

It's Tool-Time at Pete's Barbershop

By MANDI HARGRAVE

Over the last 38 years Acton's Pete the Barber has seen many hairstyles come and go. But it's not just hairstyles that grab the interest of the customers. What is more masculine than an old fashioned barbershop? An old fashioned barbershop with a sideline in power tools.

The only renovations made to the barbershop over the years are new flooring and re-painted walls. But Pete has no excuse for not knuckling down to any kind of DIY. He has a shop full of brand spanking new power and hand tools. It started out as a favour to a friend who refurbished power tools and had no way to sell them to the public. The friend no longer refurbishes tools so Pete now gets them new from a firm that imports from the Far East. It adds a special flavour to the mundane business of getting one's haircut. Regular Steve Baker said, "How cool is it to be able to get your hair clipped and at the same time be able to buy a new chop saw without getting out of the chair" "It works," Humeniuk said

In 1963, after what was once Norm's Barber Shop, Pete Humeniuk took over the Acton based business from his brother. It was because of his brother that he became interested in the trade in the first place. His brother

needed help at the shop, so Humeniuk went to school in Toronto at what was then called the Provincial Institute of Trades, now known as George Brown College. After about four years of working together the shop became Pete's.

When long hair was the trend for boys, business slowed down and the only thing he could do was wait it out. Now that trend seems to be fading out, those longhaired boys are coming in to get their heads shaved.

Humeniuk also noticed that mustaches and beards tend to be preferred by the older males and if they don't take too much trimming he'll throw the cost into the \$13 hair cut (for adults).

The best part of the job for Humeniuk is talking to the customers. "Everyone's different and you hear different stories," he said.

The secret to a successful barbershop is the clientele.

"If you're good with them they'll keep coming back," he said.

Customers always come for a haircut and sometimes they leave with a new tool or two.

Pete's Barber Shop is located at 27 Mill St. E in Acton, call 519-853-3510 for hours as they vary.

