



IT'S OPEN: Life saving champion John Eddolls cut the ribbon Saturday to officially open Yard & Pool on Main Street North. Seen snipping are from the left, Pat Lloyd, Brenda Girwood, Jon Eddolls, Bob Girwood, and Shane Lloyd. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Yard and Pool serves customers

**BYMAGGIE
PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner**

Making people comfortable with their pools is Bob and Brenda Girwood's aim.

"If your pool is too much work, you're doing something wrong," he says. "Now there are all these automatic devices to help you, you should be able to just sit back and enjoy the water."

Girwood learned that first hand when he had bad experiences with his own pool many years ago. While there were plenty of contractors running pool businesses who knew the construction side of pools, none of them knew much about ongoing care of pools once they were in-

stalled. By the time he finished learning what he needed to know for his own pool, he realized there was a niche for that type of pool service.

After 28 years in business, some of that from his Georgetown home, Girwood has decided to move to Acton and open a store on Main Street North.

"No one was servicing Acton and I already have quite a few customers here," he said. Now, he is also well positioned to service customers from Rockwood and north into Erin Township as well as Acton and surrounding areas.

While he does carry a top line of pool chemicals, he also has extensive experience in repairing motors. He even offers a motor exchange.

Despite the availability of the chemicals, Girwood believes in using them sparingly.

"I work to a non-chlorine shocking system," he says, preferring to do oxidation shocking instead. "I always believed in keeping the chemical systems simple."

With the increased acidity of the rainwater around this area, it takes very little chemicals to balance the acid-alkaline levels in pool water, he points out.

He also reminds people that pool chemicals are dan-

gerous. Things like chlorine and muriatic acid mixed together or with other chemicals can cause an explosion or at least release dangerous gases. They are not substances to take home and play with.

"You have to know what you're doing and how to store them properly," he says.

Girwood and his crew also do yard work, an extension of his pool service. He is a licensed sprayer but because of his environmental inclinations, he again prefers to keep chemical usage to a minimum. Rather he prefers to rely on fertilizers and aeration to produce that thick, green turf homeowners like to see.

And in the winter, to provide work for staff no longer busy with yards or pools, he operates Master Home Improvements to handle renovations and repairs.

"I even talk to people about pools when they aren't my customers," he said. "They need to know how to relax and handle their pool. I'll go around and sit down and explain it to them. All it'll cost them is the coffee I drink."

"Our competition isn't the other pool companies. It's cottages and house trailers. People need to learn they can relax at home with their own pool instead of chasing off somewhere to have a quiet weekend or holiday."

Brunch Committee thanks supporters

Dear Editor,
The Acton Community Brunch Committee would like to thank the Acton High School for sponsoring our second Sunday Brunch on April 30th. Many compliments were made regarding the wonderful service provided by the boys' basketball team and the band. A special treat enjoyed by all was the musical performance by the jazz band.

Thank you also to the many local businesses and groups (1st Acton Scouts, Acton IGA, Acton Rotary Club, Halton Flour Milling, The Sign Shoppe, Tim Hortons-Acton, and Trinity



United Church) that contributed to the event, either by donating or discounting products.

We served 350 adults and will be donating the profits to the boys' basketball team and the school band.

We invite you to join us again for brunch on Sunday, May 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Acton Community Centre. Thank you for your support.

Mary Ann Austin
Acton Community Brunch Committee

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Region sees poverty problems

Halton Region recognizes that poverty is a problem affecting many communities, including Halton.

Data released last week in a report from the Canadian Council on Social Development indicates that while Oakville and Burlington had the lowest levels of poverty of the 47 Canadian municipalities cited in the report, increased levels of poverty occurred in all municipalities in the first half of the 1990s.

"We are committed to meeting the needs of all our citizens," says Halton regional Chairman Joyce Savoline. "We recognize that poverty is an issue that affects us, and our neighbours. We

not only invest \$10 million on social services for Halton residents, but we also provide substantial support to our neighbours, such as Toronto, by contributing \$23 million for social services in the GTA. In other words, for every dollar we spend on social services in Halton, we give more than \$2 to the GTA."

"All communities, including Halton try to support individuals and families in need," says Adelina Urbanski, director of the Region's Social and Community Services. "While Oakville and Burlington have low poverty rates compared to other municipalities, we must be diligent in responding to the needs of our citi-

zens, and ensure that Halton continues to be a great place to live.

"Among its services, the Region provides child care subsidies, subsidized housing, support for emergency shelter services, and special assistance, which includes support for dental, optical, prescription drugs, funeral, travel, transportation and other costs.

The Halton Poverty Project provides a more detailed examination of the trends in poverty and income in Halton. This report, prepared by Halton Region and the Urban Poverty Group, will be presented to the Region's Health & Social Services Committee later this spring.

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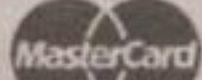
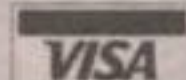
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