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SEPTEMBER, 2005

## A Taste of Acton

**Saturday, September 24th  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Next Saturday, downtown Acton will be a hub of activity. Come and join us for 'A Taste Of Acton'. Merchants will be hosting sidewalk sales and visit our restaurants outdoor patios for a refreshing drink or lunch!


The first two blocks of Mill Street will be closed to traffic and we have lots of off street parking available. There will be a classic car show from 11 - 4 and historical walking tours with restaurant sampling from 2 - 4. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at the Acton BIA office, 16 Mill Street East, 519-853-9555. Tickets will also be available at Blue Springs Spa & Salon. Space is limited so call to reserve your tickets today. There will be balloons for the kids, as well as clowns and face painting. And we will be giving away potted mums to the first 50 customers of any downtown business.

Acton is one of the last small towns in the GTA, so why not come and experience our small town charm. In Acton, visitors will find surprising shops and boutiques. You can browse in shops specializing in handmade porcelain dolls, country giftware, children's specialty clothing, leather clothing and furniture. This is a perfect place to start your search for unique gifts, antiques, or clothing. Remember, it's worth the drive to Acton.

**ACTON  
B.I.A.**

16 Mill St. E.  
Acton  
ON L7J 1G9

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# The Holland Shop celebrates 50 years

BY LYN MARSISI

**This September marks 50 years at the Holland Shop**

*Help us celebrate at our  
Open House*

**September 22, 23, and 24**

Plans are in full swing to mark the occasion. What's unique about this on-of-a-kind store in Acton, is that it is "third generation". The current owner, Carolin Tolkamp, is the granddaughter of the person who started it all, Engel Huisman.

Let's go on a trip "down memory lane" with Carolin.

Spring 1951: Engel and Mary Huisman arrive in Canada by boat from Holland, and settle at first in Orangeville. In those early days, Engel worked as a "pin boy" at the local bowling alley. He then went on to factory work. In his heart, however, was a dream. He wanted to start up a store somehow. He met a lot of Dutch immigrants, longing for their homeland, and he knew they would buy the things they couldn't find here.

From humble beginnings, he started first by selling peppermints and licorice at the weekly catechism meetings held in someone's home.

By November of that first year, he received his first shipment by train with more items shipped from Holland. Soon, he borrowed a bike with saddlebags, on which he would ride all over the countryside in the evenings and Saturdays. In time, he purchased a small truck from which to sell his wares. One of his favourite methods of selling the much sought after baby clothes and Dutch cloth diapers was to tuck them in with every day items like dishbrushes and washing soap. This was done because you just didn't talk about a woman's pregnancy.

