

DOWNTOWN ACTON



"The BIA Beat"



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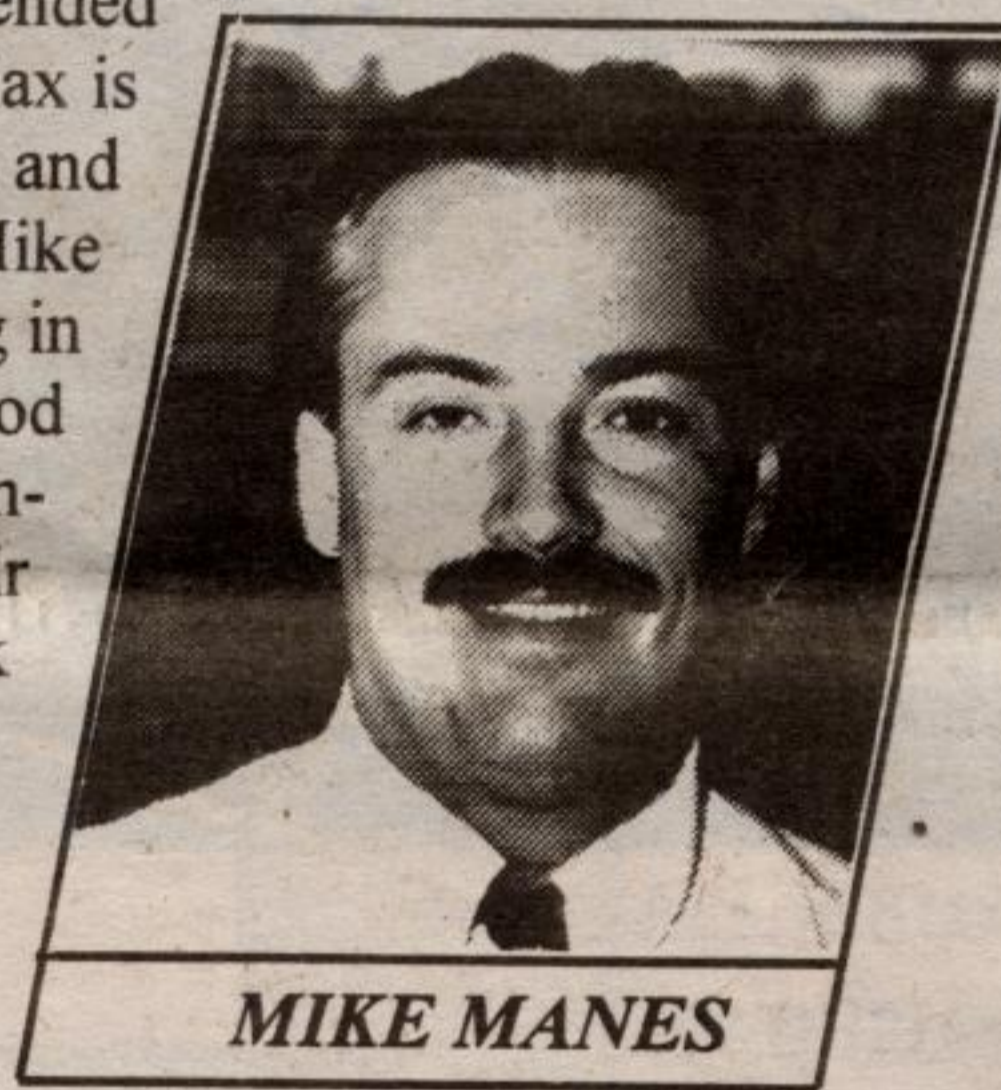
It may seem that Acton businesses come and go on a regular basis but you'd be surprised at just how many have been here for years and have no intention of leaving Town! They may have changed owners, most have moved at some point and they all have seen many changes over the years, but one thing **Acton IGA, Herrington Printing, the Holland Shop and Village Variety** have in common - Acton has been good to them and that's why they've remained in business a total of 124 years!



