

GRAPEVINE



Sweet Dreams returning?

After a short recess and restructuring, Sweet Dreams Café is hoping to re-open after the Labour Day weekend. Pat Lee, owner of the café said they are reviewing some final numbers and looking into a new and improved system for customers to have quicker service. Along with the other changes there is a possibility of different hours. Lee said one possibility is concentrating on the daytime clientele with being open 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sweet Dreams is still available for catering and operates the canteen at the Civic Centre in Georgetown.



SAILORS IN TRAINING: Brian Albers, Brent Emigh, Justin Leu, Taryn Klarner and Janine Klarner pose for the photographer before setting off for another lap around Fairy Lake. The group was part of a sailing class run by the Town of Halton Hills. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo



LAURA DIETRICH MEMORIAL GARDENS on the banks of the School Creek is one of many beauty spots in Acton which are carefully tended, this one by the Acton Horticultural Society. Unfortunately, some people who enjoy sitting there to muse also leave litter, which spoils the setting. - Ted Tyler photo

Acton loser in industrial survey

By ANGELA TYLER
The New Tanner

The Town of Halton Hills recently completed an Industrial Strategy Study in which staff reviews Halton Hills industrial areas, the Official Plan, uses, zoning and employment predictions.

The Acton Industrial Area is included in the study.

Acton's Industrial Area includes the 180 acre Maple Leaf Foods site (the former Beardmore location) and the north industrial area which is in the northwest section of town on Highway 25, Wallace Street and Commerce Court. The study does not include the Maple Leaf Foods site in the inventory of land, as it is not currently serviceable.

The north area is comprised of 280 net acres. Only 96 of these acres are occupied. The major employers of this area include; ABT Canada (formerly Building Products) which employs 240, Eagle Ottawa (formerly Hellers) which employs 110, Purity Life Health Products which employs 60 and Acton Precision Millwrights which employs 60.

Acton business Purity Life has recently completed a large expansion and Galvcast is currently expanding their operation. ABT Canada opted to expand their warehousing and shipping facilities in the Milton area instead of Acton.

There are 28 industrial employers in Acton. Nearly half of the businesses in the Acton Industrial Area are manufacturing type businesses. In comparison, Georgetown's industrial area has approximately one third of its businesses in manufacturing with 140 industrial companies.

Although there are 184 acres

still vacant, waiting for development, only 156 of these can be developed on full services with sewage load restrictions. Generally, industrial areas in Georgetown have full municipal sewer and water services. Many industrial designated lands in Acton do not have full municipal sewer and water services.

According to Zoning By-law 1358, the Acton Urban Area has two main industrial zoning categories, Industrial-Light M1 and Industrial-General M2. Some uses for this zoning could include; light manufacturing, a wholesale business, repair shop, public utility, yard storage and an eating establishment. The Georgetown Urban Area zoning includes M1, M2, M3, M5-1 and M6-1. Some uses for Georgetown zoning could include; a hotel, restaurant, retail warehouse, public garages/service stations, professional offices, a recreational facility and a transportation depot.

The final report states "Development in the Acton Industrial Area has not been significant and is expected to remain so due to the nature of existing development, servicing restrictions, the limited size of the Acton community, and the industrial area's more distant location from Highway 401."

Obviously, they didn't take into account that Highway 25 is a direct link to Highway 401, far better to access the major highway than anywhere in Georgetown.

Is Acton doomed? Improving appearances and the right marketing could change Acton's future. The report makes recommendations as to the direction of our community. One of them is the upgrading of the roads and the appearance through Commerce Court and the potential for development in the Crescent Street area. It also suggests The Town of Halton Hills, in co-operation with

Maple Leaf Foods, try to develop the former Beardmore site, as well with partnership with the B.I.A. to pursue Acton's commercial attraction as there are already many visitors to the olde Hide House.

The report confirms what most Actonians have known for years; "It's worth the drive to Acton" is one of the strongest marketing messages in the G.T.A. The, "It's worth the drive..." campaign has an opportunity for economic growth and investment, especially in downtown Acton. The survey concludes that the Georgetown south designated industrial area will be required to accommodate to accommodate the major share of industrial lands over the next 10 years until the 401 corridor land starts to develop.