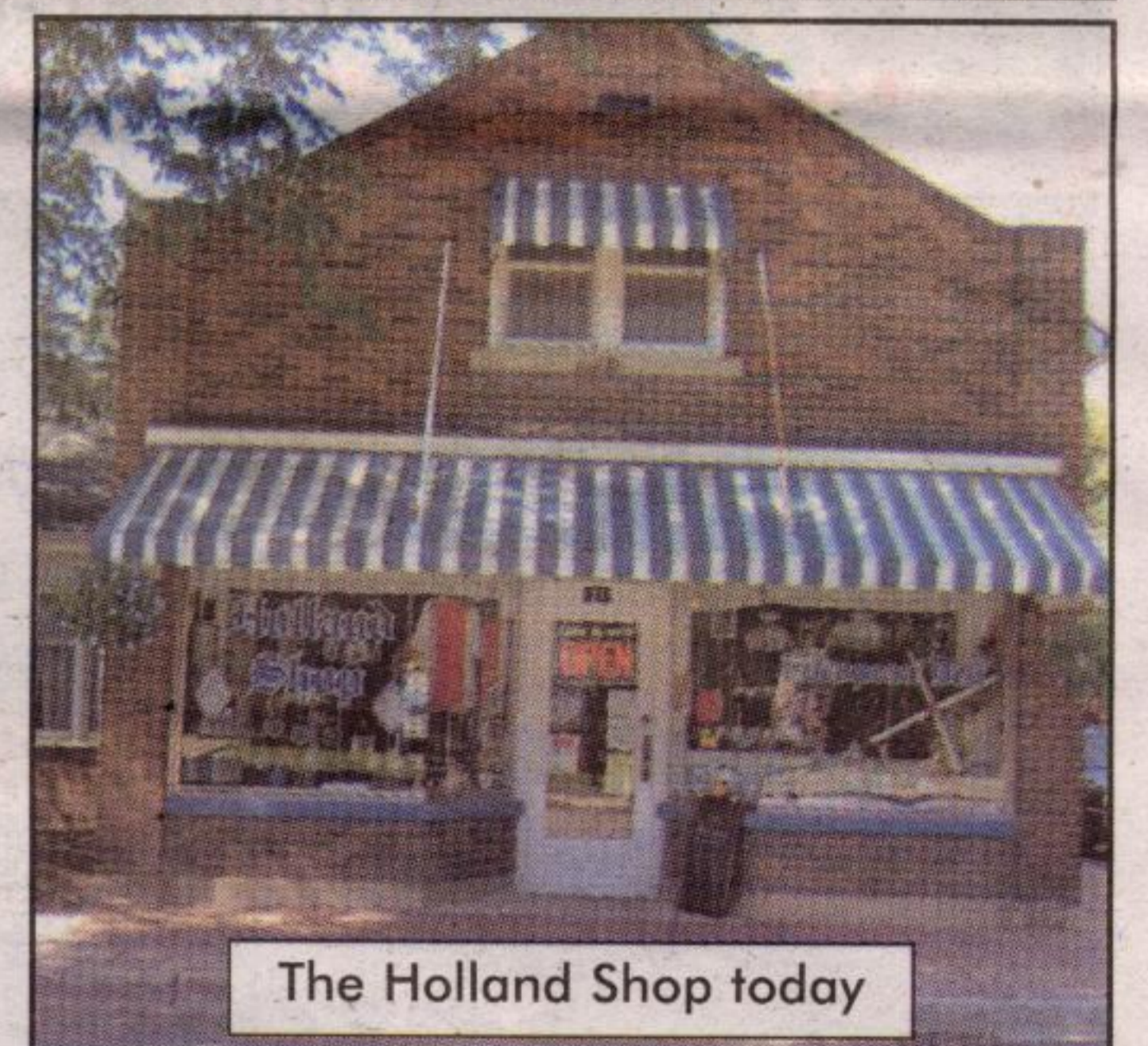
In due time, the Huisman family moved to Acton, and Engel rented shop space in town. He kept the delivery route up for a time to deliver product to the countryside. The store as it is known now as the Holland Shop is actually the second location. (Engel)Bert was the shop owner for the longest period, from

1955 to 1983. His daughters, Agnes and Theresa, helped until they got married. After, his wife helped him. Some time later, Nell Feenstra came to work for him. Her daughter-in-law, Joanne Feenstra started working while Bert ran the store, and she is still working to this day! When Bert became sick in 1983, his daughter Theresa, and her husband Ralph Fledderus, took over the store. They ran the store for seven years, after which time their daughter Carolin took over. Carolin has been the owner for 15 years. Her mother, Theresa, continued to help her out at the store for some years, until her death in 2002.

Carolin is proud to provide the kind of service her customers have come to expect. She and her employees make up a smiling team that is always ready to share the latest bit of news, give encouragement, or just make a delicious sandwich. The Holland Shop is a truly unique phe-



Engel & Mary, in 1980, on the 25th anniversary of their business



The Holland Shop today



Engel at a customer's house (Hillsburgh) July 1956

nomenon in Acton, and if you haven't had the pleasure of visiting it, you would do well to do so soon.

If you have any old photos and history of Acton's Downtown, the Acton BIA would appreciate hearing from you.

Contact Josey at  
(519) 853-9555

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