

# Teen curfew could cut vandalism, BIA says

Would a teen curfew curb loitering and vandalism problems in the downtown area? Some Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) members think youth under 18 should be banned from the streets from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The issue was on the agenda at the BIA's annual general meeting last night (Wednesday) and before the meeting, BIA chair Brenda Watson said members are asking what they should, and can, do.

"It's too easy for kids to walk the streets. My kids don't go out unless they have a destination," Watson said, adding it's up to parents to keep kids off the streets.

With the warmer weather, there's a growing crowd of teens hanging out at several Acton locations, including the corner of Mill and Willow Streets and adjacent municipal parking lot and the IGA plaza.

An Acton businessman, worried about retaliation if his name was used, is frustrated that he's been vandalized three times and no arrests have been made. He too blames parents who "don't know the hell where their kids are," for the loitering and vandalism.

Halton Detective Sergeant Jackie Gordon said she understands the business owners' frustration, but added it's up to store owners bothered by loitering kids to press trespassing charges and be willing to go to court.

Gordon, who patrolled in Acton 20 years ago, questioned if a curfew is constitutional and suggested the problem, is really boredom.

"Recreational activities and better transportation systems are what it's going to take to fix that problem," Gordon said.

Town administrator Steve Andrews said the Ontario Municipal Act allows the Town to enact a curfew bylaw to keep kids of the streets. "I'm going to be taking a cautious ap-


proach," Andrews said when asked for his personal opinion of a curfew.

"I don't think you enact a bylaw like that without really, really considering all the other options first, and we'll be receptive to hearing what the other options are," Andrews said.

The BIA agenda was a request from the Community Consolation Committee for the BIA to offer a reward to try to catch whoever defaced 40 stop signs in Acton, stole three flags from the olde Hide House and spray painted graffiti on some buildings in Prospect Park in January.

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## What's Inside



Bayfield Homes cut the ribbon to open their sales office on Queen St., Acton last Saturday. See photo on Page 5.



Devon Lambert was among those honoured by Halton Hills at an awards night on Monday. See Page 6.



Acton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion honoured long service veterans last weekend. See Page 11.



