient imbalance will upset fruit and vegetative growth of the tree. Excessive nitrogen results in abundant leaf and shoot growth at the expense of fruit production. Temporarily growing grass under the tree will quickly use up some nitrogen and alleviate the problem. Use a fertilizer such as 5-13-13 for healthy fruit trees.

Immature fruit will drop off the tree after some chemical pesticides are applied. This, however, can be a benefit if you want to prevent fruit formation. ❁

Each week Len Tuitman and staff of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden showplace.

Highway 25, one mile
south of Acton
853-2480

