

It's Worth the Drive to Acton! Enjoy Our Small Town Atmosphere

In 1844, the name Acton was given to the settlement previously known as Danville and later Adamsville. Acton was incorporated as a village in 1873 and had a population of just over 700 people. The Adams brothers, who were founding settlers, named many of the town's streets after their family members (e.g. Wilber, Ransom and Frederick Streets). Zena Adam's home, built over 150 years ago, still stands at the corner of Main and Church Street East.

The largest employer in the town was the Beardmore Tannery, which commenced business in 1865. At the turn of the century, it had a combined floor space of nearly a million square feet.

Today, Acton celebrates its rich heritage in the leather industry by adopting the name "Leathertown", made known by its famous retailer, The Olde Hide House. The magnificent building built in 1899, which houses this store, originally served as a warehouse to store

the tanned hides waiting to be shipped out by rail by the Beardmore Tannery. When visitors first step through the door, they are immediately overwhelmed by this massive brick and beamed building, which has lovingly been restored to reflect a century of history. After browsing through their wide selection of leather and suede garments, furniture, giftware and accessories, be sure to view the history board in the main lobby.

Take a stroll downtown and you'll discover an eclectic selection of specialty shops featuring everything from needlework kits to imported foods and chocolates. Downtown Acton offers a number of great restaurants for your dining pleasure. Pick up the Discover Acton brochure which will lead you on a self-guided walking tour of historical sites in and around the downtown area. Just two blocks from the downtown is picturesque Prospect Park, surrounded by the serene waters of Fairy Lake. Picnic lunches under the mature trees are common all summer long. In the winter, the frozen lake beckons to skaters and ice fishers.

Acton is one of the few small towns in Ontario that can boast its own band! The Acton Citizens' Band, which was first formed in 1872, regularly performs in the community. The Rotary Club of Acton have recently announced plans to build a band shell in Prospect Park as their Centennial Project, replacing the original band shell now located at the entrance to the park.

The beautiful hanging baskets and colourful planters downtown are all the work of the work of the BIA and the town's very active Horticultural Society.

This vibrant community of 10,000 offers numerous annual events that celebrate small town living. The Acton Fall Fair, "One of the best little fairs in Ontario" has been a September tradition for 92 years.

Church bazaars are a customary event every fall, the Leathertown Festival celebrated

its 14th year in August and the High School Craft Show takes place every November. The Halloween Haunted House at Off the Wall will offer a delightfully frightful experience for the kids on October 29, from 1 pm to 3 pm, this year. A "Treat Tour" of participating merchants in the downtown is included in the event.

The Trunk Sale, a garage sale on wheels, runs every Saturday morning from May to October (excluding holiday weekends). Enjoy Canada Day, July 1st, with a "Concert in the Park" and a huge fireworks display thanks to the Acton Firefighters' Association.

"A Taste of Acton" to be held on September 24 will feature Historical Walking Tours, Restaurant Samplings, a Classic Car Show, Merchant Side Walk Sales, Musical Entertainment provided by R'N'R DJ SERVICES, Clowns and a whole lot of fun for the whole family.

The Annual Santa Claus parade on Saturday, November 19, 2005 will feature bands, floats and a whole lot of fun for kids and parents alike! This kick off to Christmas has been a successful tradition for Bill Spielvogel and the Acton Firefighters' Association for many years and with the communities' participation gets better every year.

The BIA Board of Directors and helpers have been busy over the summer restoring the Xmas decorations that make the Downtown a Christmas



Wonderland during that magical season. We will also be hosting a "Downtown Christmas Extravaganza" on Saturday, December 10 with music, instore specials, a visit with Santa and lots more.

When you visit the Acton Arena & Community Centre, take a moment to enjoy one of the town's first heritage murals, painted by artist Michelle Loughery to reflect the sports and cultural history of the town.

Visitors can learn a lot about Acton from the "Downtown Mural" at the parkette, Mill and Main Street intersection, which depicts Acton's unique history in the leather industry.



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