**Don't Forget to put your clocks AHEAD on April 2. Spring Forward Fall Back**

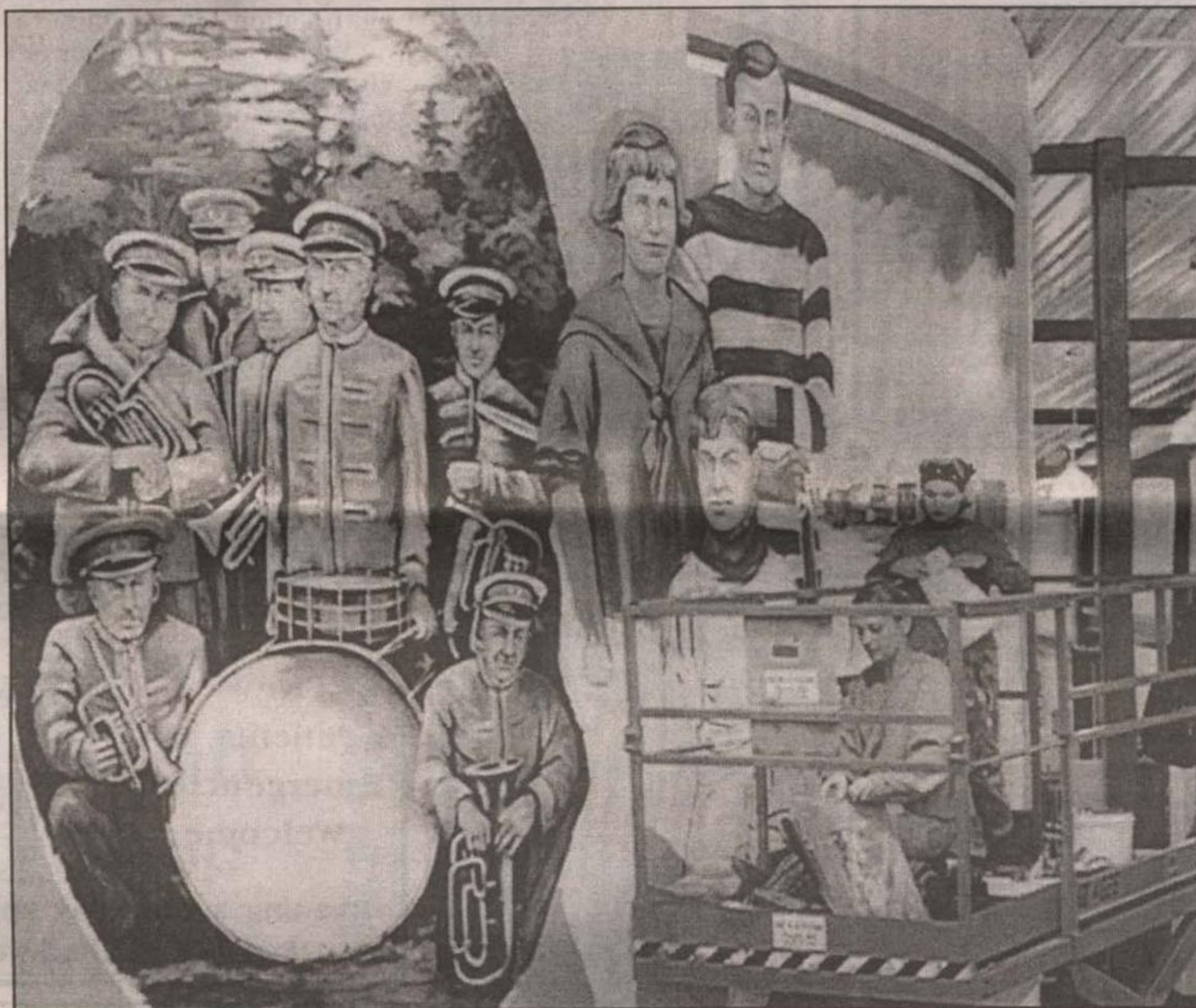
# Mayor suggests Town buy MSB land

## Blooms of Hope on sale today

The sale of over 10,000 beautiful daffodil blooms in Acton this weekend is expected to raise over \$5,000 for the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society. The daffodil sales mark the start of national cancer awareness month and in Acton, volunteers will be selling the symbols of hope and new life at various locations today (Thursday), tomorrow and Saturday.

One in three Canadians will be affected by cancer and the money raised through Acton donations last year - approximately \$35,000 - will go a long way to fund research, education for prevention, early detection, early treatment and to improve the quality of life for people living with cancer.

The Acton branch kicked off its door-to-door canvass for donations with an appreciation dinner for volunteers last night (Wednesday) at Trinity Church.



**HISTORY COMES ALIVE:** Work on the large heritage mural at Acton arena is continuing this week. Artists Michelle Loughery and Liz Allardice of Vernon, B.C. began painting the mural last weekend and expect to have it finished by Friday. See story on Page 8.

## Town is looking at its needs

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

The Town might buy some or all of a three-acre parcel of land at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School the Halton district School Board plans to sell as surplus property on Churchill Road.

The proposed sale has sparked an angry protest petition by Acton citizens concerned about already inadequate sports fields. The MSB site is used for soccer, baseball, track and field, and a rink in winter and school playground.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson refused to say if a deal is in the works with the school board for the property, but said Town staff is looking it, adding the Ontario Realty Corporation and then the Catholic school board have first right of refusal.

"If we were to spend money to buy the property, if we had to buy it, then we have to be able to justify spending the money and have a good rationale why we're doing it," Serjeantson said on Sunday. Serjeantson said if there's excess land and there has to be some development, then the Town wants to make sure that the crowded parking and driveway setup at the school is improved.

"If one or two homes were put on either end (of the prop-

Continued on page 2

# Conditional offer on commercial land

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

Less than a month after selling its residential development in Acton east, Brookfield Homes has a conditional offer for its 3.4-hectare commercial property on the south side of Highway 7, east of Churchill Road.

"We have not sold it to Sobey's," Brookfield vice-president Kathleen Schofield

said on Tuesday, dispelling a persistent rumor that the food giant - owner of IGA and Price Check - would build the approved 74,600-square foot commercial plaza on the land.

"We've sold to a developer and I have no idea who that developer is talking to as far as an anchor tenant," Schofield said, adding there are a number of condition dates that must be met, "so if it'll close, it'll close in July."

Schofield refused to identify the prospective purchaser other than it say it's a Canadian commercial developer that does work in the Greater Toronto Area.

Brookfield, formerly Coscan, bought the residential and commercial blocks in 1990. The residential block, with an approved subdivision plan of 173 single-family homes and 27 townhouses, was sold recently to an

Acton development company that includes Fred Dawkins.

The zoning on the commercial property allows for a food store, a small department store and small stores.

Acton IGA owner Mike Manes said "no comment" when asked if he was involved in either the Acton east Brookfield deal or the rumoured deal for the vacant Price Check store on Mill Street.

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