



RUFF RUFF: With the holidays soon approaching, Hawley Nutkins of the Upper Credit Humane Society was selling dog advent calendars at the Acton High School Craft Sale. - Angela Tyler photo

Corporate bucks, initiative cleanup vacant site

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

What was an eyesore of blowing litter and scraggly weeds in the middle of Acton is now a tidy, newly sodded and planted property, thanks to Imperial Oil and the Acton Business Improvement Area.

Prodded by BIA which wanted to turn the unsightly property into a pleasing gateway to Acton, Imperial Oil agreed to pay to clean up its vacant property on Mill Street at the railway tracks.

Imperial paid the \$5,400 spruce up bill and the BIA has agreed to take care of on-going maintenance, including grass cutting and weed-

ing for the next five years. Imperial spokesman Don Dusseault they don't know what will happen to the Acton site.

"We've got sites like this all across the country. Some of them we sell off, some we hope to develop and some we're just not sure what we want to do and I think this one falls in that category," Dusseault said in a recent interview.

"We're hard-pressed to think that we might develop that Acton site as a service station, but you never know," Dusseault said, adding that this is the first time the company has agreed pay to upgrade a vacant property.

As the final sodding and planting was done on Friday, BIA general manager Janis Fread said that the property had never looked better.

"This is a perfect situa-

tion. Imperial Oil looks good and we look good," Fread said, adding that the improvement on the property might encourage other vacant property owners to take more care.

Tuitman's Garden Centre did the design and landscaping and the Acton Horticultural Society, which plants and maintains flower baskets in the downtown, helped with planting annuals on the property.

Texaco Canada operated a gas station on the site more than a decade ago—the property has been vacant since. Imperial Oil purchased Texaco in 1990. In 1939 Acton's Emily Bolton Goodchild sold the property to McCall Frontenac Oil which became Texaco. Texaco opened a gas station on the property on December 31, 1940.

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Here it comes, WINTER, with freezing rain, snow, ice and cold temperatures. Great for winter sports, but very bad for driving. Here are some ideas for winter driving that could save your life or just be handy if you break down.

1. Keep your gas tank full.
2. If you are stranded you are probably safer inside your vehicle.
3. Carry a call police sign.
4. If someone stops to help, ask them to call police. Only roll your window down about an inch to talk through.
5. Do not raise the hood on your vehicle. This may draw the wrong kind of attention. Also, a raised hood blocks your vision of anyone approaching.

The following is a list of items which will prove very useful if you are stranded.

1. A call police sign, usually available in the local hardware store.
2. Blankets and a large candle inside a car will raise the temperature about 10 degrees, and provide light to save your battery. Don't forget some matches.
3. A good flashlight. Make sure the batteries are good.
4. Road flares and a first aid kit.
5. Energy food, nuts, candy bars, etcetera.
6. A clean, empty tin can be used to melt snow for water.
7. A cell phone if you can.

A last piece of advice. Drive with respect for the weather conditions. It may save your life and also prevent the need to use your safety equipment.

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CRAFTY LADY: Pat Allen of Acton was one of the many merchants at the Acton High School annual craft show and sale Saturday. - Angela Tyler photo

Redmen are runners up

The Acton High School Redmen junior boys' volleyball team gave it their best shot but lost the Halton title to Georgetown with 15-11 and 15-10 games played at

Sheridan College in Oakville last Thursday.

"Nobody played the game of their life and we needed several of those," said Acton High physical education instructor Dave Boycott.

Acton took the lead in the first game and went to a 3-0 lead but Georgetown caught up. Acton battled to a 7-3 lead but couldn't hold it.

"We played very well at the beginning of both games but for some reason or another we would stall out at around nine (points) and just couldn't see to get our act together to finish it off," Boycott said, adding the Josh Bowen and mark Chumley both played well.

Acton finished the regular season with a 5-2 record and advanced to the final by beating Iroquois Ridge 15-11, 15-10

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