



# DOWNTOWN ACTON



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Main Street North  
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## "The BIA Beat" Looking for something to do this Fall?

Autumn officially arrived on September 22 at 2 pm and with it the prospect of colder weather and shorter days! Why not sign up for one of the many excellent classes offered by some of our downtown Acton businesses – learn a new skill to keep you occupied over the coming months.

**Paintin' Friends**, a wonderful shop that has just opened this month, is owned and operated by two very talented and enthusiastic Acton ladies. Brenda La Rose has been offering fold art lessons from her home for the past eight years and found the business was so successful, it was time to expand. Brenda first became interested in decorative painting when her mother-in-law started taking lessons from another Acton teacher and would bring her work home to show Brenda. Her home business attracted students from Mississauga, Oakville and Acton, and one of her former students is now her business partner! Ruth Kranendonk has been painting for about 2½ years and will be giving up her "9 to 5" job to devote all her time to the business. The store carries all painting supplies: brushes, books, painting surfaces and paints, plus the partners offer classes for everyone from the complete novice to the advanced painter. There are both day and evening classes featuring a "Trick or Treat" sign board, "Winter Watch" (the watch face is painted with a miniature winter scene) and the "Santa Shirt," a painted denim shirt that can be matched with painted button covers.



**Brenda La Rose and Ruth Kranendonk**  
For children, there are special P.A. Day classes and after Christmas, the store has plans to offer after school classes for children. Stop by the shop at 77 Mill St. E. and see the class samples – you'll be hooked!

Renata Georgeff opened her shop **The Needle Gnome** five years ago, after more than 20 years of pursuing her favourite hobby, cross-stitching. She previously worked in computers, which required quite a bit of travelling



**Renata Georgeff**

and a favourite stop was a little needlework shop in California that became her inspiration. Her shop carries supplies for cross-stitch plus hardanger, silk ribbon embroidery, crewel work and lots of instruction books and kits. Two years ago she started giving classes, which are held every Sunday afternoon. There are seven different "make it and take it" classes offered on a rotating business all year, which teach you a technique in a project you take home. Renata teaches the beginners' classes, which cost \$20 and has guest teachers come to teach specific projects. She offers a full framing service for both needlework projects and other framing needs. Cross-stitching isn't just for women either – Renata's husband completed a project a number of years ago and entered it into the Acton Fall Fair. He won a first and she came a close second!



**Carla Snels helps Carol Westbrook in a class**  
around the world, are offered monthly. The average doll takes four to six weeks to complete at a cost of about \$40/class.

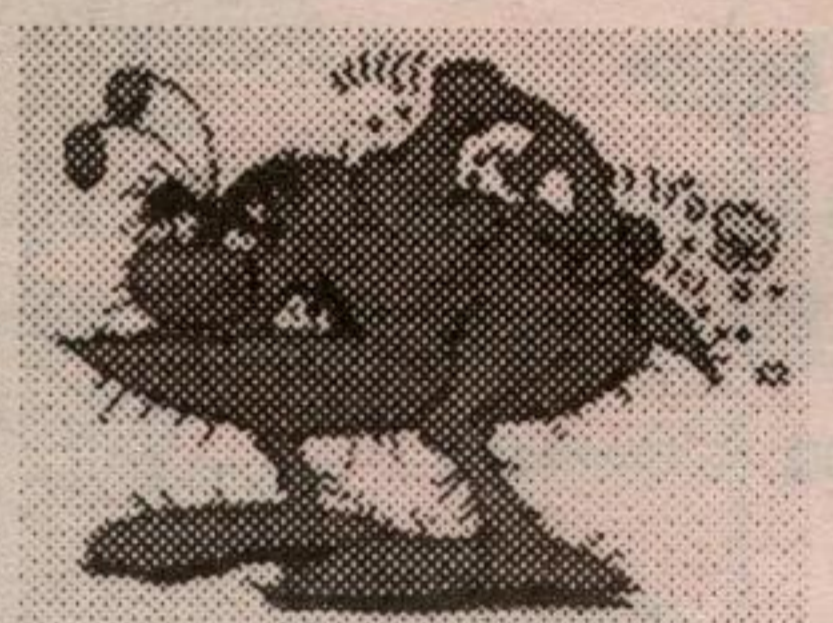
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