HELEN JOCQUE

Helen Jocque and her late husband Joseph (Sonny) have owned and operated **Village Variety** for 27 years (If you don't recognize the name of the business, it's because everyone in Acton knows it as the **Smoke Shop!**) Sonny bought the business from Ivan Harris, to have something to do after he retired from his mail route. The **Smoke Shop** has moved all over downtown Acton, from its original location at 35 Mill (the bakery) to 41 Mill (Musicland) to the renovated garage on John St. and finally to the present location in the Acton Mews. If you feel lucky and want to buy a lottery ticket, this is the place to get it! Helen sold a winning ticket to a Lotto 649 customer who won \$219,000; another winner in the provincial lottery won a new car; and at least two customers have won \$10,000 on their scratch and win tickets! Helen sells stationary supplies and used books (buy & sell) but the bulk of her business is tobacco products (cigarettes are cheaper here than in Guelph, Georgetown or Milton) and lottery tickets. She plans to remain in business for some time to come - "I'd miss the people if I didn't have the store."

Dave Manes started working at Ledger's IGA when he was about 15 and ended up buying the business in 1961. The original store was located where ReMax is now, then it was moved over to the location of Power Video (with a garage and car showroom above it!) and eight years ago the existing store was built. Mike Manes, Dave's son and partner in the **Acton IGA**, says they plan on staying in Acton, but may relocate or they may expand because, "business has been good in Acton." The **Acton IGA** is a real family business with Dave's two sons, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and wife all involved in some capacity! Most of their customers are local shoppers and Mike believes they keep coming back because "they like the small town atmosphere and the friendly service." For example, take a look at the mounted old photographs around the store for a bit of Acton's pictorial history and if you shop with young children, you'll probably know the bakery staff always has a selection of fresh baked cookies on hand to keep little hands and mouths occupied! **Acton IGA** is hometown proud!



