

I'm sure most small towns have their own distinct personality. Each town has unique oddities, or as I prefer to call them, quirks.

There isn't a week that goes by that someone tells me of something from days gone by that makes me stop and think "only in Acton".

Acton has a unique quirk

I'm sure no other small town in Ontario has. This would be the front window of the Leathertown Feed Store (the pet store downtown). For decades, far longer than I can remember, the front window of this building has displayed death notices.

When I mention this to others, many have expressed

dismay. Shortly after they admit, they have stopped to read the notices.

It may have started as far back as the 1920's when the Rumley Funeral Home was at the rear of this store and Rumley Furniture in the front. Thus began the display of death notices.

The funeral home has since moved to Sunderland Villa and changed ownership from Rumley to Rumley-Shoemaker then to Shoemaker Funeral Home and to the current owners. The furniture store has also seen changes. It also has changed owners and had many differ-

ent businesses occupy the property. Through all this, on thing has remained a constant..the death notices.

I often wonder if the lease or purchase agreement specifies the table used to display the notices remains in the window.

Rain, snow or sunny days you will find a car stopped in the no parking zone at the corner of Mill and John Streets, a passenger out of the car and their nose pressed against the glass, reading the notices.

How many times have you gone into work or a local business and heard someone

Small Town Quirks

By Angela Tyler

say, "Did you see who passed away?" They don't usually say, "Did you hear who passed away?" because they didn't hear the 'news', they saw the 'news'.

As all things must change, so have the death notices. With the sale of Shoemaker Funeral Home a few years back, came the modernization of the death

notice table...the death notice bulletin board. Hanging from the front corner of the window is the green notice board that can hold numerous notices at the same time. However, the little table that has held Acton's history for decades proudly sits below it and I believe someone has even refinished it.



MINOR BALL BASH: Acton Minor Ball supporters Cheryl Dayman, (left), Lorraine Knoepfli and Debbie Burgess do the 'Watermelon Crawl' at the Association's second annual video dance at the Legion on Saturday night. Money from the dance will be used to buy new equipment. - Frances Niblock photo

Suspect denied bail

A 20-year-old Holmesway Place man, charged in connection with the robbery and assault of a 21-year-old Acton man, was denied bail in Milton court on Monday and will remain in custody pending an April 6 court appearance.

Police report that the victim, who knew the accused, was picked up in the Churchill Road and Queen Street area at 11:30 p.m. on March 23. He was taken, against his will, for a ride along a local county road. The victim told police he was held in the car, robbed of a couple of thousand dollars, threatened, assaulted and left by the side of the road. He suffered only minor injuries.

As a result of a police investigation - which is on

going - an arrest was made in Acton on Monday. Charged with robbery, uttering death threats, forcible confinement and assault is William Morrison of Acton.

Grass fires
Acton firefighters have extinguished several grass fires recently. On Monday night they were called to a Fifth Line and 25 Side Road property to put out a grass fire. They advised the property owner about burn procedures.

After putting out a bonfire at 2:28 on Saturday morning firefighters advised organizers of a bush party to apply for a burn permit next time. Two trucks responded to a call about an unknown fire in the bush on 15 Side Road, east of Highway 25.

LEGION NEWS BRANCH No. 197

By MIKE MANUEL

I had the opportunity last week to talk to a few of the people who took advantage of the free bus trip to Rama. Everyone wanted to thank Pete Turkosz for his organizational skills but I understand that his playing prowess leaves a lot to be desired.

One of the attenders, a lady by the name of Phyllis, who when asked how she made out, immediately replied that she came away \$150 to the good. Well, I

know for a fact she actually left a wee bit behind. If only she had stayed away from the Sourenir shop.

Another by the name of Stan only wanted to know when they were going again - he'll get 'em next time. Shirley's only reaction was that the food was great; you take it from there.

Finally, one of our past presidents by the name of Frank says he can't remember but thinks he had a great time. So Pete, when can you arrange for the next buses?

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Good to be back

This is my first column for the New Tanner. I am very happy to see the paper back in Acton. I will be taking the opportunity over the next little while to remind the readers of programs the Police have in town, reminders of safety issues for both adults and children, and pointing out areas where people need to be reminded about the laws, criminal, provincial and town by-laws.

As many of you may have noticed the windows of the Halton Regional Police Service office at 38 Mill Street, East are being used for display purposes. At this time bike safety and laws are displayed. We will be changing the displays from time to time with different themes relating to safety.

If any reader wishes to submit ideas for future columns, please contact me at 853-2050. Please leave a message, if I am not in the office.

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