For the entire Town of Halton Hills to continue with development the report urges Town Council and staff to make economic development a corporate priority. The building blocks of economic development must include the Town delivering a full range of services required by companies and their employees.

The development program start-up is divided into two phases. Phase one, at a cost of \$100,000, concentrates on the retention of existing firms and developing tourism. Phase two, estimated to cost \$150,000, focuses on enhanced economic development and tourism marketing, which could include hiring a professional advertising firm to develop the Town's image.

The two phase, five step program is suggested to start in 1999 and conclude with a review in 2002. The measures suggested in the report indicate the Town will achieve future growth and jobs.

"Our Survey Says..."

What do you think of Provincial Highways being taken over by the municipalities?



I don't think it's a good idea. It's confusing with the maps and they are spending money on the extra signs.

Miram Rehfeldt
Wellington 125

If Halton has enough money to cover the costs of the maintenance of their sections, it seems logical.

Victoria Glassford
Acton



I'm used to the highways; it hasn't affected me.

Wanda Rowsell
Acton



Idiotic. Everyone was used to the other numbers, now one highway has three names.

Roger Clark
Acton

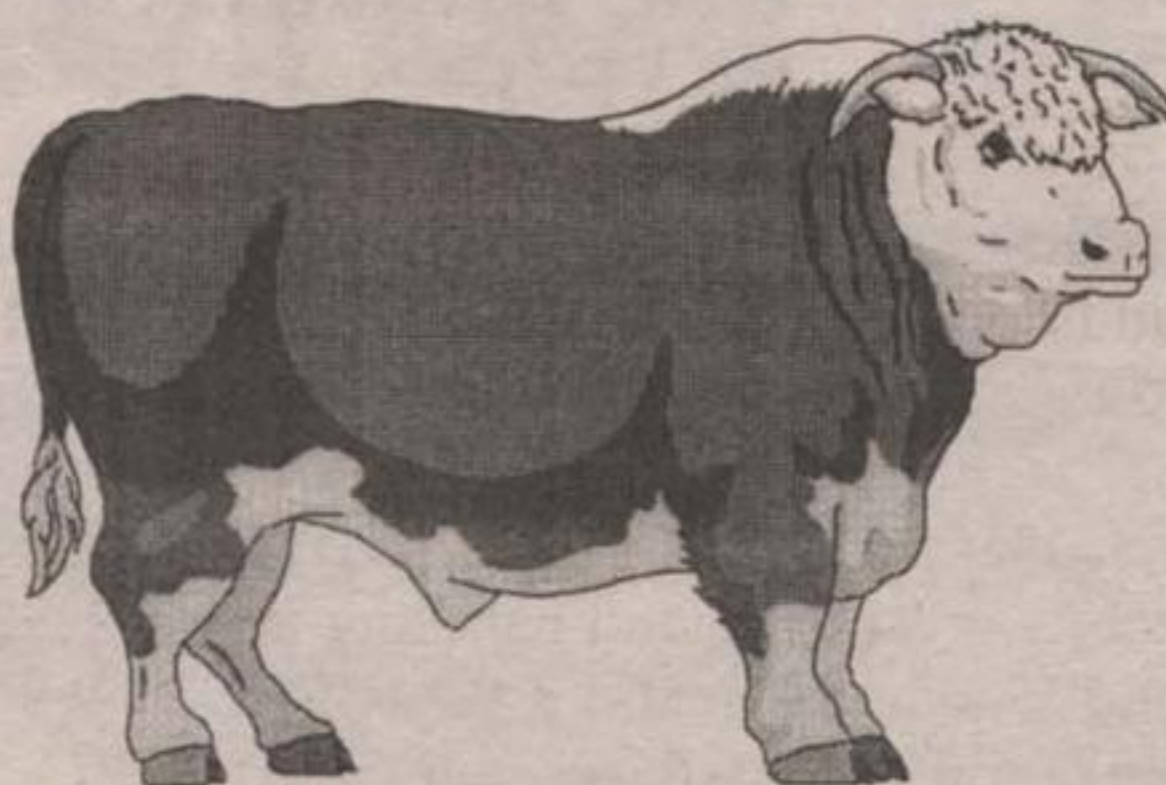


It's confusing for people travelling through. It's okay for local people. Why change it?

Claude Nadon
Acton



This week's New Tanner survey by Angela Tyler



WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.