

# Variety Store vet calling it quits

After 33 years of serving Acton customers from behind the counter of a variety store, Helen Jocque is calling it quits and will close her Village Variety Shoppe, better known as the Smoke Shoppe, on March 31.

Located at 56 Mill St. East for the past nine years, Jocque and her late husband Sonny (Joe), had variety stores in three other downtown Acton locations over the years.

Jocque said she'd been thinking of retiring for quite a

while, but just put the sign up in the window on Tuesday.

Jocque is looking forward to not working from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and plans to do "nothing" for a while.

"I'm going to sleep in for the first while," Jocque said, adding she hopes to sell the business and her two employees will be laid off.

"I have no regrets about retiring, but will miss everybody like crazy - all the regular customers."



**WHEELS, NOT BLADES:** The weekend thaw prompted Acton's Curtis Clutterback to take a spin on his bike on a soccer field at McKenzie-Smith Bennett, where just days earlier kids skated on the Town's rink that had some of the best ice in the past few years. - Frances Niblock photo

## Halton Region Council HIGHLIGHTS

### Travel Health Clinic services

Council received an update on the services provided by Halton's Travel Health Clinic.

Staff administer vaccines and provide counselling to people travelling to "at risk" parts of the world on ways to prevent infectious diseases. Vaccines provided are for Hepatitis A and B, typhoid fever, meningococcal meningitis and Japanese encephalitis. In addition, Halton has recently received approval to administer the Yellow Fever vaccine.

Clients pay the cost of the vaccines pay a \$10 administration fee per vaccine which covers the costs of delivering these services.

The clinic has seen an increase from 350 clients in 1998 to 674 in 1999. The majority of people attending the clinics are vacationers (65 per cent) and business travelers (25 per cent). Last year, the most frequent destinations were Asia (38 per cent), Africa (18 per cent) and the Caribbean (11 per cent).

### \$134,145 to United Way

Chairman Joyce Savoline and Marilyn Burwood, the 1999 Employee Campaign Chair, presented a cheque to the United Way in the amount of \$134,145 on behalf of Halton's employees. The 1999 Campaign saw an increase in the number of employees participating in the payroll deduction program from 18 per cent to 23 per cent.

# Employment is up, welfare down says Halton MPP

January marked the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive month in which the number of people on welfare in Ontario declined, the longest such improvement in at least 20 years, says Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh.

"Our welfare reforms and the strong economy have helped get 472,090 people's lives back on track since June 1995," said Chudleigh. "That includes 3,166 people who escaped the welfare trap last month."

Independent surveys have confirmed the majority of people leaving welfare have gone on to jobs. In addition fraud and abuse measures have uncovered \$60 million in benefits that should not have been paid out in 1999.

Chudleigh pointed to an increase of 21,300 new jobs in Ontario in January. This

follows the 27,800 new jobs created in Ontario in December. Since the government first laid out its plan for jobs and growth in September 1995, jobs in Ontario have grown by 664,000.

Ontario currently has an unemployment rate of 5.7 per cent. Youth unemployment, currently 11.7 per cent, remains persistently high, largely due to more and more youth actively seeking employment. Canada's unemployment is currently at 6.8 per cent after 44,300 new jobs were created across the country in January.

"Every month the numbers simply add more credibility to the claim that tax cuts create jobs," Chudleigh said.

Chudleigh recently called upon the federal government to reduce personal income taxes by 20 per cent.

## POLICE BEAT

# Theft of Ford foiled

A would-be thief attempted to steal a 1994 Ford pickup truck, valued at \$40,000, from the driveway of a Silvercreek Drive home in the Highway 7- Trafalgar Road area overnight Saturday.

After unhooking a snowplough from the truck, the suspect got in through a sliding window and "attacked" the ignition but couldn't get the truck started, according to police.

### Teen arrested

A 15-year-old Acton girl has been charged with theft

of a credit card, fraudulent use of a credit card and breach of probation after a stolen card was used to make a purchase at the Doll Emporium. An Acton High school student reported her credit card had been stolen from her purse at the school last month. The Young Offender was arrested after the victim found an unexplained \$50 charge on her most recent bill.

### Drunk driver

A 53-year-old Acton man who smashed into two parked cars and left the scene has been charged with im-

paired driving, having over 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 milliliters of blood and fail to remain. Witnesses called police at 7:30 p.m. last Thursday after the man drove into the cars in a rear parking lot of the Maria Street apartment building, doing \$800 in damages, and then went to his apartment where police arrested him.



# Environmental Sensitive Areas subject of Halton brochures

Two brochures, developed by Halton Region's Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC), are now available to Halton residents to help them understand the importance of the Region's natural environment and how to be good neighbours to Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs).

Halton's Natural Environment: A Legacy Worth Protecting explains how the soils, physical features, and climate in Halton create environments, or habitats, that support an unusual diversity of plants and wildlife. It describes some of the steps the Region has taken to help preserve and enhance the environment, including formation of EEAC and designation of ESAs.

Halton Homeowners Guide for Properties Adjacent to Environmentally Sen-

sitive Areas provides landowners near these special areas with practical suggestions for maintaining good land stewardship practices. The guide highlights the benefits for both the landowner and the environment.

"Over the past four years EEAC received more than 45 land development applications affecting ESAs," said EEAC chairman Randall

Goodwin. "These applications involved thousands of existing and potential residents. Many applicants were unaware of the environmental value of the nearby area or simple practices that would help them enhance natural areas and olive co-operatively with the environment. We prepared the Homeowners' Guide to help address these interests.

**CENTRAL ONTARIO AUCTIONEERS**  
Professional Auction Services  
Estate & Industrial • Certified Appraiser  
Consignment Welcome

**NORM WEBSTER**  
(416) 523-6645 (pager)  
(905) 873-7633 (home)  
R.R.#1, Limehouse ON

Next Auction Sat. March 11, 2000

**BOYES PLUMBING**  
Water Softener Rentals  
Water Pump Service  
855-4232

**We'll Make You Smile!!**  
House Calls Available  
**DENTURE SPECIALIST**  
E. JUREVICIUS D.D.  
Construction & Fittings of New Dentures

- Same Day Repairs & Relines
- Free Consultations • Seniors Discount
- Specializing in Problem Lower Dentures

**ACTON DENTURE CLINIC**  
16 Mill St. E., Acton 853-0079

**1ST ANNIVERSARY AT OUR NEW LOCATION!**  
**Acton Home Hardware**  
Customer Appreciation Day  
Join us for Instore Draws and Scratch ng Save Coupons  
(up to 50% off regular priced merchandise)  
*March 8th Only*

**Home Hardware** 362 Queen Street E., Acton  
(519) 853-1730

**ACTON IGA Hometown Proud!**  
12 Main St. Acton 853-1960

**Celebrate THE NEW CENTURY GAME!**

**ENTER TO WIN!**  
1st GRAND PRIZE  
**2000 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE!**  
PLUS 1 YEAR FREE GROCERIES  
**\$32,000 TOTAL VALUE**

**PLUS**  
**IN-STORE DRAWINGS FOR:**  
IGA GIFT CERTIFICATES VALUED AT \$2000 & \$200  
**PLUS**  
MILLENNIUM COIN SETS VALUED AT \$70