

BIA street cleaner loves her job

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Contrary to what some have suggested, Karen Honeywell considers her job as the Acton Business Improvement Area (BIA) downtown street cleaner to be more than just community service work.

"Some people have walked up to me and said that," Honeywell, 28, said while sweeping the cor-

ner of John and Mill Streets recently. "But those are the people who have nothing to do and don't want anything to do."

And those are the only negative comments the lifelong Actonite has received since starting the job last December after being laid off as a cafeteria employee at the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

Almost every day, she said,

someone thanks her for the job she's doing. Super Submarine thanks her by giving her "the coldest cup of water in Acton," Ed's In 'N' Out supplies coffee and Jug City gives her free pop.

Working a 25-hour work week — usually 9 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 3 pm — that includes watering plants on Sundays, Honeywell cleans from the Hide House parking lot and south to Corrie's Hair Styling. She'll go as far south on Hwy. 25 as MacKenzie-Chapman and north to Knox Street. From there, she covers side streets from Main to John.

"I love this job, it's a good conversation piece," beamed Honeywell, who gets paid \$8 an hour by the BIA for her work. She also likes that she can vary her hours. "I'm an early-morning person and like outside work. I'm not one to sit in the house."

Before getting the job, Honeywell collected eight garbage bags of waste from the municipal parking lot beside her house on the corner of Willow and Church streets. It was then that she approached the BIA, wondering if they wanted to hire her.

"I think they (BIA Board of Management) like the fact they can let me go and do the job," Honeywell said, adding her uncle, the late Gary Taillefer, was hard-working when he cleaned the downtown.

"Karen's doing an excellent job," BIA manager Dan Dolliver remarked recently. "I've noticed the downtown is cleaner. She works diligently."

Topping her list of unusual findings, the mother of two mentioned a two-foot wide stack of cigarettes at the corner of Elgin and Church. Honeywell also said she once collected 15 garbage bags cleaning along the fence in front of Church Street behind Canadian Tire.



HARD AT WORK! Karen Honeywell cleans up at the corner of Mill and John streets recently. Karen has cleaned downtown Acton for the BIA for the past seven months.

Costume company to dress residents for fair parade

Think you'd make a good Robin Hood—or maybe Maid Marian?

Rural Acton company Suit Yourself Costumes is looking for volunteers to dress up in various costumes for the Acton Fall Fair parade.

If you want to dress up in a character costume, such as Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, the Cookie Monster, or any one of over 60 parade-type outfits, phone Anita or Emily at Suit Yourself Costumes (856-4550).

"Although we're located just outside of Acton, we've been very supportive of the businesses in downtown Acton," explains co-owner Anita Welsh.

"We want to bring people into Acton, and by lending our

costumes for the parade, we hope that more visitors will be attracted to the town."

Volunteers will be responsible for picking up and returning their costumes to the business, located on the corner of Sideroad 25 and Fourth Line.

"We have over 4,000 adult costumes and approximately 250 children's now, from every era in history," says Welsh.

Welsh suggests that families or groups of friends might want to dress up according to a selected theme, such as Robin Hood, Aladdin or Snow White.

"Let's make the parade this year a very big one and show other towns what a parade should be like," Welsh says.

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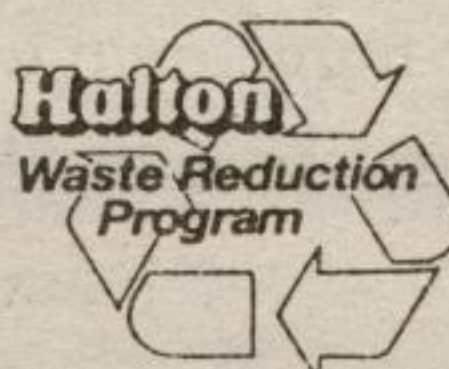
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