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'ACTON'S OWN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER'

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Memorial trees to be planted in park

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner
The Rotary Club of Acton will establish a tree donation-memorial program at Acton Rotary Park on Elizabeth Drive.
For approximately \$250 to

\$300 people will be able to buy a tree in memory of someone who had died and have that person's name inscribed on a central plaque.

Rotary member Doug Fread said the idea grew from his wife's desire to do some-

thing in memory of her mother who died earlier this year.

"My wife said that she wanted to plant a tree in her memory and it sort of twigged. I thought well, we've got Rotary Park and it

needs lots of trees so what we plan to do is plant a bunch of trees in the spring and anyone who wants to have a tree planted in memory of someone can buy one," Fread explained recently.

A large stone plaque will be erected in the park and anyone buying a tree will have their dedication engraved on the plaque.

The master plan for the park shows that between 75 to 80 trees are needed and Fread said if there is enough interest the program might be done over two or three years.

The Acton Rotary Club "adopted" the Elizabeth Drive park site in 1988 and a phased development plan was established. Initial work by the Town and Rotary Club

included sharing the cost of installing a granular pathway system and development of the soccer field.

"We used to discuss with the Recreation and Parks department what sort of money each of us were willing to put in each year to develop the park, but for the last three or four years the Town hasn't put anything into their budget for [park improvements] so nothing has happened. We proposed that we do this program and Council agreed," Fread said.

"We fully appreciate the Town's budget constraints, but have a commitment to this park. We are proceeding on our own with the Town's approval."

Rotary will take orders for the trees right through March

with a proposed planting ceremony in May or late April.

The Rotary Club also plans to put in a proper pathway from Main Street into the park through an empty lot owned by the Town.

"We will put up a sign and hookup the path to the existing pathway in the park, which will be extended within a year or two along the north side of Fairy Lake," Fread explained.

Town staff said that they welcome the initiatives by Rotary Club of Acton to continue to develop the park because development proposals like the Rotary plan are essential in helping the Town provide high quality public parks and open space, particularly during a period of scarce resources.

Local couple purchases Home Hardware business

One of the worst kept secrets of the summer has now been officially announced - Bill and Val Manes are the new owners of Acton Home Hardware on Mill Street.

The Manes purchased the business, but not the actual store, from the Kinal family of Acton, which owned the business for 24 years.

In an interview on her second day on the job as co-owner, Val Manes said they had looked at buying the business a number of years ago but that deal didn't work out. They decided to make an offer recently when they heard it was again for sale.

The Manes, who are now Home Hardware dealers, have two children and have lived in the Acton area since they were married 14 years

ago. Bill Manes resigned as a linesman for Halton Hills Hydro to go into the hardware business and the couple has also owned a travel franchise in Brampton.

Val Manes said although they won't be making any staffing changes they are planning to put their own stamp on the business.

"Although we made the offer before the Canadian Tire store closed, that closure will mean we will expand our stock to include items that people may have gone to Canadian Tire for in the past," Manes said.

"If something is not on the shelf, they should tell us because we can certainly order it in. We can get special orders overnight if it is in the warehouse.

"It will take us a while to get onto the items that people may have gone to the other store for but we will expand the stock to provide what people want," Manes said.

"People will notice a big difference with new faces and more stock and we plan to give the store a face lift and look forward to serving them."

Manes said that although people might be aware of it, they offer glass cutting, screen repairs, saw and skate sharpening, jewellery repairs and key cutting.

Acton Home Hardware is open seven days a week, from 8 am until 7 pm Monday to Wednesday, 8 am to 8 pm Thursday and Friday, 8 am to 6 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday.



40 YEARS STRONG!

Ena and Jim Gibson celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary over the weekend at their Mill Street home. The couple first met 45 years ago at the Acton bowling alley. (Eve Martin photo)

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