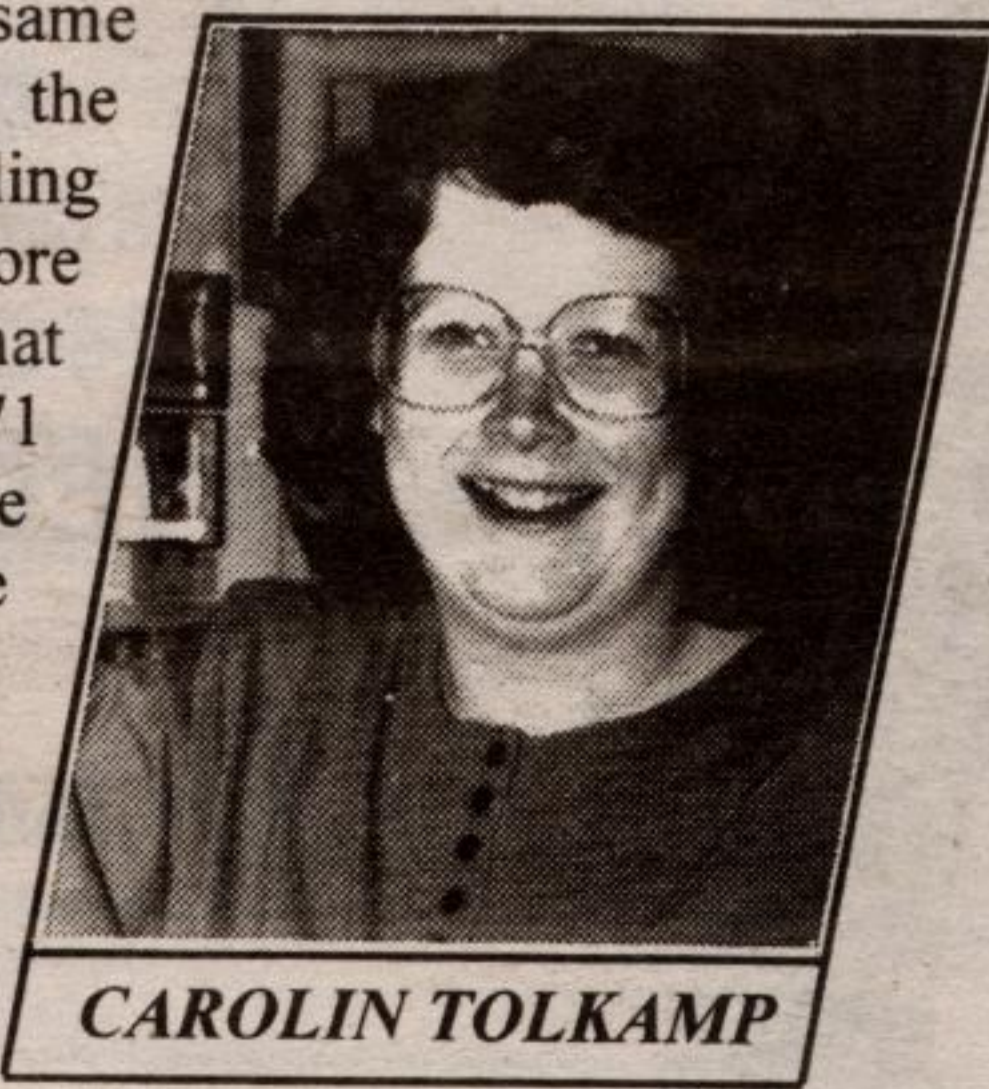
MIKE MANES

The proof press and hand set type cabinet you see in the lobby of **Herrington Printing**, dates back to the original **Erin Advocate** newspaper started in the late 1800s, the commercial end of which was purchased by Corey Herrington in 1972. **Herrington Printing** came to Acton in 1980 and was located in the old Wool Combing building on the Beardmore property. Son Jeff Herrington, who took over the business from his father, moved to the present location at 11 Main St. N. a couple of years ago. Jeff believes "you must know your product inside out, you must be competitive, the quality must be there and you must make your services convenient for the customer." **Herrington Printing** not only does sophisticated computer graphics but also offers colour photocopying and other services to walk-in business. Be sure to watch for their upcoming newsletter, which will help educate the consumer on the different products and qualities in printing jobs. Jeff believes in supporting local businesses: "If I have a customer buying his printing from me, I try to buy their product whenever possible. Businesses should work together." And **Herrington Printing** plans to "stay in Acton for sure."



JEFF HERRINGTON

Many Actonians remember the **Holland Shop** as always being in the same location. Not so, says owner **Carolyn Tolkamp**. "My grandfather started the business in the 1950s, going door-to-door on his second-hand bicycle selling products to Dutch immigrants. Business became so good that he opened a store at 81 Mill St. (the building that was just recently torn down)." He was in that location about five years and 40 years ago moved to the present location at 71 Mill St. The **Holland Shop's** customers are mainly Dutch and it's easy to see why they come from as far away as Mississauga and Orangeville to shop. The shop is more like a cozy front parlour than a store; the product line is pretty much the same as it was 40 years ago, there's friendly chatter, the coffee's always on and there's a real homey atmosphere, a family oriented place. Part of that atmosphere has to generate from **Carolyn** who says, "I still enjoy getting up and coming to work in the morning. I'm very fortunate that I love my job." Staff are always alert to the changing demands of their customers and new products are being added to meet these demands because, as **Carolyn** says, "I plan to be here for a long time!"



CAROLYN TOLKAMP

P.S. Downtown Acton has lots of gift ideas for Father's Day, coming June 16th!

Happy Spring to all cats and dogs!

From Dr. Hess and staff at the Acton Veterinary Clinic.

Spring has arrived as so has heartworm season. Have your dog tested for heartworm and placed on prevention.

Spring is the time to start the once a month birth control for fleas for your cats and dogs.



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