

Quick clean up of season's first bad storm

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Plenty warning, plenty overtime and plenty muscle and metal made relatively light work for a crew of 25 Town employees who scraped, sanded, salted and ploughed 340 kilometres of roads and approximately 40-kilometres of sidewalks during Monday's first major storm of the season.

The storm, with freezing rain and ice pellets

and high winds, and strangely, thunderstorms in this area, dumped 20 centimetres of snow on north Halton and made for a very slow, slippery drive home on Monday and a spate of accidents early Tuesday morning.

"It was a big storm, but we were prepared with shifts staying later and coming in early and all of the equipment out," Public Works manager Ted Drewlo said on Tuesday, adding they mobilized 10 tandem trucks, seven single-

axle trucks with ploughs, salters and sanders and two graders. Working around the clock, Drewlo expected to have snow cleared from the downtown business areas in Acton and Georgetown by late Wednesday.


Some residents of Greenore Crescent and Elizabeth Drive area were pleased to find their side streets cleared before dawn Tuesday morning and Drewlo said they were able to keep a plough in Acton all night to clear the

main and side streets.


Drewlo said they expected 16 big storms each year - usually three in December - and have approximately \$90,000 left in this year's \$470,000 snow-clearing budget.

Although very cold weather and an abundance of snow has arrived before the official date of winter on December 21, the weather bureau has forecast higher than normal temperatures for the winter.

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What's Inside



Well know and admired former Acton Councillor died in Guelph. See Page 3



No wonder these women are smiling MPP Ted Chudleigh, alias Santa Claus, was handing out a big cheque at the Seniors' Centre. See Page 5.



Rotarians had a big one for the Acton Bantams and their trip to Czechoslovakia and Europe. See photo on Page 7.



A Mobile Job Centre rolled in Acton this week on wheels. See Page 16 for story.



ROOM FOR THREE: He's the most popular man from the North Pole this time of year and he always has room for one more on his knee. Santa spent some time with Jesse Barnes, 7, his brother Billy, 3 and their friend Joseph Bamhanyi, 4 on Saturday during the Lunch with Santa at the Band Hall. - Angela Tyler photo



CATCHING UP: Wetherby's celebrated Coronation Street's 40th anniversary with a party Saturday afternoon. Jo Lister checked some of the latest goings-on in the very popular British soap opera before the party. - Angela Tyler photo

Old gas station site to be sold

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
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Imperial Oil no longer wants its vacant gas station property by the railway tracks on Mill Street, leaving the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) wondering what will happen to the site that it helped beautify over the past few years.

Imperial Oil spokesman, Devon Estates property manager Roger Bywater, said they decided in October the Acton

site was surplus and would be sold.

Last week, an environmental consultant hired by Imperial began drilling and scraping soil samples, filling baggies to be tested for petrochemical leftovers from the site's long history as a garage and gas station. The soil and groundwater testing is part of an environmental assessment done before the site is marketed by Devon Estates.

Bywater isn't expecting any surprises, but noted the

site has been used for automotive purposes for more than 50 years and because of the environmental standards of the day "you'll find the sins of history," at the site.

"I get a sense reading through the file that this was a site that (Imperial Oil's) automotive (division) thought it might want to develop in a raise or rebuild," Bywater said, adding he "hasn't a clue" why the decision was changed to sell the site which Imperial acquired following its

merger with Texaco in 1989. Imperial acquired the site after its merger with Texaco in 1989, and the site was "rebranded" to Esso and operated as a gas station with several owners until 1995.

In 1998, in what Bywater called a "rather unusual" situation, the BIA approached Imperial and convinced them to spend \$5,500 to beautify the site with planting and landscaping. In exchange, the

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