

Fair needs repairs

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\$250,000 in repairs but Agricultural Society members have asked the Town to reallocate \$110,000 earmarked last year for demolition and instead use it for repairs. The Agricultural Society has offered \$80,000 of its money towards repairs.

Stover rejected suggestions from Ward 2 Councillor Kevin Kuiuack that the budget committee should include \$17,000 for the sprinkler system repairs in this year's budget, in case it's needed.

The structural engineer's report on the arena should be ready by the end of April.



FOND FAREWELLS: Veteran Robert Little teacher Rosemary Black, (left) accepts a retirement gift from Robert Little school council chair Julia Roehrig (centre) and Heather Morris-Stokes, chair of the parent group. — Frances Niblock photo

Station Hotel owners celebrate 25 years

By **MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY**
The New Tanner

Station hotel owner-operators Nick and Maria Kekis and Eli and Martha Kekis are celebrating 25 years of operating their Acton business with a pig roast on April 18.

Originally from Yugoslavia, the families came to Acton from Hamilton where Nick was working for Dofasco.

Although they had no previous hotel experience, their mother's family members

were "always buying and selling something," Kekis says.

When he first escaped the Iron Curtain 40 years ago, he went to Timmins and worked in the mines for a while before landing a job in a steel mill. He brought his bother to Canada in the mid 1960s.

Shortly after taking over the busines, he recalls some patrons talking among themselves and betting he'd only last six months "like all the others".

"I thought to myself they don't know me," he says with a smile. And 25 years later those customers were obviously very wrong.

The Lasby family and their descendants owned the hotel from 1907 until 1962. Then over the next 10 years it changed hands about 10 times, Kekis says. The building was in sound but shabby condition when he purchased it with his brother and they renovated in 1974.

The women run the kitchen with a couple of staff and the men handle the beverage room. They have 17 hotel rooms available for rent upstairs. The dining room is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily (except Sunday), and Thursday and Friday evenings. It can also

be rented for small gatherings although they no longer have service clubs meeting there regularly.

They stopped having regular entertainment in the 1980s because the bands cost so much and they disliked the racket. Now their crowd is split with an older group earlier in the day and the young ones in the evening.

"We had a pretty tough crowd when we first came," Kekis remembers. "At one time I had 85 people cut off here. But now they know me. If the young people who come here are representative of this generation then they're pretty good."

The bar business has changed greatly since they took it on, Kekis says, between the new and longer opening hours and the public's penchant for suing bar operators. Public opinion has also shifted so that operators are seen as scapegoats for all manner of alcohol abuse.

He'd like to see licensing controlled better so that getting a license was a privilege rather than a right. He would also like to see Acton grow. It needs clothing and shoe stores and yes, another grocery and hardware store.

"Good clean competition is always healthy," he says.

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Spring bicycle safety
It's springtime in Acton and that means it's time to get that bicycle out, pump up those tires, tighten those brakes, then you will be ready to enjoy the season!
The bicycle season can be enjoyed by all if the safety rules are followed. Parents, it is up to you to set the example, remember under the Highway Traffic Act, a bicycle is a vehicle and is subject to the same rules of the road as an automobile. For example, a bicycle must stop at a stop sign or a red light, and must be ridden on the right side of the road. Riding two on a bicycle is an offence, as is attaching oneself to a vehicle. All these rules of the road are subject to a penalty of \$105 or a juvenile court appearance.
The Town of Halton Hills has also enacted by-laws, which affect the operation of bicycles. By-law 84-1, part III, section 4, states "no person shall drive a bicycle along any sidewalk."
A breach of these by-laws can result in a fine of \$55 for each offence. I hope all the bicycle riders will follow the rules and have a safe season.

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