business matters

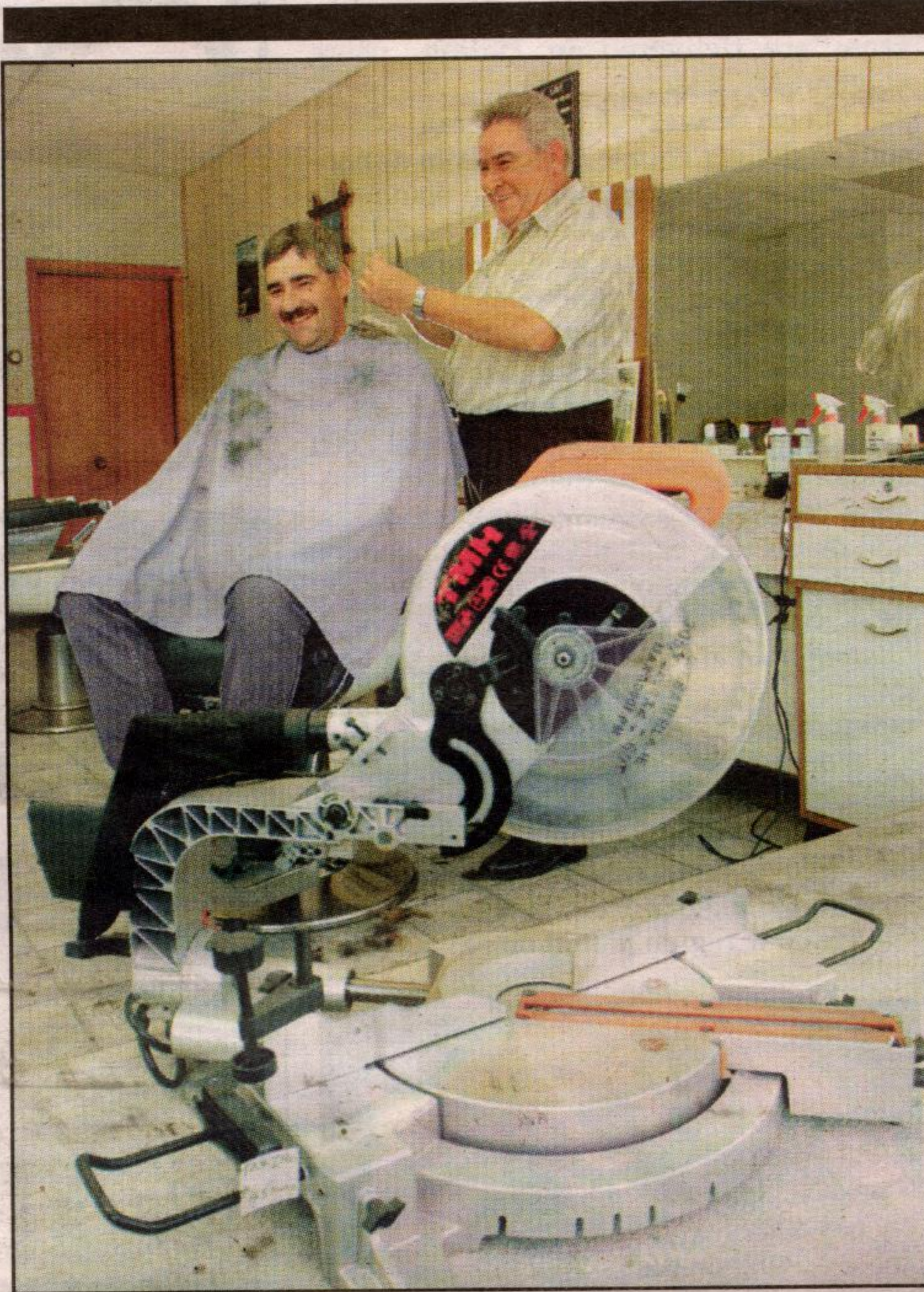


PHOTO BY PETER MCCUSKER
A Little off the top? Acton Barber Peter Humeniuk cuts the hair of patron Mike Nicholls. The window display of power tools keeps the customers happy.

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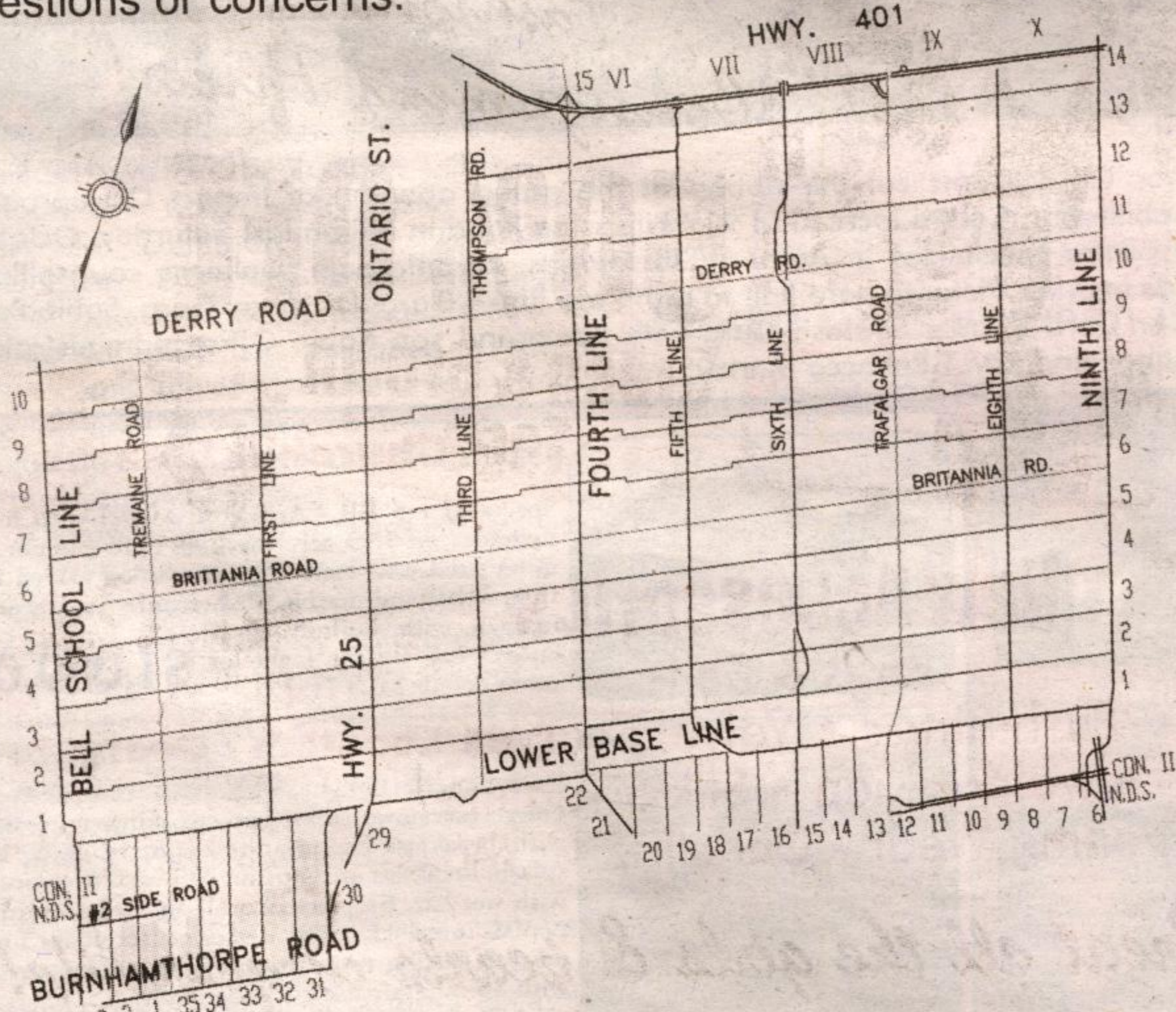
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